

Report to	Amesbury
Date of Meeting	14/09/2017
Title of Report	Community Youth Grants

1. Purpose of the report:

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

Application	Grant Amount	Total cost of project
Applicant: Wessex Community Action Project Title: Amesbury Youth Cafe	£8,252.00	£18,600

2. Main Considerations

Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2017/18 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 2017/2018.

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

Applicant: Wessex Community Action Project Title: Amesbury Youth Cafe	Amount Requested from Area Board: £8252.00	
This application meets grant criteria 2017/18.		
Project Summary: The Youth Cafe is a drop-in facility catering for the needs of a wide cross section of young people aged 13-19 years old. We established the Cafe in 2015 at the request of the Amesbury Area Board to address the issue of anti-		

social behaviour in Amesbury. The cafe runs on Tuesday and Friday evenings with additional pastoral outdoor work being done around the town at other times and events being run on an adhoc basis. The main sessions take place in the fully equipped premises at the Redworth Centre and we are building on the initial two years of this successful growing facility. The young people have access to simple refreshments and a variety of recreational activities such as pool Xbox and table football.

Please tell us WHO will benefit and HOW they will benefit from your project and benefit your local community:

The Youth Cafe is open to all and free to attend. The cafe provides a safe place for young people to go in the evenings and this contributes to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and general mischief-making among this challenging group. Local people are volunteering at the cafe and we signpost young people to other positive activities which are taking place locally improving the take up of these activities. The young people are encouraged to set their own agenda and be involved in the planning and running of the facility but with no obligation. We have talked to young people and discussed their wishes needs and desires. Young People are involved in the layout of the furniture the programming and the implementation of our activities. Darren and Jonathan try to talk face to face with each young person making small talk as often as possible and this has often led to meaningful conversations. The cafe is widely advertised especially in all the local schools and using social media. We have worked with over 120 Young People over the last year with attendances averaging 30 per session. We provide a free cafe-style facility designed to meet some of the basic leisure needs for young people aged 13 to 19 and steer them in the direction of other more specific positive activities. Young People have access to simple refreshments and a variety of recreational activities. More expensive snacks are available at a cost and the small profit from these is used to purchase the free refreshments such as tea coffee and toast which are available to everyone. The availability of these simple refreshments also gives the cafe an informal welcoming and homely feel. We have many volunteers from the local community and as well as helping at the Youth Cafe they have recently worked with Wessex Community Action and the Youth Cafe youth workers to form the Amesbury Youth Forum which aims to attract volunteers provide training for all youth volunteers in Amesbury share resources and provide mutual support and encouragement for all Youth Workers and Organisers. So, the knock-on effect is being felt across the whole community. The young people are encouraged to take part in community events such as the Festival of Youth and the Amesbury Carnival Procession - which they are unlikely to have done without our encouragement. The venues that we use are all fully accessible and the facility is free so is open to those with disabilities and those on low incomes. We have a wide cross section of young people attending from different communities and last year we had 3 young people with noticeable special needs and 7 young people with additional special needs who attend special events only. We have worked with the Amesbury Youth Forum volunteers to start a Wednesday Night Cafe which is a special night for those who have additional or special needs or who need more close supervision. This started in July at the Bowman Centre. The project is proving to be very inclusive possibly because the nature of it is casual and relaxed. We currently have some LGBT clients a few young offenders and many young people in referred education. In the

Spring of 2017 we had 7 young people attending from the Traveller Community who were welcomed and integrated well with our regulars. We are particularly proud of the way in which the Cafe environment enables these young people to feel confident enough to take part in the activities and mix with others from the area. We work with other providers in the area to suggest further activities for the young people to attend. We attend the Local Youth Network to enable us to build relationships with other community partners. We have a good relationship with the local police and PCSOs from the Community Policing Team are regular faces at the cafe encouraging mutual respect.

We keep records of the number of people attending and of the positive activities that we signpost them on to at other times in the week. Over the last year the Youth Cafe has had rising numbers with attendances averaging 30 per session. Once again we anticipate constant levels of young people attending over the next year and would like to be able to make a commitment to them to be there for the foreseeable future. This will enable us to work with the young people building their confidence and helping them to take part in other positive activities in the area and be an asset to their communities. The cafe is so popular that word of mouth usually brings in the next cohort of young people as they reach the eligible age.

Breakdown of costs for project

2 x members of staff £15,600 1 x management fee £3,000

Recommendations from LYN meeting 14/06/2017

After careful consideration. LYN recommend to the area board to award £6,500 for the first six months and that WCA return in 6 months with a thoroughly costed project plan, evidence of 50% match funding and a full evaluation. In any event the LYN would only be recommending a maximum of 50% funding going forward.

Recommendations from LYN 06/09/2017

To recommend to the area board to award £4,126.00 for the remainder of this financial year.

Report Author:

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