

MAYBURY AND SHEERWATER COMMUNITY TRUST (MASCOT) – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

The Trust was formed in July 2011 to support the residents of Maybury and Sheerwater.

The Trust operates as a foodbank, internet cafe', signposting service, career advice, english and computer skills sessions, seated dance, a place which offers volunteering opportunities and non-professional mentoring. Their facilities are available to partners who wish to deliver projects to local beneficiaries.

MASCOT has requested £20,000 to cover the costs of the Trust's salaries, insurance and utilities in order to keep on providing the services offered and to give partner agencies a base in Sheerwater and St Paul's Community Halls.

Since the application was submitted the £50,000 from People's Health Trust has been awarded to be used against the running costs of the projects. The Council have employed a Community Engagement Officer to undertake work within the Sheerwater area who will work closely with MASCOT, on this basis the recommendation is that no grant be awarded, as a more integrated and sustainable way of delivery has been achieved at a local level.

Recommendations

Reasons for Decision	Since the application was submitted, the Group has received external funding towards its running costs and the Council has employed a Community Engagement Worker for Sheerwater who will work closely the Group.
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.

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Date Published:

6 December 2017

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>The trust was formed in July 2011. The main objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To identify the underlying causes of deprivation and social exclusion in Maybury and Sheerwater; ii) To address the identified causes through targeted projects; iii) To act as a catalyst facilitating collaborative initiatives with partners; iv) To act as a catalyst stimulating resources already in the community, supporting selfhelp groups and offering 'bestpractice' models; v) To be a sustainable organisation and a channel for resources which responds to perceived needs; vi) To participate in this service as an expression of Christian faith, without any expectation or requirement that beneficiaries change their religious views. <p>The trust operates as a foodbank, internet cafe', signposting service, career advice, english and computer skills sessions, seated dance, and a place which offers volunteering opportunities and non-professional mentoring.</p>
1.2 Employees	<p>The Community Liaison and Hub Manager responsible for the Sheerwater area works 24 hours per week over four days. The Community Liaison Manager responsible for the Maybury area works 16 hours per week over two days.</p>
1.3 Volunteers	<p>Volunteers are involved in running the foodbank, carry out administrative tasks and some maintenance tasks, offer hospitality to visitors, answer general enquiries from visitors and assist in running activities or actually running the activites and manning the hub or St.Paul's Community halls if the managers are out at meetings.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>279, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 113 male 166 female 31 disabled 88 ethnic minority 272 resident in Woking 10 aged 0-5 10 aged 5-10 1 aged 11-18 264 aged 19-65 27 aged 65+
1.5 Members	<p>Not Applicable.</p>

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1.6 Sum Requested	£20,000 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>The funding will be used to cover the running costs of the Trust i.e. utilities, insurance, salaries, etc., in order to keep on providing the services offered and to give partner agencies a base in Sheerwater and St.Paul's Community Halls.</p> <p>Previous support from Woking Borough Council has helped the Trust to be in a position to use already available funds to lengthen the duration of the career related sessions and also to set up a support fund for people needing help with things like travel costs to training, work wear, food hygiene certificates, CSCS cards, etc. The funds requested are lower than the previous year (previous amount requested was £24,000) as the organisation will endeavour to also seek funds from other sources.</p>
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>The running costs are as follows (based on last year's costs plus 3%):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Insurance £525 o Phone and internet £437 o Printer/photocopier £396 o Electricity £1,089 o Waste disposal £100 o Anticipated extra activity costs £3,000 o Mascot Maybury Project Costs £733 o Salaries £23,800 <p>The total for the year is £30,080</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>People will benefit in the short term by receiving emergency help (foodbank, emergency phone use, etc.), use of facilities they may not have at home (computers, internet, printer/scanner) and local access to borough wide information (leaflets, information posters, etc.).</p> <p>Where visitors are struggling to access information the organisation will aim to guide them to the correct organisation or resource. People will also benefit in the longer term because they will have access to support that can change their circumstances by teaching new skills, giving volunteering opportunities as a stepping stone into work, by helping overcome barriers in order to find appropriate employment, and improve computer literacy and English language skills.</p> <p>Numbers benefiting in the short term will reflect the number of visitors to the hub in general. MASCOT will aim to help fifty people during the funding period with the long term objective of helping improve or change their circumstances.</p>

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £43,407 in the bank. Of the sum, £500 has been allocated for people needing support with train fares to training opportunities, CSCS cards, food hygiene courses and work wear. This amount has been allocated specifically for any potential candidates referred to MASCOT by Woking Job Centre Plus to ensure they are supporting vetted individuals.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2018/19 which shows an</p>

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	<p>anticipated income of £21,000 against an anticipated expenditure of £35,172, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £13,572.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes Thames Valley Housing (£8,000), Woking Borough Council (£7,000), Seedbed Trust (£5,000), and other income (£1,600).</p> <p>Items of expenditure include Career coaching (£6,975); seated dance (£280); wages (£23,844); general expenditure (£4,073).</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2016/17 which show an income of £28,196 (£21,598 in 2015/16) against expenditure of £31,332 (£35,172 in 2015/16), resulting in a deficit of £3,136 (a deficit of £13,574 in 2015/16). The sum of £43,407 was carried forward at the end of the 2016/17 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2017/18 – £24,000 towards the core costs of the service.</p> <p>2016/17 – £28,000 towards the core costs of the service.</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>* mandatory rate relief, discretionary rate relief, concessionary rent</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes *</p> <p>No</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Yes</p>
3.2 Consultee Comments	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>MASCOT Is now well established in the community and delivers a number of positive programmes in the community. The council has been working closely with the organisation on a number of strands of work, but most recently with regards to the development work around Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) in the whole of Sheerwater – which has resulted in the launch of ‘Sheerwater Together’.</p> <p>As a result of closer working with both WBC and SCC, MASCOT was able to make a successful bid to the People’s Health Trust for £50k to deliver certain ABCD related projects – the outcome of which was known after the group submitted this grant application.</p> <p>Bearing in mind the People’s Health Trust bid included provision for a</p>	

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	<p>part-time co-ordinator as well as activity money and that the Council has recently employed a Community Engagement Officer for Sheerwater and Maybury area (due to start January 2018), through joint discussion it has been agreed that the Borough's Officer will undertake the part-time element of the co-ordinator's role, thus releasing the full £50k funding for activity delivery at a local level.</p> <p>In light of such it is proposed that the grant application be not supported as a more integrated and sustainable way of delivery has been achieved at a local level.</p>
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Mascot believes that support should be awarded due to consistent numbers of visits to the Hub and to people visiting St.Paul's Community Halls to access the activities run from both locations. If revenue costs are forthcoming it will enable them to continue to serve local people with the services provided and with volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Due to previous funding being available they have allocated funds to support people with things like travel costs to training, work wear, food hygiene certificates and art club materials, giving them the ability to invest in people and their interests.</p> <p>Through contact with people attending the activities at Maybury, people have benefitted from assistance offered by volunteers from five local churches with things like electricity bill and social security enquiries and finding school places for their children. The funding will enable the Trust to give consistent ongoing support to partner agencies and local individuals. With the go-ahead of the regeneration work in Sheerwater, the applicant considers that the Trust would be a vital resource for people looking for support in accessing information related to their individual circumstances.</p> <p>People will benefit in the short term by receiving emergency help (foodbank, emergency phone use, etc.), use of facilities they may not have at home (computers, internet, printer/scanner) and local access to borough wide information (leaflets, information posters, etc.)</p> <p>People would also benefit in the longer term from the access to support that can change their circumstance by teaching them new skills, giving them volunteering opportunities, helping them overcome barriers, and improve computer literacy and English language skills. Numbers benefiting in the short term will reflect the number of visitors to the hub in general. MASCOT will aim to help fifty people during the funding period with the long term objective of helping improve or change their circumstances.</p> <p>Following meetings with Surrey County Council and other relevant agency representatives to discuss and promote the Asset Based Community Development approach, Mascot applied for £50,000 to the People's Health Trust in order to initiate projects that will involve the local community such as a repair cafe', environment taskforce, community garden, cycling club and community lunch club.</p> <p>Since the application was submitted, the £50,000 from People's Health Trust has been awarded to be used against the running costs of the projects. Woking Borough Council has employed a Community Engagement Officer to undertake work within the Sheerwater area who will work closely with MASCOT.</p>

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In view of the financial success of the Trust, and the recent appointment of a Community Engagement officer, it is recommended that the application is not supported and that no grant should be awarded, as a more integrated and sustainable way of delivery has been achieved at a local level.

REPORT ENDS