

TALK SURREY – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

TALK Surrey CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) is a Surrey-based charity which seeks to support Aphasia recoverers following a stroke, helping them to regain communication and reasoning skills, recover confidence and achieve social reintegration. The Organisation has a support group in the Woking area which is much valued by its users and represents around a fifth of all the stroke recoverers supported by the Group in the County.

TALK has applied for a revenue grant of £2,000 for the 2022/23 financial year, which would be allocated mainly towards the rental costs for the Knaphill group. The Executive supported the Group from 2017/18 to 2020/21 with an award of £1,000 towards this purpose.

A total of 38 people benefit from the Knaphill support group, comprising the 19 stroke recoverers and their carers, who benefit from the emotional support and practical support of liaising with the Operations Manager and volunteers.

TALK Surrey provide a valuable service to those suffering from dysphasia following a stroke, in terms of rehabilitation and speech therapy as examples. They provide support to some local residents, and have a support service running in Knaphill, out of the Vyne community centre. It is anticipated that this will be able to resume, seeing clients on a face to face basis, but if it is not possible, they will provide a remote service.

They have requested a grant to assist with costs of room hire, materials, therapy training etc at The Vyne. It is recommended that a grant of £900 be awarded to the Group, representing the same level of funding of £1,000 as last year with a reduction of 10%.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That , subject to the outcome of the Council’s budgetary process, a grant of £900 be awarded from the Community Grants Budget towards the cost of the Knaphill support group.
Reason for Decision	The work undertaken by the Group supports the Council’s health and wellbeing agenda.
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 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.
Conditions	Accounts. 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.

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	<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 websites and literature / leaflets produced.</p> <p>Payments. Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with monitoring information for the previous quarter.</p> <p>Payment Period. 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>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. 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>
Performance Indicators	<p>Users. The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users.</p> <p>Activities. The Organisation to provide details of activities and events held.</p> <p>Publicity. The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised.</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 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> <p>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.</p>

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2022/23 Application Form.

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>TALK was established in 1998 to support people with Aphasia (individuals who suffer communication difficulties primarily but not exclusively as a result of a stroke). The organisation provides weekly group meetings in locations across Surrey, including at Knaphill. The members receive one to one support from trained volunteers. Activities are designed to enable them to practise all aspects of communication and promote confidence in a supportive environment, leading to increased participation and independence within the community.</p> <p>Meetings are held at The Vyne in Knaphill on Thursday mornings. Other groups also meet in Guildford, Ashford and Walton on Thames.</p> <p>In March 2018 the Charity became TALK Surrey CIO.</p>
1.2 Employees	<p>Three, comprising TALK Operations Manager (28 hours per week), Groups Co-ordinator (28 hours) and Fundraising Manager (21 hours).</p>
1.3 Volunteers	<p>The organisation has 24 volunteers working with the Knaphill support group.</p> <p>At TALK, the volunteers work in a one to one situation with the stroke recoverers: the weekly groups last for two hours and they are supporting one to one for the majority of the time, with a volunteer sitting beside a stroke recoverer and helping get the most out of the TALK sessions.</p> <p>TALK provides a weekly programme of planned activities on which to base communication practice (total communication strategies) and the volunteers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support conversations and social interaction for the stroke recoverers • help reduce isolation and build confidence. The volunteers gently encourage participation in the group • socialise with the stroke recoverers and offer friendship. <p>The support provided by volunteers includes helping with their writing, speaking, gesturing in the group through writing on a flipchart, or repetition for example. Volunteers also help prepare teas and refreshments and carry out the administration for the Group, for example collecting the weekly fees or tea money. All volunteers usually prepare and present one of the weekly sessions per term. They all undergo Aphasia support training.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>The Knaphill support group has 19 users at the time of application, comprising:</p> <p>9 male</p> <p>10 female</p> <p>19 disabled</p> <p>2 ethnic minority</p>

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	<p>17 resident in Woking</p> <p>5 aged 19-65</p> <p>14 aged 65+</p> <p>A charge of £4 per session is levied.</p>
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£2,000 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	The funding will contribute towards the running costs of the Knaphill group, supporting at least 19 people with Aphasia following a stroke.
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>Rent of room at Vyne Community Centre - £800</p> <p>Materials/group expenses - £1,200</p> <p>Volunteer training - £200</p> <p>Speech & Language therapy Assessment - £300</p> <p>Woking share of staff salaries - £12,400</p> <p>Woking share of the insurance/examinations - £400</p> <p>Woking share of public awareness costs - £700</p> <p>Woking share of general admin costs - £700</p> <p>Woking share of IT and phone costs - £460</p> <p>Total Group costs excluding fundraising - £17,160</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>A total of 38 people benefit from the Knaphill support group, comprising the 19 stroke recoverers and their carers, who benefit from the emotional support and practical support of liaising with the Operations Manager and volunteers.</p> <p>The volunteers also benefit from the TALK group particularly because a number of them are still on their recovering stroke pathway themselves. Their progression to volunteer has helped them back into the community and given them a sense of worth. It has raised their confidence and contribution to society, particularly as the Group notes few recoverers can ever return to work.</p>
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	<p>The Group has not been able to raise funding thorough Community Fundraising, and has lost income from termly fees.</p> <p>Since March 2020 the Knaphill Support Group has had to adapt to working remotely, and sending out weekly activity packs to the users, at an additional cost of £193 over the last three months. Volunteers and the Operations Manager continued to support vulnerable service users and carers by telephone and email.</p> <p>The knock-on effects of Covid have impacted the service users, as it was reported that carers had noticed that sufferers' speech had deteriorated since not being able to attend the groups, and have said they have felt increasing feelings of anxiousness and depression.</p>

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2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £60,782 in the bank, of which the majority is ring-fenced for use by TALK groups.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2022/23 which shows an anticipated income of £78,929 against an anticipated expenditure of £92,000, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £13,071.</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2020/21 which show an income of £78,511 (£75,975 in 2019/20) against expenditure of £71,239 (£80,631 in 2019/20), resulting in a surplus of £7,272 (a deficit of £4,656 in 2019/20). The sum of £50,612 was carried forward at the end of the 2020/21 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2021/22 – £1,000 awarded towards costs of Knaphill Support Group 2020/21 – £1,000 awarded towards costs of Knaphill Support Group 2019/20 – £1,000 awarded towards costs of Knaphill Support Group 2018/19 – £1,000 awarded towards costs of Knaphill Support Group 2017/18 – £1,000 awarded towards costs of Knaphill Support Group</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 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Yes</p>
3.2 Assessment	<p>TALK Surrey provide a valuable service to those suffering from dysphasia following a stroke, in terms of rehabilitation and speech therapy as examples. They provide support to some local residents, and have a support service running in Knaphill, out of the Vyne community centre. It is anticipated that this will be able to resume, seeing clients on a face to face basis, but if it is not possible, they will provide a remote service.</p> <p>They have requested a grant to assist with costs of room hire, materials, therapy training etc at The Vyne. In view of the Council's financial situation, it is recommended that a grant be awarded with a reduction of 10% from last year, equating to £900 for 2022/23.</p>	

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