

WOKING AND WEYBRIDGE BRANCH OF PARKINSON'S UK – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Woking and Weybridge Branch of Parkinson's UK has been operating for 19 years and relies entirely on a self-funding support group which receives no funding from Parkinson's UK. The Charity fundraises in order to arrange activities and events, both therapeutic and social for its members. The purpose of the Charity is to provide support, help and friendship to local people with Parkinson's, their families, carers and anyone who is affected by the degenerative neurological disease.

The aim of the branch is to give all members with Parkinson's the opportunity to take part in some form of exercise, as currently this is the only method of helping alleviate the stiffness and eventual seizing up of muscles that forms part of the degenerative process and which will lead to loss of balance and co-ordination, making all movement and in particular walking, painful and difficult. Its hydrotherapy sessions have been held at the White Lodge Centre and attendees are charged £20 per session. The Woking and Weybridge Branch of Parkinson's UK will use the grant from Woking Borough Council to offer fully subsidised sessions to all of its members.

The hydrotherapy sessions have not taken place since March 2020 and there has been increasing feelings of isolation amongst its members, although attempts have been made to keep in touch via telephone. The branch has not claimed its grant from the Council awarded last year due to the sessions not being held. All planned outings and meals have been cancelled.

The Woking and Weybridge Branch of Parkinson's UK are requesting to extend the revenue funding awarded last year at £3,200 to provide weekly hydrotherapy treatment for members with Parkinson's. This sum will enable 40 weeks of therapy at a cost of £80 per week and the Group intends restarts the hydrotherapy once national guidelines allow and it is safe to do so. It is proposed that the application be approved.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That , subject to the outcome of the Council's budgetary process, funding be awarded at the requested level of £3,200 from the Community Grants Budget towards hydrotherapy sessions for its Woking-based members.
Reason for Decision	The provision of accessible hydrotherapy sessions will help those in the Borough living with Parkinson's to maintain a level of mobility and pain relief for as long as possible, and is in line with the identified priority areas in the Council's Health and Well Being Strategy.
Legal Authority	S142 Local Government Act 1972
Confirmation of funding	This award is provisionally made on the expectation that the Council's budgets for revenue and capital projects remain at the same level allocated for the current financial year. The Council's overall budget, including the sums allocated for community grants, will be determined

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	<p>by Council at its meeting on 11 February 2021. In the event the grant budgets are set at the anticipated levels, confirmation of the Council's support will be sent to successful applicants. Groups should not plan for the 2021/22 funding until this confirmation has been received.</p> <p>Should the budgets be reduced as part of the Council's efforts to achieve savings to offset the impact of Covid on the Council's financial position, a special meeting of the Executive will be held to review the provisional awards and allocate the funds available on a priority basis.</p>
<p>Conditions</p>	<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 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>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. With the introduction of new legislation from April 2018, the council will expect the support of partner agencies in identifying people at risk of homelessness as early as possible to maximise the opportunities to prevent such. Partner agencies / organisations will be expected to be engaged in joint working arrangements to assist in finding suitable housing and support solutions, and where appropriate to undertake and respond to the new 'duty to refer'. Groups which do not support this new legislation and way of working positively may put their Council support at risk.</p>
<p>Performance Indicators</p>	<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>

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Future Support	<p>Due to the impact of Covid-19, the financial pressure on the Council's budgets is higher than ever and is expected to continue in the coming years. 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 2021/22 does not imply that a similar application in 2022/23 would be supported. In particular, it is emphasised that the Council is extremely unlikely to be in a position to award any sums above the 2021/22 levels.</p> <p>In view of this, the applicant is to be advised to ensure that contingency plans for the Group's operations for 2022/23 have been drawn up in the event that the Council is unable to continue its support beyond April 2022. 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>
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The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2021/22 Application Form.

Reporting Person:

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Date Published:

2 December 2020

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Parkinson's UK was formed in 1969 under the previous name of the Parkinson's Disease Society. Today it is a dynamic network of expert staff, health and social care professionals, volunteers and researchers. Its work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • influencing and funding ground-breaking research to advance understanding of Parkinson's and improve treatments; • providing expert information and support to assist patients manage the condition; • offering support and opportunities to live life to the full for everyone with Parkinson's, their families and carers; and • raising awareness, changing perceptions and working in partnership to drive better services. <p>The Woking and Weybridge Branch of Parkinson's UK has been running for approximately 20 years and aims to provide the necessary exercise classes to help with the Parkinson's member's mobility. This includes speech therapy, seated exercise and hydrotherapy.</p>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	9, whose roles include Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraiser and Committee members. The Committee members also liaise with venues and organise coach transport for outings.
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>150, comprising:</p> <p>60 male 90 female 60 disabled Over 50% resident in Woking 60 aged 19-65 90 aged 65+</p> <p>A small charge is made for outings. Members are provided with a variety of activities and events to make life more bearable for both sufferers and carers.</p>
1.5 Members	<p>180, comprising:</p> <p>90 male 90 female 70 disabled Over 50% resident in Woking 60 aged 19-65 120 aged 65+</p> <p>Members are not charged to register with the branch, but are asked to</p>

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	register with Parkinson's UK.
1.6 Sum Requested	£3,200 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>The aim of the branch is to give all members with Parkinson's the opportunity to take part in some form of exercise, as currently this is the only method of helping alleviate the stiffness and eventual seizing up of muscles that forms part of the degenerative process and which will lead to loss of balance and co-ordination, making all movement and in particular walking, painful and difficult.</p> <p>The Woking and Weybridge Branch of Parkinson's UK are requesting the sum of £3,200 to provide weekly hydrotherapy treatment for members with Parkinson's.</p>
1.8 Cost breakdown:	40 weeks of hydrotherapy will cost £80 per week, totalling £3,200.
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>Research has proved that all forms of exercise are essential to aid mobility for those with Parkinson's, as without, muscles will seize up. Hydrotherapy is especially beneficial due to the buoyancy provided by warm water.</p> <p>The provision of accessible hydrotherapy sessions will help those living with Parkinson's to maintain a level of mobility and pain relief for as long as possible, this will impact on the level of independence that members can maintain.</p>
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	The hydrotherapy sessions have not taken place since March 2020 and there has been increasing feelings of isolation amongst its members, although attempts have been made to keep in touch via telephone. The branch has not claimed its grant from the Council awarded last year due to the sessions not being held. All planned outings and meals have been cancelled.

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £39,271 in the bank. The Charity funds Surrey Crossroads up to £5,000 per annum to help provide extra respite for carers, along with a weekly session at Churchfields Centre in Weybridge, both held as designated reserves.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2021 which shows an anticipated income of £14,600 against an anticipated expenditure of £19,589, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £4,981. The budget includes no confirmed income.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes fundraising (£9,000), donations (£3,000) and meetings / social (£1,850). Items of expenditure include Thursday Group costs (£6,500), Crossroads Care (£5,000) and hydrotherapy (£3,200).</p>
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted accounts for the Woking and Weybridge Branch during 2019/20 which show an income of £28,597 against expenditure of £22,544, resulting in a surplus of £6,053. The sum of £39,271 was carried forward at the end of the 2019/20 year.

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2.3 Support over the past five years	2020/21 – £3,000 2019/20 – £3,000 2018/19 – £3,000
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3.0 Assessment of Application																									
3.1 Key Information	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><input type="radio"/> Constitution</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Registered Charity</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> VAT Registered</td> <td style="text-align: right;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Equal Opportunities Policy</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Safeguarding Policy</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Reserves Policy</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Quality Mark</td> <td style="text-align: right;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Other funding sources pursued</td> <td style="text-align: right;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Other support by the Council</td> <td style="text-align: right;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Fundraising</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Two quotes</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Regular monitoring provided previously</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Yes</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="radio"/> Constitution	Yes	<input type="radio"/> Registered Charity	Yes	<input type="radio"/> VAT Registered	No	<input type="radio"/> Equal Opportunities Policy	Yes	<input type="radio"/> Safeguarding Policy	Yes	<input type="radio"/> Reserves Policy	Yes	<input type="radio"/> Quality Mark	No	<input type="radio"/> Other funding sources pursued	No	<input type="radio"/> Other support by the Council	No	<input type="radio"/> Fundraising	Yes	<input type="radio"/> Two quotes	N/A	<input type="radio"/> Regular monitoring provided previously	Yes
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3.2 Consultee Comments	<p><u>Diana Chan, Health and Wellbeing Manager</u></p> <p>The aim of this organisation is to always make the day to day life of Parkinson's sufferers and their carers more bearable and acceptable.</p> <p>This is achieved by offering support, friendship and understanding by arranging outings and group get togethers, plus exercise to aid mobility, so that members feel included and not isolated.</p> <p>I am supportive of the £3,200 funding requested to enable the charity to continue with hydrotherapy sessions offered by White Lodge. Clients who have benefitted from this therapy believe that it assists with their levels of mobility and it will provide 40 weeks of therapy at £80 a week.</p>																								
3.3 Assessment	<p>Parkinson's is a degenerative neurological disorder, for which, at present there is no known cure. It results in all of the body's muscles becoming stiff and, if not exercised, they will eventually seize up, resulting in loss of co-ordination and balance thereby causing difficulty in walking. Outings and social 'get togethers' are also important to both members of Woking and Weybridge Branch of Parkinson's UK and their carers in order to help keep morale up.</p> <p>Woking and Weybridge Branch of Parkinson's UK aims to provide the necessary exercise classes to help with mobility. This includes speech therapy, seated exercise and hydrotherapy. The Group is an entirely self-funded support group and does not receive any funding from Parkinson's UK. It raises its own funds in order to arrange activities and events which are both therapeutic and social for the members and carers to benefit from.</p> <p>The provision of accessible hydrotherapy sessions will help those</p>																								

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living with Parkinson's to maintain a level of mobility and pain relief for as long as possible, this will impact on the level of independence that members can maintain. When members attend the sessions run by the Group it also provides time for their carers to have respite.

The hydrotherapy sessions have not been taking place since March 2020 due to Covid-19. They are held at the White Lodge Centre, for which there is a charge of £20 per person per session. A total of four users can be accommodated in a single session. With help from the qualified teacher and assistant, the focus has been on improving their mobility and condition. In addition, prior to Covid-19 a number of regular events have been held such as Sing and Smile, chair based mobility exercises and speech therapy classes. There was also a four hour weekly group for activities such as exercise, memory games and drawing under the supervision of two professionals, which also provides a time for carer respite.

The Group has not been claiming this year's grant on the basis that no sessions have been held and intends to restart the sessions when national guidelines allow and it is safe to do so.

The Woking and Weybridge Branch of Parkinson's UK is requesting to extend the revenue funding awarded last year at £3,200 to provide weekly hydrotherapy treatment for members with Parkinson's. This sum will enable 40 weeks of therapy at a cost of £80 per week. The grant would be used to offer fully subsidised sessions to all of their members, the majority of whom are Woking based.

It is proposed that the application be approved and a grant of £3,200 be awarded to the Group towards hydrotherapy for its Woking-based members for the year ahead.

REPORT ENDS