

WOKING STREET ANGELS – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary	
<p>Woking Street Angels is applying for revenue support of £2,500 towards the costs of providing its service in 2018/19. Its support is targeted at those in need of assistance on the streets during the night-time economy in Woking Town Centre and is offered to all in need, irrespective of age, race, origin or religion.</p> <p>The volunteers undertake work such as providing foil blankets to keep people warm; giving bottles of water given to those dehydrated or sick from the effects of alcohol; escorting vulnerable people, especially females, to taxis or other means of getting home safely; providing flip flops to girls in bare feet no longer able to walk on high heels; and generally aiming to be a calming influence and presence in Woking town centre leading to greater safety.</p> <p>Whilst it is noted that the Group is seeking an increase in the Council's support from £2,000 (awarded for 2017/18) to £2,500 for the coming year, it is not felt that any increase in support can be justified in view of the pressures on the Community Grants budget.</p> <p>Taking into account the consultee comments which note that the beneficial impact of the work of the Group during the night-time economy on Friday and Saturday nights, it is recommended that the Council continues its support at the level of £2,000 in recognition of the assistance the Group provides to individuals and the contribution towards Woking's pride of place.</p>	

Recommendations	
Reasons for Decision	To ensure the continued services of the Group during the night-time economy.
Legal Authority	S111 Local Government Act 1972
The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That a grant of £2,000 be awarded towards the costs of the service.
Conditions	<p>Accounts. The Organisation must submit audited accounts for the year in which the grant is awarded, including an income and expenditure account and balance sheet. Please note that accounts for other years may also be required.</p> <p>Monitoring Information. The Organisation must submit quarterly monitoring information as a measure of its achievements. Failure to provide details will jeopardise the award. E-mail requests will be sent to the applicant on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Publicity. Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on all literature and leaflets produced.</p> <p>Payments. Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with details of the costs incurred and monitoring information for the previous quarter.</p> <p>Payment Period. Final quarter claims must be made by the second week in March. Unclaimed awards will not be available at a later date</p>

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	<p>unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated to the Council before the end of the award year.</p> <p>Joint Working. WBC expects the Organisation to engage positively on health and wellbeing multi-agency joint work affecting Woking. Groups which refuse may place their Council support at risk, e.g. grant, concessionary rent and other assistance.</p> <p>Venue Hire. Woking Borough Council has a duty to ensure that publicly-owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views. This duty extends to organisations that work with the local authority so this includes recipients of any grants from Woking Borough Council. If you hire out your venue/s you should ensure you have good processes in place for record keeping and checking if they are an appropriate group to be making the hire arrangements. The following are some of what should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic details should be recorded to include speakers address, mobile phone number & organisation details. • Has the identity of the speaker been confirmed & is their organisation bona fide? Are they known to you? • Is the speaker from the area? Are they UK citizens or from overseas & will they travel specifically for this event? • Consider checks on the internet to confirm the status of speaker to include website, YouTube or social media sites. • How many people are likely to attend (check previous or similar events either locally or online).
Performance Indicators	<p>Users. The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users in the past quarter.</p> <p>Activities. The Organisation to provide details of activities and events held during the last quarter.</p> <p>Publicity. The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised over the last quarter.</p> <p>Statement of Use. The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.</p>
Future Support	<p>The financial pressure on the Council's budgets is expected to continue in the coming years and accordingly the overall level of support available in future years may be reduced. The applicant is therefore to be advised that the award of funding for 2018/19 does not imply that a similar application in 2019/20 would be supported. In particular, it is emphasised that the Council is unlikely to be in a position to award any sums above the 2018/19 levels.</p> <p>In view of this, the applicant is to be advised to ensure that contingency plans for the Group's operations for 2019/20 have been drawn up in the event that the Council is unable to continue its support beyond April 2019. All applicants are strongly recommended to pursue alternative sources of funding and are encouraged to approach Woking Borough Council's Community Support Team for advice and support.</p>

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

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Background Papers:

2018/19 Application Form.

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Woking Street Angels was formed in 2010. Its aims and objectives are to make a positive impact on crime and anti-social behaviour in Woking town centre, particularly in the vicinity of bars, clubs and late night food outlets by providing a calming presence on the streets late at night. Street Angels help address the needs of the night time economy.</p> <p>As a result of their work, Surrey Police announced that Woking town centre had seen a significant reduction in incidents and violent crime.</p>
1.2 Employees	1, Co-Ordinator (20 hours per week)
1.3 Volunteers	<p>37, whose activities include walking in pairs around the town centre on Friday and Saturday nights between 10pm and 4am as well as on the evening of the publication of Examination results, Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.</p> <p>The volunteers are there to help people who may need support as a result of homelessness, intoxication, drug abuse, assault or any other issues has caused personal distress or the potential for physical harm whilst out.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	The Group assists around 400 people each year. Users of Woking Street Angels services are members of the general public who frequent the streets of Woking town centre and may need help and support to ensure they return home safely after an evening out. The service is offered to any members of the public in need, though most users tend to be the younger adult generation.
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£2,250 (Revenue only)
1.7 Project	Woking Street Angels have asked for revenue funding to help support the salary of their Co-ordinator and help meet the costs of the supplies. The supplies include, flip-flops, water, blankets, minor first aid (there are no qualified first aiders on duty), haversack bags to carry supplies, Woking Street Angel jackets.
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>Employee costs £12,500</p> <p>Street expenses for work on Friday & Saturday evenings £1,800</p> <p>Office and administrative expenses £1,250</p> <p>New laptop £700</p> <p>Total £16,250</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	It is members of the general public enjoying an evening out in Woking town centre on a Friday or Saturday evening that will receive benefit from the activities of Woking Street Angels.

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	At the time of the application, the Group held £37,372 in the bank. The sum of £14,308 is reserved for half a year's running costs and

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	<p>recruitment and marketing.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2017/18 (not 2018/19) which shows an anticipated income of £18,950 against an anticipated expenditure of £18,945, resulting in an anticipated surplus of £5.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes church donations (£6,000), miscellaneous Group donations (£1,700), individual donations (£1,800), Grants (£7,600), other miscellaneous (£1,500) and Flower Show donations (£250). Items of expenditure include Coordinator salary (£11,500), radios and phone rental (£2,050), insurance (£700), "Street" expenses (including: flip-flops, water, lollipops, blankets and first aid and sundries) (£2,520), kit bags (£120), office costs (£975), marketing (£500) and CNI donation (£600).</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2016/17 which show an income of £32,997 (£12,227 in 2015/16) against expenditure of £15,508 (£23,379 in 2015/16), resulting in a surplus of £19,086 (a deficit of £10,273 in 2015/16). The sum of £34,443 was carried forward at the end of the 2016/17 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2017/18 - £2,000 towards general running costs. 2016/17 - £2,000 towards general running costs. 2015/16 - £2,000 towards general running costs. 2014/15 - £3,000 towards general running costs. 2013/14 - £5,000 towards general running costs.</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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Yes No Yes Yes Yes No Yes No Yes N/A N/A
3.2 Consultee Comments	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>Woking Street Angels started in 2011 and has been acknowledged by Surrey Police and the Council for the key part they have played in reducing the levels of violence in the town centre and improving the feeling of safety. They are out on Friday and Saturday nights and continue to work closely with the local policing team and have ongoing excellent relationships with the door staff of the various licensed premises.</p>	

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	<p>Their key work is in helping to support some of the most vulnerable individuals who are out and about in the town centre at the weekends. They assist them with the provision of water, flip flops and blankets, help them to arrange transport home or signpost them to appropriate services. I believe that their early intervention is helping reduce the escalation of violence in the evenings, which in turn reduces the demand on our limited police resources. In addition, they improve the look and feel of the town centre and make it feel safer by clearing up bottles and cans as they patrol, which reduces litter and the possibility of these being used as missiles.</p> <p>A Woking Borough Council Officer attends their Operations Meetings and it is well documented that they are always seeking funds from a range of organisations, as well as running fund raising events. This fundraising is always a challenge but, because of the important work they do in supporting a safe town centre, I feel it would be helpful if we could provide some funding this year.</p>
3.3 Assessment	<p>Formed in 2010, Woking Street Angels aim is to make the streets of Woking safer and more hospitable for all people during the late evening and early morning hours. Woking Street Angels' objective is to provide a caring, stabilising presence and to assist those who are vulnerable, distressed or lost to get to a place of safety. This presence in Woking and other towns (such as Guildford and Camberley) has led to a reduction in crime and violence and benefits all members of the community, especially the night-time economy.</p> <p>Woking Street Angels was formed in July 2010, and registered as a charity in October 2010. Its support is targeted at those in need on the streets during the evening in the town centre and it is offered to all in need, irrespective of age, race, origin or religion.</p> <p>Whilst the Street Angels are volunteers, the Group employs a Co-ordinator who helps to plan the rotas, deals with queries, provides support to the Street Angel teams, including training, and handles all procurement matters.</p> <p>Woking Street Angels help people in a number of different ways, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- providing foil blankets to keep people warm- providing bottles of water given to those dehydrated or sick from the effects of alcohol and other substances.- escorting vulnerable people, especially females to taxis or other means of getting home safely- helping those sick and injured, including the victims of violence, fights, etc. calling for paramedic help if necessary or administering minor First Aid- providing support to the homeless- talking to those in despair, the lonely, those upset by broken relationships, separated from friends and just being a listening ear- providing flip flops to girls in bare feet no longer able to walk on high heels- providing directions

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- giving guidance on agencies who may be able to help those in need with personal difficulties/domestic issues
- generally aiming to be a calming influence and presence in Woking town centre leading to greater safety.

The Applicant has stated that the grant would be greatly beneficial in supporting the costs of running the Woking Street Angels operation; most particularly in supporting the salary of the coordinator. The employment of the coordinator is essential in coordinating and managing the rotas, advertising for and encouraging volunteers to apply to become Street Angels. Other ongoing costs such as insurance (public liability, Employers, indemnity etc.), radio and phone rentals and office expenses also have to be met by the grants applied for.

The Group have been actively seeking grants from various sources and have also been engaging with organisations, Woking Rotary and businesses within the local area to obtain funding to ensure that visitors and residents remain safe at night. On top of this, the Group undertakes small fundraising events such as charity walks, dinners and local fairs and have received donations from local churches, BP Foundation, legacies and Woking Active Retirement. All trustees continually work to raise funds and find new recruits to become street angels.

Taking into account the consultee comments which note that the beneficial impact of the work of the Group during the night-time economy on Friday and Saturday nights, it is recommended that the application be supported at the same level as for the current year of £2,000.

REPORT ENDS