

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CARE FARMS IN LEWES DISTRICT

Background

The Authority's representative on Lewes District Crime Reduction Partnership (CRP) is Professor Gordon Bull. In November 2009, Professor Bull met with a long-standing friend who told him about the work that he was doing to establish Care Farms in the West Midlands, with grant funding from his local development agency. Professor Bull was shown various documents which described the objectives of the scheme and demonstrated the early successes that they had achieved.

The Authority adding value

Professor Bull was inspired by the work that he heard about in the West Midlands and he brought the idea back to Lewes CRP. Lewes CRP was very supportive of the idea as they could see potential benefits with such a scheme.

Professor Bull met with members of staff from the Community University Partnership Project at the University of Brighton to discuss possible support for such a project. The Partnership Project suggested that Lewes CRP bid for an internship, where recent graduates offer their time for free over a six month period, whilst registering for a Master's level reward at the University.

Professor Bull put together a bid on behalf of Lewes CRP and on 17 February 2010 he interviewed a candidate for the post and agreed to offer her the position. Miss Kirsty Brown will work on the project from 8 March for three and a half days a week for three months. Professor Bull will oversee and run the project on behalf of Lewes CRP. The project will focus on the following outline of work:

Outline programme of work – 28 February 2010

Draft outline of work, with milestones and documents as set out below:

1. Desk research on Care Farms worldwide to identify such things as:
 - (a) the models used
 - (b) the funding arrangements
 - (c) the customers
 - (d) providers and the kind of work provided
 - (e) the outcomes

Make contact with the National Care Farming Initiative (UK). Present a report to Lewes CRP outlining the findings and highlighting the potential benefits to the partnership.

By 31 March 2010

2. Visit to existing UK Care Farms to discuss their experiences and to meet the organisers and the providers to gain first-hand experience of Care Farms. Write report to CRP setting out findings.
By 15 April 2010

3. Identify and meet local agencies with potential clients. Give presentations to them of the benefits of Care Farms and seek their support. Create a list of potential organisations and keep them informed of progress through a regular mailshot.
By 15 May 2010
4. Discuss with Plumpton College a mechanism for engaging the farming community. Using Plumpton College's network, make contact with potential farmers and seek their involvement. Create a list potential farmers and keep them informed of progress through a regular mailshot.
By 15 June 2010
5. Identify and meet with potential funding agencies to seek their support. Identify the criteria for funding from each agency so that bids can be made meeting their criteria and requirements.
By 30 June 2010
6. Present a report to the CRP which identifies:
 - (a) the roles, responsibilities and rewards for the potential partners;
 - (b) potential funding sources to enable the scheme to get off the ground, identifying any restrictions and criteria of significance;
 - (c) the funding required on an ongoing basis and proposals for how such a funding stream might be made available;
 - (d) a comprehensive list of organisations who might become involved;
 - (e) proposals to the CRP as to how to best take the scheme forward.By 31 August 2010

Outcome

As a direct result of the enthusiasm and work of Professor Bull, Lewes CRP will now benefit from the identification of opportunities within the district to develop Care Farms for the benefit of local young people. Care Farms give opportunities for young people who are perhaps angry, disillusioned and aggressive and struggling with main-stream education to have an outlet where they can express themselves, they can learn about empathy, discipline and soon start to build a pride in their own achievements and start to develop a positive self image. The ambition of this project is that Lewes District will benefit from such a scheme, thereby tackling issues relating to anti-social behaviour, exclusion and low level criminality. This case study is a strong example of where members of the Authority seek to identify opportunities to benefit the wider public.

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