

Report To **Westbury Area Board**

Date of Meeting **Thursday, 02 September 2021**

Title of Report **Westbury Area Grant Report**

Purpose of the Report

- To provide detail of the grant applications made to the Westbury Area Board. These could include; community area grants, health and wellbeing, young persons grants and Area Board initiatives.
- To document any recommendations provided through sub groups.

Area Board Current Financial Position

	Community Area Grants	Young People	Health and Wellbeing
Opening Balance For <u>2021/22</u>	£ 31,433	£ 12,892	£ 7,700
Awarded To Date	£ 1,000	£ 5,325	£ 0
Current Balance	£ 30,433	£ 7,567	£ 7,700
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ 30,433	£ 7,567	£ 2,900

Grant Funding Application Summary

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
ABG176	Health and Wellbeing Grant	Independent Living Centre Semington	Benefits advice for the disabled and older community in Wiltshire	£34636.00	£4800.00

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>We want to offer Benefits Advice for older people and people of any age with a disability in a sustainable way with expert staff and volunteers to ensure we can support as many people as possible in a sustainable way. Applying for a Personal Independent Payments can be a complex and difficult process. The payments enable people with significant disabilities to get help with things like transport, shopping, cooking and cleaning, and enable them to live independently. The ILC has been delivering a benefits support service for people with disabilities in Wiltshire since 2009 and in that time we estimate that we have supported around 5,000 people and secured over £4 million pounds in benefits, by supporting people to claim what they're entitled to. We sadly needed to stop this service due to our benefits Advisor retiring and funds having run out to re appoint in March 2021. There are no other charities in the area who are able to provide specialist advice to people of all ages who are entitled to Personal Independent Payments. We understand what a tremendous difference that these can make and are really keen to begin this vital service again, with a sustainable model by training a team of expert volunteers. We are really thrilled that our former Advisor Sheila Bluer, who is widely acknowledged as an expert in this field (the CAB send clients to her due to her specialist knowledge) has agreed to come back to the ILC to help us develop this new model. We are proposing to employ Sheila, or specialist advisor two days per week for a 12 month period, to train an advisor/volunteer coordinator, working two days per week. In year 2 Sheila will drop to one day per week and with the advisor/volunteer coordinator, we will recruit two advisor volunteers, each working one day per week. In year three the service will be provided by the advisor/volunteer coordinator, plus the two volunteers. This arrangement will provide a sustainable and cost effective benefits advice service, running 4 days per week and with a capacity to see up to 100 clients per year. With administrative support and overheads, by year three the service will cost £26232 p/a. which we believe we will be able to fund through general donations. This would be the key steps to us delivering this project: Step 1: Appoint our former expert advisor for 2 days per week and begin offering clients direct support. Step 2. Advertise and appoint a Trainee Advisor to support the Benefits Advisor Step 3. Appoint volunteers who will be trained and support by the Benefits and Trainee Advisor.</p>					

1. Background

Area Boards have authority to approve funding under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria. This document is available on the council's website.

Three funding streams are available to the Area Board, each with an annually awarded amount. These funding streams are as follows:

- Community Area Grants (capital)
- Young People (revenue)
- Health and Wellbeing (revenue)

The Area Board will be advised of the funding available prior to their first meeting of each financial year.

2. Main Considerations

2.1. Councillors need to be satisfied that the applications meet the requirements as set out in the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria and that the health and wellbeing and young persons funding guidelines have been adhered to.

2.2. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.

2.3. Councillors need to consider any recommendations made by sub groups of the Area Boards.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

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

4. Financial Implications

Councillors must ensure that the Area Board has sufficient funding available to cover the grants awarded.

5. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes where they meet the funding criteria.

8. Safeguarding Implications

The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

Report Author

Graeme Morrison, Community Engagement Manager, Graeme.Morrison@wiltshire.gov.uk