

## **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN REYNOLDS 19th DECEMBER BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR**

### **JOINING FORCES TO HELP VULNERABLE PEOPLE STAY WARM AND WELL THIS WINTER**

A consortium of organisations from across Cambridgeshire led by the County Council will be working hard to ensure more vulnerable people stay warm and well this winter after securing more than £250,000 from Government. The County Council bid for the money on behalf of local authorities, housing associations, health providers, charities and advice providers. Cambridgeshire has now been awarded £252,000 from a £20m Government Warm Homes Healthy People fund.

The money will be used to commission additional services which will enhance what is already provided by agencies in Cambridgeshire such as advice services, healthy living initiatives, household and heating repairs and improvements and community support initiatives such as shopping services for vulnerable people. Work will also focus on identifying individuals and families at risk before the worst of the cold weather hits.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "I am delighted that for the second year agencies across Cambridgeshire have come together to successfully bid for this extra government funding. The money will help us to build on the support and services which are already provided across Cambridgeshire by a host of organisations and will enable us to keep many more people safe, well and warm this winter."

### **STOP MEANS STOP - YOU'RE PUTTING CHILDREN'S LIVES AT RISK**

Cambridgeshire's school crossing patrol service has launched a campaign to target drivers who fail to stop or are rude and abusive to lollipop ladies.

The County Council's road safety team has received nine reports since April of motorists failing to stop and putting the lives of crossing patrols and children at risk. Other complaints included road users who:

- \* Failed to stop
- \* Drove around the patrol when they were on the road
- \* Used abusive language
- \* Threatened the patrol with physical violence
- \* Trying to intimidate the patrol by loudly revving the engine while the patrol and children were in the road

Authorities in the eastern region are running their annual Stop Means Stop campaign to remind drivers that they are required by law to stop for school crossing patrols. Failure to do so can lead to a £1000 fine and three penalty points. In cases where the driver has been in their vehicle and behaved in an antisocial manner, the police can issue a Section 59 notice which can lead to the vehicle being seized.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "School Crossing Patrol Officers play a vital role in ensuring school children are provided with a safe route to and from school. They should be able to do this without fear of intimidation and threatening behaviour from inconsiderate motorists.

"Last year in the UK there were 7,000 reported incidents, which is totally unacceptable. Drivers must remember that if their car journey takes them through a patrolled area, allow extra time, slow down and be prepared and willing to stop when requested to do so by the School Crossing Patrol."

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE MEETS ADOPTION THRESHOLDS**

Cambridgeshire has again met the timescale thresholds in adoption for key performance indicators. The county is doing better than the national average with 65 per cent of children in Cambridgeshire waiting less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family, compared to the national average of 56 per cent of children waiting less than 21 months for an adoptive family. Its average length of care proceedings over two years is a week longer than the national average.

\* In the first six months of this year 16 adoptive families have been approved (35 families were approved last year)

\* 19 children have been placed for adoption in the first six months of the year, compared with a total of 22 children placed last year. 17 of the 19 children were placed with Cambridgeshire adopters.

\* 13 adoption orders have been granted since April 2012 (32 adoption orders granted last year)

The scorecard measures Local Authority adoption performance against timescales highlighting key indicators for how swiftly local authorities place children in need of adoptive families.

Two key threshold indicators are measured by a scorecard. The first of these relates to the overall experience of a child who is adopted, measuring the average time it takes for a child from entering care and moving in with his or her adoptive family. The second key indicator measures the average time it takes between court authorising placement for adoption and a child being matched with an adoptive family, identifying the proportion of children who wait longer for adoption than they should.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "Based on the score card information, Cambridgeshire as an adoption agency is doing well currently, but we are not complacent and will continue to monitor our performance rigorously. Our practice is becoming more child-focused and we are very pleased at being able to recruit prospective adopters who are able to meet the needs of children waiting for adoptive families. We will continue to work closely with Coram to further reduce delay for children and for prospective adopters."

## **ADULT PLACEMENT SCHEME GETS TOP MARKS FROM INSPECTORS**

A Cambridgeshire County Council scheme which provides supported living placements, respite care and outreach support for people with learning disabilities, has been given top marks by government inspectors. The Adult Placement Scheme underwent a routine inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and was found to be performing well in all aspects of the inspection. The scheme provides services and support to 95 people with a range of learning disabilities.

CQC inspectors spoke to service users and staff and concluded that: "People who used the service were very happy with their care and the care staff who supported them. Staff understood the needs of the people they supported and were very positive about the support that was available to staff so that they could provide a good service." CQC looked at all aspects of the Adult Placement Scheme, including involving and respecting people who use the service; care and welfare; safeguarding and support arrangements for staff and service users.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "The very positive outcome of this inspection is a tribute to all the staff involved with the Adult Placement Scheme and I am delighted that service users made such positive comments about the support and services they receive."

## **£2 MILLION TRANSPORT BOOST SET FOR CAMBRIDGE**

The County Council have approved a £2 million transport boost for Cambridge that aims to reduce congestion, improve health and help support the growth of the local economy. Some 20 new schemes which will make it easier for people to walk and cycle are approved for funding in the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire area. Most of which, have been put forward to the County Council by local communities to help improve safety and accessibility on the local transport network.

More than £2million pounds has been secured from developers to pay for the improvements to the Cambridgeshire road network, necessitated by growth. The plans have come forward after talking to local communities and listening to their ideas on what they wanted to see in their areas to help improve transport and manage local housing and business growth.

Included in the proposals are major projects such as; lighting along The Busway maintenance track at Trumpington, Orchard Park, Kings Hedges, Milton Rd & East Chesterton; improvements for cyclists and pedestrians to Cherry Hinton High Street; traffic calming for Tenison Road; a cycle route from Milton to Landbeach; improved traffic calming for Fen Road; and a shared use path named Ring Fort Path, from Orchard Park to the A14 intersection at Histon, providing a shorter route for cyclists. The schemes are expected to be designed and built over the next 5 years as part of a wider programme of improvements to transport.

This funding has been secured by the County Council, working with Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, in order to make improvements to infrastructure in line with the objectives of the Corridor Area Transport Plans. This funding is being recommended in addition to Cabinet's earlier decision back in July, to approve over £1million worth of allocations from developer contributions in the City and South Cambridgeshire area for improving cycle ways, crossings, safety and junction improvements with the aim of enhancing accessibility.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said "This is excellent news for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. The measures will not only deliver valuable safety improvements to the road network, but will encourage people to make healthier travel choices and improve access to employment. Walking, cycling and taking the bus will all appear more attractive if we can make them safe and accessible for everyone. It is also fantastic that the County Council engaged with our local communities to ensure that money is spent in the right place and in the right way. The Ring Fort Path was suggested by the Cambridge Cycling Campaign to provide a shorter walking and cycling route between Histon and Orchard Park, opening up opportunities for healthier journeys to and from these areas."

## **VOLUNTEERS IN CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT RECRUITS FIRST VOLUNTEERS**

The first volunteers in a pioneering project to work with families whose children are subject to child protection plans have been recruited. This project - funded by Cambridgeshire County Council - will run initially until April 2014. It recruits and trains volunteers to provide support to families whose children are subject to a Child Protection Plan. The project is run by Community Service Volunteers (CSV), working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Social Care. The families will be recruited from the Fenland and East Cambridgeshire areas of Cambridgeshire and will initially be referred by social workers.

The volunteers have a variety of roles, which include:

- \* visiting the family at agreed times, which will depend on the needs of the family
- \* building up a relationship of mutual trust and respect with the family

- \* supporting the family and help them to make contact with useful local resources
- \* parenting and practical help
- \* enabling the family to become independent

In 2010, CSV's Volunteers in Child Protection programme won one of the most prestigious awards in the charity sector, highlighting the practical and effective role volunteers can play in delivering public services. The aim of the project is to achieve positive outcomes for the children and families. It has just recruited and trained the first batch of volunteers.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "I wholeheartedly welcome this initiative, which gives people in the community the chance to help the most troubled families in Cambridgeshire and improve their lives."

### **CAMBRIDGE TO BECOME A SUPER CONNECTED CITY**

Cambridge has won a share of £50 million Government funding to become a super-connected city as part of countywide plans for better broadband across Cambridgeshire. Chancellor George Osborne announced in his Autumn Statement today that Cambridge is one of 12 smaller cities chosen from a shortlist of 27 to share £50 million in the second wave of the Department of Culture Media and Sport's Urban Broadband Fund.

The plan will boost the local economy by delivering broadband speeds greater than 80-100 mbps for businesses, speeding up residential connectivity, and providing high speed wireless across the urban Cambridge area. The bid has been developed by Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council working with the greater Cambridge business and academic community to cover the urban Cambridge area where the density of properties places high demands on broadband coverage.

It is part of the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme to bring access to superfast broadband to the majority of homes and businesses across the county by 2015, with better connectivity for all. In addition to the Government funding, Cambridgeshire County Council is investing up to £20 million together with £3 million from Peterborough City Council to improve broadband to stimulate growth and help communities and businesses to thrive across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, particularly in rural areas.

Super-connected Cambridge will enhance and spread technology, innovation and enterprise across the county to boost the local economy. Better broadband connectivity will also support the health and wellbeing of residents by ensuring communities can access to digital services and online learning opportunities, as well as working from home.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "This is great news for Cambridgeshire. I would like to commend the team, which has included local authorities, businesses, universities and Members of Parliament who have worked together to create a successful bid.

"The super-connected city plan will allow us to drive forward economic growth and sustain thriving, connected communities in our area, with local business and local authorities working together to achieve sustainable long-term benefits.

"It will allow our businesses to maintain their position at the forefront of global scientific and technological advances, help to increase their international competitiveness and enable the economic success enjoyed by Cambridge to permeate into the surrounding area.

## **PLANS TO HELP LIGHT THE WAY ON BUSWAY**

Plans are afoot for new solar-powered stud lights to be installed along the Busway maintenance track between Orchard Park and St Ives. Cambridgeshire County Council has previously used the studs on cycle routes such as those between Over and Swavesey and on the Addenbrooke's to Shelford route where they have proven to be very popular.

The Busway cycle track has been well used since its opening in August 2011 and new solar lighting will mean that people will now be able to use it well into the winter evenings as well. The studs are expected to cost around £95,000 and will have a minimal impact on the local environment while helping light the way.

Councillor Ian Bates, Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, said: "This is fantastic news for those who use the Busway maintenance track to walk and cycle. Solar studs will provide a trail route for users to follow while having no ongoing cost for the Council. The Council is committed to providing good facilities for cyclists and pedestrians and will be looking towards lighting other sections of the Busway maintenance track."

Installation is expected to begin in late January 2013, with works expected to last around eight weeks. Efforts will be expended to minimise disruption to the public during the works, but some disruption is likely.

Funding for the works is coming from the Cambridgeshire Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme which includes a programme of measures aimed at 'Getting Cambridgeshire to Work'. £5m has been awarded by Government to spend over the next three years, which will unlock a further £4.2m to be spent on transport improvements.

Cambridgeshire County Council was awarded £5 million by Government (Department for Transport) in May 2012 to spend over three years. This was from the 'Local Sustainable Transport Fund', a fund established to enable the delivery by local transport authorities of sustainable transport solutions that support economic growth while reducing carbon. The fund also provides an opportunity to deliver additional wider social, environmental, health and safety benefits for local communities.

In Cambridgeshire, the funding will be used for a programme of measures aimed at 'Getting Cambridgeshire to Work' by making it easier for people to travel between home and work, and to other key destinations.

Programme measures will be implemented under three themes:

- \* Improving links to transport interchanges and corridors
- \* Improving links to employment areas
- \* The provision of improved travel information.

The programme incorporates projects which aim to:

- \* Improve journey time reliability
- \* Make journeys more attractive via sustainable, healthy and lower carbon contributions
- \* Change travel behaviour
- \* Reduce congestion
- \* Improve connectivity and interchange facilities

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## **CREATING A LEGACY FOR PARALYMPICS SPORT**

Groups and projects in Cambridgeshire have come forward to apply for part of a £15,000 fund to increase the participation of people with disability in sport but there is still more money available to support people. So far four organisations have been offered funding totalling £6,000 - this means there is still £9,000 in the 'Disability Sport Legacy Fund'.

The scheme was been set up by Cambridgeshire County Council to support groups and clubs wanting to develop disability sports or inclusion projects in the County. The aim is to develop sports activities for disabled people, or people with additional needs, to help raise the participation levels in sport by disabled people of any age.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "The Paralympics were inspirational and the nation has been gripped by the fantastic performances of all the athletes taking part. For example, Jonny Peacock and Jody Cundy are two local athletes whose talents have shone through. We believe their exploits will lead to an increase in the demand for sport in the coming months from people with disabilities and we want to help sports clubs across Cambridgeshire meet this demand.

"The Disability Sport Legacy Fund is designed to assist organisations to provide new and exciting opportunities for disabled people to take part in sport. So we are looking for new, creative ideas that will engage disabled people and positively change their lives. The projects likely to receive support will be long term and not 'one offs' and they must be focused on providing a pathway into regular sporting activity for the individual participants. These are exciting times and I am really looking forward to seeing the bids come in."

To be considered, projects must demonstrate their sports activity will meet an identified need and encourage participation by individuals who are not presently engaged in sport or do not have the opportunity to get involved.

To help bring your ideas to fruition, Cambridgeshire County Council are offering partnership funding of up to £3,000 per project. This money can equate to 100 per cent of the total funding required or be part of partnership funding.

If you have a project in mind that requires initial 'up front funding' to set it in motion, E mail [Jackie.Marriot@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Marriot@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk) for an application form or visit <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/sports/sportfunding.htm> for further information.

The application process remains open and projects must start by the end of February 2013 to be considered for funding.

## **NO NEED TO BOOK FOR ADVICE SESSIONS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE LIBRARIES**

Information and advice on Direct Payments for social care services will be available during sessions in Cambridgeshire Libraries - and you don't need to book a place to attend. The drop in sessions have been organised by the Penderels Trust, which works on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council to provide a Direct Payments (DP) support service and to help people apply for a direct payment and to set up their own support services.

The events are open to people already using DPs or thinking of applying, social care professionals, voluntary sector organisations and members of the public who are interested in the payment system. Information about DP will be available together with information about employing and managing staff, choosing and using a care agency, payroll services and managing finances.

Each session will take place between 11.00 am-3.00 pm, at:

- \* Huntingdon Library, December 12
- \* Ely Library, January 31
- \* March Library, February 13
- \* Wisbech Library, February 19.

A Direct Payment for social care is a cash sum paid to a person to enable them to make their own social care arrangements. People over 65 with social care needs, people over 16 with a range of disabilities or health issues can apply as can anyone with parental responsibility for a disabled child or anyone who is a carer and aged over 16.

Information is also available from Penderels Trust via e-mail at [Cambridgeshire@penderelstrust.org.uk](mailto:Cambridgeshire@penderelstrust.org.uk) or on 0345 6000 684.

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