

TRANSFORM HOUSING AND SUPPORT – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

The Council has received a request for grant funding of £5,000 from Transform Housing and Support, a charity which runs specialist housing and support services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. The Charity also offers support services to help people in their own homes who are facing housing-related issues.

The proposals brought by the Charity to the Council consist of a health and wellbeing programme for socially excluded and vulnerable people living in Woking. The application is for a contribution of £5,000 towards a health and well being programme for the residents being supported by the Charity. The sum would be used for a mix of revenue and capital costs across a number of activities that will include social outings, gym memberships and clothing, and gardening equipment and furniture.

However, the Charity provides services across Surrey and beyond and has a significant annual turnover, with a surplus of over £600,000 anticipated in the coming year. In view of the financial position of the Charity and the comments of the Officer consultee, it is not felt that there is sufficient justification for the Council to award funding. The Executive is therefore recommended not to award any grant funding for the coming year.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That no grant be awarded.

Reason for Decision

The application has not provided sufficient justification for the Council to award funding to this large Charity.

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendation.

Background Papers:

2020/21 Application Form.

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Transform Housing and Support – Application For Financial Assistance

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Transform Housing and Support – Application For Financial Assistance

1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Transform Housing and Support was formed in 1972 and is Surrey's leading housing and support charity, supporting homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded people. The objectives of the Charity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to provide, maintain and improve houses and hostels providing residential accommodation for people in need upon terms appropriate to their need; ○ to provide or assist in the provision of education or training for people of all ages with the object of developing their physical or mental capacities so they may develop full maturity as responsible individuals; ○ to support people of all ages with the object of developing their physical or economic circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life; ○ to care for and support people of all ages who are suffering emotional, psychological or physical infirmity so as to improve their mental and physical health, with the object of improving their conditions of life; ○ to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for people of all ages, in the interests of social welfare, with the object of improving their conditions of life; and ○ any other object that can be carried out from time to time by a charitable company registered as a provider of social housing with the Regulator. <p>The Charity has two offices in Woking supporting 61 clients.</p>
1.2 Employees	<p>The Charity has 207 staff who work across housing and support (78), care (94) and central functions such as Senior Management, Finance, HR, maintenance etc (35)</p> <p>The Charity's teams in Woking include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Housing and support officers 2 Housing and support deputy managers 2 Housing and support managers
1.3 Volunteers	<p>63. The volunteers range from Ambassadors, resident volunteers, and volunteer admin staff.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>Over 1,000, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% male 41% female 10% ethnic minority 61 resident in Woking <p>Transform clients pay rent and service charges</p>

Transform Housing and Support – Application For Financial Assistance

1.5 Members	None
1.6 Sum Requested	£5,000 (Revenue and Capital)
1.7 Project	<p>The Charity has two schemes in Woking supporting a total of 61 clients living in Woking. For each scheme, the Charity is applying for £2,500 of funding (total of £5,000).</p> <p>All Transform clients are socially excluded and vulnerable and funding is needed to create a social inclusion health and wellbeing programme for them. The funds will be used across a multiple of activities that will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social outings ○ Gym memberships and clothing ○ Gardening equipment and furniture
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>£2,000 will be spent on social outings</p> <p>£2,000 will be spent on gym memberships and clothing</p> <p>£1,000 will be spent on gardening equipment and furniture</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	The 61 clients in the Borough will benefit from the programme.

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £1,138,000 in the bank. The sum of £112,000 is reserved for specific client projects.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2020/21 to 2023/24. The figures for the coming year shows an anticipated income of £13,491,000 against an anticipated expenditure of £12,889,000, resulting in an anticipated surplus of £602,000.</p>
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted accounts for 2018/19 which show a surplus for the year of £1,216,000. The Charity had a restricted reserve of £146,000, a free reserve of £588,000 and a general reserve of £21,311,000 invested in property at the end of the 2018/19 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	New Application

3.0 Assessment of Application		
3.1 Key Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution ○ Registered Charity ○ VAT Registered ○ Equal Opportunities Policy ○ Safeguarding Policy 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>

Transform Housing and Support – Application For Financial Assistance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reserves Policy ○ Quality Mark ○ Other funding sources pursued ○ Other support by the Council ○ Fundraising ○ Two quotes ○ Regular monitoring provided previously 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Julie Meme, Home Independence Manager</u></p> <p>Transform Housing and Support have 2 schemes in Woking (The Crescent and Pound House) supporting 61 clients. Each scheme is applying for £2500 funding so £5000 grant total. This is the first grant application by Transform. Transform is seeking funding from a variety of organisations as an element of SCC funding was withdrawn.</p> <p>Transform clients are socially excluded and vulnerable and the funding is to create a social inclusion health and wellbeing programme with them. Funding would enable social outings, gym membership and clothing and gardening equipment and furniture.</p> <p>Although Transform is supported by the Council and they work with our Housing Services the grant should not be awarded because the pressures on the grant revenue budget are very tight and cannot be justified for this request.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Transform Housing and Support runs specialist housing and support services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. Accommodation for 800 people across Surrey, the London Borough of Sutton, and parts of Berkshire and West Sussex is provided by the Charity, offering people a safe place to live, where they can gain stability. The Charity also offers support services to help people in their own homes who are facing housing-related issues.</p> <p>Every client has their own keyworker, who provides one-to-one support to address the issues the person is facing. The keyworker and client work together to agree a support plan. All of the housing services are designed to help people develop the skills and confidence to live more independently. People generally need to be referred for housing from a housing department, social services, probation service or other support agency.</p> <p>A homecare service has been provided since 2005 and the Charity currently provides care for more than 130 people across Surrey and parts of West Sussex. The care provided enables people to live as independently as possible in their home.</p> <p>The supported living service helps people to get the most from life and reach their goals. This service is aimed at people who would find it difficult to live independently and participate in the community without support. This may be as a result of illness, disabilities, getting older, or a crisis in their life. Care workers work with each client to develop their individual support plan, to ensure they get the best from their care and support. The support helps clients to achieve their goals in a wide range of areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living more independently 	

Transform Housing and Support – Application For Financial Assistance

- Getting out and about in the community
- Taking part in hobbies and leisure activities
- Meeting new people
- Seeing friends and family
- Entering education or training
- Signposting to services in the community
- Going to appointments
- Making life choices
- Help with letters, emails and phone calls

The proposals brought by the Charity to the Council consist of a health and wellbeing programme for socially excluded and vulnerable people living in Woking. The applicant has advised that the majority of the Charity's revenue is funded through every borough and district in Surrey and working in partnership is an important ethos of the organisation. In addition, the Charity is endeavouring to secure voluntary income from a range of sources including corporates, trusts, individuals and other organisations. Support contract funding for client support is received from Surrey County Council.

Applications for funding are made to corporates and trusts; regular donations are received from individuals, events and collections such as carol services. Gift in kind donations from the community.

The application before the Council is for a modest contribution of £5,000 towards a health and well being programme for the residents being supported by the Charity. The sum would be used for a mix of revenue and capital costs across a number of activities that will include social outings, gym memberships and clothing, and gardening equipment and furniture.

The Charity provides services across Surrey and beyond and has a significant annual turnover. The level of reserves is substantial and a surplus of £1,216,000 was achieved over 2018/19, with a surplus of over £600,000 anticipated in the coming year. In view of the financial position of the Charity and the comments of the Officer consultee, it is not felt that there is sufficient justification for the Council to award funding. The Executive is therefore recommended not to award any grant funding for the coming year.

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