

**WE SHINE – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

<b>Executive Summary</b>	
<p>We Shine is a new organisation aimed at supporting children aged between 2 and 10 years old with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The Group seeks to provide information and guidance, workshops, forums, dedicated playgroups for the under 5's with additional needs; and recreational and social facilities and opportunities</p> <p>The Group has applied for a grant of £2,600 to enable them to provide fortnightly activities to children from across North West Surrey. The activities, held at a local secure woodland in Ottershaw, accommodate up to 25 children and their parents or carers, have been provided over the past year by making a charge of £5 to those participating. The purpose of the application is to raise sufficient funds to provide the activities free of charge, thereby enabling families with a lower income to access them. The Group also Additional Needs Tactile Sessions (Ants) every two weeks in Walton-on-Thames, at which children have the opportunity play in a sensory room, participate in lego activities, play games and listen to music.</p> <p>There are a number of organisations within the Borough which provide similar support, activities and leisure opportunities and which Woking Borough Council are already supporting, we would wish this group to work closely with organisations which are offering similar opportunities within the Borough.</p> <p>On this basis, it is recommended that the application from We Shine for £2,600 is not supported for the financial year 2018-2019 and that no grant be awarded on this occasion. In considering the application, it is noted that the Group has not yet adopted a policy for Safeguarding or Equal Opportunities. The applicant is therefore encouraged to develop suitable policies, seeking the advice of Council Officers if necessary. The Council's Community Development and Engagement Team would also be able to assist the Group in identifying potential sources of income.</p>	

<b>Recommendations</b>	
Reasons for Decision	There are a number of organisations within the Borough which provide similar support, activities and leisure opportunities and which Woking Borough Council is already supporting.
The Executive is requested to:	<b>RESOLVE That</b> no grant be awarded.

**The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.**

**Background Papers:**

2018/19 Application Form.

**Reporting Person:**

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## **We Shine – Application For Financial Assistance**

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### **Date Published:**

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## We Shine – Application For Financial Assistance

<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>We Shine was formed in 2016 to promote social inclusion in Surrey amongst children with disabilities who have additional needs and their parents, carers and families who are excluded from society, or parts of society. The Group seeks to achieve this through the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- information and guidance;</li> <li>- workshops, forums, and general support;</li> <li>- dedicated playgroups for the under 5's with additional needs; and</li> <li>- recreational and social facilities and opportunities.</li> </ul>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	4, whose activities include general administration, organising and facilitating groups, clubs and events, and moderating the online group.
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>350, comprising:</p> <p>50 male</p> <p>300 female</p> <p>300 disabled</p> <p>50 ethnic minority</p> <p>200 resident in Woking</p> <p>150 aged 0-5</p> <p>150 aged 5-10</p> <p>350 aged 19-65</p> <p>The figures are based on the number of participants using the online Forum and their children.</p>
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£2,600 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>The funding will be used to run a fortnightly activity available to North West Surrey children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and their families. The activities will consist of two hour long group meetings at a local secure woodland which can accommodate 25 children and their parents/carers.</p> <p>This is an existing group for which users currently pay per child. We Shine would like to provide this as a free service over the coming year to enable families with a lower income to access it.</p>
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>Hire of Woodland £50 per hour</p> <p>26 x 2 hour sessions = £2,600</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	The Group will be available to over 400 families in the North West Surrey area, the majority of whom live in Woking Borough. Up to 25

## We Shine – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>families per fortnight will use the Group.</p> <p>The applicant has indicated that the Group has proven invaluable for its users. The grounds are secure meaning that the parents have the opportunity to relax and connect with others in similar circumstances while the children can explore the woodland safely and without the social expectations of mainstream groups and activities. Siblings are welcomed and are able to meet other siblings.</p> <p>The applicant feels that there are a number of lower income families in the area who would benefit from the use of such a group and to provide it free of charge would enable them to do so. Often families come along to try it and once they have made some connections go on to access other We Shine activities thus reducing their isolation.</p>
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<b>2.0 Financial Background</b>	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £1,726 in the bank.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2018/19 which shows an anticipated income of £21,200 against an anticipated expenditure of £15,840 resulting in an anticipated surplus of £5,360.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes fundraising events (£4,800), accessible leisure (£7,600) and grants (£7,600). Items of expenditure include clubs and events (£11,524), venue hire and equipment (£2,640), administration (£1,200) and toys and training (£176.20).</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2016/17 which show an income of £3,066 against expenditure of £1,294, resulting in a surplus of £1,294. The sum of £1,772 was carried forward at the end of the 2016/17 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	New Application

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

## We Shine – Application For Financial Assistance

<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>We Shine is a fairly new local charity that supports families with children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) through outdoor family activities for the children, their siblings and parents in a safe environment. Woking families benefit from this provision and the Charity has requested £2,600 to cover the family fees for the activities for one year. This funding would enable all families, including those with low incomes, to participate.</p> <p>The Charity is run by local Mothers who have children with SEND, and the charity also provide wider support networks for families (information from the website).</p> <p>As the Manager of the Family Support Team in Woking, working alongside local families with multiple and complex needs, I am acutely aware of the need for this kind of local support provision for families with children with SEND and I am encouraged that this support has been created and developed by local residents, for local families.</p> <p>These are innovative activities that include whole families and it is positive that siblings of children with SEND can also meet and support one another in these sessions, as well as the children and their parents. I support this work and agree that many families struggle with finances and benefits for additional support for themselves and therefore a grant to cover the family fees for the next year would help the charity to reach more local families, particularly those on low-incomes.</p>
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>We Shine is a new organisation aimed at supporting children aged between 2 and 10 years old with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The Group has applied for a grant to enable them to provide fortnightly activities to children from across North West Surrey. The activities, held at a local secure woodland, accommodate up to 25 children and their parents or carers, have been provided over the past year by making a charge of £5 to those participating. The purpose of the application is to raise sufficient funds to provide the activities free of charge, thereby enabling families with a lower income to access them.</p> <p>Up until the point the application had been submitted, the Group had run 8 such sessions, with all spaces taken up. 46 different families have attended the sessions, bringing a total of 67 children, 25 of whom are understood to be Woking residents. The applicant has advised that the sessions will be available to over 400 families from across North West Surrey, with the majority of families living in the Borough of Woking.</p> <p>The organisation feels that its activities have proven invaluable for its users. The grounds are secure, allowing parents the opportunity to relax and connect with others in similar circumstances while the children can explore the woodland safely and without the social expectations of mainstream groups and activities. The organisation feels that there are a number of lower income families in the area who would benefit from the use of such a group and has therefore drawn up this proposal to provide the activities free of charge.</p> <p>Whilst We Shine does provide a much needed and beneficial service, Woking Borough Council already provides significant support,</p>

## **We Shine – Application For Financial Assistance**

including financial, to a number of organisations within the Borough which provide similar activities and leisure opportunities to young people living with disabilities and their families.

On this basis, it is recommended that no grant be awarded on this occasion. In considering the application, it is noted that the Group has not yet adopted a policy for Safeguarding or Equal Opportunities. The applicant is therefore encouraged to develop suitable policies, seeking the advice of Council Officers if necessary

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