

Social Inclusion for Older and Vulnerable Adults**£3,193**

Following a Call for Projects to deliver activities and services to increase social opportunities for older and vulnerable adults, a number of applications were received. Projects were assessed against criteria, relevant consultation was carried out and People Board recommends that the projects outlined in Item 5 Annex 1 are approved. The original SIB allocation was £30,000 and the total of projects recommended for approval is £33,193. Therefore it is proposed that an additional £3,193 SIB is made available.

Recommendation: Approve**Activities for Children and Young People****£20,000**

Following a period of disorder in Houghton Town Centre and parts of Hetton ward, People Board discussed the need for some initial engagement with young people to gain their input and promote clubs and activities available for them. Senior youth workers will provide an outreach service at weekends for a period of 12 weeks with a view to diverting young people into positive activity available such as Music evening at Houghton Blind Centre, Football Friday at Kepier and Youth Club at the Flatts etc.... They will also use the opportunity to consult with young people and gather information regarding local issues. Staff will work with young people where they choose to meet in their own neighbourhood and will support young people in their own personal development. Sessions will be delivered to address all areas of the youth curriculum and area priorities. This will be done through delivery of issue based work including anti-bullying, drugs, legal highs, alcohol, risk taking behaviour, smoking, sexual health etc... LMAPS partners including Police, Sunderland City Council and Gentoo will be consulted as part of the work and recommendations from the youth workers will be presented to People Board. The People Board support the development of future initiatives by allocating a further sum of SIB to this priority to develop activities or support pending the outcome of the consultation, and also to develop a programme of activities for holiday periods. It is recommended that an additional sum of £20,000 SIB be allocated to this priority.

Recommendation: Approve**Emotional and Mental Wellbeing****£30,000**

People Board discussed this Area Priority at their December 2017 and January 2018 meetings. In addition to improved promotion of what support and activities are available locally, the Board discussed the allocation of SIB funding and the development of a call for projects. There were two main issues for further development raised by the Board

- a) Support for people concerned about debt and financial issues
- b) Provision of alternative activities to improve health (such as performing arts/poetry/dancing/writing/walking football)

It is proposed that £30,000 SIB is allocated to this priority and calls for projects be developed by the People Board to address the above issues above.

Recommendation: Approve**Digital Inclusion****£49,402**

The People Board identified a number of issues and barriers for the local community to access the increasing number of services provided on-line.

The main barriers identified by organisations were:

- 1) Capacity: people on the ground to provide one to one support to people who are not e-literate,
- 2) Technical support: having the relevant skills and knowledge within the organisation to deal with troubleshooting or problem solving digital IT failures and getting the best deal for broadband/WiFi connections.
- 3) Equipment: was either out of date or soon will be, with little or no resource to renew or upgrade existing 'kit', in addition, access to devices and broadband was highlighted as a major barrier.

From an individual's perspective identified barriers included:

- a) Lack of awareness of, and access to, support available. This includes wifi hotspots, devices and training.
- b) People are not motivated to use the internet. Unwillingness to ask for help; people are unaware of what the internet has to offer.
- c) Fear of being online: scams and fraud, fear of getting into debt, previous bad experiences.
- d) Poor quality of provision (lack of capacity, support, equipment, connectivity, skilled staff / volunteers)
- e) Costs of broadband and devices is just too much, and demands such as 12 month contracts are too much of a commitment,
- f) Safety is a big issue: spam, viruses, spyware, cyber bullying, grooming, etc.

To support this priority and remove some of the barriers for local people, £100,000 SIB funding was approved by Area Committee, and a call for projects was developed. There are now 6, locally based, organisations delivering SIB funded services to residents to access IT equipment and support. These smaller projects are supported and co-ordinated by a larger project delivered by Springboard. The projects have formed a Coalfield Digital Network and are working with each other and wider partners to provide a service across the whole area for people to access support and equipment to get online.

People Board recognise that these projects cannot remove all barriers and will, no doubt, encounter additional issues which need to be addressed. Therefore the People Board recommends that an additional sum of £49,402 SIB funding be allocated to this priority for further development of the Coalfield Digital Network, as directed by the Board.

Recommendation: Approve