

CHALLENGERS – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary	
<p>Challengers, was established in 1979, and is dedicated to breaking down the barriers that prevent people from accessing essential play and leisure opportunities. Today, Challengers delivers 24 play youth and young adult schemes, as well as two inclusive preschools across Surrey, Hampshire, Berkshire and West Sussex. The Charity will support any child or young person, regardless of the needs or behavioural challenges. They make every effort to ensure that every child and young person who comes to the Charity is welcomed, included and valued and has a fantastic time.</p> <p>The services run at weekends, school holidays and after school, with pickups from Freemantles and Pond Meadow Schools. A secondary outcome of their work is that they provide short breaks for parents, carers and siblings of the young people that attend. For many, this is the only opportunity they have to have a break from the demanding caring responsibilities.</p> <p>The application is for £10,000 revenue and represents a contribution towards the Guildford Play and Youths schemes with an anticipated outcome of providing activities, trips and transport at the Guildford schemes. The Charity has 1,317 users, which includes 67 from the Borough of Woking.</p> <p>It is noted that there are a number of organisations within the Borough which provide similar support, activities and leisure opportunities and which Woking Borough Council is already supporting. On this basis, it is recommended that the application for financial support for 2018-2019 is not supported.</p>	

Recommendations	
Reasons for Decision	Woking Borough Council already provides significant support to charities and organisations within the Borough, which provide support, activities and leisure for young people and their families living with disabilities.
The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That no grant be awarded.

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2018/19 Application Form.

Reporting Person:

Sue Barham, Strategic Director
 Extn: 3810, Email: sue.barham@woking.gov.uk

Ray Morgan, Chief Executive
 Extn: 3333, Email: ray.morgan@woking.gov.uk

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Contact Person:

Frank Jeffrey, Democratic Services Manager
Extn: 3012, Email: frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk

Doug Davern, Democratic Services Officer
Extn: 3018, Email: doug.davern@woking.gov.uk

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Ayesha Azad
Email: Cllrayesha.azad@woking.gov.uk

Shadow Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Ian Eastwood
Email: cllrian.eastwood@woking.gov.uk

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Challengers was established in 1979 and is dedicated to breaking down the barriers that prevent people from accessing essential play and leisure opportunities.</p> <p>Challengers delivers 24 play youth and young adult schemes, as well as two inclusive preschools across Surrey, Hampshire, Berkshire and West Sussex. The Charity supports any child or young person, regardless of the needs or behavioural challenges. The work of the Charity ensures that short breaks can be taken by parents, carers and siblings of the young people that attend.</p>
1.2 Employees	753 comprising six Senior Managers, Service Managers, Project Officers, Scheme Leaders and a team of part time casual play and youth workers.
1.3 Volunteers	125, whose activities include: Play and youth workers; Fundraising and event volunteers; Office based volunteers
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>1,317, comprising:</p> <p>906 male</p> <p>411 female</p> <p>1,175 disabled</p> <p>140 ethnic minority</p> <p>67 resident in Woking</p> <p>194 aged 0-5</p> <p>485 aged 5-10</p> <p>564 aged 11-18</p> <p>75 aged 19-65</p>
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£10,000 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>Funding from Woking Borough Council would be used toward the organisations popular and oversubscribed Guildford Play and Youths schemes. Funding would contribute toward the cost of activities, trips and transport at their Guildford schemes which currently benefits a number of Woking families. Activities might include a visit to Brooklands Museum, a visit from a mobile farm or a drumming workshop. Activities are planned in consultation with the children and young people that attend so the organisation knows they are activities they would like to take part in.</p> <p>Challengers Guildford schemes run every Saturday, during the school holidays, Thursday evenings (Guildford Youth) and after school (Guildford Play). They provide a range of fun and exciting activities for disabled young people aged 5 – 18 years, many of who are excluded from such activities by mainstream leisure providers.</p>

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	<p>Challengers have excellent relationships with a number of local schools including Freemantles in Woking. They provide transport to their After School Club for children from Freemantles every Wednesday and Thursday.</p> <p>The application represents a contribution towards the Guildford Play and Youths schemes with an anticipated outcome of providing activities, trips and transport at the Guildford schemes. The Charity has 1,317 users, which includes only 67 from the Borough of Woking.</p>
<p>1.8 Cost breakdown:</p>	<p>To deliver inclusive leisure and play at Guildford Play and Youth Scheme for one year:</p> <p>Activity costs - £14,603</p> <p>Staff Salaries - £252,757</p> <p>Transport costs - £8,836</p> <p>Equipment repairs and renewals £2,538</p> <p>Property repairs and renewals £4,974</p> <p>Utilities - £10,608</p> <p>Cleaning and Health and Safety £13,872</p> <p>Staff travel, meetings, uniform and stationery £1,667</p> <p>Management costs - £24,359</p> <p>Total = £334,214</p>
<p>1.9 Community Benefit</p>	<p>The organisation aims to support around 80 disabled children and young people from Woking. This will also have a wider impact on the parents, carers and siblings who would benefit from a short break from their caring responsibilities.</p>

<h3>2.0 Financial Background</h3>	
<p>2.1 Budget</p>	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £756,143 in the bank. The sum of £26,853 is restricted for an equipment fund.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2018/19 which shows an anticipated income of £3,576,474 against an anticipated expenditure of £3,573,725, resulting in an anticipated surplus of £4,749.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes fundraising income (£1,162,275), events and activities (£344,506), parental fees (£684,273), and contractual entrance fees (£104,446), contracts (£1,149,697); grants (£97,382), and investment income (£1,248).</p> <p>Items of expenditure include activity costs (£145,852), permanent salaries (£1,321,757), casual salaries (£1,379,233), motor costs (£52,431), property costs (£235,313), IT costs (£85,643), professional services (£40,413), insurance (£34,587), fundraising costs (£45,350), staff costs (£112,871), cleaning (£37,278) and depreciation (£16,800).</p>
<p>2.2 Accounts</p>	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2016/17 which show an income of £3,165,475 (£2,873,941 in 2015/16) against expenditure of £3,258,672 (£3,058,853 in 2015/16), resulting in a deficit of £93,197 (a</p>

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	deficit of £184,912 in 2015/16). The sum of £3,662,169 was carried forward at the end of the 2016 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	New Application

3.0 Assessment of Application																									
3.1 Key Information	<table border="0"> <tr><td>○ Constitution</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Registered Charity</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>○ VAT Registered</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Equal Opportunities Policy</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Safeguarding Policy</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Reserves Policy</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Quality Mark</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Other funding sources pursued</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Other support by the Council</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Fundraising</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Two quotes</td><td>N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Regular monitoring provided previously</td><td>N/A</td></tr> </table>	○ Constitution	Yes	○ Registered Charity	Yes	○ VAT Registered	No	○ Equal Opportunities Policy	Yes	○ Safeguarding Policy	Yes	○ Reserves Policy	Yes	○ Quality Mark	No	○ Other funding sources pursued	Yes	○ Other support by the Council	No	○ Fundraising	Yes	○ Two quotes	N/A	○ Regular monitoring provided previously	N/A
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3.2 Consultee Comments	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>Whilst I recognise the importance of play in a child’s development, I would not be supportive of this application as the majority of users are not from Woking, and there is already a wide service offer in Woking provided by a variety of partners which provides similar opportunities.</p>																								
3.3 Assessment	<p>The application from Challengers represents a contribution towards the Guildford Play and Youths schemes with an anticipated outcome of providing activities, trips and transport at the Guildford schemes.</p> <p>They provide a range of activities for disabled young people aged between 5 and 18 years, many of whom are excluded from such activities by mainstream leisure providers. The Charity has 1,317 users, of which 67 come from the Borough of Woking.</p> <p>Whilst Challengers does provide a much needed and beneficial service, Woking Borough Council already provides significant support, including financial, to a number of organisations within the Borough which provide similar activities and leisure opportunities to young people living with disabilities and their families.</p> <p>The organisation has clearly been prudent with its income and has carried forward in excess of one full years’ running costs within the accounts and with the ongoing financial pressure on the Council’s budgets the recommendation is that no grant be awarded for 2018-2019.</p> <p>It is recommended that the organisation approach Guildford Borough Council for grant support going forwards.</p>																								

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