

**CORAM LIFE EDUCATION – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Executive Summary**

Coram Life Education is a nationwide charity providing advice to children aged 3 to 11 years on drugs and lifestyles. Woking Borough Council has supported Coram Life Education since it first established itself in the County.

The Group has applied for funding of £19,292 during 2022/23 towards running costs to ensure the service can continue to be provided year on year, offering Life Education lessons to the primary schools in Woking.

In the 2022/23 financial year it is expected that 5,000 primary school children from 25 schools would benefit from the service across Woking via educator workshops or SCARF Live Online (Safety, Caring Achievement, Resilience and Friendship), which consists of teaching resources and training to build teachers' capacity and confidence and to embed pupils' emotional and physical wellbeing across the whole school.

In addition, 125 teachers would benefit from a year's subscription to SCARF, supporting them to implement a whole-school approach to physical and mental health and wellbeing. Around 75 parents would benefit from an engagement session with the Educator to learn about the programmes. Around 25 teachers in the Borough would also benefit from free and low cost teacher training opportunities to equip them with the skills and confidence to improve children's wellbeing. Its ongoing work is preventative and should be considered as part of early help service provision. It supports priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Woking's Corporate Plan 2021-22 and the Safer Woking Partnership.

Coram Life Education used to receive annual funding of £10,000 from the Safer Woking Partnership which ended in 2020. Woking schools also contribute to the cost of the educator workshops, and in other areas of Surrey schools pay the full daily charge of £420 per day. In 2021, Surrey County Council awarded almost £5,000 via its members community allocation funding. This is supporting a pilot of resources and training for secondary schools with a particular focus on Relationships and Sex Education.

In view of the Council's financial position, it is recommended that a grant be awarded at 50% of the level awarded last year, equating to £10,600 for 2022/23.

**Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:	<b>RESOLVE That</b> , subject to the outcome of the Council's budgetary process, a grant of £10,600 be awarded from the Community Grants Budget the revenue costs of the education programme in Woking.
Reason for Decision	To continue the support for Coram Life Education towards the delivery of its programmes to schoolchildren in the Borough.
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 by Council at its meeting on 10 February 2022. In the event the grant

## Coram Life Education – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>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 2022/23 funding until this confirmation has been received.</p>
<p>Conditions</p>	<p><b>Accounts.</b> The Organisation must submit 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><b>Monitoring Information.</b> 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><b>Publicity.</b> Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on websites and literature / leaflets produced.</p> <p><b>Payments.</b> Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with monitoring information for the previous quarter.</p> <p><b>Payment Period.</b> Final quarter claims must be made by the second week in April. 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><b>Joint Working.</b> 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><b>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.</b> Following the introduction of new legislation from April 2018, the Council expects 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 are 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><b>Users.</b> The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users.</p> <p><b>Activities.</b> The Organisation to provide details of activities and events held.</p> <p><b>Publicity.</b> The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised.</p> <p><b>Statement of Use.</b> The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.</p>
<p>Future Support</p>	<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 2022/23 does not imply that a similar application in 2023/24 would be supported. In particular, it is emphasised that the Council is unlikely to be in a position to award any sums above the 2022/23 levels.</p>

## Coram Life Education – Application For Financial Assistance

In view of this, the applicant is to be advised to ensure that contingency plans for the Group's operations for 2023/24 have been drawn up in the event that the Council is unable to continue its support beyond April 2023. 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.

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

### **Background Papers:**

2022/23 Application Form.

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### **Date Published:**

30 November 2021

## **Coram Life Education – Application For Financial Assistance**

## Coram Life Education – Application For Financial Assistance

<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Life Education was established in 1986. In 2009 Life Education amalgamated with Coram children’s charity to form Coram Life Education (CLE). Since then the charity has educated approximately 500,000 children per year through a network of 60 Educators and nearly 300 volunteers across England and Scotland. It aims to build children’s confidence and resilience from an early age so that these skills and attributes develop over time, with evidence-based wellbeing workshops in over 2,000 primary schools. These workshops include Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education covering drug use, safe and unsafe relationships, puberty, living a balanced on and off line life, and mental health. Younger children meet the healthy-living puppet giraffe Harold, and wider age and stage appropriate topics are introduced as children get older, to prepare them for transition to secondary school and adolescence.</p> <p>In addition, online 'SCARF' (Safety, Caring Achievement, Resilience and Friendship) consists of teaching resources and training to build teachers’ capacity and confidence and to embed pupils’ emotional and physical wellbeing across the whole school.</p> <p>CLE’s charitable activities are to deliver memorable and engaging wellbeing education for children and young people, and to embed pupil wellbeing across the school, so that the children can acquire the life skills needed to thrive. CLE’s approach is to build core knowledge and skills throughout children’s primary school years, from nursery to year 6. Last year, Relationships and Health Education became statutory for primary schools and the Charity’s resources supported schools to engage with parents and plan their teaching with SCARF resources and professional teacher training.</p> <p>In normal years activities involve education workshops in a pop-up ‘LifeSpace’ classroom assembled in the school premises, or alternatively a mobile classroom. In view of the pandemic and subsequent school disruption, teaching took place in the school premises itself, or online, so that the educator could teach safely and observe social distancing requirements. It is likely to continue to offer schools the choice of teaching environment into 2022.</p> <p>The charity’s trading company enables it to run CLE education programmes in the community. The activities of the trading company are wholly compatible with CLE’s charitable objectives.</p>
1.2 Employees	<p>11, comprising the Managing Director Education and Wellbeing, Head of Education, Business Development Manager, Relationships Sex and Health Education Manager, Training Manager, Administrator staff and Branch Educator staff.</p> <p>Two staff represent the London &amp; Surrey region, managing the area, delivering in schools and maintaining relationships with teachers and parents. They are supported in this by the London-based administration and management team, so that the education programmes and online resources are current, relevant and updated to support children’s wellbeing.</p>

## Coram Life Education – Application For Financial Assistance

1.3 Volunteers	<p>21. Approximately half of the volunteers are members of local 'support groups' whose function is to represent and promote local delivery for the branches of Coram. Volunteers network, fundraise, speak at events, problem solve, provide practical support such as mobile classroom repairs, and are 'go to' people for educators delivering Life Education.</p> <p>The other half of the volunteer base act as trustees. As a registered charity, Coram Life Education has a formal and accountable governance structure, in which trustees of the charity delegate day to day operations to the paid staff as outlined, to deliver the charity's objects and mission.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>3,954, comprising:</p> <p>1,977 male</p> <p>1,977 female</p> <p>44 disabled</p> <p>633 ethnic minority</p> <p>3,954 resident in Woking</p> <p>159 aged 0-5</p> <p>3,558 aged 6-10</p> <p>237 aged 11-18</p> <p>There is no charge for service users but previous Woking grants have enabled the Group to offer schools the service at a greatly subsidised rate of £117 per day (from the £420 normally charged). This would continue should the current grant application be successful.</p>
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£19,292 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>CLE has been supported by the Council for nine years which has enabled the Charity to make a difference to children throughout their primary school years and, in the past five years or so, extend this support to busy teachers with time-saving online resources and planning tools. CLE plans to continue its work and also extend to Woking schools new features and benefits including 'Whole-School SCARF', teacher training and Early Years resources.</p> <p>During the pandemic, the Charity adapted quickly. The numbers of children supported was affected by school disruption, and teaching stopped entirely between April and July and January and March. During that time resources were designed for teachers to support their pupils' wellbeing, along with SCARF at Home and Harold's (online) Daily Diary - activities and ideas for parents to share with children who were home learning or self-isolating. When schools re-opened between September and December, CLE welcomed their return with free 'Back to school with SCARF' and 'Reconnect and Recover' toolkits, and supported teachers to address the mental health needs of their pupils. Its Surrey educator taught within school premises and online when schools fully re-opened.</p>

## Coram Life Education – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>Through this period of renewal the Charity's priorities and methods of delivery were reviewed and over the year ahead it intends to carry out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- offer all 33 Woking primary schools a combination of educator workshops, online SCARF resources and training for teachers, maintaining the subsidies to schools. Workshops are delivered from Reception to Year 6. Approximately 25 schools are expected to take up the offer, benefiting around 5,000 children</li> <li>- continue to give schools the choice of in-school 'LifeBase', LifeSpace pop up classroom, or 'SCARF Live Online' workshops.</li> <li>- offer all Woking schools free and low-cost training. Four Woking teachers attended 'Getting Ready for RSE' training last year. Early Years training is now available along with training to develop a school culture preventing sexual harassment and abuse</li> <li>- run staff sessions and parent workshops in all schools who book its educator delivery, to ensure teaching is tailored to need, and so that each school makes the most of its subscription to online SCARF resources</li> <li>- offer SCARF resources to all schools who book its educator, at no extra cost to the booking.</li> <li>- highlight particular features of SCARF, such as nursery (Early Years) plans for primary and nursery schools, Whole-School SCARF and resources for schools to catch up with Relationships, Sex and Health Education, including parent engagement and creating a culture to prevent sexual harassment and abuse</li> <li>- promote the support of Woking Borough Council that enables wellbeing education to be fully integrated across primary schools</li> </ul>
<p>1.8 Cost breakdown:</p>	<p>Educator and Manager salaries for Woking + all on-costs - £19,693  Travel Expenses - £1,300  Insurance - £464  Licence Fee for education programmes and SCARF - £2,295  Central service charge for admin, HR, finance - £3,135  Total Expenditure - £26,897  Less Woking school contribution @ £117 per day for 65 days - £7,605  Total funds requested from WBC - £19,292</p>
<p>1.9 Community Benefit</p>	<p>In the 2022/23 financial year it is expected that 5,000 primary school children from 25 schools would benefit from the service across Woking via educator workshops or SCARF Live Online. In addition 125 teachers would benefit from a year's subscription to SCARF, supporting them to implement a whole-school approach to physical and mental health and wellbeing. Around 75 parents would benefit from an engagement session with the Educator to learn about the programmes. Around 25 teachers in the Borough would benefit from free and low cost teacher training opportunities to equip them with the skills and confidence to improve children's wellbeing.</p> <p>With Woking's support, Coram Life Education has been able to embed and sustain its education approach over recent years, and in doing so</p>

## Coram Life Education – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>believes this has supported both children, teaching staff, parents and therefore the local community to consider the ways in which improved wellbeing for children can be achieved, for the whole community's benefit.</p>
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	<p>CLE consists of a very small team which both presented challenges and pressures, but also enabled a nimble and responsive approach, and in many ways the pandemic experience reinforced the relevance and need for a carefully designed response to children's wellbeing.</p> <p>During the period of school disruption, CLE adapted rapidly, designing and training educators to teach 'SCARF Live Online', consisting of shorter online sessions, and emphasising children's emotional wellbeing and resilience. This was because the pandemic clearly impacted on children, and indeed teachers' emotional wellbeing. CLE therefore prioritised wellbeing for the children supported. When schools fully re-opened in September, SCARF Live Online was offered as an alternative to in-person workshops, enabling teaching to take place in accordance with social distancing requirements, prioritising children's social and emotional health and learning at a time of great need. Schools welcomed this adaptation, and children were excited to meet a new person teaching them in an interactive and engaging way.</p> <p>CLE launched its 'Reconnect and Recover' mental health toolkit, helping schools build children's resilience and wellbeing as they returned to the safe and familiar routines of school life. The toolkits offered creative and flexible ways of promoting everyone's mental health focused on the evidence-informed NHS 5 ways to mental wellbeing framework: Connect to others; Be active; Take notice; Keep learning; and Give to others.</p> <p>In addition to the adaptations above, CLE designed 'SCARF at Home' for children not in school due to lockdown or self-isolation. The themes were pertinent to children's experiences of lockdown, reinforcing core skills for life:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Me and My Relationships - the skills needed for friendships and team work. The people who are special to children, and who they can turn to for help, when needed</li><li>2) Valuing Difference - the things that make people the same as each other and what makes people different from others, kindness and how it can help everyone.</li><li>3) Keeping Myself Safe - the different ways to stay healthy and safe, including staying safe online and learning skills to look after our body. Older children learn about assertiveness, recognising the influence of friends, how to think critically about decisions being made, and managing risks safely.</li><li>4) Rights and Responsibilities - the skills children need to develop into responsible citizens. How to look after money, including saving and spending, responsibilities at home, caring for the environment</li><li>5) Being our Best - learning to set goals and develop positive strategies to help children achieve their potential, through a growth mindset approach. Taking care of ourselves, physically – including good hygiene, healthy eating and sleep routine.</li></ol>



## Coram Life Education – Application For Financial Assistance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Two quotes</li><li>○ Regular monitoring provided previously</li></ul>	N/A Yes
3.2 Assessment	<p>CLE provides age appropriate wellbeing workshops to primary school pupils across Woking. In addition, about 125 teachers will benefit from a year's subscription to CLE's online resource SCARF, supporting them to implement a whole-school approach to physical and mental health and wellbeing. The ongoing work from CLE is preventative and should be considered as part of our early help service provision. It supports priorities in our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Woking's Corporate Plan 2021-22 and the Safer Woking Partnership.</p> <p>CLE used to receive annual funding of £10,000 from the Safer Woking Partnership which ended in 2020. Woking schools also contribute to the cost of the educator workshops, and in other areas of Surrey schools pay the full daily charge of £420 per day. In 2021, Surrey County Council awarded almost £5,000 via its members community allocation funding. This is supporting a pilot of resources and training for secondary schools with a particular focus on Relationships and Sex Education.</p> <p>In view of the Council's financial position, it is recommended that a grant be awarded at 50% of the level awarded last year, equating to £10,600 for 2022/23.</p>	

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