

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

Project Name: 4 Families

Lead Organisation: 4 Families

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

- May 2010 Develop Action Plan for the year, meet with partners in the area including housing, community groups, Children's Services, health and community groups
- May 2010 – Run regular surgeries for advice relating to training and Employment – ongoing
- June 2010 develop new publicity for the area and distribute across Fairfields and Wyther estates
- June 2010 –March 2011– Respond to referrals from various agencies – Ongoing
- Ongoing continuous review and updates to Area Committee and Members
- March 2011 Evaluation of the project including outputs, final report

This funding is to fund a worker to cover the Fairfields and Wythers area, to compliment and expand the work being undertaken in New Wortley.

The 4 Families project entails the development of a case management approach to supporting workless families and individuals who have the most difficulty entering the labour force.

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

This funding is to fund 1.5 workers to cover the Fairfields and Wythers area, to compliment and expand the work being undertaken in New Wortley. The project has had one staff member working in the target area but an extension of another half time post would help to be able to do some targeted work and hope to make an impact in this challenging area.

The staff would be based with in the community at Fairfield's Community Centre and Wyther House currently used by BARCA, links have already been developed with local schools, extended services, children's centre, outreach workers, West North West Homes. The workers can build on the links already made and multi agency working will be important.

The 4 Families project entails the development of a case management approach to supporting workless families and individuals who have the most difficulty entering the labour force.

The project, which has been developed as a pilot has been running since April 2009, and aims to address two issues in respect of worklessness in the target areas. It tests out a new approach to worklessness via the creation of family mentors who work with families and individuals facing multiple and complex barriers to work; secondly it seeks to improve the co-ordination and accessibility of services within localities. It works collaboratively with agencies to improve service delivery and promote creative ways of tackling the problems experienced by this client group.

4 Families works with individuals who are seeking to engage (or re-engage) with the labour market. The mentors will work with any aspect of the family's life which represents a barrier to this whether this is connected to children, debt, housing issues or issues such as lack of skills or confidence. Clients engage with the 4F mentors on a voluntary basis (as distinct from mandatory programmes such as New Deal) although tries to engage those who are reluctant to do so whether as a result of self confidence or an attitude that they wish to and are entitled to remain on welfare benefits. It will also gather evidence on why people don't engage with mainstream services or have fallen through the net.

The mentor acts as a single point of contact for the client initially and uses a three stage approach: analysis of the issues (a tool called the "Rickter Scale" has been used here which is a powerful way of allowing individuals to define for themselves what prevents them getting a job, all mentors have undergone training in the use of this tool); agreeing an action plan or routeway and then sequencing support and acting as an advocate.

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

Number of families supported (20) per Family Mentor	80
Number of people into employment	15
Number of people completing back to work development plans	240
Number of people assisted to access complementary support	120
Number of people assisted in their skills development	80

The project is hoping to become closely involved with the 2010 Year of the volunteer programme of activity in recognition of this.

Success for individuals is measured also on distance travelled and also job outcomes.

The main achievements of the project constitute the measurable activity which the project delivers in support of the overall objective of reducing worklessness in the NI 153 areas.

The nature of the project is such however, that as part of helping people on the journey back to work, all aspects of economic exclusion and personal barriers such as school exclusion, debt, young family members who are NEET (not in employment, education or training) will be reduced in these neighbourhoods.

This will be measurable in two ways – as the cost benefit model as part of the project evaluation (referred to above) is completed it will show the extent to which actual case interventions have resulted in reductions (and savings) across a range of issues;

secondly through using the Rickter Scale the individual's own expression of distance travelled and improving sense of well-being can be captured and data will be available to show the numbers of clients whose "scores" improve. Given the client group our customers need time and intensive support, before they will be ready for work and these impacts become apparent It is important that the project is able to continue to time is needed to test this model and fully understand its potential.

Project Cost. Please indicate

How much the project will cost? (List all partners and their contributions)

Staffing 1 full time post, 1 Part time post £45,000
Project Activities, office space, booking venues £20,000

Leeds City Council – LPSA Funding – Amount Requested £250,000 – Decision Expected April 2010

Identify which geographic areas will benefit:

Armley and Bramley

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

£65,000 Revenue

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

Diana Smith – Leeds City Council - Environment and Neighbourhoods

Approved
Date

Not Approved
Date