

Report to	Trowbridge
Date of Meeting	08/11/2018
Title of Report	Community Youth Grants

1. Purpose of the report:

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

Application	Grant Amount	
Applicant: The Pound Arts Trust Ltd Project Title: Wiltshire Voices Trowbridge	£2,207.05	

2. Main Considerations

Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2018/19 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 2018/2019.

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: The Pound Arts Trust Ltd Project Title: Wiltshire Voices Trowbridge	Amount Requested	LYN Recommendation
	£2,207.05	Award in Full
This application meets the LYN grants criteria.		
Project Summary: Wiltshire Voices Trowbridge is one of four branches of an innovative exciting new county-wide Youth Choir Programme. These are high-end singing ensembles for 12-18-year olds in coming together for special events with a wide-ranging repertoire that is responsive to participants. The opportunity to work towards Arts Award is offered to all. In addition, we will establish a BSL signing choir. Existing choir's schools and community youth groups across Wiltshire will be offered performance opportunities in inspiring locations such as Salisbury Cathedral WOMAD		

Festival and Longleat. CPD will be offered to school and community singing leads strengthening singing opportunities county-wide.

Input from Community Engagement Manager

Questions raised on the application and answers provided

How have young people in Trowbridge area specifically been engaged and involved in developing the project idea? We are building provision across the county, and Trowbridge has been selected as one of four key areas for delivery. The consultation has involved young people through Pound Arts' takeover and youth theatre teams, and we have spoken to Trowbridge Town Hall Arts who engage extensively with young people; there was also a consultation process led in various locations by Wiltshire Music Connect.

What strategies will you use to engage young people in our most deprived areas given that they may not be engaging well at present? We are starting to recruit through schools, to ensure that all young people, regardless of their situation, are aware of the opportunity and can engage. We are setting a very low price for participation, with up to 1/3 of the places offered free to ensure that cost is not a barrier to engagement. As the project progresses, we will monitor engagement and adapt our approach to ensure that anyone can engage.

Who will be the choir leader? We have appointed Tim Gilvin, who is a Wiltshire-based music leader with extensive experience and training. He will be supported by the team at Pound Arts and the wider Wiltshire Music Connect team and their training opportunities.

There are already several choirs locally, why is there a need for this project and how will it complement existing activity and not duplicate it? This is a new county youth choir; which Wiltshire does not currently have. There will be a number of high profile and exciting performance opportunities. However, part of the remit of the wider project is to engage with and support existing singing provision across the county, so we are contacting existing choirs for young people to see how they might want to engage and what we can do to strengthen singing opportunities for young people.

How will it work for young people on the ground- e.g., a weekly choir practice? Or less often? How often will the branches of the choir come together?

The Trowbridge branch of the county choir will meet fortnightly at Town Hall Arts for two hours. The branches will come together at least once a term, but will also have their own distinct identity – the young people who participate in Trowbridge will influence the repertoire for their group.

Wiltshire Council Arts Officer provided the following observations

– I can confirm that I am aware of this work and that Trowbridge area is one of four branches of a new county-wide Youth Choir Programme which is only part funded by Wiltshire Music Connect. Instrumental music opportunities have been a national and local focus for a very long time e.g. West of England Youth Orchestra and Wiltshire Youth Jazz Orchestra. This vocal initiative encourages young people for the first time to get involved in countywide singing ensembles rather than orchestras. Young people can work towards the Arts Award which inspires young people to grow their arts and leadership talents and enables them to achieve a nationally recognised qualification. This project also brings development and training opportunities for local existing choirs in schools and community youth groups and their leaders which will help to strengthening singing opportunities and standards in Trowbridge and across the county. In addition, there is a whole load of evidence that indicates that singing and being involved in music (and the arts generally) has a positive impact on health and wellbeing; Arts and Health South West cite many case studies on their [website](#).

The total project cost is £5,044.55, match funding of £2,837.50 is in place leaving a shortfall of £2,207.05 which is the amount applied for to the area board.

The grant application was considered by Lyn Members in October 2018 and the recommendation is for the area board to Approve in Full £2,207.05

Report Author:

Mary Cullen
Community Engagement Manager
01225 718608