Decision Maker: Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the PPS PDS Committee on 20 January 2010

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

TITLE: Safer Neighbourhood Grant - Applications

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Chief Officer: Terry Rich, Director of Adult and Community Services

Ward: Borough wide

1. **Reason for report**

To outline the most recent application for funding through the Portfolio Holder’s Safer Neighbourhood Development Grant and to seek any views of the PDS on the applications received.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the grant application received and endorsed by the Partnership Tasking Group:

- “Message in a Bottle” Vulnerable Individuals Support- £3,750
**Corporate Policy**

2. **BBB Priority:** Safer Bromley

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**Financial**

1. **Cost of proposal:** N/A £3,750
2. **Ongoing costs:** Non recurring cost
3. **Budget head/performance centre:** Safer Neighbourhood Development Grant
4. **Total current budget for this head:** £82,400
5. **Source of funding:** Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Budget 2009/2010

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**Staff**

1. **Number of staff (current and additional)** – N/A
2. **If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours** – N/A

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**Legal**

1. **Legal Requirement:** No statutory requirement or Government guidance
2. **Call in:** Call-in is applicable

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**Customer Impact**

1. **Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected)** - Borough residents

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**Ward Councillor Views**

1. **Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments?** N/A
2. **Summary of Ward Councillors comments:** N/A
3. **COMMENTARY**

3.1 The 2009/10 Portfolio Holder budget includes the sum of £82,400 for the purposes of supporting the activities of Safer Neighbourhood Panels and making Bromley a safer place.

3.2 Applications are sought from Safer Neighbourhood Panels, and each application is examined in detail by the Safer Bromley Partnership Tasking Group. It is important to emphasise the role of the Safer Neighbourhood Panels in relation to ward specific applications and no applications will be progressed unless this agreement has been secured. Elected Members are encouraged to participate in these panels and provide comment in relation to applications.

3.4 The PDS Committee is now asked to consider the most recent application for funding and pass any comments to the Portfolio Holder for his consideration.

3.5 **“Message in a Bottle” Vulnerable Individuals Support- £3,750**

This application seeks funding to purchase 5,000 “message in a bottle” kits and to provide publicity and support material to encourage distribution and take-up of the initiative. The message in a bottle kits contain a form that should be filled in with personal information that will assist the emergency services in the event of an incident in the home, for example an individual's medication, allergies, illnesses, GP and next of kin details. Bottles are kept in the fridge and stickers that come with it should be displayed on the inside entrance to the individual's home and on the fridge door; to notify the emergency services that the occupier has a message in a bottle.

The bottles will be a great help to the emergency services, saving time in finding out who someone is if they are unconscious and whether they have any special medication or allergies. The scheme is also proposed as a reassuring measure for residents who can take comfort in knowing their next of kin will be notified and that emergency services will be able to access information about them as swiftly as possible. Initially suggested by a PCSO from the Darwin Safer Neighbourhood Team, it is proposed that the provision of funding applied for will allow the scheme to be a borough-wide one where residents of all wards can benefit. Similar schemes have been developed across the country and, most recently, in the neighbouring borough of Bexley. Information from other areas indicates that the scheme has been well received by recipients and has had endorsement from local Ambulance services, including the London Ambulance Service.

The availability and distribution of the scheme will be delivered alongside other key areas of work designed to safeguard the elderly and other vulnerable adults within the community e.g. Nominated Neighbour scheme, Registered Traders, advice on avoiding doorstep crime. The potential for closer working with care services teams is under development and a formal evaluation programme for the scheme will be undertaken, focusing on “customer” feedback and reports from emergency services in terms of benefits realised.

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Reducing crime and disorder and providing reassurance to the people of Bromley are key elements of both Building a Better Bromley and the Safer Bromley Partnership’s Community Safety Strategy 2008 – 2011. The allocations for funding proposed are identified as furthering the aims and objectives of these strategic drivers.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The total budget for Safer Neighbourhood Development is £82,400 and the Portfolio Holder has previously approved applications amounting to £33,350, resulting in the sum of £49,050.
remaining. If the Portfolio Holder endorses this proposed application for funding of £3,750, a sum of £45,300 would be available for future applications.

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