

Area Committee Well-being Fund – Project Proposal
Inner West Area Committee

Appendix 3

Project Name: Alert Boxes

Lead Organisations: Leeds Ahead

Project Delivery - How will the project be delivered? (list any partners involved in the project):

By the Town Centre Manager in conjunction with West Yorkshire Police and local businesses.

Project Summary (include a brief description of the main activities, why the project is needed and links to key priorities):

The Alert Box is a form of Electronic Business / Neighbourhood Watch that enables neighbours in a business or residential area to either forewarn or request help from each other, by simply pressing a button. Engaging the business community to be a part of the solution in reducing crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The 'Warning' setting is for low level incidents and lets neighbouring traders know if there is a situation causing concern, i.e. someone trying to pass counterfeit money, suspicious activity, known troublemakers in the parade etc. Thus improving awareness and communication to prevent incidents.

The 'Help Button' setting is for higher level incidents where assistance is required and that the emergency services may need to be called. i.e. personal safety, medical and fire problems etc. Again improving awareness, communication and witness information to assist the emergency services.

The likelihood of a situation starting or escalating is reduced as individuals concerned are aware that neighbouring retailers are observing them. Additional street signage, window stickers and seeing the Alert box on the wall will further help to deter criminals. The box is simple and easy to use and requires no ongoing maintenance.

Since the installation of 30 Alertboxes on Town Street there has been a marked decrease in the number of offences committed in relation to retail crime and other related issues the area has.

Some of the results are listed below.

- Anti-social behaviour has decreased
- Retailers feel they have a better relationship with the police and council
- Retailers feel more secure
- They have better communications with other businesses and neighbours.
- Reduced the fear of isolation

On the back of the success of the pilot scheme we are now looking to deploy further boxes throughout Town Street and bring in businesses on Branch Road. Although problems still persist they are in no way as prevalent as they were before the boxes were deployed. Results of the evaluation which was carried out are attached as Appendix 4.

Outcomes (summarise the main outcome/output/benefit the project will achieve):

- Reduce crime and diminish the fear of crime
- Reduction in theft and shoplifting
- Reduction in calls to Police
- Provide a catalyst for establishing Business Watch Schemes
- Promote greater communication between the public and the Police
- Strengthen the bonds uniting the communities involved
- Create an atmosphere where different communities feel safe and able to work together
- Educate young people regarding ASB and shoplifting
- The reduction in gang related crime reported

Identify which geographic areas will benefit:

Armley

Project Cost . Please indicate how much the project will cost. (please list all partners and their contributions)

£6,000 capital

How much Well Being Funding is sought and breakdown between capital and revenue)

£6,000 capital