
Devizes Area Grant Report

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details of the grant applications made to the Devizes 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 2024/25	£ 25,869.00	£ 22,320.00	£ 7,700.00
Awarded To Date	£ 15,667.41	£ 14,050.65	£ 3,000.00
Current Balance	£ 10,201.59	£ 8,269.35	£ 4,700.00
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ 10,001.59	£ 2,539.15	£ -580.00

Grant Funding Application Summary

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
ABG2049	Area Board Initiative	Devizes Area Board	Christmas Evening	£500.00	£500.00
Project Summary: The Wyvern Club in collaboration with Devizes Town Band and St James Church is planning to hold a community carols event in Dec. The purpose is to bring together the elderly, most vulnerable and socially isolated residents from the East Devizes area. This is an opportunity to celebrate as a close community and to promote friendship and ties with one another.					
ABG1995	Community Area Grant	Devizes and District PHAB	Devizes and District PHAB MiniBus seating cushions	£240.00	£200.00

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<p>Project Summary: We have had feedback from users of our Devizes based minibus that the seats are uncomfortable. We obtained two JML "Soft Sitter" cushions and covers at a cost of £20 each to see if they improved things. As they have been a success we need 10 more at a cost of £200 to cover all the seats. The minibus was a standard certificated option so we went with the standard. We provide a service to our own members and other local groups e.g: Monday Club, Arts together, Residential Homes/Groups, Church groups</p>					
ABG2046	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Devizes Opendoors	Providing the support needed to reduce social exclusion for vulnerable older adults in Devizes	£27780.00	£4780.00
<p>Project Summary: At our 4 weekly sessions during 2023 we had 250 guests, served 3,923 meals, distributed 1005 items of clothing and provided 195 showers. We support marginalised guests (rough sleeper, homeless or housed) who have longstanding issues and are experiencing social exclusion and come to Opendoors primarily for the benefits of a hot meal (often the only one they will have that day) social interaction and community needs within a setting of safety. We strive to build a relationship of trust to build the confidence they need to enable them to meet their challenges. We have close relationships with multiple specialist agencies whether Housing First, Rough Sleeper team, debt services, Bath hospital, GPs, Wiltshire council prevention and wellbeing team, public health van, Turning Point, Nelson's Trust, Devizes Foodbank, Nationwide, and others that are brought in when guests need and are ready to engage. We contacted them 674 times in 2023. We provide on site minor injury care. We offer one night emergency accommodation in extremis need. This project benefits and improves vulnerable residents health and well being, reducing social isolation and loneliness. As most of our guests come from the local area, we have the window of opportunity to build the necessary long term relationships needed to achieve meaningful change in their lives. This project addresses two of Devizes local priorities namely, valuing and supporting our vulnerable and older people and support those with greatest need and improve their resilience. We have two highly qualified part time members of staff and 50 volunteers. This grant will go towards the salaries of the two staff (Operations Manager and Guest Co-ordinator) who provide vital knowledge and expertise in the delivery of our services. Trevor a 66 year old local man became homeless unexpectedly and was sleeping rough following a painful relationship breakdown. He came to Opendoors for support, 'I was very depressed and worried when I first went to Opendoors for help. But everyone made me feel very welcome and did so much to help me.' He received hot meals, a sleeping bag, clean clothes, access and toiletries for showers, help with paperwork, and internet access. We put him in touch with both Julian House and outreach workers at Wiltshire Council (RST) and gave him hope he would qualify for a flat at a rent he could afford. We worked with him to complete the required paperwork needed to be registered for housing and helped him during the bidding process as well as applications to grants and other financial help. In addition, we helped him with Pension Credits and a bus application as he is eligible for free travel and provided him with a postal address for all correspondence whilst he was sleeping rough. He was successful and now volunteers at Opendoors, 'Now I have my flat I feel much more myself again and much less stressed. I enjoy volunteering at Opendoors and doing my bit to make others feel there is hope and a way to get back on track.' Later that year, Opendoors advised him to see a GP as he suspected he had long covid, 'In the summer I became very ill but once again Opendoors was there to help me.'</p>					
ABG1900	Youth Grant	Bromham Youth Club	Bromham Youth Club	£6460.40	£3230.20

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<p>Project Summary: Bromham youth club runs once a week during term time for 39 weeks of the year. The Club is for young people aged 11-18 from the local Bromham community area along with their friends and peers. The club is also open for those up to the age of 25 with additional needs. The club enables young people to socialise, have new experiences, learn new skills and take part in new activities that include themed youth sessions, educational workshops and trips. This is a successful club that currently has between 12 and 20 members visiting most weeks.</p>					
ABG2032	Youth Grant	Omnes ad Unum	Organ Scholarship and teaching programme	£9000.00	£2500.00
<p>Project Summary: Omnes ad Unum is the events and fund raising group for St Johns and members of the Devizes community. It makes this application on behalf of the Organ Scholarship and teaching programme which is run for the benefit of particularly the young in Devizes and district A replacement pipe organ is being constructed at St Johns and is scheduled to be commissioned in the spring of 2025. In the interim music scholars and children are taught using an existing digital organ. However this no longer fully functioning and in need of replacement. The replacement pipe organ is a three manual console and of a very high quality. The Scholarship programme is designed to give the opportunity for talented youngster to learn to play this instrument and possibly progress to a career in music. Teaching on the instrument and or to appreciate the organ music will be available to all children in the Area Board Schools supervised by their teachers. This access to music is not otherwise available to students in schools within Devizes Area Board region. The programme of learning will be overseen by Dr J Scarffe who previously was a lecturer at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.</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.

Report Author

- Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager, Richard.Rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk

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