

## Summary of SIB Funding Applications

### SIB Project 1 – Advice Volunteer Co-ordinator

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£84,000	£54,000	£30,000

ShARP (Shiney Advice and Resource Project) are seeking funding to continue the post of Lead Advice Volunteer Co-ordinator until March 2017.

Their remit within ShARP is:

- To co-ordinate services to ensure that we can help the maximum number of people including older people, vulnerable adults and carers
- To develop training/self-help materials for clients to support them in dealing with their problems themselves
- To develop a training plan and train volunteers as advice workers to add capacity to sharp's advice service

The Lead Advice Volunteer Co-ordinator has been employed from December 2013 and the first 'cohort' of volunteers began their training in February 2014 (5 Volunteers) the next cohort will start in April (4 volunteers already signed up for this). Training of each cohort will take approximately 3 months as the training is comprehensive and will ensure that volunteers meet our standards under the Advice Quality Mark.

The volunteer advice workers are being trained to specifically work with people who need extra support which is not provided elsewhere, for example in helping older people and vulnerable adults in filling in forms on line. The volunteers will also be able to spend time with these clients and advise on the other support services that are available, for example access to training courses on money management, savings and loans, joining a credit union, free energy advice etc

ShARP has delivered Welfare rights services for many years, this is a very busy service and is over subscribed. This means that the Advice Workers are constantly dealing with clients' needs, 'Fire Fighting' and this will allow the time and capacity to make changes to the service or to add capacity in other ways.

Without the Lead Advice Volunteer Co-ordinator, ShARP would not have the capacity to develop volunteers in advice. There is also considerable ongoing support needed to ensure the quality of advice given by volunteers is maintained. This element of the service needs active management, meaning that if this post ceases the number of volunteers who can be supported would be reduced, thus limiting the level of advice services provided across the Sunderland Coalfields area.

Local people will benefit by having access to support, service and advice and guidance, people will be helped in filling in online forms and getting the information that they need about other services that are being provided in the area.

The First Tier Welfare Rights Service supports approx. 200 – 250 people every month, having a team of volunteers will enable the project to support a minimum of an extra 50 people a quarter.

A minimum of 32 volunteers will receive in depth training and support on giving advice and supporting others.

**Recommendation: Approve subject to a review at each year end to monitor performance and set future targets.**

**SIB Project 2 - Community Transport – ELCAP, Easington Lane**

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£107,432	£47,432	£60,000

**The Project**

The Community Shopper Bus (Coalfield Community Transport Scheme) will be based at Easington Lane Community Access Point and will be coordinated by the Project Manager. Six shopper bus services per week will be delivered. Recent consultation identified the need for Wednesday am Shiney Row ward areas. Thursday am Shiney Row ward. Thursday pm and Friday am and pm will cover Houghton ,Copt Hill and Hetton Wards, ensuring that people are not on the bus for long periods of time as it can be time consuming with older and infirm passengers needing more assistance. ELCAP will provide the administration function for the service as passengers will be requested to telephone and reserve their seat on a weekly basis to allow a wide uptake of service. A small charge of £3 will be made to support sustainability of the project.

One new post of Transport Co-ordinator/Driver will be created (24 hours pw). The main aim of the role will be to work closely with the Project Manager to ensure the three year project meets the needs of the Coalfield community and long term funding is sought for the sustainability of the scheme post 2017. We anticipate that our involvement with Big Local and pending £60k for post SIB funding 2017 will enable the project to further develop. The Transport Coordinator will collaborate with partners and providers of other services and will be responsible for sharing information with the passengers whether this is social activity, befriending or interest groups/services to give added value to the scheme and its users. There will be strong links to other area priorities engaging communities in schemes such as love where you live and community gardens and allotments. The organisation has a good success rate at supporting people to take part in activities and giving information and support mechanisms to get people active. The shopper bus provides an ideal opportunity to build up relationships with passengers and signposting to activities such as social events and lunch clubs etc..

2013/14 saw ELCAP take up eight community consultations around the need and value for the scheme. People were asked what they wanted and how they saw best use of the community bus. Over 700 consultation questionnaires have been analysed and 595 said transport and the shopping scheme would be their top priority for the area. The current project has 8 regular volunteers from the local community. Opportunities will be given to local people to undertake Midas training supported by Gentoo.

The Community Transport shopper bus will be unique to the area. Although no partners are involved in the delivery they will be key to referring to the service and promoting their own services to users. Local partners will include SHARP, Hetton New Dawn, Gentoo, Age UK, Easington Lane Disabled Club, and community groups such as Penshaw CA

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Appoint Transport Manager	31/05/2014
Set up Funding and work plan steering group	01/06/2014
Community Consultation	01//01/2015
Review and set targets for year two	31/03/2015
Review and set targets for year three	31/ 03/2016
Produce Sustainability Progress Report and secure funding beyond 2017	01/05/2016

**Recommendation: Approve with condition there is a performance review at the end of Yr 1 and Yr 2**

**SIB Project 3 – Social Club, Houghton Centre for the Blind**

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£4,000	£0	£4,000

**The Project**

The Centre (a Charity) is located on the Rectory Field, Houghton le Spring. The building is owned by the charity and built on Council land. The Centre provides social activities for those with a visual impairment, with social activities taking place each Tuesday afternoon and bowls on a Thursday evening. Transport is provided to take part in bowls tournaments and for any social outings arranged. Members pay a small charge towards this.

The Centre has had considerable financial outlay over the past few years and reserves have been exhausted in order to carry out work such as adapting the toilet facilities to be DDA compliant, and repairs to the roof and exterior.

Run by volunteers, the Centre is now seeking funding to continue to run the Club in the period from April to December 2014 at a cost of £4,000. This will allow the volunteers to continue to raise funds and make applications to grant giving organisations to continue in the longer term.

**Recommendation: Approve**

**SIB Project 4 – Baulkham Hills Footpath improvement plan**

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total SIB requested</b>
£4,289	£0	£4,289

**The Project**

The funding would provide a 24m long 1.5m wide new build connection between the the adopted footpath arriving from Baulkham Hills and the bitmac public right of way which leads to Barnwell Primary School and Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School. The grassed area is Council owned land, so the land ownership prerogative to proceed should this be decided would be a formality of approval.

The footpath would provide an improved route to the two schools and would be of benefit to local residents and the wider community.

**Recommendation: Approve**