

LCAG LIFT UP TOGETHER AND LITTLE MINIONS – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

The Lakeview Community Action Group (LCAG) is a local Charity which aims to improve the life and opportunities for people living in Lakeview. The activities undertaken usually include an annual Fun Day, litter picks and other community events.

The LCAG operates two groups for the benefit of the local community – Lift Up Together and Little Minions Youth Club. Neither group has been able to meet since March 2020 due to Covid-19, however the volunteers have tried to keep in contact with the users and it is planned to re-start the groups when the national guidance allows.

Lift Up Together was established in 2004 and has been supported by the Council for many years. Its objective is to de-stigmatize mental health conditions and be inclusive to those suffering along with their carers and families. The Little Minions Youth Club offers children ongoing opportunities for a safe space to play and explore activities in a supportive environment whilst building positive relationships with people they know and trust.

For the 2021/22 financial year, a grant of £10,680 has been requested for Lift Up Together and a grant of £4,883 has been applied for the running of the Little Minions Youth Club. The grants include rental charges for the hire of a room at the new Lakeview Community Centre.

The Group has advised that neither Lift Up Together nor Little Minions have been able to meet since March 2020 due to the pandemic, and it is realistically unlikely that the Groups will restart before March or April 2021. The LCAG has therefore been in receipt of a grant of £15,563 last year with no costs from the two groups outgoings and has a bank balance of around £30,000.

Further to the consultee comments, it has been proposed by Community Services that un-used funds should be carried over from the previous year, recognising that the Group will be able to use those funds towards the costs of these two valued groups in the coming year. In making this recommendation, it should also be noted that work is currently taking place to recommence the Bike Project with a service budget attached which, once confirmed, would enable the Group to receive some funding over the year ahead. Whilst the proposal does not affect consideration of an application for funding for the Group next year, as with all other successful applicants, the Group will be advised that future funding cannot be guaranteed.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That the funding awarded to the Group during 2020/21 (£15,563) be carried forward to cover the costs of the Lift Up Together and Little Minions groups over the 2021/22 financial year.

Reason for Decision

To enable the support of those with mental health issues and children aged 7-11 in Lakeview and the surrounding area in the absence of statutory support.

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

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Background Papers:

2021/22 Application Form.

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Lakeview Community Action Group (LCAG) is a registered local charity formed in 1996 which became a registered charity in 2007. Its aim is to improve the life and opportunities for people living on the Lakeview Estate in Woking which has always been an area of disadvantage in comparison with surrounding more affluent areas. Working closely with the Salvation Army in Sythwood the Group also carries out activities such as the annual Lakeview Community Summer Fun-day along with litter pics, toy sales and other community events.</p> <p>Volunteers are responsible for organising community engagement and development work in Lakeview, building positive and purposeful relationships with local people and helping community members achieve their goals in line with its charitable aims. Community members are able to become members and volunteer to run its activities.</p> <p>The main activities being run are the Mental Health Self Support Group “Lift Up Together” and the Youth Club “Little Minions” for children living on Lakeview aged 7 – 11 years.</p>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	<p>14.</p> <p>The Lift Up Together volunteers run the group sessions, set up the activities, prepare the food, and talk to new and existing members, signposting where appropriate.</p> <p>The Little Minions volunteers set up the sessions, look after the children, organise activities such as craft activities, and supervise the tuck shop. The volunteers also make sure parents are able to pick up their children or walk them home after each session.</p> <p>When taking service users on trips, volunteers keep everyone safe which requires training and sensitivity. Volunteers are also committee members. The LCAG ensures that volunteers are provided with mentoring and training, and that their safeguarding and DBS registrations are up to date.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>153, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 male 88 female 89 disabled 23 ethnic minority 147 resident in Woking 0 aged 0-5 55 aged 6-10 2 aged 11-18

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	81 aged 19-65 15 aged 65+																																								
1.5 Members	All users who attend the groups are asked to complete a membership form and remain as a member until they leave. The only exception is for Lift Up Together children attending the group with their parents or guardian.																																								
1.6 Sum Requested	£15,563 (Revenue)																																								
1.7 Project	<p><u>Lift Up Together (£10,680)</u></p> <p>The Group will continue to use the funding provided to run the group and activities on behalf of the service users who suffer with health conditions on Lakeview, as economically as possible within the available budget. Around a quarter will need to pay for the accommodation cost at the new Lakeview Community Centre. It will keep a register and up to date records of group numbers and activity attendance so that its progress in serving the Lakeview Mental Health Community can be monitored.</p> <p><u>Little Minions Youth Club (£4,883)</u></p> <p>The Group will use the funding provided to run the activities on behalf of the young people using the Youth Club, as economically as possible within the constraints of the budget. Around half of the budget will need to pay for the accommodation cost at the new Lakeview Community Centre.</p> <p>It will keep a register and up to date records of group numbers and activity attendance so it can monitor its progress in serving the young people and parents from the Lakeview Community.</p>																																								
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p><u>Lift Up Mental Health Support Group Budget</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Telephone</td><td style="text-align: right;">£50</td></tr> <tr><td>Training</td><td style="text-align: right;">£250</td></tr> <tr><td>Postage and Stationery</td><td style="text-align: right;">£100</td></tr> <tr><td>Printing and photocopying</td><td style="text-align: right;">£100</td></tr> <tr><td>Hall Hire (£13.50 per hour x 4 hours x 40 sessions)</td><td style="text-align: right;">£2,700</td></tr> <tr><td>Equipment</td><td style="text-align: right;">£300</td></tr> <tr><td>Travel and subsistence</td><td style="text-align: right;">£200</td></tr> <tr><td>Expense Food & Drinks</td><td style="text-align: right;">£3,740</td></tr> <tr><td>Papers & Magazines</td><td style="text-align: right;">£480</td></tr> <tr><td>Weekly Bingo prizes</td><td style="text-align: right;">£960</td></tr> <tr><td>Christmas party</td><td style="text-align: right;">£200</td></tr> <tr><td>Trips Coach Hire</td><td style="text-align: right;">£800</td></tr> <tr><td>Trips Admittance to event</td><td style="text-align: right;">£800</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td style="text-align: right;">£10,680</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Little Minions Youth Club Budget</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Training</td><td style="text-align: right;">£250</td></tr> <tr><td>Printing and photocopying</td><td style="text-align: right;">£100</td></tr> <tr><td>Hall Hire (£13.50 per hour x 3.5 hours x 50 sessions)</td><td style="text-align: right;">£2,363</td></tr> <tr><td>Equipment</td><td style="text-align: right;">£200</td></tr> <tr><td>Activities, Trips and parties</td><td style="text-align: right;">£350</td></tr> <tr><td>Arts and Crafts</td><td style="text-align: right;">£900</td></tr> </table>	Telephone	£50	Training	£250	Postage and Stationery	£100	Printing and photocopying	£100	Hall Hire (£13.50 per hour x 4 hours x 40 sessions)	£2,700	Equipment	£300	Travel and subsistence	£200	Expense Food & Drinks	£3,740	Papers & Magazines	£480	Weekly Bingo prizes	£960	Christmas party	£200	Trips Coach Hire	£800	Trips Admittance to event	£800	Total	£10,680	Training	£250	Printing and photocopying	£100	Hall Hire (£13.50 per hour x 3.5 hours x 50 sessions)	£2,363	Equipment	£200	Activities, Trips and parties	£350	Arts and Crafts	£900
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	Expense Food & Sundries	£720
	Total	£4,883
	Total grant applied for both groups £15,563	
1.9 Community Benefit	<p><u>Lift Up Together Mental Health Support Group</u></p> <p>Prior to lockdown, there were 96 service users who benefit along with indirectly their families, friends and workmates. They receive support to their mental health along with a sense of well-being among group members, which also benefits the wider community.</p> <p><u>Little Minions Youth Club</u></p> <p>Prior to lockdown, there were between 20–25 young people aged 7–11 benefiting directly each week from the service subject to seasonal and term-time variation. The Club provides assistance to the parents and the wider family also with potential improved health, learning and behavioural outcomes.</p>	
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	Both groups have been unable to meet since March 2020. The volunteers have attempted to keep in touch with the users of the groups, however the current situation had made it very difficult. The Group notes that when normality returns there will be an even greater need for the services provided by the two groups.	

2.0 Financial Background		
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £29,560 in the bank.</p> <p>The LCAG is an umbrella charity and has various community projects for which it holds ringfenced funds.</p> <p>The cost breakdowns for Lift Up Together and Little Minions are set out in section 1.8.</p>	
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted annual accounts to December 2019 which show an income of £29,038 (£47,285 in 2018) against expenditure of £29,654 (£44,822 in 2018), resulting in a deficit of £616 (a surplus of £2,463 in 2018). The sum of £20,867 was carried forward at the end of the 2019 year.	
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2020/21 – £15,563 (Lift Up Together and Little Minions)</p> <p>2019/20 – £15,760 (Lift Up Together and Little Minions)</p> <p>2018/19 – £6,000 (Lift Up Together)</p> <p>2017/18 – £6,000 (Lift Up Together)</p> <p>2016/17 – £6,000 (Lift Up Together)</p>	

3.0 Assessment of Application		
3.1 Key Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution ○ Registered Charity 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 <p>* Concessionary rent.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes *</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager</u></p> <p>The Lakeview Community Action Group (LCAG) are requesting £10,680 for the continued running of the Lift Up Mental Health Support Group and £4,882.50 for Little Minions youth club, totalling £15,562.50. The activities as described in the application are positive to support the local community, which is an identified area of need in terms of its economic status and identified health and wellbeing needs. The grant application is the same as per previous years and I would therefore encourage the group to identify ways to move towards a more sustainable financial model in the future. One question I have is how the current funds already held by the group are planned to be spent and whether or not, in light of what is already available to them, if a further grant this year for the full amount is required.</p> <p><u>Sandie Bolger, Youth Development Officer</u></p> <p>Lakeview Community Action Group (LCAG) was set up to improve the lives and local opportunities for those living on the Lakeview Estate in Horsell. The group runs two main activities for residents, Lift up Together, a support group for those suffering with Mental Health issues and Little Minions for children aged 7-11 years who live in the area.</p> <p>Little Minions and Lift Up Together have been supported by the Council in previous years. Both projects are held at the Lakeview Community Centre.</p> <p>LCAG have requested a total of £15,563 in capital funding to continue the delivery of these projects and activities. Both projects appear to be well utilised by the Lakeview community and have an important role to play in the happiness and wellbeing of many residents. LCAG have been proactive in sourcing other avenues of funding as well to support both the projects.</p> <p>Both services will be needed by local residents and the community when they are able to open again safely following COVID regulations. With this in mind I would recommend the full requested amount of £15,563 be awarded.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p><u>Lift Up Together</u></p> <p>Lift Up Together was originally formed in 2004 to de-stigmatize and be</p>	

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inclusive to those suffering from mental health issues along with their carers and families. It is a social self support group where, prior to lockdown, activities such as bingo, quizzes, discussions and reading too place in a safe, stigma-free environment. The Group usually meets every week on Thursdays between midday and 4pm, the day in the week when people suffering depression and mental health issues find there is little other local support. The Group provides a buffet lunch for all those attending and tries to arrange two trips per year, with the venue and activity chosen by its members.

This well supported group has been running for many years and, prior to Covid-19, was still gaining new membership. It remains as needed and relevant today as it ever has been. The location at the new Community Centre is important to members as one of the most disadvantaged areas within the Borough of Woking and little provision for those with mental health issues. The majority of members have no transport and little money to afford public transport and so being within walking distance of the Centre is greatly valued.

Little Minions Youth Club (ages 7–11 years)

Youth clubs have been run by the Lakeview Community Action Group for the benefit of young people for many years. The Little Minions Youth Club was set up during October 2016 and caters for children living on Lakeview Estate who are in school years one to six. Little Minions is run by volunteers with experience in running youth clubs and have completed all the necessary training in child protection (including DBS).

Prior to Covid-19, the sessions were held on Fridays from 4pm to 9pm with a variety of activities such as board games, a Wii console, lego, hex bugs, and craft to encourage the children to explore their imagination and creativity. A healthy snack and drink is also provided during the sessions.

The Club offers the children ongoing opportunities for a safe space to play and explore activities in a supportive environment, building positive relationships with people they know and trust. Around 20 children usually attend each session. A registration system is in place so that the numbers of young people using the Club each week can be monitored, which varies according to the season and school term dates.

The children all reside in the Lakeview Estate and are aged between 7–11 years old. Many are from disadvantaged backgrounds with reduced opportunities to attend youth activities in the wider borough, which could be due in part to economic disadvantage and the expense of local transport services.

The Group notes that there is a shortage of locally based activities for young people in and around Lakeview Estate. Funding applications have been submitted to Comic Relief and Children in Need.

The Group has advised that neither Lift Up Together not Little Minions have been able to meet since March 2020 due to the pandemic, and it is unlikely that the Groups will restart before March or April 2021. The Group has therefore been in receipt of a grant last year with no outgoings and a bank balance of around £30,000.

Further to the consultee comments, it has been proposed that unused funds should be carried over from the previous year, recognising

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that the Group will be able to use those funds towards the costs of these two valued groups in the coming year.

In making this recommendation, it should also be noted that work is currently taking place to recommence the Bike Project with a service budget attached which, once confirmed, would enable the Group to receive some funding over the year ahead.

REPORT ENDS