

Report to	Warminster Area Board
Date of Meeting	30/04/2015
Title of Report	Community Youth Grants

1. Purpose of the report:

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

Application	Grant Amount	
Applicant: Lighthouse Youth Project Title: Lighthouse Youth Project	£4400.00	
Applicant: Wylde Coyotes Afterschool Club Project Title: Codford Youth Club	£4950.00	
Total grant amount requested at this meeting	£9350	
Total amount allocated so far	0	

2. Main Considerations

Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2014/15 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 2014/2015.

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.

The applications presented to the LYN on 14th April, they were assessed using the full criteria and scoring sheets. The LYN have recommended the full amount that was requested for both applications.

The total current amount of youth funding available for this year 2015/16 is £30525.04

3. The applications

Applicant: Lighthouse Youth Project Title: Lighthouse Youth Project	Amount Requested from Area Board: £4400.00	The Lyn group recommend approval for the full amount so that the project can run for one year 2015/16
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This application meets grant criteria 2014/15.

Project Summary: We are a community of churches (Christ Church, Foundation Christian Fellowship, Warminster Baptist Church & the Minster church). Having had many conversations with young people we know through our work in Kingdown School and the former youth service we discovered an overwhelming desire for a safe environment after school to receive support and advice in the areas of school work, relationships, bullying, careers, mentoring, pastoral care and anything else that presents. Furthermore, the disenfranchised young people from the recently closed Youth Centre expressed an authentic eagerness for their youth club to stay together that offered a range of activities and opportunities for growth. These needs are what we seek to provide.

About your project

How does your project support local needs and priorities?

The local church has known many young people who have needed long term emotional support that they struggle to receive from home or in school. In response to this issue, which is a priority in the Joint Strategic Assessment for Warminster, Our Tuesday after-school group is to act as a safe environment to provide such services in a fun and friendly place, and act as a portal further into the youth work, where positive & safe mentoring relationships can be further fostered.

When the local youth centre was closed, the Warminster Youth group had forged a strong identity and were determined to remain as a youth club beyond the youth service. The local church has decided to respond to this need and the call to community led approach by establishing an alternative youth provision and positive activities for young people. Apart from our Tuesday group, we are providing a youth club that meets on a Monday night in the former youth centre to fulfil the above criteria.

The activities and support that will be provided will increase opportunities for young people's participation and involvement, and help them build resilience, make positive lifestyle choices, achieve in learning, gain independence and ultimately make a successful transition into adulthood.

How have young people been involved in your project so far?

Simply, the young people are the reason for the establishment of this group. We supported the young people when they were part of the YAG in the exemplary defence of their youth centre and have continued to support their needs since its closure.

We have conducted a consultation process to survey young people of what type of youth provision they would need and what facilities/activities would they like to be a part of it (Flip chart sheets can be provided). Our activities/provision and grant application have come as a result of this study. Furthermore, in working with the CYO, a survey of young people in Kingdown School was performed and the overwhelming response to the question 'What type of youth provision do you want in Warminster?' was a youth club.

How many young people to do you expect to benefit?

On a Tuesday, we began with 20-30 young people, but this has already grown to 40 and on a Monday we reach 20 to 30 young people with always having a view to growth. (Sign in Sheets and Photographs available upon request). We hope to extend our work to include detached work with young people on the streets of Warminster, much like the work of the Street Pastors.

How will your project be accessible and affordable?

On a Tuesday, we are strategically located directly opposite Kingdown School, which is the locus of the majority of young people in our town during the week. Young people from surrounding areas of Warminster will be able to access this service, as late buses are available on a Tuesday. Having consulted the young people on whether they would be prepared to pay a little for the service to help fundraise, they preferred for the service to remain free.

On a Monday, we currently meet at the former Youth Centre. This is a key venue as it is one that the young people already trust and promotes equal opportunities for those who have no affiliation with church.

How will you encourage volunteering and community involvement?

Our project is staffed mostly by volunteers (10 in total) and is supported jointly through multiple volunteer organisations (namely the churches). We will seek to raise the profile of the project through the local press and the LYN.

For the past three years, the local churches have been running a volunteering project called Breakout, which the young people will be encouraged to participate in. Furthermore, in late 2014, the young people helped raise awareness of children and young people living in slums through a project called Slum Survivor.

Trusted young people who are more mature, will be given opportunities to serve as peer mentors, which involves assisting in the operation of the youth club as well as mentoring younger members.

How will you ensure your project is accessible to everyone (Disabled, low incomes, vulnerable, etc.)

Both the venues we use have disabled access. We currently support numerous young people on the autistic scale. The young people have decided to keep the service, a free service, therefore accessible for those on lower incomes. Our grant application includes a request for funds to subsidise special trips and positive activities, for young people coming from families of low income. Our staff will have received Safeguarding training in order to protect vulnerable young people. We have an anti-bullying policy in order to maintain a safe reputation amongst the community

How will ensure your project is inclusive?

Inclusivity is a high priority in our organisations and therefore we have an equal opportunities policy. The youth work is accessible for young people all backgrounds, beliefs, and needs. This is partly the reason why our Monday group meets in the youth centre rather than a church building. The leaders and peer mentors are given a mandate to promote respect for others point of views.

How will you work with other community partners?

Kingdown School have endorsed our Tuesday group and are already encouraging young people to come our way. We will also work in connection with the LYN to support other

community partners where possible. The project has been created and being sustained by multiple community partners (namely, the churches).

Safeguarding

Please tell us about how you will protect and safeguard young people in your project (You must address all of the following): *required field

Please evidence your commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people.

We have a thorough Safeguarding procedure that all staff must complete before committing to the youth work, which is provided and indemnified by Christ Church. (Policy can be provided upon request). We have a suggested ratio of 1 adult to 8 young people in each session, in order to ensure each young person gets proper care and attention.

How do you make sure staff and volunteers understand their safeguarding responsibilities?

This is provided in the recruitment procedure, where all staff will sign the Safeguarding policy, and will receive Safeguarding training, that will be updated through Wiltshire Online and the support of the CYO. We have regular team meetings, annual appraisals and training sessions to keep up to date with safeguarding responsibilities.

Are staff and volunteers Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and do you hold a central record of this as well as details of staff references. For further info:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

All staff will complete a compulsory DBS as part of the recruitment process where Christ Church manages our DBS process and are the keeper of the records.

Who in your organisation is ultimately responsible for safeguarding?

Paula Thorpe is the safeguarding officer.

How do you ensure that young people are kept safe online when accessing your services? Our wifi network can be only accessed through a secured password. Our ISP provides filter services. WiltsOnline protects the online services in the Youth Centre.

Monitoring your project

How will you know if your project has been successful?

We have regular team meetings where we discuss any matters arising and share success stories.

We actively will survey evaluation from young people about the services they have received by adopting the model promoted in the Positive Activities for Young People Toolkit (Sept 2014), namely, UNDERSTAND, PLAN, DO & REVIEW. Growth in number can be considered a success criterion as young people who have benefited from the project have shared it through word-of-mouth, but more importantly, the personal development of individual young people, is the priority.

Working in partnership with the CYO, we will monitor our club using the Run a Club facility provided through Wiltshire Council.

Applicant: Wylde Coyotes Afterschool Club	Amount Requested from Area Board:	The Lyn group recommend approval for the full amount so that the project can run for one
Project Title: Codford Youth Club		

	£4950.00	year 2015/16
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This application meets grant criteria 2014/15.

Project Summary: to set up a new weekly youth club in Codford for young people aged 13 - 19

About your project

Codford does not have a dedicated weekly youth club for young people aged 13 - 19. We have consulted with a group of young people and they have asked for a weekly youth club for Year 8+ We have held an initial consultation to which eleven young people turned up. We would expect an average weekly attendance of 20 young people. The young people have suggested weekly subs of no more than £1, supplemented by sales from a snack bar each week. The project will take place in a building which is in the centre of the village, in a fully accessible location. We will actively promote and encourage access to the youth club to all young people in Codford and surrounding villages, and will put support in place where necessary to enable young people with additional needs to attend. It will be open to all young people of the appropriate age group. We will actively promote volunteering opportunities (particularly for volunteers in the age range 18 - 25) and we will look towards organising events (such as a band night in the village hall) which will encourage involvement with the wider community. We will look forward to working closely with the Warminster LYN for support and guidance. In addition, we will aim to work with other local organisations, such as the tennis club and the Village Hall, to extend the range of options and activities the youth club will be able to participate in, and to build positive relationships to support community cohesion.

Safeguarding

Please tell us about how you will protect and safeguard young people in your project

Wylde Coyotes Afterschool Club, who will be the sponsors for the Youth Club, are committed to safeguarding all young people with whom they have contact. All staff and volunteers must have enhanced DBS checks and recruitment procedures follow Wiltshire Council's "Safer Recruitment" guidelines. We have a comprehensive induction process which includes safeguarding, and all staff must undertake online training through Wiltshire Pathways. The Manager has undertaken Level 3 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training, and Safer Recruitment training. We hold a central safeguarding record which can be checked at any time. All staff and volunteer appointments are subject to two satisfactory references. Kate Brayne, the Manager, is ultimately responsible for Safeguarding. We have safe internet usage policies, including use of private phones for internet access. We have filters and passwords on our internet access.

Monitoring your project

How will you know if your project has been successful?

We will take attendance records and monitor the numbers of young people who attend the youth club. We will regularly consult with the young people, to monitor whether they are happy with the range of activities and events that are being offered, and to ensure that the Youth Club is meeting their needs and wishes. We will plan sessions and activities based on the wishes of the young people who attend the club.

Report Author:

Sandra Samuel, Warminster Area Board- 07920765140