
STAR PARTNERSHIP

1 SUMMARY

This report appraises Members with the financial implications of further joint funding of the StAR Partnership. Appendix item 1 details the South Essex Health Authority's confirmation of funding.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 On 27 November the Community Services Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on progress with StAR Partnership Initiative in the Roche and St Andrews Wards of Rochford and sought Members views on the further support for the Community Development Work post.
- 2.2 It was resolved that the report should stand deferred to the next Meeting of the Community Services Committee in order for clarification of South Essex Health Authority's position with regard to their contribution to the Community Development worker post.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Council's Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy, launched in April 1999, identified various priority areas for action, including Roche and St Andrews Wards. At the same time, the Rochford Primary Care Group Locality Action Plan (LAP) for health improvement identified Roche Ward as an area with health and social issues needing attention and resources. The LAP was subsequently broadened to include St Andrew's Ward.
- 3.2 Under the guidance of Rochford District Council, Health and Essex County Council Community Care meetings took place with other key agencies to discuss the way forward to tackle social, economic, health and environmental issues within the two Wards.
- 3.3 Between the Autumn of 1999 and Spring of 2000 a number of activities took place to progress the work in the area. These were carried out through collaborative working between community representatives and a number of organisations with a professional or local interest in the area, under the title of the St AR (St Andrews & Roche) Partnership.
- 3.4 In January 2000, through joint funding, The StAR Partnership undertook a major public consultation exercise using a technique known as 'Planning for Real'. At this 'hands-on' exercise over 500 local residents expressed their concerns, aspirations and views on the area.

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- 3.5 At the same time, the StAR Partnership agreed that in order to ensure the future success of the StAR project, further manpower would be required. It was decided that a post of Community Development Worker be created to service the StAR Partnership and the working parties that develop from it. Additionally, the post holder would develop community capacity and community based projects with local people.
- 3.7 Through joint funding, an appointment was made and the postholder started work in June 2000. It was agreed that she be managed by South Essex Health Authority (through the Rochford Primary Care Group).
- 3.8 Following the appointment, Rochford District Council handed over to the StAR Partnership the responsibility for organising the Farmers Market that had previously been set up and run by the Council.
- 3.9 Through joint funding, the Council is currently committed to £10,000 for 2001/02 towards the costs of a Community Development Worker in StAR from the Crime & Disorder Reserve. Joint funding for the Community Development Worker expires in June 2002.

4 OFFICER COMMENTS

- 4.1 Members are now requested to consider whether further funding support should be given to the Community Development Worker post for a further period of one or two years. The Health Authority have confirmed to fund for a further two year period.
- 4.2 Whilst some progress has been made by StAR towards meeting the aims and objectives set out, and a number of initiatives are underway, there remains some concern over the ability of the project to deliver tangible benefits on the ground.
- 4.3 It is suggested, therefore, that funding the Community Development Worker be given for one year only, subject to agreed outcomes.
- 4.4 As a joint funding stakeholder it is considered that, should funding be renewed, a regular progress report be produced by the StAR Partnership in order to continually evaluate its effectiveness.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The StAR Partnership partly arose out of the Crime and Reduction Strategy in an attempt to address some of the issues arising in that area.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Should the Council decide to continue to support the development and expansion of the StAR Partnership a sum of £12,000 from the Crime and Disorder Reserve will be needed to joint fund the Community Development Worker for a further year. There is currently a balance of £48,771 in the Crime and Disorder Reserve .The Primary Care Group and South Essex Health Promotion have between them committed £32,880 for two years of funding for 2002/04.

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The wards are within Rochford Parish.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 Proposed that this Committee Recommends

That the project be funded for a further year and a regular bi-monthly progress report be produced by the StAR Partnership in order to continually evaluate its effectiveness.

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Chief Executive

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