

WOKING AND WEYBRIDGE BRANCH OF PARKINSONS 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 are 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 work has taken place 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.

The Council is supportive of the charity who have 150 members of which 60% reside in Woking. The grant is purely to help with the cost of hiring the hydro pool. In light of the Council’s financial position, it is proposed that a grant be approved at the level of 50% less than last year, equating to £1,600. The Organisation states that any reduction in grant award would be met through increased fundraising activities.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That , subject to the outcome of the Council’s budgetary process, funding be awarded at the level of £1,600 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.
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,

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	<p>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.</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>
<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</p>

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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.

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

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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	8, 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>69 male</p> <p>81 female</p> <p>60 disabled</p> <p>90 resident in Woking</p> <p>2 aged 19-65</p> <p>148 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	All users are Members. Members are not charged to register with the branch, but are asked to register with Parkinson's UK.
1.6 Sum Requested	£3,200 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	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.

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	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. Hydrotherapy takes place every Monday morning at White Lodge in Chertsey. There are four places available each week at a cost of £20 per person per week.
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 did not claim its grant from the Council awarded last year due to the sessions not being held. All planned outings and meals were cancelled during the lockdown periods.

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £41,590 in the bank. The sum of £414 is ringfenced for bereavement disbursements and £1,950 is reserved as funds collected from members for trips postponed due to the pandemic.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2022/23 which shows an anticipated income of £25,525 against an anticipated expenditure of £38,196, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £12,671.</p>
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted accounts for 2020 which show an income of £12,245 against expenditure of £14,190, resulting in a deficit of £1,945. The sum of £37,326 was carried forward at the end of the 2020/21 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2021/22 – £3,200</p> <p>2020/21 – £3,000</p> <p>2019/20 – £3,000</p> <p>2018/19 – £3,000</p>

3.0 Assessment of Application							
3.1 Key Information	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>○ Constitution</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>○ Registered Charity</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>○ VAT Registered</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table>	○ Constitution	Yes	○ Registered Charity	Yes	○ VAT Registered	No
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○ VAT Registered	No						

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>3.2 Assessment</p>	<p>The Council is supportive of the charity who have 150 members of which 60% reside in Woking. The new grant is purely to help with the cost of hiring the hydro pool.</p> <p>In light of the Council’s financial position, it is recommended that a grant be awarded at a reduced level of 50% from last year, equating to £1,600 for 2022/23. The Organisation states that any reduction in grant award would be met through increased fundraising activities.</p>	

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