

**LAKEVIEW COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP – LIFT UP TOGETHER – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

<b>Executive Summary</b>	
<p>Lift Up Together, a project established in 2005 under the umbrella of the Lakeview Community Action Group, is based at the Lakeview Social Centre. The project provides an opportunity through weekly group meetings for people aged 16 or over who have mental health issues or who are socially isolated to attend and relax, learn, participate, socialise and feel safe. The Group also supports those looking to return to work and/or learning.</p> <p>The Council has supported the Group for many years and it is clear that a valuable and tangible impact is made on the lives of those who make use of the Group, be it through socialising with others, group discussions or trips to venues such as Marwell Zoo. Membership numbers continue to be strong and networking takes place with local agencies.</p> <p>The Group was created to address a lack of provision for supportive networks within the community for those with mental health problems. It is stated that the Lakeview Estate has a high number of residents who experience social isolation and mental health issues, many of these affecting families with children and older people. The Group is inclusive and young mothers bring their children from as young as one month old.</p> <p>The Group has applied for funding of £6,000 for 2018/19 to assist with the costs of the service. It is recommended that the application be supported for 2018/19, at the same level of £6,000 as provided during the current financial year.</p>	

<b>Recommendations</b>	
Reasons for Decision	To enable the support of those with mental health issues in Lakeview and the surrounding area in the absence of statutory support.
Legal Authority	S142 Local Government Act 1972
The Executive is requested to:	<b>RESOLVE That</b> funding of £6,000 be agreed towards running costs.
Conditions	<p><b>Accounts.</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Monitoring Information.</b> The Organisation must submit quarterly monitoring information as a measure of its achievements. Failure to provide details will jeopardise the award. E-mail requests will be sent to the applicant on a quarterly basis.</p> <p><b>Publicity.</b> Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on all literature and leaflets produced.</p> <p><b>Payments.</b> Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with details of the costs incurred and monitoring information for the previous quarter.</p> <p><b>Payment Period.</b> Final quarter claims must be made by the second</p>

**Lakeview Community Action Group - Lift Up Together – Application For Financial Assistance**

	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Joint Working.</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Venue Hire.</b> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic details should be recorded to include speakers address, mobile phone number &amp; organisation details.</li> <li>• Has the identity of the speaker been confirmed &amp; is their organisation bona fide? Are they known to you?</li> <li>• Is the speaker from the area? Are they UK citizens or from overseas &amp; will they travel specifically for this event?</li> <li>• Consider checks on the internet to confirm the status of speaker to include website, YouTube or social media sites.</li> <li>• How many people are likely to attend (check previous or similar events either locally or online).</li> </ul>
Performance Indicators	<p><b>Users.</b> The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users in the past quarter.</p> <p><b>Activities.</b> The Organisation to provide details of activities and events held during the last quarter.</p> <p><b>Enquiries.</b> The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the enquiries received during the last quarter.</p> <p><b>Publicity.</b> The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised over the last quarter.</p> <p><b>Statement of Use.</b> 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 2018/19 does not</p>

**Lakeview Community Action Group - Lift Up Together – Application For Financial Assistance**

imply that a similar application in 2019/20 would be supported. In particular, it is emphasised that the Council is unlikely to be in a position to award any sums above the 2018/19 levels.

In view of this, the applicant is to be advised to ensure that contingency plans for the Group's operations for 2019/20 have been drawn up in the event that the Council is unable to continue its support beyond April 2019. 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.

**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

**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

**Date Published:**

6 December 2017

**Lakeview Community Action Group - Lift Up Together – Application For Financial Assistance**

**Lakeview Community Action Group - Lift Up Together – Application For Financial Assistance**

<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>			
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>The organisation was originally formed in 2004 to de-stigmatize and be inclusive to those suffering from mental health issues and their carers and families.</p> <p>The Group meets every week on Thursdays between 12 and 4pm, the day in the week when people suffering depression and mental health issues find there is little other local support. The Group provides a buffet lunch for all those attending. The Group tries to arrange two trips per year, with the venue/activity chosen by group members.</p> <p>Lift Up is a social self support group where activities such as bingo, quizzes, discussions and reading can take place in a safe, stigma-free environment. These activities have been chosen by the users and they find them beneficial.</p>		
1.2 Employees	None.		
1.3 Volunteers	<p>6, whose activities include running the group sessions, setting up the activities, preparing the food, talking to new and existing members and signposting where appropriate.</p> <p>The volunteers also help to facilitate excursions and undergo specific training to cater for the needs of the individuals who suffer with a variety of mental health issues.</p>		
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>89, comprising:</p> <p>29 male</p> <p>60 female</p> <p>46 disabled</p> <p>5 ethnic minority</p> <p>87 resident in Woking</p> <p>68 aged 19-65</p> <p>21 aged 65+</p>		
1.5 Members	None.		
1.6 Sum Requested	£8,000 (Revenue)		
1.7 Project	<p>When Lift Up Together first launched this Group it undertook a community consultation which demonstrated the urgent need for the service in Lakeview. Since then, the Group has continued to grow with more members joining year on year which demonstrates the continuing need for the service they provide.</p> <p>The Group canvases members regularly to make sure its activities continue to be suited to the needs of its users. The clients would have changing needs depending on the cycle of their mental health and treatment being received.</p>		
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Telephone</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£100</td> </tr> </table>	Telephone	£100
Telephone	£100		

**Lakeview Community Action Group - Lift Up Together – Application For Financial Assistance**

	Postage and Stationery	£100
	Printing and photocopying	£200
	Rent for Hall Hire	£10 per hour
	Equipment	£500
	Travel and subsistence	£200
	Expense Food & Sundries	£3,500
	Expense Papers & Magazines	£750
	Weekly Bingo prizes	£750
	Trips Coach Hire x 2	£900
	Trips Admittance to event /site for 50 for 1 trip	£1,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,000</b>
1.9 Community Benefit	There are 89 service users who receive direct benefit from the project. Furthermore, the families, friends and workmates benefit indirectly through the service of the improved health and wellbeing of the users. It is added that this has a wider impact on the rest of the community and on the demand of local resources.	

<b>2.0 Financial Background</b>		
2.1 Budget	At the time of the application, the Group held £5,068 in the bank. The sum of £10,000 is reserved for the running of the Group's activities for up to three months.  The Group has submitted a break-even budget for 2018/19 which shows an anticipated expenditure of £11,185.	
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted accounts for 2016/17 which show an income of £41,732 (£41,979 in 2015/16) against expenditure of £41,666 (£41,964 in 2015/16), resulting in a surplus of £65 (a surplus of £14 in 2015/16). The sum of £13,411 was carried forward at the end of the 2016/17 year.	
2.3 Support over the past five years	2017/18 - £6,000 towards the costs of the weekly support sessions. 2016/17 - £6,000 towards the costs of the weekly support sessions. 2015/16 - £6,000 towards the costs of the weekly support sessions. 2014/15 - £6,000 towards the costs of the weekly support sessions. 2013/14 - £5,000 towards the costs of the weekly support sessions.	

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

**Lakeview Community Action Group - Lift Up Together – Application For Financial Assistance**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reserves Policy</li> <li>○ Quality Mark</li> <li>○ Other funding sources pursued</li> <li>○ Other support by the Council</li> <li>○ Fundraising</li> <li>○ Two quotes</li> <li>○ Regular monitoring provided previously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>N/A</li> <li>Yes</li> </ul>
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>The group supports adults with ongoing mental health issues or those that are socially isolated to come together weekly to learn participate and socialise in a supportive environment. The group appears to be run well and membership numbers continue to be strong, with increased networking taking place with local agencies within the community which is welcomed. .</p> <p>Whilst it maybe seen as being unusual that the majority of the funding request is linked to food, this is an essential element of the life skills that individual's are taught in the supportive setting so that they are able to support themselves within the home environment.</p> <p>I would be supportive of this application, as it helps meet an identified need in Lakeview and the surrounding area.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Lift Up Together is managed by the Lakeview Community Action Group and has no paid employees. Regular enquiries are received from members of public and local professionals about the work of the Group. Many of the users request one to one talks and this would be easier to facilitate in the Group's new accommodation in the redeveloped Social Centre, as it contains a quiet room. The meetings are well organised and all attendees are made to feel welcome, with an average attendance of between 30 and 35 people at each session.</p> <p>The Group was created to address a lack of provision for supportive networks within the community for those with mental health problems. The application states that the Lakeview Estate has a high number of residents who experience social isolation and mental health issues, many of these affecting families with children and older people.</p> <p>The Group is inclusive and young mothers bring their children from as young as one month old. The work of the Group helps those suffering from mental health issues in Lakeview in a unique way by involving carers, friends and family, with a strong track record of success. No charge is levied for users and it would be considered detrimental for one to be introduced.</p> <p>The location of the group on the Lakeview Estate is stated to be important to members as there is little provision for those with mental health issues. Most users have no transport and little money to afford public transport so being within walking distance is a great help both for those disabled and financially disadvantaged.</p> <p>During the first three years of the Group's operation funding was received through an EC Global Grant, and following its cessation in 2008 an annual grant was provided by Woking Borough Council. It has been noted that the Group have attempted in the past to pursue</p>	

**Lakeview Community Action Group - Lift Up Together – Application For Financial Assistance**

other avenues for funding, for example grants from Mind and Comic Relief but have been unsuccessful. In the past it has also worked with WAVS to identify other grants and funding that could be applied for.

The Group notes in its application that the increasing numbers of members and the effects of inflation have resulted in the Group's budget for food increasing. A greater amount of craft materials are also being consumed for therapy projects to enhance the wellbeing of members. National and local newspapers are supplied to help people search for job opportunities in the surrounding area and to stimulate discussion on wider issues across the country. Puzzle magazines are also provided which users enjoy and weekly quizzes are carried out in teams to cement friendships and provide a sense of achievement.

The Group has applied for funding of £8,000 for 2018/19, to assist with the costs of the service. The funds would be allocated to the supply of the weekly food for the sessions, two annual trips and a Christmas party, the cost of operating the telephone helpline, petrol for volunteer transport costs and sundry expenses. In addition, occasional replacement of the Group's kitchen equipment takes place along with items such as craft materials.

The Council has supported the Group for many years and it is clear that a valuable and tangible impact is made on the lives of those who make use of the Group. It is recommended that the application be supported for 2018/19, at the same level of £6,000 as provided during the current financial year.

REPORT ENDS