

11th April 2011



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Dear Colleagues

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Big Local Trust Initiative

I am writing to update you on the Big Local Trust Initiative for the Kingsbrook and Cauldwell areas of Bedford.

As you may be aware, Kingsbrook and Cauldwell is one of 50 neighbourhoods identified by the Big Lottery Fund, which will each receive at least £1 million for local funding schemes over a period of up to ten years. CVS has been asked to facilitate some initial work in the area, in preparation for the £1 million being available in late 2011 or early 2012.

The work so far

A stakeholder meeting was held in January 2011, where over 40 local members of the community discussed the initiative and considered how best to get local communities involved. To support this early engagement work, £10,000, and possibly a further £20,000 has been made available by the Big Lottery Fund.

The stakeholder meeting agreed to focus the £10,000 on awareness-raising and improving methods of communicating with the local community, and then consider using the £20,000 on more specific consultation work.

Where are we now?

1. We have secured the £10,000 investment and we are now looking for people to help us deliver this work over the next six months. A breakdown of the planned work is enclosed with this letter.
2. We are also establishing a steering group to help guide this initiative towards the final goal of empowering the community to decide how it wants the £1 million investment to be spent. The steering group would develop ideas and then consult with wider stakeholders to gain a consensus on how to move forward.

If you are willing to be part of this steering group, please let me know. We propose that the initial meeting of the steering group will be at 10am on **Tuesday 3rd May 2011** at CVS's offices in Bedford.

I hope that brings you up-to-date with progress on the Big Local Trust initiative, but if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01234 354366 or email martin@yourcvcs.org.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Trinder".

Martin Trinder
Chief Officer

Serving the Local Voluntary and Community Sector

Big Local Trust Initiative - Kingsbrook and Cauldwell areas of Bedford

Activities to be supported with the initial £10,000 investment

The work must be undertaken within the next six months and any funds not spent will be added to the £1 million investment.

1. Support a new community newsletter, which will be distributed to homes throughout the Big Local area	We are looking for volunteers from the local community to form a newsletter team. We have approx £5,000 to cover both the initial costs of setting up a newsletter (training, equipment, etc) and the costs of printing and distributing two editions and developing an associated website.
2. Establish a Social Network for the local community	This work will need to be done in conjunction with the newsletter.
3. Develop information sheets explaining what Big Local is for use by local agencies	The production of A4 and A5 leaflets and flyers for use at a range of meetings and events. We have approx £1,000 for printing costs and staff time.
4. Support local events and meetings where Big Local can be discussed and raised	A small amount of funding towards the costs of events in the Big Local area, in return for Big Local being promoted at that event. We could support new or existing events that need some financial assistance. We have funding to support 10-15 events with approx £100 each.
5. Undertake some research to pull together previous consultations relating to the needs of the local community	This will be a desk-based piece of work which will provide a summary of the issues already identified in the local area and reduce the risk of repeating unnecessary and costly consultations. It should also identify any gaps in local knowledge and areas where future consultation should be focused. We have approx £1,000 to support this work.

If you would like to get involved in any of these activities, please contact Martin Trinder on **01234 354366** or email martin@yourcvs.org



LOTTERY FUNDED

April 2011