



## Grant Working Party 6 December 2011

### Tackling Drug and Alcohol Problems

1. The Council has a budget of £11,000 to tackle drug and alcohol problems in the Borough as part of its community safety and public health roles. Until 2010, this budget was used to fund one third of the cost of a member of staff who worked on projects for the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership. Unfortunately the other partners were unable to continue funding the post and the postholder was made redundant. Although the budget has been used to commission interventions by specialist agencies to tackle specific drug and alcohol problems affecting individuals or areas, a portion of this budget is likely to be unspent in 2011/2012. The Council's emphasis has also switched to one of commissioning rather than direct provision.
2. As reported to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 28 November 2011, the Cabinet is proposing to re-allocate the budget as follows:-
  - £3,000      Dynamic Review – Innovation, Value and Enterprise (DR-IVE) saving;
  - £3,000      retained as a community safety budget to commission one-off interventions from specialist providers as required; and
  - £5,000      used to set up a new grant fund for organisations tackling drug and alcohol problems in St Edmundsbury.
3. Assuming that the full Council adopts this proposal in February 2012, this new grant fund will be available from 1 April 2012 (and able to receive applications from late February) so consideration has been given to the criteria and process to be applied. The following is therefore suggested:-
  - (a) unless alternative provisions are specified below, the Council's existing Grants Policy will apply to this scheme;
  - (b) grants can be awarded to any constituted organisation working to tackle drug or alcohol problems in St Edmundsbury;
  - (c) grants are for revenue funding only, but may be applied to core revenue costs or one-off projects to tackle drug and alcohol problems;
  - (d) the available fund for the grants scheme will be limited to £5,000 per annum. Any un-spent balance can be carried over into the following year;

- (e) to enable more than one scheme to be commissioned, the maximum grant available under the scheme in any one year will be:-
  - (i) core revenue funding: up to £2,500; and
  - (ii) one-off project funding: up to £2,500 (minimum £250).
- (f) core funding grants may be awarded to cover periods of up to three years (subject to a maximum grant of £2,500 in any one year);
- (g) applications for core revenue funding will be considered by the Grant Working Party and approved by the Cabinet; and
- (h) applications for one-off project funding over £500 will be approved by the Grant Working Party. Applications below that level will be approved by officers in consultation with the Grant Working Party. These smaller grant applications will be considered by the Grant Working Party following circulation of details by email. If the majority of members (including substitutes where appropriate) are in agreement, the grant will be approved by officers under delegated authority. If there is not a majority in favour of awarding the grant, the application will be referred to the next available meeting of the Grant Working Party for determination.

4. It is **RECOMMENDED** that:-

- (1) subject to the normal budget setting process, a new grant fund of £5,000 per annum to tackle drug and alcohol problems in the Borough be established from 1 April 2012 on the basis outlined in section 3 of Report C254; and**
- (2) the Council's Grants Policy and other documentation be updated to include details of the scheme.**

For further information, please contact:-

Cathy Manning, Head of Neighbourhood Management and Development  
Telephone: (01284) 757002 or email [cathy.manning@stedsbc.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.manning@stedsbc.gov.uk)