

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER

DEFIBRILLATORS IN SCHOOLS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the provision of defibrillators in secondary schools not covered by previous financial assistance from the Community Grant Fund

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 An application for grant funding was received from the Member of Parliament for Brigg and Goole to provide a defibrillator in the following North Lincolnshire rural secondary schools, - Winterton, The Vale Academy, Sir John Nelthorpe, South Axholme Academy, Axholme Academy and Baysgarth School. This project came about following discussions he had with the Member of Parliament for Cleethorpes and other organisations such as the British Heart Foundation.
- 2.2 It is estimated that 270 children in the UK die as a result of sudden cardiac arrest in British schools each year. In a report in the Telegraph in 2011, it was estimated that just 80 schools out of 30,000 had access to a defibrillator. The charity Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) is leading a campaign to make it compulsory to have a defibrillator (AED) in every school in the UK. With cardiac arrest, every second and minute is critical and it is estimated that the chance of survival of a person in cardiac arrest reduces by 10% every minute.
- 2.3 This project provided the secondary schools named above a defibrillator via the East Midlands Ambulance Service. The cost of this was £8,208. The ambulance service also provides training sessions at a total cost of £1800. This would allow each school to nominate up to 6 people to be trained. This project can be enhanced by schools using the placement of AEDs to train students and pupils themselves in the use of an AED and other basic life saving skills.
- 2.4 The project offers schools the opportunity to also provide young people with essential life saving skills that will be of use to them beyond the

school site. The placement of an AED in the school site could also be made accessible to the local community should schools so wish. This can help make our community healthier, encourage volunteering and support young people.

- 2.5 Following correspondence and consultation with the remaining seven secondary schools a proposal has been developed that would make available a similar package of equipment and training that was the subject of the successful community grant bid. It appears that five of these schools – Huntcliff Academy, Melior Academy, Brumby Outwood Grange Academy, St Lawrence Academy and Frederick Gough School – are keen to enter the scheme.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The options available to the Cabinet Member are as follows.

- 3.1 Approve the extension of the scheme to the five schools identified
- 3.2 Not approve the extensions

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The extension of the scheme would deliver the benefits of the scheme identified in the background section of this report.

This would allow the majority of secondary schools in North Lincolnshire to have access to defibrillators and benefit from the training and awareness raising in their schools and among their pupils.

If the proposal is not approved these benefits would not be gained in the secondary schools in Scunthorpe and Kirton.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

Financial

- 5.1 The council has approved revenue and capital funds to support community projects as part of the 2013/14 budget. This proposal is likely to cost around £8,750 which can be met from these funds.

Staffing, Property and IT

- 5.2 There are no staffing, property or IT related implications to consider.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 Enabling extension of the scheme would raise awareness of first aid and improve the health of the school community and the wider population.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 None.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the provision of defibrillators in the named schools.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - None