



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Community Safety Committee

CONTINUATION OF THE 'ON FIRE FUND'

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 16 April 2010

Purpose of Report:

To outline to Members the value, benefits and achievements of the On Fire Fund (OFF) to date and to propose that the Community Safety Committee approve the continuation of the fund.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service established The On Fire Fund (OFF) in November 2007. This project supports voluntary and community groups across Nottinghamshire with grant funding for innovative projects that support NFRS objectives.
- 1.2 The original total of the fund began at £200,000 with the application criteria set at maximum of £2,000 per project although this has recently been increased. The fund has been very successful at reaching out to and supporting the smaller Community and Voluntary Groups that do not sit within the formal partnership structure, particularly those that deal with groups or individuals that are often missed by mainstream Fire Reduction activity.
- 1.3 All applications are judged by the OFF panel that meets every quarter and consists of NFRS representatives from Community Safety, Partnerships and Finance, external scrutiny is provided by Nina Dauban Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Community Foundation and Chair of Navo (Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations), who has an extensive history of allocating funding. Nina has acted as mentor in setting up the On Fire Fund and ensures that all the audit trails are in place.
- 1.4 Applications go through a process that includes, original application, panel review (including further research), decision, notification, support and/or referral, evaluation and media notification.
- 1.5 During 2008/09, £29,065.73 was allocated to 17 schemes, with funding for each ranging between £500 and £4,000. Examples of grants given to previous successful projects include Notts Clubs for Young People, Newark and Sherwood Accident Prevention Group and the Ashfield Home Safety Project.
- 1.6 More recently, it has proven to be an ideal marketing tool for identifying these organisations and supporting them through mainstream activity where the actual funding application has either not been supported or deemed not necessary.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The fund has reduced from the original £200,000 and is currently sitting at approx £80,000. Over the lifetime of the fund, a total of over £100,000 has been allocated to 44 projects across Nottinghamshire with a further £20,000 allocated to the High Sheriffs' fund which supports similar objectives but which is also match funded making its value £40,000. The strength of the Fund is also growing in momentum with 17 projects last year being allocated £29,065.73, whilst this year to date, 26 projects have shared £53,780.29.

- 2.2 The fund is also gaining popularity within the Service, staff working in the Community regard it as an excellent tool for opening doors and raising the profile of the Service.
- 2.3 The numbers and diversity of the groups that we are reaching is increasing with every round as word spreads around the Community and Voluntary Sector and is now reaching more of the harder to reach groups and individuals that quite often, other mainstream agencies are unable to identify for us.
- 2.4 Currently, over 50% of OFF applications are not approved for funding, however, over 50% of those declined funding go on to be assisted in some other way through mainstream Fire Service activity, which, in most cases, the applicant is unaware was available. The Fund therefore is ideal at identifying needs within the community and meeting those needs either through funding, mainstream services or signposting to other organisations. For example, a non-funded applicant is a crew attending a tenant and residents open day to NFRS producing a booklet for the elderly on behalf of Voluntary Services Organisation in which Fire Safety messages were inserted.
- 2.5 **Marketing**
Successful projects are now advertised in local media press releases and word of mouth is encouraging similar groups to apply. In order to increase coverage, the application forms and criteria flyers are now being handed out at events and funding fairs throughout Nottinghamshire and through the Voluntary and Community Sector Networks.
- 2.6 **Conclusion**
The On Fire Fund has evolved from a simple funding programme to a targeted project for improving safety through community intervention. The process allows for community led innovative projects to be evaluated with the potential to be used as good practice in other areas. The simplicity of application, its effective marketing and its positive profile encourages applications from the smaller community based organisations that are often the most difficult to engage and who tend to work with the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- 2.7 This report proposes that the Community Safety Committee approves the continuation of the On Fire Fund. The transfer of funds to enable this have already been approved by the Finance and Resources Committee at its meeting on 8 January 2010

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Finance and Resources Committee have already approved the transfer of funds up to a maximum of £120,000 to support this initiative.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

To ensure that the Service fully complies with its legal duties under the equalities agenda, all applications are subject to an initial equality impact assessment and, where required, a full impact assessment. This ensures maximum exposure to funding initiatives and subsequent support for vulnerable and hard to reach groups.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

By their very nature, some funding applications produce both fringe and direct benefits for the crime and disorder agenda. This is particularly so when the Service receives applications associated with activities associated with young people. These issues are dealt with via adherence to funding criteria and as such attempt to maximise impact and complement the crime and disorder agenda.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications for the Service in association with this funding stream. However, legal frameworks do exist for those applicants who are successful, so as to ensure evidence is received which satisfies intended outcomes.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Fund is at risk from exploitation or fraud. Applications received from organisations or groups that are unable to be identified through their relevant regulating body is visited by a local officer, either Station Manager or Community Safety Advocate for assessment and support.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members approve the continuation of the On Fire Fund activity and request updates as appropriate.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

APPENDIX A

PROJECTS THAT WERE SUCCESSFUL FROM NOVEMBER 2007 – MARCH 2009 JIGSAW PROJECT (MANSFIELD) £1000.

Producing plays including a home safety play to a variety of communities within Mansfield and Ashfield. The benefits: Increasing awareness of issues relevant to the community such as Home Safety and fall prevention. Residents will also be made aware of other services available to them. The plays reach the more vulnerable and isolated members of the community. These will take place up until September 2008.

ASHFIELD HOME SAFETY PROJECT (ASHFIELD) £2000.

Allows this group to purchase fire guards for 117 vulnerable low income families with children under the age of 5, many families have more than one child under 5 years old. These will be issued towards the end of the summer. All families that Ashfield Home Safety Project help complete a questionnaire 6 months after they receive any equipment to find out if any accidents have occurred in the home and complete a check list as to what preventative equipment they have.

KEYS TO SUCCESS (BILBOROUGH) £1990.

Facilitation of 2 events being held in July and October aimed at infant and primary school age children. In liaison with Stockhill fire station they will visit the station and learn about fire safety. It will form the final days of the scheme 'calling home'. The project will reinforce fire safety and develop their own skills in communication, team work and build on self confidence. They will be able to speak confidently about fire awareness and have learnt the role and importance of a firefighter. They will learn about the past and the present and the 1960s engine from Mansfield Museum will also visit the event.

NORTH NOTTS COMMUNITY ARENA (WORKSOP) £1700.

3 Day event in Worksop in July 2008. Provide local children of primary school age with essential safety education encouraging them to remain safe during the summer holidays. Agencies on board include Worksop Fire Station. This will result in lower Accident and Emergency admissions and a reduced number of fire service call outs. Throughout the event they will be assessed and scored for their behaviour, questions asked, awareness and the winning team will be given a prize. Each pupil will also receive a certificate of achievement.

MERISTEMS (ASHFIELD) £564.00

A dual sensory project for the visually impaired gardening group. To encourage members to use the allotments safely this money will be used for the provision of slabs to create pathways around the site. This will lead to improved and healthier quality of life through healthy exercise for a vulnerable group of people.

CAST (ASHFIELD) £2000

To improve young peoples angling ability and behaviour. All children involved have ASBO's and this project will train them in becoming angling coaches, they will be introduced to the countryside code and tackle ASBO behaviour. The young people will also participate in achieving ASDAN youth awards including disabled and disaffected persons.

CRIME CONCERN (BULWELL) £1826.62

A project looking at car crime in the local area and raise awareness to the negative impact that car crime has on the local community. The project was spread over 4 days. Day one at Fire Station for Impact Roadshow. Day two and three at Surestart. Day four of the project is the evaluation back at the fire station. All young people would receive an award certificate for attendance as well as a special achievement award for one person.

CRIME CONCERN (ASPLEY) £1826.62

As above. Duplicate programme in a different area.

ASHFIELD HOME SAFETY PROJECT (ASHFIELD) £2000

Provision of stair gates and fireguards within Ashfield for the forthcoming year.

HETTYS (CITY) £4000

Provide young people and adults with a unique experience of a mock court case and emotive case study. Addressing 3 core areas, criminality, anti social behaviour and respect (for all). Aim to reduce crime, to have a better understanding of crime, better awareness and understanding of bullying and the triggers and a better understanding of truth and integrity.

STAPLEFORD BUREAU (STAPLEFORD) £1800

Electric Blanket exchange events over 2 days, encouraging people to throw out old or worn blankets. Educate them on the proper use and safe storage of their electric blankets.

PARENT AND TODDLER ACTIVITIES (ASHFIELD) £550.27

To provide swimming sessions and play sessions, encouraging people to attend with disabilities, both adults and children. They are training volunteers to run the sessions to give ownership to the community and to enable it to be self-sustainable.

EAST NOTTINGHAMSHIRE TRAVELLER ASSOCIATION (NEWARK) £2000

Provision of corgi tests for all gas appliances in all caravans, portable homes and bungalow accommodation by a female heating engineer. This community suffer with

poor health and this project will lessen the risk of exposure to carbon monoxide. This proactive project will save lives and at the same time as the corgi test there will be a home safety check carried out by Notts Fire and Rescue as this may be the only opportunity they will allow people into their homes and will build a trust with the home owners.

AGE CONCERN (NOTTINGHAM CITY AND COUNTY) £2000

An Electric blanket testing event for the over 60s. If the blanket fails, a replacement will be issued. There will also be an event where other partners are there to give advice and promote their service, including Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards, Healthy Housing, PAD scheme and other Age Concern Services.

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD ACCIDENT PREVENTION GROUP (NEWARK) £1500

Electric Blanket exchange events over 2 days, encouraging people to throw out old or worn blankets. Educate them on the proper use and safe storage of their electric blankets.

CONNEXIONS NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (MANSFIELD INCLUSION PROJECT) £12000

Targeting 100 young people at any one time aged 13 – 19, they will be at risk of offending/anti social behaviour and whose parents are on long term benefits. The weekly football training sessions will be held in 5 areas of Mansfield. Connexions will engage with them getting them back into education or employment training. Workshops will also be delivered around different issues. In total over 600 will be engaged.

FRIENDS OF WHITEMOOR SCHOOL (BASFORD/WHITEMOOR) £1510

Fire and Rescue Readers Campaign – in liaison with Stockhill Fire Station's CS advocate, linking into the National Year of Reading, they will launch the reading project in the school. Raising the profile of reading, the fire service and promoting of Fire Fighting as a career, improving aspiration in the kids. The money will buy the certificates, prizes for reading activities and books.

TUXFORD FLAMES YFC (Tuxford) £500

Under 14s football club to attend Mansfield Fire Station to learn about Fire Safety and have a tour of the museum and station. On their return they will hold quiz nights and have regular updates on fire safety at training nights.

PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL FROM APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

RAINWORTH AND BLIDWORTH DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT £1062

2 x 12 week projects for children and young people covering the issues of arson. 50 young people will be aware of the dangers and consequences of setting fires and committing arson. This project will reduce their anti social behaviour and offending.

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD CVS TRAVELLERS HEALTH £2000

Following the success of last years project where over 25 homes were checked, and the relationship with the CVS, Fire Service and Travellers is growing stronger. This years funding will employ a qualified LPG technician to service the LPG heaters in the static vans, as well as carrying out Home Safety Checks and the families will be encouraged to do essential repairs as well as highlighting the fire safety.

FLINTHAM SOCIETY AND MUSEUM (Newark) £230

Using letters dating back to the early 19th century, the local schools and Beaver groups will learn about Fire Safety. These letters are from a nephew in London to his uncle in Flintham and tell him stage by stage how to wire the village for electricity. Including a letter apologising for the fire, and that it was the nephews fault as he forgot to tell his uncle a critical step. The importance of smoke alarms, when and how to test them.

S.A.T Community Association (Sutton North) £853.50

Provision of safety equipment for local events in the Ashfield area during 2009. Items include: First Aid Kits, Litter Pickers, Children's Community Clear up kits. Over 100 children will be attending the events.

CATCH 22 – ASPLEY SENIOR YOUTH INCLUSION PROJECT (ASPLEY, BROXTOWE) £1290.05

Following the success of the Crime Concern days last year, newly named Catch 22 will be running the days in Aspley. The funding will benefit 13 – 17 years olds who are deemed to be at risk of getting involved in crime/anti social behaviour and who are socially excluded. The emphasis of the days will be to raise awareness around motor vehicle crime and safety, as well as building relationships with the staff of Catch 22 in casual surrounding and workshops.

ST JOHNS AMBULANCE (Nottinghamshire) £3436.00

Develop a magazine to help introduce the message of first aid and volunteering. The magazine will also assist the Fire Service with Three Nines Challenge.

KEYS TO SUCCESS (BILBOROUGH, BROXTOWE AND STRELLEY) £2000

Following the success of last years projects, the same will be repeated for different children. 60 children will be taken to Mansfield Fire Station and Museum to reinforce RiskWatch. Children will develop their social and communication skills and be able to speak confidently about fire safety to their friends, family and school.

BEST – Broxtowe Education Skills and Training £500

Donation towards events taking place throughout the year which will provide Fire Safety knowledge to you to 350 children and their families. There are also fitness tests and to raise pride and enthusiasm within and for their communities.

GOTHAM MEMORIAL HALL £3000

Provision of fire alarm for the Community Hall in Gotham. This newly refurbished hall will be the meeting place of many community events. The hall will open later in the year and a plaque will be on site as a thank you for the funding.

NOTTS DRUG AND ALCOHOL TRAINING (Nottinghamshire) £1528

Provision of 2000 banner pens for use at different events – the pens will have different messages on them to help raise peoples knowledge of how much harm they are causing to themselves through alcohol abuse.

APPENDIX B

Groups which we have not donated money to, but have offered a service. These groups did not know about the services we offer to the community until they applied for the On Fire Fund. The fund – no matter what amount is a wonderful catalyst in reaching those hard to reach communities.

North Sherwood Tennant & Residents – Open Day Mansfield Crew Attended
Sutton Senior 50s Forum – Passed on to Ashfield Advocate for contact
Beeches Youth Group - Passed on to Ashfield Advocate for contact
SHARP - Passed on to Ashfield Advocate for contact
A Place to Call our Own – Passed on to Mansfield Advocate for Contact
Worksop East Residents – Passed on to Bassetlaw Advocate for contact