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Title: **Stronger Communities Funding 2016-17**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Stronger Communities Fund 2016-17 was established to help voluntary and community groups make their communities safer. The principal aim of the Stronger Communities Fund is to provide small grants to help local projects and groups, also to encourage community contact with local police to increase trust and confidence and reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. In September 2016 the Commissioner launched the fund, inviting applications for consideration. An assessment panel comprised of an officer from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and two Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners met and made recommendations to the Commissioner based on criteria within application form and proposals submitted. The Police and Crime Commissioner has the final decision on allocations of funds. 78 applications were received during the process and 24 were successful. Annex 1 details the successful applications.

DECISION

I approve the allocation of £32,982.11 to the projects as detailed at Annex 1.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....

Date.....

David Janin
5.1.17

NON - CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Replacing the Community Initiative Fund, the principal aim of the Stronger Communities Fund is to provide small grants to help local projects and groups succeed, also to encourage community contact with local police to increase trust and confidence and reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. To be successful, projects need to fulfil at least one of the following: improving community safety; responding to a community need; promoting partnership working; building stronger communities; engaging or empowering young people; supporting victims of crime.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Stronger Communities Fund allocation for 2016 is £40,000.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Schedule 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides Commissioners with the powers to award crime and disorder grants to any organisations and projects they consider will help them achieve their crime prevention and wider priorities.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Each year, the Police and Crime Commissioner will allocate a theme to the Stronger Communities Fund. The Fund is intended to assist in promoting equalities by targeting disadvantaged or hard to reach groups that may face inequality. It is also intended to support small community and voluntary groups that normally would not access funding through mainstream channels.

SCHEDULE OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

The applications are available.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information contained in this decision is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. This decision will be made available on the Commissioner's website.

APPENDIX 1

Ref	Organisation	Local Authority	Outline of request	Amount Requested	Suggested Funding
SC003	Wrener Youth Project	Dudley	Contribution towards a youth project which provides a range of activities including music, dance, football Coaching, money advice and employment advice.	£1,920	£1,000
SC005	Gornal Colts Under 12s	Dudley	Contribution towards football team kits and equipment for a local team that engages and reaches out to diverse communities.	£2,000.00	£1,000.00
SC006	Springfield Primary School	Sandwell	Contribution to sports equipment for school to support outdoor activities.	£960.00	£960.00
SC007	Ambur Community Radio	Walsall	Project which engages and trains local young people in community radio/media skills. The project will help address some of the barriers around engagement, interaction, and communication, especially amongst those communities that are hard to reach through traditional means.	£1,463.86	£1,463.86
SC008	Action For Bullying	Birmingham	Contribution towards a youth project in the North of Birmingham that works with young people aged 11-19, who are affected by bullying.	£2,000	£2,000
SC016	Stourbridge Community Speed Watch	Dudley	Scheme to help residents reduce traffic speeding throughout the neighbourhood and which enables community volunteers to address concerns through partnership working.	£1,928	£1,928
SC020	Life Community Church	Birmingham	Support for a weekly youth group for ages 11-18 years incorporating music and self-expression through games and outdoor activities.	£1,936.34	£1,500.00
SC022	Queen Alexandra College	Birmingham	Outdoor learning and recreational sessions targeted towards pre-exclusion and excluded pupils.	£1,840.25	£1,840.25
SC023	Langley House Trust	Coventry	Bicycle workshop project for young people to provide training in bicycle maintenance to support their journey of rehabilitation and community integration by offering skills and work experiences.	£1,920	£1,920
SC026	Gro-Organic	Birmingham	Environmental Project which offers practical activities for young people who are at risk of offending or who have offended and been placed on a community order.	£2,000	£2,000
SC033	Place of Refuge Community Church	Walsall	Contribution towards set up costs for a local neighbourhood watch with local people in the	£1,611	£750

			area.		
SC036	Ethnic Minority Council	Wolverhampton	Youth engagement project that places emphasis on the development of social, communication and conflict resolution for young people, in order to steer them away from anti social behaviour and /or gang involvement.	£2,000	£1,000
SC038	Coventry Pride	Coventry	Contribution towards LGBT History Month in February 2017	£2,000	£1,500
SC040	Star Youth Talent Competition	Walsall	Creative arts project which engages young people and provides skills, training, support from professionals and organisations.	£2,000	£1,500
SC053	Dr Bike - Meriden Adventure Playground Assn	Birmingham	A series of 'Dr Bike' cycle workshops with young people, which will offer free cycle checks, maintenance and repair.	£1,980	£1,000
SC055	The Albion Foundation	Sandwell	Promote physical activity and wellbeing to 50 young people in Smethwick through football activities and educational workshops	£2,000	£2,000
SC057	Shell Corner Partnership - Halesowen Speed Watch	Dudley	Funding for Pro Laser speed check item to be used in Halesowen North and South wards to combat speeding.	£2,000	£2,000
SC060	Wayne Elcock Boxing Academy	Solihull	The Boxing Academy is well established within local community and offers young people a pathway from gangs and anti-social behaviour. The funding will purchase boxing equipment and enable more young people to take part in classes.	£2,000	£2,000
SC061	Art of Motion Self Defence Classes	Solihull	Self-defence classes aimed at males and females from the age of 10	£1,900	£1,000
SC066	Caldmore's Men's Shed	Walsall	Environmental project to support local community with a space for recreational use, including developing gardening skills. The focus is promoting community cohesion across communities as well as partnerships across faith communities.	£1,960	£1,000
SC067	St Pauls Crossover	Birmingham	Provision of sports taster sessions along with motivational workshops delivered to a groups of young people to encourage health and well-being. .	£1,989	£1,000
SC070	Tastes of Whitmore Reans - Square Pegs Round Holes C.I.C	Wolverhampton	Contribution towards a Community Social Integration project, using food as the medium to bring people of different ages and ethnic backgrounds together, to learn	£2,000	£1,200

			<i>more about each other, improve understanding, reduce tensions and build cohesion.</i>		
SC075	Villa Cross Soup Kitchen	<i>Birmingham</i>	<i>Contribution towards Villa Cross Soup Kitchen engagement project, which supports most vulnerable residents with advice on employment, learning, safety and welfare reform .</i>	£1,989.97	£1,200.00
SC078	Wellington Road Community Centre	<i>Dudley</i>	<i>Contribution towards Community Event to promote community cohesion and partnership working.</i>	£220	£220
					£32,982.11

