

Report to	South West Wiltshire
Date of Meeting	20/11/2019
Title of Report	Community Youth Grants

## 1. Purpose of the report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following applications seeking funding from the South West Wiltshire Area Board.

Application	Grant Amount
<b>Applicant:</b> Seeds4Success <b>Project Title:</b> Seeds4Success - Open Access Youth Work Opportunities	£10000.00
<b>Applicant:</b> Community First/Youth Action Wiltshire <b>Project Title:</b> Bridging Project Outdoor Education Experience	£2180.00

## 2. Main Considerations

Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2019/20 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Cabinet member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2019/2020.

Community Youth Grants will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

Community Youth Grants give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

There is £18,000 available in the Youth Budget.

### 3. The applications

<b>Applicant:</b> Seeds4Success <b>Project Title:</b> Seeds4Success - Open Access Youth Work Opportunities	Amount Requested from Area Board: £10000.00
<p>This application meets grant criteria 2019/20.</p> <p><b>Project Summary:</b>Seeds4Success provides a range of developmental opportunities for young people living in South West Wiltshire and we want to continue to offer these services to as many young people as possible. Through providing a variety of open access positive activities and opportunities throughout the week such as our health and well being project night and drop-in sessions in Mere and Wilton young people will be enabled to meet their peers make new friends develop practical skills increase physical activity and engage with experienced youth workers in a safe and supported environment. Through regular participation young people will increase their physical and mental well being and feel less socially isolated. These Open access sessions are often the first contact we have with young people and they are then supported to access our targeted programmes as necessary. Many young people will be empowered to engage with our social action initiatives which lead to huge benefits to them individually and to the local community.</p> <p><b>Please tell us WHO will benefit and HOW they will benefit from your project and benefit your local community:</b></p> <p>Young people living in the large rural area of South West Wiltshire face significant challenges around their education employment training and leisure time activities. Although the area appears wealthy there are pockets of deprivation and this combined with limited facilities and transport creates isolation. This has a negative impact on young peoples ability to socialise or access positive activities their mental and physical health are affected and opportunities to develop skills and independence are limited. These challenges are significantly increased for those young people facing additional barriers and needs. Seeds4Success provide a variety of opportunities throughout the week engaging a range of individuals with different needs including those hard to reach young people facing multiple barriers to participation using 3 key methods of delivery Open Access Youth Work Targeted Support and Social Action Programmes. The Open Access element of our work is the hardest for us to fund as many grants programmes are only for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people or for specific targeted projects. We are seeking funding to support our open access offer to young people as quite often it is through these sessions that we begin to identify young people who are facing additional challenges or who would benefit from further support from our charity. By providing regular sessions where young people can come and meet their friends in a safe and welcoming space they learn about and discuss issues affecting their lives they can gain experiences that support their personal</p>	

and social development. These sessions also provide the opportunity for young people to access planned activities such as sports and games cooking arts and crafts woodwork bike maintenance and outdoor activities. We provide transport to all our sessions enabling young people living in rural isolation to access our services. Young people are regularly consulted about the activities we offer and we have a youth committee who support in the overall development of the charity. Young people tell us what works and what needs changing and there are positive relationships between staff and young people enabling a good dialogue about these things. We do not make a charge for any of our sessions as we feel that this is a barrier to some young people and it is also an effective youth work tool. We feel it is important however that young people understand that there are costs to the services they are accessing therefore we often have open conversations about what makes the charity work and how they are able to access these opportunities at no cost. We do have expectations around behaviour and respect and by not charging young people to access our sessions their engagement is completely voluntary. If behaviour does not meet our expectations we are able to have conversations with those individuals about this and the choices they are making without them feeling that they a bought a space at a sessions and therefore can do what they want. The social action element of our work enables young people to develop a greater understanding of how the charity is run and the importance of positive relationships between us and the wider community. These are the young people who go on to actively fundraise to support our work provide support to events in the local community in the name of Seeds4Success support staff and other young people as youth work sessions and plan and deliver junior youth work. We know that many young people face additional barriers when it comes to accessing services and this is why we try to remove as many of these as possible. By providing transport to access our project which are free at the point of entry we are going a long way to address some of the inequalities that exist. We also know that young people with learning needs and disabilities face bigger challenges and these young people receive greater support through our targeted programmes however once these young people have gained more confidence and increased their social skills they are supported to attend open access opportunities as well. We are also mindful that many young people facing challenges may not feel able to just go along to an open access session. We work with local partners such as schools and specialist support workers to identify individuals who may need that extra support making contact and meeting up with them to reduce those anxieties. If these young people decide they would like to access our services we ensure we understand their needs and support them in attending the most appropriate session. We have peer leaders at all sessions who look out for these particular individuals creating a safe and friendly environment for all young people.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
3469	Community First/Youth Action Wiltshire	Bridging Project Outdoor Education Experience	£2180.00

### Project Description:

Designed with participating young people and delivered in partnership with Seeds4Success we will provide an exciting diverse challenging fun outdoor education programme for young people from South West Wiltshire aged 13-19 years who have SEND. This will complement the existing youth work carried out through Seeds4Successs Bridging Project offering a minimum of 12 young people with SEND the opportunity to Take part in a full taster day of bush craft and adventure sports activities. Enabling them to build a positive relationship with Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centres staff team and experience new fun developmental activities and overcome any fears or anxieties of attending a residential. Participate in a 3 day 2 night residential experience held at Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre full of individual and group based challenge activities. The residential programmes will be designed with the young people meeting their needs and wishes enabling them to develop independent living skills personal confidence and create positive memories. Complete a follow up adventure sports session as chosen by the young people. To reflect on the residential experience each young persons personal development and to have fun with their friends. By securing the funding for the programme from the South West Area Board this provision would be free to access ensuring equality of opportunity. All young people completing the programme will achieve a Learning Outside the Classroom certificate through close work with Seed4Success who will provide pastoral staffing support on all sessions we will ensure we understand and fully meet the needs of all engaging young people and importantly that all of the learning from the programme is fully recognised taken forward into the young people everyday lives.

### Who will benefit

A minimum of 12 young people aged 13-19 years with SEND will benefit from our project. This will include young people who have learning needs such as Autism ASD ADHD global development delay as well as those who do not have a specific diagnosis but who find interacting with their peers challenging due to their maturity levels or prior negative experiences. Many of these young people access the Bridging Project to develop their confidence social and practical skills and to relieve their isolation. Having the opportunity to spend a residential together and share experiences and learning will be hugely beneficial raising self esteem improving their mental health and wellbeing increasing their levels of physical activity enabling them to experience independence and enhancing their friendships with their peers. These young people will come from across South West Wiltshire they may be attending mainstream or special schools colleges or alternatively they may be not in education employment and training NEET. We will also engage some of the regular Bridging Project peer leaders from Seeds4Success to support the group and encourage individual young people who my be facing barriers. Below are a couple of comments from Bridging Project members about the proposed project. I think this would be a great project as this will help us get to know more about our friends at the Bridging Project. We could also be able to

learn new things and gain skills we didnt know we could do H 16 It will be exciting to stay away from home and spend time with my new friends and try all the activities B 13 Our programme of activities will be designed with the young people which will support the development of their communication and planning skills. All activities that are offered will provide a range of new exciting opportunities for young people to safely challenge themselves and achieve. This process will be enhanced through peer-support which will be embedded throughout the projects delivery. The residential experience will include a wide range of opportunities for the young people to develop independent living skills set and achieve personal challenges increase their personal confidence team working and problem solving skills. Guided reflection and the achievement of a Learning Outside the Classroom certificate will support young people to recognise their own personal development. Positive memories of their experiences and friendships made will be beneficial for the young people to draw on in future times of need.

**Report Author:**

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