

PEER PRODUCTIONS – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Peer Productions has applied for a capital grant of £9,960 to work with a total of 24 girls (14 – 17 years old) at risk of being exploited or offending, identified in partnership with Women in Prison, for two ‘Generation Girls’ projects held in the Summer and Autumn terms during 2018. During the Spring term 2019 it would also work with between 10 – 20 girls on developing their leadership skills, some of whom would have completed the ‘Generation Girls’ project. The project works towards awarding those girls who successfully complete the project achieving Bronze or Silver Arts Awards.

During the 2015/16 financial year, the Borough Council awarded a grant of £5,000 to the Charity towards the Woking Girls Group project and three bursaries. The work targeted girls (aged 11 – 15 years old) identified as vulnerable (including those who have experienced domestic abuse, girls in care and those with mental health issues), with Peer Productions using creative arts to focus on issues like internet safety, body image and sexual consent. The Group created its 10 week project for up to 12 girls, running it in partnership with the Women in Prison’s Women’s Support Centre in Woking.

Peer Productions submitted an application last year which requested funding of £22,399 to create a project aimed at making Woking a dementia friendly community by improving inclusion and quality of life for people with dementia. The Executive was not able to support the application in view of the potential long term funding implications at a time of financial uncertainty for the Council’s Community Grants budget, and the need to allocate the limited resources of the budget to maintain existing projects across the Borough. However, the Executive recommended that the work of the Group be considered as part of the Council’s long-term objective of becoming a Dementia Friendly Community.

The Council would therefore prefer to undertake a commissioning approach to potential projects which could be run by Peer Productions to support the community, noting the benefits to those suffering with dementia and girls aged 14-17 years old at risk of either being exploited or entering the Criminal Justice system. Accordingly, it is recommended that no grant be awarded.

Recommendations

Reasons for Decision	The Council would prefer to undertake a commissioning approach to potential projects which could be run by Peer Productions to support the community.
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.

Peer Productions – Application For Financial Assistance

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Peer Productions – Application For Financial Assistance

1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	Established in 2006, Peer Productions is a unique youth arts charity specialising in peer education through theatre. Each year it recruits a team of young people (aged 17 to 23) who are trained as actors and educators. It creates original educational plays on complex social issues which tour schools, colleges and youth settings across the South-East. It also delivers outreach projects with targeted community groups.
1.2 Employees	6, comprising Managing Director (21 hours per week), Artistic Director (21 hours per week), Associate Director (35 hours per week), Team Administrator (35 hours per week), Tours Coordinator (variable through year 7-35 hours per week), and Fundraiser (7 hours per week).
1.3 Volunteers	22, whose activities are state to include Governance, Peer Education and Workshops.
1.4 Clients/Users	21,900, comprising: 10,950 male 10,950 female 157 disabled 2,159 ethnic minority 5,250 resident in Woking 21,900 aged 11-18
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£9,960 (Capital)
1.7 Project	Peer Productions plans to work with Women in Prison to identify 14-17 year old girls at risk of exploitation or involvement in the criminal justice system to take part in 'Generation Girls'. In the Summer Term 2018 Peer Productions will work with 12 new girls on a 10 week 'Generation Girls' programme at the Women's Centre which will be accredited with Arts Award Bronze. In the Autumn Term 2018 Peer Productions will work with a further 12 girls on a 10 week 'Generation' Girls programme at the Women's Centre, accredited with Arts Award Bronze. In the Spring Term 2019 Peer Productions will work with a group of between 10 and 20 girls who have either taken part in a previous 'Generation Girls' Project with Women in Prison or at the Park School (Woking) to further develop their leadership skills, which will be accredited with Arts Award Silver.
1.8 Cost breakdown:	Staff Costs <u>Artistic Director</u> Preparation, planning and development including meetings with partners and creation of materials £400

Peer Productions – Application For Financial Assistance

	Training of project staff to deliver programme £200 Contribution to training of peer educators £200 Delivery of 30 half day sessions £3,000 <u>Assistant Director</u> Training to deliver programme £175 Delivery of project £2,625 <u>Arts Award Adviser</u> £1,480 Operational/Activity Costs Materials £200 Transport £200 Arts Award Moderation Fee £400 Office/Overhead/Premises Costs Telephone £30 Insurance £50 Management Fee £1,000 Total cost of project £9,960
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>Peer Productions has stated that the proposed project will work with a highly marginalised group, from a diverse range of backgrounds, who are often overlooked by other programmes. By working with these young people to create an early-stage intervention, there will be long-term benefits to the Borough around crime and anti-social behaviour reduction and an impact on the associated costs. By enabling these young people to make positive life choice, through a quality and lasting engagement, the Group will help them to become productive and valued members of society.</p>

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £26,000 in the bank. The sum of £10,000 is reserved for its 'Hidden Project from Arbonne', £5,000 is reserved for 'Losing It India' and £11,000 is held as reserves.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2018/19 which shows an anticipated income of £183,146 against an anticipated expenditure of £179,500, resulting in an anticipated surplus of £3,646. The budget sets out the anticipated income and expenditure for each planned show and theatrical projects.</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts to 31 August 2016 which show an income of £143,596 (£167,637 in 2014/15) against expenditure of £124,859 (£165,125 in 2014/15), resulting in a surplus of £18,737 (a surplus of £2,512 in 2014/15). The sum of £29,310 was carried forward at the end of the 2015/16 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2017/18 – No grant awarded 2015/16 – £5,000 towards the 'Generation Girls' project in association with Women in Prison. 2014/15 – No grant awarded 2013/14 – No grant awarded</p>

Peer Productions – Application For Financial Assistance

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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Yes No No Yes No No No No Yes N/A N/A
3.2 Consultee Comments	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>Woking Borough Council supports the work of the Women’s Support Centre in Woking. Some of the current targeted work is with young women at risk of child sexual exploitation and with those and others at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system. The proposed new project with Peer Productions is supportive of this and could enhance the current work being done. Reducing the risk of exploitation and involvement with the criminal justice system by improving confidence and resilience amongst the young women will support them in making positive life choices.</p> <p>The aim is to help the young women through drama to explore issues such as substance misuse, mental health, sex and relationships, to enable them to have the confidence and tools to make good decisions. In addition to the direct support to the young women there are the wider benefits to the community in reducing the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>This application needs to be considered in the light of the ongoing work already being done by the Women’s Support Centre, as well as the current pressure on the grants programme and the number of new applications submitted.</p>	
3.3 Assessment	<p>Peer Productions is a youth arts charity which provides high quality arts practice with peer education to enable young people to change the way they think and make positive life choices. The Group seeks to provide thought provoking, engaging and relevant work to inspire young audiences through acting training, running drama, film and creative arts projects.</p> <p>The Charity has applied for a capital grant of £9,960 to work with a total of 24 girls (14 – 17 years old) at risk of being exploited or offending, identified in partnership with Women in Prison, for two ‘Generation Girls’ projects held in the Summer and Autumn terms during 2018. During the Spring term 2019 it would also work with between 10 – 20 girls on developing their leadership skills, some of</p>	

Peer Productions – Application For Financial Assistance

whom would have completed the 'Generation Girls' project. The project works towards awarding those girls who successfully complete the project the chieving Bronze or Silver Arts Awards.

The work would be undertaken in partnership with Women in Prison, one of the UK's leading Criminal Justice charities, specialising in supporting women to avoid or exit the Criminal Justice system. As well as campaigning and research, they also run three centres, which includes the Women's Support Centre in Woking.

The Charity states that it undertakes extensive research programmes in this field, with two key findings leading directly to this project:

- 53% of women in prison report having experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse during childhood; and
- 31% women in prison have spent time in local authority care as a child.

Peer Productions states that it has pioneered a new type of girls group which uses drama and peer-led education to raise young women's self esteem. By taking part in drama workshops which explore the issues that matter most to young women including body image, leadership, mental health, sex and relationships, and drugs and alcohol the girls are able to gain in confidence and become more resilient and better placed to cope with the challenges that they may face in their lives.

Fundraising has been primarily through Trust and Foundations applications, and income generated through core activities. It has also received small donations from private supporters.

During the 2015/16 financial year, a grant of £5,000 was awarded to the Charity towards the Woking Girls Group project and three bursaries. The work targeted girls (aged 11 – 15 years old) identified as vulnerable (including those who have experienced domestic abuse, girls in care and those with mental health issues) with the group using creative arts to focus on issues like internet safety, body image & sexual consent. As a part of this, the Group created its 10 week project for up to 12 girls and agreed for it to be run in partnership with the Women in Prison's Women's Support Centre in Woking.

Peer Productions submitted an application last year which requested funding of £22,399 towards a project aimed at making Woking a dementia friendly community by improving inclusion and quality of life for people with dementia. Whilst the Executive noted that the quality of the work undertaken by Peer Productions, it was not able to support the application in view of the potential long term funding implications at a time of financial uncertainty for the Council's Community Grants budget, and the need to allocate the limited resources of the budget to maintain existing projects across the Borough.

The Council would therefore prefer to undertake a commissioning approach to potential projects which could be run by Peer Productions to support the community, noting the benefits to those suffering with dementia and girls aged 14-17 years old at risk of either being exploited or entering the Criminal Justice system. Accordingly, it is recommended that no grant be awarded.

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