
REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW and SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	NOVEMBER 28th, 2018	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS SMITH (5924) chris.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	SAFER AND STRONGER NEIGHBOORHOODS FUNDING STREAM	TERMS OF REFERENCE:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That the Committee considers the current position of the Safer and Stronger Communities funding stream.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The report provides an update on the Safer and Stronger Communities funding stream, detailing the application process, projects that have been funded over the past five years and how the amount of funding allocated has fallen in recent years.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Safer and Stronger Neighbourhood funding stream is available to local community groups, parish councils, clubs, associations and not for profit organisations. The aim is to give local people the opportunity to initiate and develop projects to make their community feel safer and to enhance the local community.

3.2 The Safer South Derbyshire Partnership has operated the funding stream via the Safer Neighbourhoods public forums, and more recently through South Derbyshire District Council Area Forums for approximately 15 years.

3.3 The funding is split between the six Safer Neighbourhood areas. Currently there is £24,000 available per annum, divided into £4,000 for each area.

3.4 To be eligible for funding, a project must show that it will impact on at least one or more of the following priority areas within the 2017-2020 Safer South Derbyshire Partnership Plan.

The priorities are:

1. Anti-social behaviour (disorder and criminal damage)
2. Acquisitive crime (burglary, theft) and offender management
3. Domestic abuse and sexual violence
4. Creating stronger communities
5. Protecting those most at risk
6. Alcohol-related harm and substance misuse

- 3.5 An application form must be completed (see appendix 1) and submitted. Providing it passes the initial scoring criteria (see appendix 3) it will be submitted to the next Area Forum for approval by the meeting.
- 3.6 A guidance document (see appendix 2) is provided to all applicants to assist with their applications.
- 3.7 In exceptional circumstances and when a need can be clearly demonstrated (i.e. to prevent further crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) occurring), applications can be approved prior to the next Area Forum by the Chair of the Area Forum and the Chair of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership.
- 3.8 The maximum that can be applied for is £2,500. There is no minimum limit.
- 3.9 If an applicant is applying for more than £500 they will need to obtain matched funding from an alternative source. The level of matched funding required will depend upon the value of grant (see table below).

Amount of grant	Minimum matched funding requirement
Less than £500	Volunteer time only
£501 - £1,500	25% of the value of the project
£1,500 - £2,500	50% of the value of the project

- 3.10 The table below shows the amount spent over the last five years. In four of the last five years less than 50% of the available funding has been allocated.

2018-19 (to Date)	£ 8,516.00
2017-18	£ 9,645.25
2016-17	£ 8,162.10
2015-16	£23,406.92
2014-15	£ 8,958.00

- 3.11 Appendix 4 provides more detail on projects that received funding in each of these years.
- 3.12 There are several possible reasons for the reduction in number of applications received. The Police and Crime Commissioner has, in recent years introduced a small and large grants scheme which has similar objectives to the Safer and Stronger Communities funding stream. Derbyshire County Council also has a number of Community Action Grants that fund similar projects. Many village halls and local

community buildings are now secure thanks to the funding they have received, so fewer applications of that type are forthcoming.

3.13 Any funding unspent at the end of the financial year is used by the Communities Team to fund other Crime and Disorder related initiatives.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The funding stream costs £24,000 per annum. The finance predominately comes from the Communities Team core budget. A contribution of £2,000 towards the annual cost of the scheme comes from the Police Basic Command Unit.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The funding stream impacts directly on the following Corporate Plan aims; 'Increase levels of participation in sport, health, environmental and physical activities', 'Protect and help support the most vulnerable, including those affected by financial challenges', 'Help maintain low crime and anti-social behaviour levels in the District' and 'Connect with our communities, helping them feel safe and secure'.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The Safer and Stronger Communities funding stream provides an opportunity for the community to work with each other and local organisations to help reduce and prevent crime and disorder and to create a stronger community.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 The funding stream has, for a number of years, successfully provided local communities and organisations with the opportunity to obtain funding for local projects that will help secure premises, engage the local community and reduce the fear of crime. In recent years fewer applications have been forthcoming and it has been five years since the funding stream was last discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Consideration should be given as to how the funding scheme operates in future years.

8.0 Background Papers

- 1 Safer and Stronger Communities Application Form
- 2 Safer and Stronger Communities Guidance Document
- 3 Safer and Stronger Communities Scoring Document
- 4 Detail of projects to have received Safer and Stronger Communities Funding