

YORK ROAD PROJECT – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

The Council has supported the York Road Project for a number of years, providing annual revenue funding to cover the costs for the daytime drop-in centre and Café; to maintain the drop-in centre and Café operations on Saturdays, including the salary of the Day Centre Project Worker; the provision of workshops such as tenancy training, food hygiene and IT skills; and to defray the costs of keeping the Project open all day on Sundays.

In October 2015, the Project moved into the Prop Day Centre with the support of Woking Borough Council and local businesses. The new venue has contributed towards enabling the Centre to secure appropriate move-on accommodation for over 40% of clients, and also to seek out vulnerable individuals and work at preventing homelessness. As a larger venue it has enabled training and workshops to be available to a greater number of clients.

The Organisation has applied to extend its annual revenue funding of £53,400 during 2020/21. The purpose of the application is to continue the current service provision funded by the Council, with the aim of reaching more clients and engaging with them to support their individual needs.

There remains uncertainty about ongoing funding from Surrey County Council which is hoped will be resolved within the next 12 months. The contract has not risen in line with running costs and as a result has put a strain on the Group’s ability to deliver its services. However it recognises the difficulties faced by statutory services and continues to source additional funding from other sources including voluntary donations. Historically, the grant from Woking Borough Council has been awarded subject to funding being received from the Surrey County Council housing related support now funded through Adult Social Care and it is recommended that this continues. In the event that the funding stream ceases a review would be required.

It is recommended that the application for funding of £53,400 towards the costs of the current service provision undertaken by the York Road Project be approved.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That funding of £53,400 be awarded towards the cost of the service, subject to the funding from Surrey County Council not ceasing otherwise a review of the funding provided would be required.
Reason for Decision	To enable the York Road Project to continue its existing valued service provision in the Borough.
Legal Authority	S142 Local Government Act 1972 S111 Local Government Act 1972
Conditions	Accounts. The Organisation must submit audited accounts for the year in which the grant is awarded, including an income and expenditure account and balance sheet. Please note that accounts for other years may also be required. Monitoring Information. The Organisation must submit quarterly monitoring information as a measure of its achievements. Failure to

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provide details will jeopardise the award. E-mail requests will be sent to the applicant on a quarterly basis.

Publicity. Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on all literature and leaflets produced.

Payments. Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with details of the costs incurred and monitoring information for the previous quarter.

Payment Period. Final quarter claims must be made by the second week in March. Unclaimed awards will not be available at a later date unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated to the Council before the end of the award year.

Joint Working. WBC expects the Organisation to engage positively on health and wellbeing multi-agency joint work affecting Woking. Groups which refuse may place their Council support at risk, e.g. grant, concessionary rent and other assistance.

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. With the introduction of new legislation from April 2018, the council will expect the support of partner agencies in identifying people at risk of homelessness as early as possible to maximise the opportunities to prevent such. Partner agencies / organisations will be expected to be engaged in joint working arrangements to assist in finding suitable housing and support solutions, and where appropriate to undertake and respond to the new 'duty to refer'. Groups which do not support this new legislation and way of working positively, may put their Council support at risk.

Venue Hire. Woking Borough Council has a duty to ensure that publicly-owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views. This duty extends to organisations that work with the local authority so this includes recipients of any grants from Woking Borough Council. If you hire out your venue/s you should ensure you have good processes in place for record keeping and checking if they are an appropriate group to be making the hire arrangements. The following are some of what should be considered:

- Basic details should be recorded to include speakers address, mobile phone number & organisation details.
- Has the identity of the speaker been confirmed & is their organisation bona fide? Are they known to you?
- Is the speaker from the area? Are they UK citizens or from overseas & will they travel specifically for this event?
- Consider checks on the internet to confirm the status of speaker to include website, YouTube or social media sites.
- How many people are likely to attend (check previous or similar events either locally or online).

Performance Indicators

Users. The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users in the past quarter.

Activities. The Organisation to provide details of activities and events held during the last quarter.

Publicity. The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has

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	<p>been publicised over the last quarter.</p> <p>Statement of Use. The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.</p>
Future Support	<p>The financial pressure on the Council's budgets is expected to continue in the coming years and accordingly the overall level of support available in future years may be reduced. The applicant is therefore to be advised that the award of funding for 2020/21 does not imply that a similar application in 2021/22 would be supported. In particular, it is emphasised that the Council is unlikely to be in a position to award any sums above the 2020/21 levels.</p> <p>In view of this, the applicant is to be advised to ensure that contingency plans for the Group's operations for 2021/22 have been drawn up in the event that the Council is unable to continue its support beyond April 2021. All applicants are strongly recommended to pursue alternative sources of funding and are encouraged to approach Woking Borough Council's Community Support Team for advice and support.</p>

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2020/21 Application Form.

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Date Published:

18 February 2020

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>York Road Project began in 1995 and registered as a Charity in 2001. The Group shares the Christian gospel of God's love and compassion to those in need in the Borough of Woking and surrounding areas regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion, belief and sexual orientation. It believes everyone has a right to a home, regardless of the difficulties and issues they may face, and in showing those who need support that the wider community is there to help and offer hope for a better future.</p> <p>The Project offers an 11 bed night shelter, 18 move on beds and a Day Centre where clients access support. Whilst accommodation is the ultimate aim, it recognises that in order to stop the cycle of homelessness, a holistic approach is required. The Prop provides advice and support alongside activities and training to build self-esteem and confidence.</p> <p>The Outreach Team engages with rough sleepers in Woking and Waverley and the Indigo Project which launched in 2017 works with people at risk of homelessness due to mental health issues. In June 2019 a one year contract was commenced with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for which a member of staff has been recruited to work predominantly with those at risk of offending.</p>
1.2 Employees	<p>24, as set out below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Executive (37.5 hours per week) - Deputy Chief Executive (37.5 hours per week) - Day Services Team Leader (37.5 hours per week) - Accommodation Team Leader (37.5 hours per week) - Community Fundraiser (37.5 hours per week) - Day Centre Co-ordinator (37.5 hours per week) - Day Centre Project Worker (37.5 hours per week) - Move On Project Worker (37.5 hours per week) - Outreach Worker (37.5 hours per week) - Wellbeing Worker (37.5 hours per week) - Navigator (37.5 hours per week) - Bookkeeper (24 hours per week) - Administrator (22.5 hours per week) - Kitchen Supervisor (25 hours per week) - Cleaner x 2 (20 hours per week) - Sunday Day Project Workers x 2 (totalling 17 hours per week) - Night Project Workers x 4 (15 hours, 2 x staff on each night, 365 nights) - Bank Workers for Night Shelter x2
1.3 Volunteers	<p>5.</p> <p>Volunteers work in a variety of roles within the organisation including the Day Centre advice sessions where they support clients with completing forms, searching for jobs and supporting staff to deliver workshops or attend trips.</p> <p>The volunteers at the Night Shelter help with cooking and serving the</p>

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	<p>evening meal.</p> <p>The Group tries to utilise existing skills in volunteers in order to better support the clients and also to meet the needs of the volunteers themselves, quite often this involves providing IT expertise or helping clients practice their interview techniques in a safe environment.</p> <p>All volunteers are interviewed, provide a DBS check and are inducted fully utilising a volunteer handbook. They are all required to read, sign and adhere to operational policies and procedures.</p> <p>Volunteers are also encouraged to attend any in house training. Clients are also encouraged and supported to volunteer within the project as further preparation for returning to work in the future. Client roles have included: helping with maintenance, sorting donations, gardening and helping in the kitchen supported by the kitchen supervisor.</p> <p>Clients are also encouraged to support each other, e.g. during the IT workshops, the more proficient clients mentor those who are less experienced.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>267, comprising:</p> <p>222 male</p> <p>45 female</p> <p>0 disabled</p> <p>31 ethnic minority</p> <p>176 resident in Woking</p> <p>262 aged 19-65</p> <p>5 aged 65+</p> <p>Clients are expected to pay towards their stay in the accommodation: £14 per week in the shelter and £10 / £15 per week in move on accommodation.</p> <p>Day Centre clients do not pay for the support or lunch they receive if they engage with the services. The kitchen serves approximately 10,000 meals each year.</p> <p>Clients accessing the day centre do not pay for any activities they attend, training/qualifications, trips out or toiletries and clothing. These are funded via donations and the current Woking Community Grant.</p> <p>Whilst the Group has worked with 267 clients over the past year, some will be referred to supported accommodation.</p>
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£53,400 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>The grant would be used as a continuation for the services funded in previous years and is essential to allow the Group to continue to provide the services currently delivered. The Group will provide a wrap-around service with the aims of reaching more clients and engaging them in structured learning.</p> <p>The Prop Day Centre continues to welcome external agencies to see clients in its premises which includes GP, probation services,</p>

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	<p>substance misuse and housing services. Workshops delivered are a mix of skills training and activities aimed at increasing self esteem and confidence. The Prop offers somewhere to go during the day, potentially reducing costs to services elsewhere.</p> <p>The Project Worker salary ensures staffing levels are at an acceptable level and the post specifically supports clients by delivering workshops and creating the weekly programme of activities. The grant enables the Group to open the night shelter for the day on Sundays including a Sunday roast. This service reduces anti-social behaviour in the community and ensures clients eat a nutritious and healthy meal.</p> <p>Without the funding received from the Council, York Road Project would not be able to open The Prop each day and would have to close the shelter on Sundays. The Organisation is pivotal in ensuring rough sleepers in Woking continue to be supported.</p>
<p>1.8 Cost breakdown:</p>	<p>Project Worker - £20,000 Kitchen Supervisor - £11,715 Cleaner - £5,400 Saturday / Sunday Workers - £10,400 Employers NI - £1,800 Pension - £585 Client Rewards - £800 External training - £1,500 External facilitators - £1,200 Total costs - £53,400</p>
<p>1.9 Community Benefit</p>	<p>The Group states that it is very difficult to quantify how many people in the wider community are positively impacted through its work. However, it believes that it supports both those directly suffering from homelessness and the community as a whole, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational talks to schools, churches and other organisations with the aim of raising awareness around homelessness – the Group aims to go into 30 different schools and community groups to provide this service, with each talk being delivered to between 20-300 individuals; - Litter picking (including removal of cans and drug paraphernalia) – undertaken in Woking town centre and a benefit to all members of the community and businesses in the area; - Working alongside community groups to take part in activities such as decorating, gardening and clearing rubbish, including partnership work with Horsell Common Preservation Society; - Maintaining a garden at United Reform Church, including repainting and planting bulbs for next year; - Cost benefits to other services by delivering an assertive outreach model, responding to the needs of the wider community and offering support quickly when needed; - Last year the Group took part in World Homelessness Day, setting up an interactive stall in the Town Centre with the aim of giving the public a better understanding of homelessness and demonstrating that it can happen to anyone.

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2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £484,012 in the bank.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2020/21 which shows an anticipated income of £793,617 against an anticipated expenditure of £788,211, resulting in an anticipated surplus of £5,406.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes housing benefit received (£258,300), Supporting People funds (£114,300), welfare received (£100,000), WBC grant (£53,400), DCLG rough sleeper navigator grant (£46,132) and Client Contributions (£34,975). Items of expenditure include staff salaries (£422,220), employer's NI (£38,741) and software / IT consumables (£9,400).</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2018/19 which show an income of £685,793 (£621,838 in 2017/18) against expenditure of £622,912 (£596,776 in 2017/18), resulting in a surplus of £62,881 (a surplus of £25,063 in 2017/18). The sum of £296,773 was carried forward at the end of the 2018/19 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2019/20 – £53,400 2018/19 – £53,400 2017/18 – £53,400 2016/17 – £52,600 2015/16 – £31,000</p>

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 ○ Reserves Policy ○ Quality Mark ○ Other funding sources pursued ○ Other support by the Council ○ Fundraising ○ Two quotes ○ Regular monitoring provided previously <p>* discretionary rate relief and free refuse collection</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes *</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Yes</p>

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<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager and Catherine Butler, Housing Needs Manager</u></p> <p>York Road Project provides emergency and longer term accommodation for those experiencing homelessness. In addition The Prop Day Centre offers workshops, advice and activities aimed at building self-esteem and confidence offering a holistic approach to helping individuals, as well as showers, food and clothes. The Prop offers a place for clients to visit during the day with tailored activities, as well as welcoming external agencies such as local GPs, support workers, I-Access and local housing services, so reducing pressure for services elsewhere.</p> <p>The funding will be used to continue the delivery of The Prop Day Centre, aiming to reach more clients and engage with them to meet individual needs. Funding also enables the shelter to open on a Sunday, an initiative which helps to reduce anti-social behaviour in the town and ensures clients receive a healthy nutritious meal. York Road Project believes that they would not be able to continue to deliver this service without continued support from Woking Borough Council.</p> <p>As the revenue funding of £53,400 has remained at the same level as the last 2 years, it is recommended that 100% of this funding be awarded.</p>
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>The York Road Project believes that everyone has a right to a home, regardless of the difficulties and issues they may face in their lives and provides essential support to the community in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the provision of temporary Night Shelter accommodation;• the provision of 'move on' accommodation; and• the provision of a Day Centre to provide information, support and an opportunity to achieve by taking part in courses and activities. <p>The York Road Project is the only organisation in Surrey which provides a full wrap-around service for people experiencing homelessness in one area. It understands that homelessness cannot be "fixed" by just providing a roof but providing a unique support plan for clients greatly improves the chances of sourcing sustainable accommodation. This requires input from various services and often takes several years to achieve. The Project is strategically placed within the community to provide a high level of care in a unique way as all the homelessness services are under one umbrella. This enables the Project to offer consistency to clients and partner agencies alike.</p> <p>It works closely with Housing Services at Woking Borough Council often taking clients when other organisations are unable to support. Its principle of no permanent or indefinite bans means it can work with clients long term and help them to address their issues including offending, substance misuse, physical and mental health difficulties. It also takes clients upon discharge from hospitals, prisons and Social Services preventing them from rough sleeping in Woking.</p> <p>The Project moved into the Prop Day Centre in October 2015 with the support of Woking Borough Council and local businesses, opening between 7.30am – 4.00pm for four days per week, between 7.30am – 9.00am on Friday mornings, and from 7.30am on Sundays for</p>

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breakfast and lunch. The first hour of the morning is for rough sleepers only.

Its innovative programme of activities supports clients' reintegration into housing, work and healthy relationships through educational workshops offering qualifications, life skills such as cooking and employment skills and emotional wellbeing to improve confidence and prevent social isolation. Clients participate in a monthly meeting and give their views about the Group whilst helping to design the Prop workshop programme.

Due to having the same number of available beds, the number of people accommodated last year has remained similar to previous years. Last year the Prop worked with 187 individual clients, 40% of those clients were supported into longer term accommodation. The Project continues to offer value for money in its outreach work by getting to new rough sleepers and having the Prop as a service accessible for food, clothing and advice. During the past year it experienced a Severe Weather Emergency Provision period (28 days) and provided 270 emergency bed spaces during the period.

There have been nationwide cuts in statutory services in recent years and an increase in clients with complex needs. This has meant a reduction in long term accommodation providers and increased waiting lists for those clients trying to access these services. Due to local housing allocation policy nationwide, some clients do not have a local connection anywhere which means that sourcing accommodation is very difficult. However, the Project tries to utilise different housing options such as family, friends and live in jobs.

It also works to return clients from out of area back into their local connection, including returning non UK nationals to their country of origin where possible, although legislation has changed which makes it less simple. It has received support from the ICE team who govern border control and monitor individuals right to remain in the UK. It has also engaged the support of the RSPCA in response to the increased numbers of rough sleepers who have dogs and making sure that their needs are met.

The Project recognises that resources are limited and commits to investigating alternative forms of funding including trusts and foundations, sponsorship from business' and out of borough agencies. This includes 'selling' services such as places on training courses to other organisations and letting space in its building to an external agency (Safe Haven) to try and offset building costs, and offering nomination rights for two beds in the Night Shelter to Waverley Borough Council for a fee.

Its Sleep Out event took place on 4 October 2019, which raised circa £6,000. Two quiz nights are held, both raising approximately £1,000. The Group is very active on Twitter and tweets regularly about items which it is in need of. The local community is very supportive and responds quickly. It also has an Amazon wish list where people can buy items from the site to be delivered directly to the Project.

There remains uncertainty about ongoing funding from Surrey County Council which the Project hope will be resolved within the next 12 months. The contract has not risen in line with running costs and as a result has put a strain on the Group's ability to deliver its services. However it recognises the difficulties faced by statutory services and

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continues to source additional funding from other sources including voluntary donations. Historically, the grant from Woking Borough Council has been awarded subject to funding being received from the County Council. In the event that the funding stream ceases a review would be required.

York Road Project is applying to continue its revenue funding of £53,400 during 2020/21. The purpose of the application is to continue the current service provision. It is recommended that the application for funding to maintain the current service provision should be supported and that a grant of £53,400 should be approved.

REPORT ENDS