

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**15 MARCH 2010**

1. **'FAMILY LEARNING WITH THE FIRE SERVICE' PROJECT,  
FUNDED BY THE BIG LOTTERY FUND**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee approve acceptance of £93,274.20 following the successful submission of a Big Lottery Fund bid for a 'Family Learning with the Fire Service' project. The amount bid for has been fully granted.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to obtain approval from the Committee to accept £93,274.20 following the successful submission of a Big Lottery Fund bid.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Big Lottery Fund is responsible for distributing half of the money the National Lottery raises for good causes. The fund states that they "want to use lottery money to make big changes for communities, through the fair and open funding for people, projects and programmes, with a particular emphasis on tackling need".
- 3.2 Family learning involves learning activities where children and parents (including those who act in a parenting role) learn jointly and where there are clear learning outcomes for children and parents. Family learning allows parents to learn more about how their children learn and can lead both adults and children to pursue further learning, especially if their learning experience is a positive one.

- 3.3 Wolverhampton ranks 28<sup>th</sup> (out of 354) in the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007) and almost half of the city lies within the 20% most deprived in the country. Only 67% of the population are in employment and 25% of residents have no qualifications. Walsall is ranked 45<sup>th</sup> (out of 354) in the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007), 71% of working age people are in employment and 28.7% of working age people in Walsall have no qualifications compared to a British average of 13.8%.
- 3.4 The partner agencies we have identified to work with are voluntary/ community organisations located in areas of deprivation, often with high incidence of anti social behaviour, high numbers of single parent families or higher unemployment than the rest of Walsall borough or Wolverhampton city.
- 3.5 Fire Intervention, Reparation and Education (FIRE) courses delivered by West Midlands Fire Service are one week programmes designed for young people who are excluded or on the verge of being excluded from schools. The course will be modified to take into account the needs of the "Family Learning" course attendees. The funding will enable 24 type courses to be run over 2 years across both the Wolverhampton and Walsall areas.
- 3.6 The courses will enable the following outcomes for 240 children and 120 adults by the end of year 2:
- Increased opportunities to improve practical skills.
  - Improved awareness of the consequences of anti social and unsafe behaviour.
  - Improved team working skills enabling them to enjoy learning together.
  - Improved confidence.
  - Improved knowledge of home and road safety.
- 3.7 The 'Family Learning with the Fire Service' project will contribute to the following National Indicators within Wolverhampton's current Local Area Agreement:
- NI 1 People from different backgrounds getting on well together.  
NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector.  
NI 32 Increase recording of domestic violence and reduce repeat victims.

NI 110 Young people participation in positive activities.

NI 117 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report a full Equality Impact Assessment is required and has been carried out. The programme is meeting key equality needs around our prevention and education services for diverse communities within Wolverhampton.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A Big Lottery Fund bid of £93,274.20 has been granted and would fund 24 FIRE type courses.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Big Lottery Fund Bid document.

VIJ RANDENYIA  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER