

## Melksham Area Grant Report

### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details of the grant applications made to the Melksham Area Board. These could include:
  - community area grants
  - youth grants
  - older and vulnerable people grants
  - area board initiatives
2. To document any recommendations provided through sub groups.

### Area Board Current Financial Position

	Community Area Grants	Youth Grants	Older and Vulnerable People Grants
Opening Balance For 2023/24	£ 22,309.00	£ 18,349.00	£ 7,700.00
Awarded To Date	£ 3,600.00	£ 10,000.00	£ 1,500.00
Current Balance	£ 18,709.00	£ 8,349.00	£ 6,200.00
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ 18,709.00	£ 6,543.44	£ 4,205.22

### Grant Funding Application Summary

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<a href="#">ABG1416</a>	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Riverside Centre	Food and Community Support Project	£3000.00	£1500.00
<b>Project Summary:</b> <b>Melksham is considered a deprived town with a high number of vulnerable families who are regularly attending the Food Bank and Food Larder. Many of these families are experiencing food poverty, which this project is to address by way of guidance in how to provide good healthy families meals, at low cost.</b>					
<a href="#">ABG1438</a>	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Great Hinton Community Committee	Great Hinton Heritage Group	£494.78	£494.78

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<p><b>Project Summary:</b>  <b>After an exploratory meeting on 17th October 2023, a group of Great Hinton residents led by John Buckingham hope to produce a heritage resource for village and area records. As an initial activity, the new Heritage Group intend to update the village map of properties, and gather and collate existing resources (documents, photographs, the Grapevine village newsletter, a Long estate auction catalogue, previous research done by two young residents of the village, etc). Members of the group will meet monthly to work together to establish further sources of information on the history of village properties and carry out interviews to ask for peoples' reminiscences to capture valuable social history from current and former residents. The outcome of the project will be a key resource outlining the main historical and social features of properties for which information is found. It is planned that this will be presented as a paper-based folder, cross referenced to an archive of all the supporting resources for each property. This pair of resources would to be kept in the village hall, to allow easy access for interested parties. It is recognised that the next step is to create a web-based resource, and/or add the information to the Melksham and Wiltshire and Swindon History centre web based resources. This project will carry out the essential groundwork necessary to achieve this as a future aim.</b></p>					
<a href="#">ABG1437</a>	Youth Grant	The Equivalent Project CIC	Self harm support programme	£10000.00	£1805.56
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Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<p><b>Project Summary:</b></p> <p>Following our success in providing a fully funded Self Harm Support Programme for young people living in Somerset last year, we are applying for a grant to extend a specialized support program for young people living in Wiltshire who are struggling with their mental wellbeing and whose families are on a low income. We will do so by utilizing Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) techniques, offering a unique and therapeutic approach to assist young individuals in overcoming self-harm tendencies and promoting their overall well-being and mental health. <b>Program Overview:</b> The proposed Equine Facilitated Learning Self-Harm Support Program is designed to provide a safe, nurturing, and therapeutic environment for young people struggling with self-harm behaviours. The program will combine traditional EFL approaches with the transformative power of equine interactions to foster emotional healing, personal growth, and improved coping mechanisms. <b>Program objectives:</b></p> <p><b>Empowerment and Resilience:</b> Utilize equine interactions to help young participants build self-esteem, self-awareness, and resilience, empowering them to overcome self-harm tendencies. <b>Crisis Intervention and Support:</b> Offer immediate and ongoing support to young individuals in crisis, providing them with coping strategies and a support network to navigate difficult emotions and challenges. <b>Skill Development:</b> Facilitate learning experiences with horses to enhance interpersonal skills, emotional regulation, problem-solving, and communication abilities. <b>Self Healing:</b> Utilize Equine Facilitated Learning to provide a non-judgmental and healing environment where participants can process and express their emotions constructively. <b>Anticipated Impact:</b> The Equine Facilitated Learning Self-Harm Support Program aspires to make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of young participants by promoting emotional well-being, reducing self-harm instances, and fostering a sense of hope and resilience. We anticipate that this program will not only positively affect the individuals directly involved but will also contribute to creating a safer and more supportive community. Last year, we supported 20 Somerset students for 16 weeks, funded by Somerset Community Foundation. Of those 20 students, 16 completed the course and all 16 reported a significant improvement to their mental health and reduction in self-harm. They also reported improvements in attendance at school/college, and we witnessed incredible social and emotional growth. The students started as highly anxious, closed down and introverted, but left as confident, chatty and optimistic, having made strong bonds with their peers and developed skills to navigate the outside world with less fear of being triggered. We often receive enquiries from distressed parents of young people living in Melksham who are suffering with their mental health and self-harming, thus identifying a need for support for young people living in the town. So as to remain impartial, we will be seeking referrals for our proposed support via organisations such as 4Youth and Melksham Oak Community School. The funding we are seeking will be used to support 13 young people in need from Melksham to attend a full term of sessions (7 weeks). This works out at £138.89 per young person and includes report writing. The funding from Melksham Area Board will hopefully be being matched with a grant from the Wiltshire Community Foundation to cover our remaining costs which are outlined below. Please see below a summary of our monthly expenses which we use to establish the cost of each session</p> <p>Monthly Costs £ ex VAT Rent £ 1,050.00 Hay £790.00 Feed £317.00 Accountant £200.00 Vets £400.00 Tea / drinks £25.00 Insurance £380.00 Other £ 240.00 Office Costs £184.00 Wages £ 5,713.00 Horse Supplement £160.00 Total £ 9,459.00 Available Monthly Provision Hours 56  Cost per provision hour £168.91 Cost per 90 min session £253.37</p>					

## Background

3. Area Boards have authority to approve funding under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria. This document is available on the council's website.
4. Three funding streams are available to the Area Board, each with an annually awarded amount. These funding streams are as follows:
  - Community Area Grants (capital)
  - Youth Grants (revenue)
  - Older and Vulnerable People Grants (revenue)
5. The Area Board will be advised of the funding available prior to their first meeting of each financial year.

## **Main Considerations**

6. Councillors need to be satisfied that the applications meet the requirements as set out in the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria and that the health and wellbeing and young persons funding guidelines have been adhered to.
7. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.
8. Councillors need to consider any recommendations made by sub groups of the Area Boards.

## **Safeguarding Implications**

9. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

## **Public Health Implications**

10. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

## **Environmental & Climate Change Implications**

11. Grant funding will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

## **Financial Implications**

12. Councillors must ensure that the Area Board has sufficient funding available to cover the grants awarded.

## **Legal Implications**

13. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

## **Workforce Implications**

14. There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

## **Equalities Implications**

15. Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.
16. Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes where they meet the funding criteria.

## **Proposals**

17. To consider and determine the applications for grant funding.

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### **Report Author**

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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.