

**SURREY YOUTH FOCUS – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Executive Summary**

Established in 2011, Surrey Youth Focus is a local charity which seeks to improve the lives of young people. Current activities include projects to empower young people to make a change to their communities, improve the employment opportunities for young people with SEND and advance services which support young peoples mental health, increase the number of disadvantaged young people who access youth social action (citizenship), improve safeguarding and enhance young people’s relationships with Surrey Police.

Surrey Youth Focus is looking to enable young people from schools/youth organisations and charities in Woking to get involved in Youth Social action, a social movement where young people take practical action in the service of others to create positive change.

The Group plans to run a series of engagement workshops which reach out to young people through schools, youth clubs and charities. The workshops have been developed with feedback from young people and aim to stimulate their peers in thought and action towards their local community.

Surrey Youth Focus works in collaboration with individuals from other local youth charities and organisations. The Group has applied for revenue of funding of £4,500 to run the engagement workshops with young people.

Whilst the quality of the work undertaken by Surrey Youth Focus is high and the Council recognises the benefits of youth engagement within the community, the application represents a new ongoing revenue project which has not been discussed with the youth network prior to submission, which the Group has previously been asked to do. Accordingly, it is recommended that no grant should be awarded.

However, the consultee comments note there are elements of the application which would be worth exploring further with Surrey Youth Focus, particularly around the project elements that improve the employment opportunities for young people with SEND and the ‘Woking Youth Soup’ concept. The applicant is therefore encouraged to contact the Council’s Youth Development Officer, to discuss how this work could potentially be delivered through a more integrated networked approach, potentially to be part-funded from the service budget.

**Recommendations**

Reasons for Decision	It is not felt that the application has demonstrated sufficient justification for the Council to award funding for this new revenue project.
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The Executive is requested to:	<b>RESOLVE That</b> no grant be awarded.
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**The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.**

**Background Papers:**

2018/19 Application Form.

## Surrey Youth Focus – Application For Financial Assistance

### **Reporting Person:**

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### **Date Published:**

6 December 2017

## Surrey Youth Focus – Application For Financial Assistance

<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>	
1.1 Status and Aims	Established in 2011, Surrey Youth Focus is a local charity working to improve the lives of young people. The applicant advises that the Group is seen as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the youth sector and, through trusted relationships, tap into young people’s insights to identify issues and carry out practical projects to achieve solutions. The Group collaborates with partners and young people as well as public, private and charity networks to make best use of available resources across Surrey to improve young people’s lives.
1.2 Employees	Five comprising the CEO (35 hours per week), two Project Managers (21 hours per week), the Finance Manager (14 hours per week), and the Information and Social Media Manager (12 hours per week).
1.3 Volunteers	None.
1.4 Clients/Users	None. The applicant has indicated that the Charity works in collaboration with individuals from other local youth charities and organisations.
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£4,500 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>Surrey Youth Focus is looking to enable young people from schools/youth organisations and charities in Woking to get involved in Youth Social action, a social movement where young people take practical action in the service of others to create positive change.</p> <p>The organisation plans to run a series of engagement workshops which reach out to young people through schools, youth clubs and charities. The empowerment workshops have been developed with feedback from young people and aim to stimulate their peers in thought and action towards their local community.</p> <p>It also plans to run a Woking Youth Soup, an event similar to ‘Dragon’s Den’ is an opportunity young people to talk about issues in their community and how they plan to make positive changes through youth led solutions. Each pitch gets seed funding and community support to turn their idea into reality.</p>
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>Workshops £500 each (minimum of 3 = £1,500)</p> <p>Youth Soup – organisation, promotion, venue, catering £2,500</p> <p>Seed funding for young peoples ideas £200</p> <p>Evaluation £300</p> <p>Total £4,500</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	It is anticipated that the organisation will reach 75 young people through the workshops, the Youth Soups and seed funding will provide opportunities for 40 young people. As well as young people directly benefitting, the projects will reach out into the community and have a positive effect on a wider audience.

## Surrey Youth Focus – Application For Financial Assistance

<b>2.0 Financial Background</b>	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £83,400 in the bank. The sum of £60,000 is unrestricted with the remaining £23,400 being restricted for a number of projects that they are currently running.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2018/19 which shows an anticipated income of £31,800 - unrestricted income only, against an anticipated expenditure of £125,646 including restricted project expenditure, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £93,664.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes: Member subscription fees £27,500; Members other income £2,000; Other unrestricted income £1,000; Grant Making Trusts £1,000; Bank Interest £200 and miscellaneous income £100.00, income does not include any monies against restricted projects. Items of expenditure include: Staff costs £94,811; Training £1,600; Forums and meetings £1,000; Office charges £550; IT and Telephones £4,000; Equipment £7,000; Post and stationery £1,600; Marketing £1,400; Insurance £1,000; Professional fees £750; Miscellaneous £1,500; Communitlab expenses £1,302; expenditure against restricted budgets include: other projects expenses and direct costs £4,950.</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2016/17 which show an income of £109,887 (£101,089 in 2015/16) against expenditure of £108,530 (£112,583 in 2015/16), resulting in a surplus of £70,748 (a surplus of £69,391 in 2015/16). The sum of £70,748 was carried forward at the end of the 2016/17 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2017/18 – no grant awarded. 2016/17 – no grant awarded.</p>

<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> <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>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>N/A</li> <li>N/A</li> </ul>

## Surrey Youth Focus – Application For Financial Assistance

<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>Following discussions with partners across the integrated youth network, it is with regret that I consider that we are unable to support this application at this time, not least because it would appear that despite previous advice to the group on the importance of discussing funding applications with the Youth network prior to submission, to ensure that the best fit / shaping of the bid can be undertaken which in turn hopefully results in an increased probability of success, this approach has not been taken.</p> <p>However there are elements of the application which would be worth exploring further with Surrey Youth Focus, particularly around the project elements that improve the employment opportunities for young people with SEND and the 'Woking Youth Soup' concept. I would therefore encourage the Applicant to contact the council's Youth Development Officer, to have further discussions around how this work could potentially be delivered through a more integrated networked approach, which could potentially be part-funded from service budget.</p>
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Surrey Youth Focus is looking to enable young people from schools/youth organisations and charities in Woking to get involved in Youth Social action, a social movement where young people take practical action in the service of others to create positive change.</p> <p>The aims of the Charity are:</p> <p><b>Championing the Youth Sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Represent the interests of members across the voluntary youth sector to statutory bodies across Surrey and beyond in the furtherance of their work with young people.</li><li>• Ensure that the youth sector and individual youth organisations survive and thrive in the face of the increasingly tough funding climate, continuing to offer excellent services to young people.</li><li>• Promote good practice, efficiency and effectiveness of members' organisations for young people and to innovate, explore, develop and assist our members to deliver the best for their young people.</li></ul> <p><b>Inspiring Collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generate opportunities for young people as well as seek solutions to their problems by encouraging collaboration between a wide range of organisations including voluntary and charities, clubs, businesses, schools, local authorities.</li><li>• Help strengthen youth voluntary and charitable organisations by providing access to knowledge and resources from business, schools, local authorities, etc.</li></ul> <p><b>Empowering Young People</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Empower the voice of youth and to hear the voices of young people, ensuring that a wide range of young people's voices are heard.</li><li>• Collaborate across sectors to engage all relevant parties to help young people be heard and encouraged to take action.</li><li>• Encourage and support young people to take action to improve</li></ul>

## Surrey Youth Focus – Application For Financial Assistance

the world around them, thus developing confidence and self-belief in the young person's agency.

The organisation does not have members or users and works in collaboration with individuals from other local youth charities and organisations and plans to run a series of engagement workshops which reach out to young people through schools, youth clubs and charities.

These empowerment workshops have been developed with feedback from young people and aim to stimulate their peers in thought and action towards their local community.

The Surrey Youth Focus works in collaboration with individuals from other local youth charities and organisations. The Group has applied for revenue of funding of £4,500 to run engagement workshops with young people.

Whilst the quality of the work undertaken by Surrey Youth Focus is high and the Council recognises the benefits of youth engagement within the community, the application represents a new ongoing revenue project which has not been discussed with the youth network prior to submission, which the Group has previously been asked to do. Accordingly, it is recommended that no grant should be awarded.

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