

WOKING STREET ANGELS – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Woking Street Angels is applying for revenue support of £1,500 towards the costs of providing its service next year. Its support is targeted at those in need of assistance on the streets during the night-time economy in Woking Town Centre and is offered to all in need, irrespective of age, race, origin or religion.

The volunteers undertake work such as providing foil blankets to keep people warm; giving bottles of water to those dehydrated or sick from the effects of alcohol; escorting vulnerable people, especially females, to taxis or other means of getting home safely; providing flip flops to girls in bare feet no longer able to walk on high heels; and generally aiming to be a calming influence and presence in Woking Town Centre leading to greater safety.

The grant award contributes to the salary cost of the part-time Co-ordinator employed by the Group. The Co-ordinator attends the Joint Agency Group (JAG) meetings which has resulted in a greater understanding of the work carried out by Woking Street Angels and enhanced collaboration between the agencies. Being based in the Council offices has meant that closer working relationships have been made with Surrey Police, the Community Safety team, Licensing and the Neighbourhood team.

The patrols undertaken by the Group were ceased during the lockdown periods and then restarted once the night-time economy re-opened. Prior to this, Surrey Police indicated that the number of incidents in the town they deal with has dropped by over 60% since the Street Angels have been on duty. In addition, the Council has noted the calming influence that the Street Angels have with visitors to the Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights.

Woking Street Angels' volunteers provide help and support to people in need in Woking town centre in the evenings. They have assisted many people over the 10 years of their operation, from the intoxicated to the homeless and the suicidal. They contribute to the night time economy and helping to reduce violent crime in the town centre, in addition to supporting priorities in our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Woking's Corporate Plan 2021-22 and the Safer Woking Partnership.

It is recommended that a grant of £1,500 be awarded, noting the grant requested by Woking Street Angels is less than the amount awarded last year.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That , subject to the outcome of the Council's budgetary process, a grant of £1,500 be awarded from the Community Grants Budget towards the costs of the service.
Reason for Decision	To ensure the continued services of the Group in the Town Centre during the night-time economy.
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

Woking Street Angels – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>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 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 its activities 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 imply that a similar application in 2023/24 would be supported. In</p>

Woking Street Angels – Application For Financial Assistance

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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Woking Street Angels – Application For Financial Assistance

Woking Street Angels – Application For Financial Assistance

1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Woking Street Angels was formed in 2011. Its aims and objectives are to make a positive impact on crime and anti-social behaviour in Woking Town Centre, particularly in the vicinity of bars, clubs and late night food outlets by providing a calming presence on the streets late at night. Street Angels helps address the needs of the night time economy.</p> <p>As a result of their work prior to the pandemic, Surrey Police announced that Woking Town Centre had seen a significant reduction of 60% in incidents and violent crime due to the work of the Street Angels. In addition, the Town Marshals have commented on the calming influence that the Street Angels have with visitors to the Town Centre.</p>
1.2 Employees	<p>1, Co-ordinator (20 hours per week)</p> <p>The Woking Street Angels Co-ordinator attends the Joint Agency Group (JAG) meetings which has resulted in greater understanding of work of the Street Angels and collaboration between the agencies.</p> <p>Since the move of the Co-ordinator to work in the Council offices in 2018, there has been a closer working relationship with Surrey Police, the Community Safety team and other areas such as Licensing, CCTV, Town Marshals and the Neighbourhood team.</p>
1.3 Volunteers	<p>44, whose activities include walking in pairs around the Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights between 10pm and 4am as well as on the evening of the publication of Examination results, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.</p> <p>The volunteers are there to help people who may need support as a result of homelessness, intoxication, drug abuse, assault or any other issues has caused personal distress or the potential for physical harm whilst out.</p> <p>Due to the need to recruit more Street Angels, the organisation has had a greater presence at certain local events when they are held, for example Lark in the Square, Party in the Park, Rotary Woking Swimathon, and Pyrford & Wisley Flower Show. Other local events attended to raise the profile of the charity and where donations may be received are Pride in Surrey festival, Best Bar None Awards scheme and the annual Islamic Mela by Shah Jahan Mosque. None of these events were held in 2020 due to movement restrictions following the Covid19 outbreak.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>In a usual areas, the Group assists over 450 people. Users of Woking Street Angels services are members of the general public who frequent the streets of Woking Town Centre and may need help and support to ensure they return home safely after an evening out. The service is offered to any members of the public in need, though most users tend to be the younger adult generation.</p>
1.5 Members	N/A

Woking Street Angels – Application For Financial Assistance

1.6 Sum Requested	£1,500 (Revenue)																				
1.7 Project	Woking Street Angels have asked for revenue funding to help support the salary of their Co-ordinator and help meet the costs of the supplies. The supplies include flip-flops, water, blankets, minor first aid (there are no qualified first aiders on duty), rental costs of two-way radios and Woking Street Angel jackets. Additional PPE has been required for the volunteers to use during their late night patrols.																				
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Employee costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£14,920</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Radios and phone rental</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£905</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£875</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Street Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£412</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£258</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Training</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£309</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marketing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CNI Donation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Depreciation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£18,729</td> </tr> </table>	Employee costs	£14,920	Radios and phone rental	£905	Insurance	£875	Street Expenses	£412	Office costs	£258	Training	£309	Marketing	£250	CNI Donation	£600	Depreciation	£200	Total	£18,729
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1.9 Community Benefit	<p>It is members of the general public enjoying an evening out in Woking Town Centre on a Friday or Saturday evening that will receive benefit from the activities of Woking Street Angels.</p> <p>Besides financial support given by Woking churches in the area, scarves, gloves and hats made by church craft groups and donated blankets have been given to users who need them. However, surplus items have been donated to the York Road Project (YRP). Woking Street Angels also supports the YRP in their annual sleep-out event in Jubilee Square.</p>																				
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	<p>Due to Government restrictions, Woking Street Angels were unable to operate on the streets of Woking Town Centre on Friday and Saturday evenings from 23 March 2020 to July 2020, and from November 2020 to April 2021. The teams were out again as soon as they were able to be and needed.</p> <p>As the people that Woking Street Angels support have not been using the Town Centre due to the Government restrictions meant the closure of the pubs, clubs and eating places, there has not been the need to support them.</p> <p>Woking Street Angels have now resumed their work having taken advice and careful precautions and with all appropriate PPE protection.</p>																				

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £11,150 in the bank. The Reserves Policy sets out a requirement to hold twelve months' expenditure as a reserve, equating to circa £18,000.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2022/23 which shows an anticipated income of £9,950 against an anticipated expenditure of</p>

Woking Street Angels – Application For Financial Assistance

	£19,326, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £9,376.
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted accounts for 2020/21 which show an income of £17,706 (£10,682 in 2019/20) against expenditure of £17,058 (£11,564 in 2019/20), resulting in a surplus of £648 (a deficit of £872 in 2019/20). The sum of £28,692 was carried forward at the end of the 2020/21 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	2021/22 – £2,500 2020/21 – £2,000 2019/20 – £2,000 2018/19 – £2,000 2017/18 – £2,000

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>* office accommodation for the Co-ordinator and storage of items distributed to users of the service.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes *</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Yes</p>
3.2 Assessment	<p>Woking Street Angels' volunteers provide help and support to people in need in Woking town centre in the evenings. They have assisted many people over the 10 years of their operation, from the intoxicated to the homeless and the suicidal. They contribute to the night time economy and helping to reduce violent crime in the town centre, in addition to supporting priorities in our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Woking's Corporate Plan 2021-22 and the Safer Woking Partnership.</p> <p>It is recommended that a grant of £1,500 should be awarded for 2022/23, noting the reduction in the level applied for by the Group.</p>	

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