

Report to	Melksham
Date of Meeting	08/09/2020
Title of Report	Community Youth Grants

### 1. Purpose of the report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following applications seeking funding from the Melksham Area Board.

Application	Grant Amount	
<b>Applicant:</b> Our Time Project <b>Project Title:</b> Our Time Inter-generational Project Melksham	£4500.00	
<b>Total grant amount requested at this meeting</b>	£4500.00	

### 2. Main Considerations

Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2020/21 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 2020/2021.

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.

### 3. The applications

<b>Applicant:</b> Our Time Project <b>Project Title:</b> Our Time Inter-generational Project Melksham	Amount Requested from Area Board: £4500.00	
This application meets grant criteria 2020/21.		
<b>Project Summary:</b> An inter-generational project with the Our Time Project Company <a href="http://www.ourtimeproject.com">www.ourtimeproject.com</a> will connect elders and young people in		

Melksham helping them to explore their experience of lock down using theatre and movement. 8 workshops will be led by the experts of the Our Time project company 2 live onsite workshops using movement and theatre will happen with 20 young people and 24 further zoom workshops in six sessions will join elders and young people again using theatre as a medium to interact and share their experiences the work will be filmed and edited and shared via a link on our community matters to share with the wider community.

A quarter of all known coronavirus deaths have happened in care homes. Elderly people have been isolated and prevented from seeing their family until recently. According to Dementia UK this enforced separation has caused a deterioration in residents mental and physical health particularly for those living with dementia - who make up more than 70 of the population of care homes. Our Time Project was established in 2013. Prior to the crisis we provided theatre and movement workshops to elderly people including individuals who had endured strokes and those with dementia. We are currently not able to provide this support but improving the physical and mental health of our beneficiaries is still our main priority. As such we have talked to our care home partners about the key issues affecting residents. One of these issues is that many are struggling to understand their experience of sudden lock down and this is impacting their mental health. In response we have created this new inter generational project will look at a specific issue that has impacted our beneficiaries such as depression anxiety fear and death. Beneficiaries will be supported to explore and understand what they have experienced and this will help to improve their mental health. Humour is an important part of this project. Comedy has been shown to improve engagement in dementia patients and studies show that laughter improves health and eases stress. Children and young people across the UK have had their lives turned upside down by the pandemic. Almost every young person has had to adjust to dramatic changes in their education or employment routine and home life. Some have experienced bereavement or other Traumatic experiences during the lock down period while groups who were already marginalised or disadvantaged are now likely to become more so. Young people have voiced through surveys that their mental health has suffered through the crisis 80 of respondents agreed that the corona-virus pandemic had made their mental health worse. 41 said it had made their mental health worse. This was often related to increased feelings of anxiety isolation a loss of coping mechanisms or a loss of motivation. 87 of respondents agreed that they had felt lonely or isolated during the lock down period even though 71 had been able to stay in touch with friends. This inter generational project with the Our Time Project company will connect elders and young people in Melksham helping to explore their experience of lock down using theatre and movement and sharing their experiences. 8 workshops will be led by the experts of the Our Time Project company 2 live onsite workshops using movement and theatre with young people of Melksham Oak school verified letter available and 6 further workshops sessions using zoom under the guidance of our expert practitioners will join elders and young people again using theatre as a medium to interact again taking an object important to them. They will explore their feelings of lock down their worries their dreams Footage will be edited together shared with the wider community on our community matters via a link. The elders involved will be from Brookside home verified the Company is on the Order of Saint Johns Care trust official list and The Happy Circle day centre Melksham.

**Report Author:**

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