



## Application for Funding from Hampshire Action Teams

### Organisation Details

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Age Concern Hampshire
<b>Type of Organisation</b> (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 type="checkbox"/> Parish/Town Council <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Registered Charity</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x School/College <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Contact Name</b>	Chris Perry, Director
<b>Contact Details</b>	<b>Address:</b> Age Concern Hampshire, 1 St Cross Road, Winchester SO23 9JA
	<b>Telephone:</b> 01962 868545
	<b>Email Address:</b> chrisjperry@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk

### Funding Details

<b>Which HAT are you requesting funding from</b>	Basingstoke and Deane
<b>Amount of Funding Requested</b> (Please state if all or part of the funding will be spent on staffing costs)	£10k, part of which will be spent on costs associated with supporting volunteers.
<b>Joint Funding</b> (Please list any other funding secured for the project from other organisations)	£20k secured from Rural Delivery Fund for at least five other rural areas in the county.

### Details of the Bid / Project

<b>Title of Bid/ Project</b>	OPAL Village Agents Pilot
<b>Summary of Bid/ Project</b>	<p>The <b>OPAL Village Agents Pilot</b> will bridge the gap between services and local communities for older people in at least two rural areas of Basingstoke and Deane. 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 OPAL Project. This scheme, managed by Age Concern Hampshire on behalf of HCC’s Older People’s Well-Being Team, provides signposting information across the county by utilising the Age Concern Hampshire freephone number. There are also OPAL volunteers across the county who can visit older people if they need a little more help to work out what they want. These volunteers are generally highly experienced and skilled and often volunteer for more than one organisation. Typical requests are for information about social activities, benefits advice, transport options and voluntary work.</p> <p>It is proposed that the pilot will utilise current OPAL 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.</p> <p>The pilot will utilise the local knowledge and networks built up by Age Concern Hampshire through its thriving office in Basingstoke (Age Concern Hampshire in Basingstoke).</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 Hampshire, 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 for the hire of a village hall for an activity.</p>

<p><b>How does the Bid meet the HATs Term of Reference?</b></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><b>Timescale</b> (What is the anticipated period over which the money will be spent?)</p>	<p><b>Commencement Date:</b> October 2010</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> July 2011 (provisional)</p>
<p><b>Intended Outcomes</b> (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"> <li>• Number of hours spent volunteering each week</li> <li>• Number of local events attended</li> <li>• Number of people the village agents have had contact with</li> <li>• Whether the contact was at a specific meeting or was a home visit</li> <li>• List of services/activities they have helped people to access</li> <li>• Number of activities facilitated (eg organising bus trips) &amp; funding used</li> </ul> <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>
<p><b>Future Funding Arrangements</b> (If the project is to last more than a year how will it be funded in subsequent years? How will any outcomes achieved by the project be sustained in the longer term? If it is a capital scheme how will the equipment be maintained?)</p>	<p>This is a pilot project to see if the model is appropriate for Hampshire. If the monitoring and evaluation shows that it is an effective way of meeting the needs of rural communities then efforts will be made to secure funding for a countywide service.</p>

\* Further information on the LAA can be found at the following website - <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/localareaagreement.htm>

\*\* Any approved bids for highways/transport projects will require liaison with the Executive Member for Environment.

## Declaration

I declare that the information supplied in this application is true and that any funding received from Hampshire County Council will be used for the purposes described in this form. The Council reserves the right to reclaim any funding not used for the purposes stated on this form.

I agree to provide a report detailing the outcomes of this bid/project (a form will be sent out for completion at the relevant time).

**Signed**

Chris Perry

**Date**

9/08/10

**Position in organisation**

Chris Perry, Director Age Concern Hampshire

**Please return your completed form to:** The HAT Team, Room 105, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester, S023 8UJ, or email: [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk)