



Application for Funding from Hampshire Action Teams

Organisation Details

Name of Organisation	Test Valley Borough Council
Type of Organisation (Please tick or double click to check the appropriate box)	Community/Voluntary Group <input type="checkbox"/> Company limited by guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> District/Borough Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x Parish/Town Council <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity <input type="checkbox"/> School/College <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>
Contact Name	Jacqui Evans, Housing and Community Development Manager
Contact Details	Address: Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, SP10 3AJ
	Telephone: 01264 368620 / 368623
	Email Address: jevans@testvalley.gov.uk

Funding Details

Which HAT are you requesting funding from	Test Valley
Amount of Funding Requested (Please state if all or part of the funding will be spent on staffing costs)	£3,200k
Joint Funding (Please list any other funding secured for the project from other organisations)	Funding from Hampshire County Council Rural Development Fund - £20,000 and £20,000 from Adult Services to support the pilot across the county.

Details of the Bid / Project

Title of Bid/ Project	Test Valley Village Agents Pilot (TVVAP)
Summary of Bid/ Project	<p>The Test Valley Village Agents Pilot (TVVAP) will bridge the gap between services and local communities for older people in one rural area of Test Valley. These communities can often be isolated, with high levels of social deprivation and poor transport links. They are often very 'self contained' and because of this can be reluctant to find help outside of their local community. This will be addressed by supporting a volunteer in each area to become a trusted local presence who is able to link people to the information and services they need.</p> <p>The pilot will build on the consultation carried out through seven Community Conversations taking place with older people in Test Valley over the coming six months. Community Conversations are planned in 5 rural villages and 2 urban areas, with an aim of identifying gaps in service provision, how we can make our services more accessible and fulfil needs of older people.</p> <p>The project will be working with the following; *Rural Development Worker from Andover Age Concern, *Community Innovations Team *HCC's Older People's Well-Being Team *Age Concern Hampshire</p> <p>It is proposed that the pilot will utilise current volunteers to become more proactive, becoming the eyes and ears of the local community and seeking out and helping otherwise hard to reach people. They will become a trusted resource in their local community, promoting information about a range of services and wellbeing activities, and being able to refer people on when appropriate. Typical requests are for information about social activities, benefits advice, transport options and voluntary work</p> <p>The pilot will utilise the local knowledge and networks built up by Age Concern and the Community Development Officer in Test Valley.</p> <p>The village agents concept is already used in other parts of the country and at least one, in Gloucestershire, has been subject to a national evaluation through the Department of Work and Pensions. This showed that it was a highly effective model, making three times as many contacts as its target, and linking people to information and support including volunteering, energy efficiency and benefits checks. This pilot will enable us to establish whether it is appropriate for Test Valley, and in what form, including how big an area a village agent should cover.</p> <p>The funding will pay for infrastructure costs, as well as comprehensive training, support and publicity. It will also enable the village agents to hold a small budget to meet any small-scale unmet need that they encounter eg hiring a community bus to take older people to a supermarket, or paying</p>

	for the hire of a village hall for an activity.
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<p>How does the Bid meet the HATs Term of Reference?</p> <p>1) To tackle economic, social and health inequalities in the local area</p> <p>2) To support the delivery of Hampshire's improvement priorities within the Hampshire Local Area Agreement*</p> <p>3) To support local highways and transport priorities**</p>	<p>1) This project addresses issues of poor access to services, isolation in rural areas, particularly for vulnerable groups, a need for better information and advice services and issues of rural inequality more generally.</p> <p>2) The Bid will support the delivery of providing information and support to enable older people to live independently (National Indicator 139).</p> <p>3) Not applicable.</p>
<p>Timescale (What is the anticipated period over which the money will be spent?)</p>	<p>Commencement Date: February 2011</p> <p>Completion Date: February 2011 (provisional)</p>
<p>Intended Outcomes (How will the success of the bid/project be measured?)</p>	<p>The success of the pilot will be measured by improvement in NI 139 as well as by regular evaluation of feedback and increased uptake of services in pilot areas.</p> <p>The following records will be kept:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of hours spent volunteering each week • Number of local events attended • Number of people the village agents have had contact with • Whether the contact was at a specific meeting or was a home visit • List of services/activities they have helped people to access • Number of activities facilitated (eg organising bus trips) & funding used <p>In addition, we will know if the scheme is successful through feedback from local residents that they are aware of their village agent and their role and know how to contact them. Case studies will be collected to evidence the difference that an intervention by a village agent can make.</p>

