

GASP MOTOR PROJECT – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Established in 2005, the GASP Motor Project provides non-judgemental, caring and practical support, delivering accredited AQA courses in basic motor mechanics and practical engineering skills, and contributes to students' positive personal development. This is undertaken through the provision of a hands-on, specialist and personalised alternative learning environment within a focused and disciplined framework.

GASP Motor Project has requested funding of £5,730 to continue its provision of three after school courses of six weeks for young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). This would enable 18 young people to benefit from the courses, delivered either during school hours or as an after school club. There would also be a wider benefit to the community with the potential for reduced anti-social behaviour as young people who are NEET will have the incentive to work towards employment and become a positive benefit to the community.

GASP works with some of the most challenged young people in the county. Working with referring agencies and schools, it offers tailored hands-on learning for those who struggle within the mainstream sector. For the young people supported, the Group has seen significant increases in mental health issues and it was evident that little or no home-schooling had taken place during either period of lockdown. Young people cited lack of IT, broadband, but also a lack of engagement and enthusiasm; those GASP works with are not motivated to do school work as their starting point is one of failure. Online / home learning was all based around the written word, which is not suited to its learners.

Demand for GASP courses this academic year is significant and the Group anticipates delivering over 500 sessions in 2021/22. This is in direct response to the COVID pandemic and the impact on the education of those already disengaged and disadvantaged. The courses are delivered using a mobile unit at the school or where suitable travel to the purpose-built workshop near Woking, both have proved successful with students and schools. As a result of the pandemic and a lack of funds being available towards support costs, emergency funding was received from No Fear Bridge and Guildford Borough Council.

This project supports some of the most vulnerable and deprived young people in the community. It supports priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for children and young people's mental health, Woking's Corporate Plan 2021-22 and the Safer Woking Partnership. In light of the Council's financial position, it is recommended that a revenue grant of £2,500 be awarded, a reduction of 50% of the award from last year.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That, subject to the outcome of the Council's budgetary process, a grant of £2,500 be awarded from the Community Grants Budget towards the provision of basic motor mechanics after-school courses in the Borough for young people who are at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

Reason for Decision

To assist young people in the Borough who may be disengaged with school to develop their skills and aspirations in basic motor

GASP Motor Project – Application For Financial Assistance

	mechanics.
Confirmation of funding	<p>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.</p>
Conditions	<p>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.</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 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>

GASP Motor Project – Application For Financial Assistance

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.

Reporting Person:

Julie Fisher, Chief Executive
Extn: 3301, Email: julie.fisher@woking.gov.uk

Contact Person:

Frank Jeffrey, Head of Democratic Services
Extn: 3012, Email: frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk

Doug Davern, Democratic Services Officer
Extn: 3018, Email: doug.davern@woking.gov.uk

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Simon Ashall
Email: cllrsimon.ashall@woking.gov.uk

Shadow Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Will Forster
Email: cllrwill.forster@woking.gov.uk

Date Published:

30 November 2021

GASP Motor Project – Application For Financial Assistance

GASP Motor Project – Application For Financial Assistance

1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>The GASP Motor Project was formed in 2005 and became a Charity in 2009. Its key aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help young people change behaviours and support them in making a successful transition to adult life; • To support young people to progress through education, employment and training; • To prepare young people in a practical way for the world of work; and • To enable young people to experience the value of teamwork, focussing on personal, social and emotional development. <p>GASP is widely recognised in Surrey as a provider of non-judgmental, caring and practical alternative learning support. Accredited AQA courses are delivered in basic motor mechanics and practical engineering skills, contributing to students' positive personal development. A hands-on, specialist and personalised learning environment is provided within a focused and disciplined framework. Where appropriate, help is also available to facilitate students' onward progression into education, training and employment.</p> <p>GASP has a fully equipped workshop in Albury, as well as a mobile unit which is able to teach GASPs courses at a school or youth organisation's site. Over the last two years, due to cuts in schools funding, the Mobile Unit has seen a significant increase in demand as GASP is able to be more flexible to meet the needs of the referring organisation's needs.</p>
1.2 Employees	11, comprising the Chief Executive, Workshop Manager, six sessional instructors, a Programme Coordinator, Fundraising Executive and an Executive Assistant.
1.3 Volunteers	<p>19.</p> <p>The evening sessions are run during for three evenings each week and are delivered by seven volunteers, managed by the Workshop Manager. Typically, there are two volunteers present at each evening session which lasts around two and a half hours. The volunteers are engineering instructors and work directly with the young people. A number of parents volunteer on an ad hoc basis to support the young people.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>139, including 31 resident in Woking</p> <p>Young people who participate in GASP workshop sessions during the daytime do so by arrangement with their schools or youth support organisation and are not charged individually for their attendance. All costs are covered by grants or the school / youth organisation. In exceptional circumstances where there is a dispute regarding responsibility for payment, GASP will absorb the cost to ensure the continuation of attendance and learning for that young person. This also includes extending attendance past the end of the year 11 academic year.</p>

GASP Motor Project – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>For the evening sessions there is a small charge of £5 per session for those who attend. In cases of hardship this is waived with the cost borne by the Group.</p> <p>GASP works across the whole of Surrey with young people of secondary school age, many with special educational needs. In the Borough of Woking work takes place with Woking High, Northwest Surrey Short Stay SEN School and The Park SEN Schools.</p> <p>In response to the pandemic, and the demands of users GASP has diversified its courses to offer greater flexibility for referring organisations. A significant number of referrals have been received from the Youth Justice Team and Children’s services, evidencing a clear need which has before now been missed. In the next academic year it will be further extending its work with excluded young people, young homeless and offenders.</p>
1.5 Members	N/A
1.6 Sum Requested	£5,730 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>GASP works with some of the most challenged young people in the county. Working with referring agencies and schools, it offers tailored hands-on learning for those who struggle within the mainstream sector.</p> <p>The course length varies from six weeks to a full academic year, with sessions taking place once a week for up to 3 hours. The tutors work to a 1:3 ratio, ensuring learning is specific and engaging. Those who attend have the opportunity to explore a variety of engineering and motor mechanic topics, and are rewarded with AQA certification where specific outcomes are achieved. Activities include 2- and 4- stroke engines, quad and pit bikes, go-karting, and 3D design and printing. In addition, it is able to offer 1:1 and group mental health support sessions, in partnership with Matrix Trust. It is also fundraising to create a mental health and wellbeing space at the Albury site to increase its ability to support young people.</p> <p>Stating that it has taken into account the funding position of the Council, GASP has requesting funds to run three, six-week courses at Woking schools. Each course will have up to six young people attending once a week for two to three hours and will be delivered either during school hours or as an after school club. The sessions will be offered either at the Albury workshop or on the school site via its mobile classroom.</p> <p>It is anticipated that of the 18 students attending, 80% will achieve at least 1 AQA certification, and all will show an increase in confidence and skills. This will be evidenced through feedback from both the individual and the school. There is currently a waiting list for the courses provided.</p>
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p><u>Cost for each course of six weeks</u></p> <p>Session Leader and Tutor salary, inc. on costs = £1,500</p> <p>Transport & Mobile Workshop = £195</p> <p>Accreditation costs (assume 80% success rate) = £75</p>

GASP Motor Project – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>Programme development & evaluation = £85</p> <p>Insurances = £55</p> <p>Total for each course = £1,910</p> <p>This application is for three, six-week courses at a total cost of: £5,730</p> <p>The Group notes that the cost is the same as the current academic year, and does not include the inflationary increase added to our other courses as it is trying to respect the Council's funding position. The shortfall will be made up by additional fundraising.</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>A total of 18 young people will directly benefit from these early intervention courses. There is also a wider benefit to the community with the potential for increased community engagement and reduced anti-social behaviour, due to the increased confidence and self-worth that the young people will gain.</p> <p>The young Woking residents currently at risk of being Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) will have the incentive to work towards employment and therefore avoiding the likelihood of requiring further support after leaving education.</p>
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	<p>GASP was forced to close during the periods of lockdown and furloughed its delivery staff. The admin team remained working and reviewed the curriculum and operational activities, including diversifying the range of topics covered and increasing the library of AQAs available.</p> <p>For the young people supported, the Group has seen significant increases in mental health issues and it was very evident that little or no home-schooling had taken place during either period of lockdown. Young people cited lack of IT, broadband, but also a lack of engagement and enthusiasm – those GASP works with are not motivated to do school work as their starting point is one of failure. Online / home learning was all based around the written word, which is not suited to its learners.</p> <p>Demand for GASP courses this academic year is significant and the Group anticipates delivering over 500 sessions in 2021/22. This is in direct response to the COVID pandemic and the impact on the education of those already disengaged and disadvantaged.</p>

<h3>2.0 Financial Background</h3>	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £254,563 in the bank.</p> <p>The sum of £97,754 is restricted charitable (operational income) for the delivery of GASP courses and £81,782 is restricted as support costs. GASP has reserves of £75,000 which reflects the increase in delivery and expenditure and represents approximately three months' running costs.</p> <p>Due to a lack of funds to cover support costs, emergency funding was received from No Fear Bridge and Guildford Borough Council.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a breakeven budget for 2022/23 which</p>

GASP Motor Project – Application For Financial Assistance

	shows an anticipated income and expenditure of £262,273.
2.2 Accounts	GASP Motor Project has submitted draft accounts for 2020/21 which show an income of £222,658 (£164,344 in 2019/20) against expenditure of £178,373 (£148,127 in 2019/20), resulting in a surplus of £44,285 (a surplus of £16,217 in 2019/20). The sum of £123,794 was carried forward at the end of the 2020/21 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	2021/22 – £5,000 2020/21 – £4,950 2019/20 – £4,950

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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Yes No Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes No Yes N/A N/A
3.2 Assessment	<p>This project supports some of the most vulnerable and deprived young people in our community. It supports priorities in our Health and Wellbeing Strategy for children and young people's mental health, Woking's Corporate Plan 2021-22 and the Safer Woking Partnership.</p> <p>In view of the Council's financial situation, it is recommended that a grant be awarded at a reduction of 50% on the previous year, equating to £2,500.</p>	

REPORT ENDS