

**Area Committee Well-being Fund – Project Proposal**  
**Outer West Area Committee**

**Project Name:** Alert box

**Lead Organisation:** Leeds Ahead: Armley & Pudsey Town Centre Manager

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

The Project should be delivered in line with the Project Application and any amendments requested by the Area Committee or Area Management Team. This funding is for the purchase of 30 Alert Boxes for Pudsey town centre.

**Outputs**

- a) Number of successful prosecutions and/ or incidents prevented
- b) Information regarding shop lifting figures pre and post installation of Alert Boxes
- c) Number of ASB incidents, physical acts of violence, crime figures for the area and perception of fear pre and post installation of Alert Boxes.
- d) Business watch scheme established
- e) Feedback form the businesses and shoppers
- f) Awareness sessions and awareness raised with young people regarding ASB and shoplifting
- g) Comparison of expected and achieved results.

**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. This engages 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 area 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. This would improve 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 Alert boxes on Armley Town Street there has been a marked decrease in the number of offences committed in relation to retail crime and other related issues.

Alcohol related anti-social behaviour is an ongoing problem mainly at weekends with younger groups and adults from the local pubs. Some Pudsey retailers are suffering tremendously from retail crime - mainly theft and the threat of violence. Retail theft has increased substantially with a large increase of first time offenders. The Alert Box system will be an excellent tool for warning other retailers when a known shop lifter or suspicious person is seen in the area. The Alert Box also fosters a spirit of self-help among community-minded retailers. This makes significant contribution to their quality of life and importantly includes them as part of the solution.

Initially funding of £10,000 is sought to start the project with the purchase of 30 boxes. There is a Designated Public Places Order in place to cover Pudsey town. There are approximately 120 private traders that includes pubs within the proposed area, however not all traders would require the Alert Box System. These linked initiatives are aimed at the daytime/evening shoplifting and anti-social behaviour involving youths, traders, shoppers and the public going about their daily business in Pudsey town centre.

It has been suggested that businesses could contribute to the initiative. However, in this economic climate, this is unlikely. The criteria for allocating the boxes are that they would primarily go to lone traders and businesses who have previously been targeted for theft. The larger chain stores will not be offered the alert box as they already have their own security systems in place. The businesses around the Lidget Hill / Robin Lane / Lowtown / Church Lane junction will be approached first as the Alert Box system has a limited operational range. The scheme already operates in Armley and a full evaluation has shown the scheme to be successful. The Police will be asked to support the scheme in terms of providing Police officer and PCSO support.

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

Project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce crime and diminish the fear of crime
- 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:**

Pudsey - Lowtown, Robin Lane, Lidget Hill and Church Lane.

**Project Cost . Please indicate;**

**How much the project will cost. (please list all partners and their contributions)**

Initially funding of £10,000 is sought to start the project with the purchase of 30 boxes. The full amount is requested from the Outer West Area Committee's Well-being capital budget The project will cost £10,000.

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

The total funding required for the project of £10,000 (capital) is requested from the Outer West Area Committee's Well-being fund.

**Who will be in receipt of the financial order. (name of the organisation and contact details)**

Nigel Conder: Town Centre Manager  
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