

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Trowbridge Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>17 May 2012</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Board Funding</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider:

1. Three applications seeking Community Area Grant Funding:
  - i. Wiltshire Mind – to run a pilot six month art therapy course - £1,816 requested
  - ii. World Evangelism Bible Church –to run a project to help address post traumatic disorders relating to the terminally ill - £5,000 requested
  - iii. Friends of Southwick Country Park – to run free activities in Southwick Country Park - £899 requested
2. One Councillor led Area Board application
  - i. Trowbridge Area Campus – to pay for consultation regarding the Trowbridge Campus – £2,220 requested

**Total Amount requested = £9,935**

3. A bid for £40,000 for the Jubilee Scout Camp Site and Youth Activity Centre for funding ring fenced for the Area Board from the former Performance Reward Funding scheme

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing (4 April 2012). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2012/2013.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement and the nurturing of resilient communities. With this in mind Community Area Grants (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups. Likewise, Small Grants (new this year) should be awarded to similar groups, as well as un-constituted groups of people wanting to improve things near to where they live.
- 1.4. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.5. Small Grants, new for this year, will fund up to £350 where the total cost of the project does not exceed £350. This grant is aimed at enabling groups (including those not formally constituted) to implement projects, involving local people to make their community a better place to live.
- 1.6. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (CAG) applications from town and parish councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded from the local town/parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from town/parish councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the town/parish council.
- 1.7. In addition to CAGs and Small Grants, Councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet have emphasised that they do not wish these to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls. The application process and form has been updated to bring it in line with the other grants.
- 1.8. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their funding reports (except in the case of Area Board/Councillor led initiatives), although the decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.9. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.

- 1.10. Applicants are encouraged to contact and seek funding help from Charities Information Bureau (CIB) who work on behalf of Wiltshire Council. CIB support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.11. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.12. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.13. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board. This applies to all grants made by the area board.
- 1.14. Trowbridge Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of £77,781 for community grants, small grants, community partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. **This gives a current remaining total of £77,781 available to allocate**

**Background documents used in the preparation of this Report**

- Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision
- Trowbridge Community Area Plan
- Technical Officers reports

**2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2012/13 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

**3. Environmental Impact of the Proposals**

- 3.1. Community Area 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.

**4. Financial Implications**

4.1. Awards must fall within the budget allocated to the Trowbridge Area Board.

4.2. If community area grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Trowbridge Area Board will have a balance of **£70,066**.

## 5. Legal Implications

5.1. There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

## 6. HR Implications

6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

## 7. Equality and Diversity Implications

7.1. Community Area Grants give local community and voluntary groups, an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 where appropriate.

## 8. Community Area Grant Applications

The full applications are available at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)

Applicant 8.1	Project summary	Funding requested
Wiltshire Mind	To run a 6 month arts therapy course in Trowbridge for those with mental illness	£1,816

8.1.1 The applicant meets the grant criteria.

8.1.2 The applicant demonstrates links to the Trowbridge Community Area Plan Theme 8 Health & Social Care

8.1.3 The application was previously presented to the Area Board in July 2011 but deferred until suitable match funding had been secured. The applicant is contributing 50% of other funding towards the project

8.1.4 **It is recommended that a grant of £1,816 is approved**

Applicant 8.2	Project summary	Funding requested
World Evangelism Bible Church	for a project to help address post traumatic disorders relating to the terminally ill	£5,000

8.2.1 The applicant meets the grant criteria stating that the project is non religious

8.2.2 The applicant demonstrates links to the Trowbridge Community Area Plan Theme 8 Health & Social Care

8.2.3 The applicant is providing £18,350 in other funds/income towards the project

8.2.4 The application was deferred at the 15 March Area Board meeting as the Area

Board wished to obtain further information from this applicant to understand the project in greater depth and to ensure there was no duplication of services. The applicant to arrange to meet with the Council's VCS Department so that this information could be obtained. A meeting was held with an officer from that department who has established that the Wiltshire Evangelical Bible Church appears to be reaching some carers and families from minority ethnic communities who are in extreme distress and are not in contact with other services. They provide a particularly intensive, practical support service as well as counselling and help in resolving conflict. Help is provided with child care, shopping and housework, for example- free of charge to the families. The VCS department recommends that the project is funded since the applicant reaches families that are not in contact with other carer support organisations; offer support to carers and their children and are offering more intensive 'hands on' practical help than that provided by other services.

**8.2.5 It is recommended that a grant of up to £5,000 is approved on condition that the applicant networks with the following organisations: ECBL, CIB & Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation**

<b>Applicant 8.3</b>	<b>Project summary</b>	<b>Funding requested</b>
Friends of Southwick Country Park	to run a series of free nature based family activities at Southwick Country Park	£899

8.3.1 The applicant meets the grant criteria

8.3.2 The applicant demonstrates links to the Trowbridge Community Area Plan Theme 7 Education & Lifelong Learning & Theme 6 Environment including Countryside & Land Based issues

8.3.3 The applicant is not contributing any funding towards this project but it is offering the activities for free

8.3.4 The Council's Countryside Service supports this application and state that the project supports the work they have been doing to promote the site and engage with the local community and it will have an immediately positive effect on those who use it.

**8.3.5 It is recommended that a grant of £899 is approved on condition that this is a one off application for such activities**

## **9. Area Board Project Application**

9.1 An application has been made by Councillor Peter Fuller on behalf of the Trowbridge Area Campus to pay for consultation regarding the Trowbridge Campus. £6,480 is requested to contribute towards the consultation

## **10. Jubilee Scout Camp Site and Youth Activity Centre Bid**

10.1 Wiltshire West District Scouts originally submitted a bid to the Performance Reward Grant Scheme in 2010 to purchase a woodland site, Roundwood Campsite. The Area Board supported the bid and it was subsequently approved for a Performance Reward Grant of £40,000 on the proviso that certain

community access conditions were met. The original campsite fell through in 2011 and subsequent work by the Scout Association has identified another site adjacent to Biss Wood that they wish to purchase.

10.2 As the Performance Reward Grant Scheme has now closed the Area Board has been asked to make the decision whether to support the revised bid; £40,000 has been ring fenced from the original Performance Reward Grant Scheme if it is to be supported.

## 11. Recommendations

11.1 It is recommended that the Area Board agrees to the recommendations for the Community Area Grant applications contained within paragraphs 8.1.4, 8.2.5 and 8.3.5 of this report.

11.2 It is recommended that the Area Board considers the Area Board project application request for £2,220 from Councillor Fuller

11.3 It is recommended that the Area Board considers whether to approve the ring fenced £40,000 for the Jubilee Scout Camp Site and Youth Activity Centre with the following conditions:

- i. That the purchase of the site must be concluded within 12 months of this award
- ii. That the Council's assistance with the purchase should be acknowledged on a permanent sign board at the site
- iii. Approval of this award is subject to reasonable public access to the site being extended to all properly supervised scout and guide association groups and fully supervised school and community groups during term times and at other times as may be agreed by prior arrangement with the applicants
- iv. This approval is subject to the applicant seeking all necessary consents, licenses, approvals that may be required in connection with the proposed uses and future development of the site
- v. The site shall not be sold off or converted to any other use in the future without the prior consent of the Council.

<b>Appendices:</b>	Grant Pack, containing: - Community Area Grant applications - Area Board project Bid - Jubilee Scout Camp Site and Youth Activity Centre application
<b>Unpublished Documents</b>	The following unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report: Technical Officers Report
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