

Ref number:



Performance Reward Grant Scheme

APPLICATION FORM

To be returned to:

Karen Spence, Performance Manager, Performance Team

Email: wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk

Area Board	Trowbridge	
Form submitted by (contact for all queries)		
Name of initiative	Training facility extension	
Brief Description of Initiative	<p>As an established charity Hope Nature Centre offers employment for young adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. The charity opened a training facility/ tearoom 4 years ago and currently employs/ trains 25 young adults, encouraging integration with the general public (visitors), improving life skills and providing a safe environment overcoming discrimination for those with learning difficulties/ disabilities.</p> <p>Our project involves extending the training facility which will then offer up to another 10 young adults the opportunity to benefit from the Hope Nature Centre initiative on an ongoing basis. These young adults are referred to us through a number of partnerships ie Wiltshire Council, Social Services and individual care workers and families. We currently have a waiting list of 18 young waiting to join the Hope Nature Centre initiative but due to limited space we are faced with the cycle of waiting until one individual leaves before we can accept any of those waiting for a place.</p>	
Please put a cross against the ambition(s) that this initiative will support	Building resilient communities	X
	Improving affordable housing	
	Lives not services	X
	Supporting economic growth	
	Safer communities	X
	Protecting the environment	
	Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession	
Amount of funding sought	£50,000	

<p>What will this money be spent on? (please show split between capital and revenue. For capital expenditure guidance – see Appendix 1 in the Bid Pack)</p>	<p>This money will be spent on the extension of the current Hope Nature Centre facility. This project has been approved at planning level by Wiltshire Council</p> <p>The overall project cost is £85,000, we are waiting a decision from the Links Foundation for £20,000 and will also apply to Awards for All for £10,000, and the Area Board Trowbridge for £5,000 which we can currently match fund.</p> <p>Total Project costs Capital costs: £80,500 Revenue: £4,500</p> <p>The money will be spent Capital costs: £50,000</p>
<p>Please describe how your initiative will support the ambition(s) indicated above, and summarise the action that will be taken</p>	<p>This project fulfils the ambitions above at a number of levels:</p> <p>This training facility offers an essential integration facility for young adults with learning difficulties. Providing a location where the general public (visitors to Southwick Country Park) can meet and integrate with these trainees offering a wider acceptance and understanding of these young adults and their role in general society and the community.</p> <p>A fine ambassador of Hope Nature Centre is Ella who joined Hope Nature Centre at 18 years old with no social skills or personal confidence. After a period of shadowing and self-confidence training Ella was serving customers to the park and tearooms and became a very sociable character often referred to us for her courteous and charming manner by customers. Ella left Hope Nature centre to take a full time position within a hotel and is very happy working there. This surely is a fine example of lives not services.</p> <p>Safer communities are built on a mutual respect and understanding of each other. Hope Nature Centre offers a facility for integration between the general public and young adults that often suffer social exclusion and prejudice. The life skills learnt at Hope Nature Centre will cross over into everyday life and we are constantly having reports of our trainees being more sociable and eager to contribute to their local communities. Our visitors witness the trainees at work and witness their characters and the huge contribution they can make to life in general. The ethos for Hope Nature Centre is ‘the more visitors, the more awareness and understanding’.</p>

<p>What makes this initiative a local priority (eg evidence from research and local support)</p>	<p>We currently have a waiting list of 18 young adults that are waiting to join Hope Nature Centre. Evidence has shown that these individuals are at risk of remaining unemployable and isolated due to their lack of understanding and life skills.</p> <p>We have a group of volunteers who work alongside our young adults offering support both on an emotional and physical level. The success of our current facility is based on local support with regular visitors using the facility</p> <p>The extension of the facility is in response to the demands for more young adults and the natural progression of the project as a whole.</p>
<p>How will you know you have been successful?</p>	<p>We will gauge the success of this project on the number of young adults we can introduce to the training facility and the year-on-year growth of Hope Nature Centre and animal park visitors.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you measure the impact? (may have more than one measure) 	<p>We will also perform a follow up questionnaire with our partners ie Wiltshire Council, Social Services, Care Workers and families to monitor the impact this facility has had on these. We would also monitor the increase of users to the tearoom, animal centre and Southwick Country Park in general.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your improvement target (s), and when do you expect to achieve this/these? 	<p>This project achievement is initially accepting another 8 young adults into Hope Nature Centre training, we would also aim to see an increase in users and awareness of the facility in the first twelve months.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you ensure that the improvement continues after the end of the initiative? 	<p>This project is entirely sustainable based on the current demands we have from the public to offer more space at Hope Nature Centre and the fact we are offering jobs and life skills to individuals that otherwise could remain completely isolated from the community, We will also enhance our ongoing advertising campaign promoting the extension to the facilities, thus increasing footfall to the park and tearoom.</p>
<p>Who will benefit from this initiative?</p>	<p>Users of Southwick Country Park, 8 young adults with learning difficulties and their families, the community as a whole based on a wider understanding and social acceptance of individuals with learning difficulties/ disabilities.</p>
<p>Confirm no unfunded commitments from this initiative</p>	<p>Please delete the statement that does not apply: 1. I confirm that there will be no unfunded financial commitments arising from this initiative, or</p>
<p>What are the key risks to success and how will these be managed?</p>	<p>The initial key risk for this project is that the build start date is September 2010 and therefore will be subject to weather conditions. We have a weather contingency agreed with the building contractor securing the final costs.</p>

	<p>When completed the key risks are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We lose the current volunteers who support Hope Nature Centre and its training initiative. This is secured by the ongoing commitment and support from volunteers wishing to join the scheme when this project is implemented. • That we have no more young adults wishing to utilise the training through Hope Nature Centre. Currently this is extremely unlikely as there is currently a lack of training opportunities for the young adults that choose to join Hope Nature Centre. We have secured ongoing support from our partners and maintain strong relationships with current and past participants who are constantly referring other young adults to the scheme. • We suffer a lack of visitors to the tearoom. In response we would increase our promotion strategy extending our potential users and increasing public awareness of the Hope Nature Centre charity.
<p>Who will manage the initiative</p>	<p>June Fleming Chair/ Trustee Hope Nature Centre Southwick Country Park Southwick Trowbridge BA14 6HH 01225 759075 hopenaturecentre@hotmail.co.uk</p>

Signed:
Chairman of Area Board

Dated: