

Report to Melksham Area Board
Date of meeting 07.02.2018
Title of report Community Area Grant funding

Purpose of the Report:

To consider a councillor-led initiative requesting funding from the Area Board.

Applicant	Amount requested
Cllr Jon Hubbard – Melksham Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) Project	£4,500

1. Background

Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the [Area Board Grants Guidance](#)

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that funding awarded in the 2017/2018 year is made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of it being awarded.
- 2.2. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.
- 2.3. Councillors will need to be satisfied that the applications meet the Community Area Board grants criteria and practice papers for [councillor-led initiatives](#)
- 2.4. Best practice advises that applications relating to young people or highways and transport should be considered by, and seek a recommendation from, the Local Youth Network or Community Area Transport Group.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

Councillor led-projects are designed to enable councillors to tackle issues in their area, including projects and initiatives which have been initiated by the community eg. a community issue. Councillor-led projects should not be used to fill gaps where there are service shortfalls or where it is possible for the matter to be resolved through the use of the Community Area Grants scheme.

4. Financial Implications

Financial provision had been made to cover this expenditure. The Community Area Grants scheme which funds Councillor-led initiatives can only provide capital funding.

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.

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.

9. Applications for consideration

Application Name	Provider	Project Proposal	Requested
Cllr Jon Hubbard	N/A	Melksham Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) Project	£4,500
<p>For the Melksham Area Board to fund 12 places on the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) training. This would facilitate a new ELSA trained member of staff at each school within the community area. An ELSA is a specialist Teaching Assistant who has training and experience in supporting children and young people's emotional and social development.</p> <p>ELSAs work with teachers to identify pupils who could benefit from support and to set individual objectives for them. ELSAs then work with the pupil, either individually or in a small group using activities targeted to the pupil's needs.</p> <p>Following the successful Melksham Healthy Schools partnership project, there has been enthusiasm from the Area Board and local Head Teachers to continue working together. The best way to do this is to look at how the Area Board can help the local schools tackle the Melksham Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) 2017 priorities for young people. These were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Poverty• Mental and Emotional Health• Childhood Obesity <p>Following consultation with school Head Teachers, it was felt that investment in ELSAs would make a significant impact on many children's mental and emotional health. The ELSA training is an additional qualification for teaching assistants, not something that they would typically be trained in. Due to the cost of the training, there are insufficient ELSAs across the Melksham schools and many children who would benefit from their support are unable to access them in a timely manner.</p> <p>Proposal That the Area Board determines the application.</p>			

Background documents used in the publication of this report:
Quotes/estimates for this proposal can be obtained from the Community Engagement Manager upon request.

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