

WOKING MIND – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Woking Mind supports members of the community with enduring mental illness by offering drop in services. They run art sessions, walks, creative writing classes, cookery and gardening clubs, as well as exercise classes. The Charity operates from CornerHouse, Woking’s Mental Health Resource Centre in Courtenay Road, providing services to benefit exclusively those with mental health problems. Woking Mind works in collaboration with CornerHouse in the delivery of ‘Community Connections’ for Woking Borough. Mental health problems can have a devastating effect on people’s lives and the goal of Woking Mind is to prevent mental health problems escalating where this can be avoided and supporting recovery if the mental health problem has become serious.

The Council previously supported the Group in 2014/15, awarding a grant of £2,460 towards the delivery of a six week art therapy / photography course where users visit sites of historical, cultural and educational value.

Woking Mind has applied for revenue funding of £5,440 to enable it to continue to receive calls and emails from many people in the community looking for health, advice and support on mental health issues.

Whilst Woking Mind provides a much needed and beneficial service, Woking Borough Council already provides significant support, including financial, to a number of organisations within the Borough which provide similar support and signposting for those living with mental health within the community.

On this basis it is recommended that no grant be awarded for the financial year 2018-2019. The Group is advised to contact the Council’s Community Development and Engagement Team to seek assistance with funding opportunities.

Recommendations

Reasons for Decision	Woking Borough Council already provides significant support to organisations which provide similar support and signposting for those living with mental health within the community.
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The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That no grant be awarded to Woking Mind for the financial year 2018-2019.
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The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2018/19 Application Form.

Reporting Person:

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Woking Mind, a registered charity limited by guarantee, has served the local community since 1979. The organisation supports those with enduring mental illness by offering drop in services, art sessions, walks, creative writing classes, cookery and gardening clubs and exercise classes.</p> <p>The organisation also provides phone and email signposting advice to those people who need mental health advice but are not able to use their drop in services. Visits are undertaken to local schools and businesses to provide mental health awareness training. The Organisation is affiliated to National Mind and is committed to achieving the highest quality standards. The applicant has advised that Woking Mind is dependent on local funding.</p>
1.2 Employees	Two employees, comprising the General Manager (15 – 18 hours per week) and the Services Manager (15 – 18 hours per week).
1.3 Volunteers	11, whose activities include running and supporting the services that the Organisation provides. Some run sessions that they have expert knowledge in (for example an artist who runs the art group) and others help support the services by accompanying members on walks, days out, visits to the art gallery etc. Some also help with administrative tasks and food preparation.
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>75, comprising:</p> <p>40 male</p> <p>35 female</p> <p>75 disabled</p> <p>10 ethnic minority</p> <p>75 resident in Woking</p> <p>64 aged 19-65</p> <p>11 aged 65+</p>
1.5 Members	<p>90, comprising:</p> <p>46 male</p> <p>44 female</p> <p>74 disabled</p> <p>10 ethnic minority</p> <p>88 resident in Woking</p> <p>72 aged 19-65</p> <p>18 aged 65+</p>
1.6 Sum Requested	£5,440 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	Woing Mind receives calls and emails from many people in the

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	<p>community looking for health, advice and support on mental health issues. This ranges from sufferers, carers and professionals who consult us on a wide range of mental health issues.</p> <p>Woking Mind has requested funding to enable it to continue to provide this signposting and advisory/listening service</p>								
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Signposting/emails/telephone calls</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>One to one sessions (x104) for 12 months</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,080</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Administration</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£160</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5,440</td> </tr> </table>	Signposting/emails/telephone calls	£3,200	One to one sessions (x104) for 12 months	£2,080	Administration	<u>£160</u>	Total	£5,440
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Administration	<u>£160</u>								
Total	£5,440								
1.9 Community Benefit	Based upon figures that the organisation have recorded in the first six months of this year, 264 people will benefit from the funding provided to operate this service per year								

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £48,546 in the bank.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2018/19 which shows an anticipated income of £62,150 against an anticipated expenditure of £58,020, resulting in an anticipated surplus of £4,130.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes Surrey County Council's Community Connections grant (£50,000), MIND shop (£4,800), donations and legacies (£2,200), events income (£3,500), donations/subscriptions (£750) and Centres (£3,500).</p> <p>Items of expenditure include rent (£3,360), salaries (£39,500), events (£3,500), catering/cleaning (£3,000), hire of minibus (£2,000), legal and professional (£1,000) and repairs and sundry (£2,000).</p>
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted accounts for 2016/17 which show an income of £67,035 (£62,835 in 2015/16) against expenditure of £56,507 (£64,995 in 2015/16), resulting in a surplus of £10,528 (a deficit of £2,160 in 2015/16). The sum of £51,075 was carried forward at the end of the 2016/17 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	New Application.

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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Yes No Yes Yes Yes Yes No

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Other support by the Council ○ Fundraising ○ Two quotes ○ Regular monitoring provided previously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No No N/A N/A
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>Woking Mind has played an important part for a number of years in supporting the local community and in particular those individuals who often are very vulnerable within our society, and it is encouraging to see how they continue to do so with a small paid team and the generous help of volunteers.</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate that that they are requesting funding to enable them to continue to provide a signposting and advisory/listening service, I note that they have not made any other funding bids and would therefore suggest that they should explore this option in the first instance, bearing in mind the constraints on the Council's budget and the fact that there are a number of other organisations that the Council fund for similar type activity.</p> <p>I would therefore not be supportive of their request at this time, but instead suggest that they contact the Council's Community Development and Engagement Team to seek assistance with funding opportunities.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Woking Mind has approached Woking Borough Council with a request for funding of £5,440 for the coming year. The money is to be used to cover the costs of the Group's signposting and advisory/listening service. The costs an administration cost of £180 and the cost of providing 1-2-1s with people who suffer from mental health issues (£2,080). The remaining sum requested - £3,200 – would cover the cost of responding to emails, phone calls and referrals. Woking Mind receives calls and emails from many people in the community looking for health, advice and support on mental health issues. This ranges from sufferers, carers and professionals who consult on a wide range of mental health issues.</p> <p>Historically the principal source of income has been from Surrey County Council through the Community Connections contract. With effect from April 2017, however, the level of support has been reduced by £5,000+ per year as a result of cost reductions by the County Council. The current contract does not cover support for a signposting/advisory service.</p> <p>The applicant has stressed the importance of the signposting and advisory/listening service, advising that many visitors and callers are desperate for advice/signposting to help either themselves or family members and other parties.</p> <p>Whilst Woking Mind provides a much needed and beneficial service, Woking Borough Council already provides significant support, including financial, to a number of organisations within the Borough which provide similar support and signposting to those living with mental health within the community. In addition, the Council's own budgets are under pressure and the Authority cannot always assist those Groups which have had their annual funding cut by the County</p>	

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Council or other funding agencies.

On this basis it is recommended that no grant be awarded.

It is noted that the application indicates that the Group has not sought financial support from other agencies or funders note. In accordance with the consultee comments, it is therefore suggested the Charity is encouraged to contact the Council's Community Development and Engagement Team to seek assistance with funding opportunities.

REPORT ENDS