

Members of the County Council

February 2010

Dear Colleague,

Funding opportunity for ‘grassroots’ support for vulnerable people

I'm asking you to assist with ensuring community groups in the area you represent are aware of new funding which could help transform the way older and vulnerable people are supported in Staffordshire communities.

As part of *Staffordshire Cares*, in November, I announced that £1million would be made available over the next four years to encourage smaller local organisations such as community volunteer groups, village halls, parish councils, local clubs and faith groups to provide support or services for older and vulnerable people.

It is those groups at the most local level who know their place and its people better than anyone and I'm delighted that the first £250,000 of funding will be available from April 1st this year.

The new scheme is called the ‘**Community Wellbeing Fund**’. It will enable groups to apply for either a small grant of up to £1000, or a larger grant of up to £10,000. Both are simple to apply for and it may be that a local area already has some sort of service or initiative which could be extended wider to deliver greater benefits to more people. The enclosed information sheet contains more examples but here are a few indicative ideas:

- Developing something like community transport to increase access to facilities and social activities
- Healthy luncheon clubs to encourage older people to get out and meet others
- Befriending or ‘pop in’ schemes specifically for older and vulnerable people
- Other activities which could be leisure, education or training orientated such as Computer Clubs, or exercise groups

Anything which helps to achieve some of the broad themes below is welcome. As innovative as you like!...

- Helping older and vulnerable people to stay in their home and live more independently in their community
- Activities which promote good mental wellbeing
- Increasing volunteering opportunities
- Improving and increasing community and volunteer transport
- Reducing the number of older and vulnerable people from being admitted into hospital due to things such as falls or neglect

There are two opportunities within this year to apply:

1. from 1st April with a closing date of 30th June 2010
2. from 1st September with a closing date of 30th November 2010

We hope that this will give you plenty of time to gather your ideas and plans.

For further information please contact Health Development Officer, Shelley Davis, on Tel: 01785 278279
shelley.davis@staffordshire.gov.uk

Further details about the scheme including the full criteria, guidance notes and application forms will be available from 1st April at: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/health/healthdevelopment/grantscheme,

Please do your best to promote this funding scheme as it offers a tremendous opportunity for the most local organisations to deliver bespoke services in the heart of our communities.

Yours sincerely

