

Report on	Request for support for a Regional Home safety facility from Causeway Coast & Glens
Date of Meeting	14 th September 2021
Reporting Officer	Fiona McClements

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise Members of correspondence received from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (CCG) requesting support from Mid Ulster District Council to consider a regional Home Safety facility.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>A number of NI Councils receive funding to put in place a Home Safety programme in their council areas. The funding in the Mid Ulster area focusses on households with children under 5 years old or people over 65. Additionally MUDC are involved in an annual event called Be-Safe which aims to communicate a safety message to school age children on a range of relevant safety topics. This event is a partnership event working closely with the schools and a number of organisations (listed below) delivering the various messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translink – Safety Bus • HSE – Farm Safety • NIE – Electrical Safety • PSNI – Road Safety • PSNI – internet Safety • NIFRS – Fire Safety • CWSAN – Take 5 • RNLI – Water Safety
2.2	The event is run at no cost to schools, including transport costs and arrangements. Previous funders have included PCSP, PSNI and Mid Ulster District Councils Environmental Health Department.
2.3	As referred to in the correspondence from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council there was previously a facility for this area located in Ballymoney which according to the letter has since closed. In addition there was a regional facility funded by the PSNI in Belfast called RADAR which has also since closed due to funding for the operation of the facility not being available. Newspaper reports sourced online advised of operating costs of approximately £650,000 p.a. According to the RADAR website, this facility provided safety focused learning experiences for children and young people throughout Northern Ireland. The aim was for RADAR to enable children and young people to experience dangerous 'real life' situations within the risk free environment of an interactive

	<p>village. This interactive and realistic experiential learning aimed to equip them with all the information to make better life choices. The website states that a large range of subjects were covered, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P6/7 - Fire Safety, Electrical Safety, Farm Safety, Home Safety, Internet Safety, Rail Safety, Road Safety, Water Safety, Drugs and Alcohol Awareness and more. • 16 to 24 - Drugs and Alcohol Awareness, Road Safety, Violent and Anti-social Behaviour, Mental Health, Bullying and Harassment, Suicide and Self Harm, Discrimination, Anti-Sectarianism and more.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Correspondence from Causeway coast and Glens Borough Council (see Appendix 1) has requested the support from Mid Ulster District Council to put in place a “fit for purpose” regional facility. The initial response from Mid Ulster Council is shown at Appendix 2.
3.2	As there is limited detail contained within the letter regarding where the regional facility would be located or what type of facility is being considered then presumably MUDC are being asked to consider the underlying principle behind this concept. It is noted that Central Government will be asked to cover the costs of running the regional facility. Therefore MUDC is not being requested to consider financial support at this stage but other support may be considered in the form of promoting the facility where possible and perhaps even to the extent of not providing any parallel programmes. The Be-Safe event has always been popular with the local schools and the lack of transportation and attendance costs is likely to have had an impact on this. Therefore it would be important that any operating costs being requested from Central Government should also consider access costs for schools to ensure that the facility is used by schools across the region.
3.3	MUDC may wish to consider providing support in principle to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in their next stage of progressing potential options for such a facility and making initial approaches to Central Government for funding which would include school transportation costs for schools across the region.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: If the facility is funded by Central Government with no costs to MUDC, then there may be a savings from not contributing to the Be-Safe event p.a. to the tune of approximately £1,000.
	Human: Staff time no longer needed for the Be Safe event.
	Risk Management: N/a

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That members give consideration to agree in principle to support a “fit for purpose” Regional home safety facility to be funded by Central Government in a manner that enables free access to school age children across NI.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Correspondence received from causeway Coast and Glens
6.2	Appendix 2 – Correspondence sent to Causeway Coast and Glens