

**TRUE HONOUR – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Executive Summary**

Formed in 2015, True Honour aims to help victims of honour based violence and forced marriage by providing confidential one to one or group support to victims, and carrying out training to the police and local agencies to raise the awareness of hidden abuse. The Group aims to provide training to assist where it is needed and in the past much training and awareness raising has been carried out within the UK and abroad.

The applicant has stated that a number of training sessions have been carried out with Surrey Police. Within Woking, the Group states that 40 women in Woking have been supported in 2018, with around half residing in the Sheerwater area. A weekly women’s support group is held in Woking which is funded through a grant of £5,000 from the Community Foundation of Surrey.

The Group has applied for a revenue grant of £15,000 towards the cost of hiring an office at a location within Surrey, volunteer expenses and a bursary to be paid to the founder for her work with the Charity. The community benefit of a Charity devoted to dealing with honour based violence and forced marriage is clear, through work with the police and local organisations to raise awareness whilst also supporting victims when they need it most and providing help with court cases.

Taking into account the consultee comments which note the benefit True Honour can provide to the community, it is recommended that a one-off grant of £5,000 be awarded for 2019/20 only towards the core costs of the Group, subject to the provision of satisfactory accounts being provided for the 2017/18 financial year. The Group should also work with the Council’s Senior Policy Officer to ensure engagement with local community groups and being better able to set out its numbers for each area. As the grant is to be awarded on a one-off basis, it is to be paid from the Community Fund.

**Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:	<b>RESOLVE That</b> a one-off grant of £5,000 be awarded from the Community Fund.
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Reason for Decision	To enable victims of honour based violence to receive support from True Honour.
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Legal Authority	S142 Local Government Act 1972
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Conditions	<p><b>Accounts.</b> The Organisation must submit audited accounts for the year in which the grant is awarded, including an income and expenditure account and balance sheet. The Organisation must also submit satisfactory accounts for the 2017/18 financial year.</p> <p><b>Monitoring Information.</b> The Organisation must submit 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>
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	<p><b>Publicity.</b> Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on all literature and leaflets produced.</p> <p><b>Payments.</b> 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><b>Payment Period.</b> 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><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>The Group should also work with the Council’s Senior Policy Officer to ensure engagement with local community groups and being better able to set out its numbers for each area.</p> <p><b>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.</b> 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><b>Venue Hire.</b> Woking Borough Council has a duty to ensure that publicly-owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views. This duty extends to organisations that work with the local authority so this includes recipients of any grants from Woking Borough Council. If you hire out your venue/s you should ensure you have good processes in place for record keeping and checking if they are an appropriate group to be making the hire arrangements. The following are some of what should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic details should be recorded to include speakers address, mobile phone number &amp; organisation details.</li> <li>• Has the identity of the speaker been confirmed &amp; is their organisation bona fide? Are they known to you?</li> <li>• Is the speaker from the area? Are they UK citizens or from overseas &amp; will they travel specifically for this event?</li> <li>• Consider checks on the internet to confirm the status of speaker to include website, YouTube or social media sites.</li> <li>• How many people are likely to attend (check previous or similar events either locally or online).</li> </ul>
Performance Indicators	<p><b>Publicity.</b> The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised over the last quarter.</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>

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

**Background Papers:**

2019/20 Application Form.

**Reporting Person:**

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**Date Published:**

4 December 2018

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<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>True Honour was formed in 2015. It aims to highlight issues and train professionals who work within the police service, education, local authority, social services and immigration service to deal with cases of forced marriage and honour based violence. In its first year over 2,000 police officers, 200 lawyers, 400 people working in education and 350 people working in the health field received the training. The main objective is stated to be the continuation of this work in addition to supporting victims directly.</p>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	<p>4, whose activities include maintaining the Group's social media and website; liaising with agencies to book training sessions; delivering training to police forces across the country; delivering training to other frontline professionals (i.e. health, education, legal); raising awareness to communities; operating the helpline; assisting victims on the phone and face to face; admin duties such as attending meetings and preparing literature / presentations; attending MARAC / Partnership Board meetings and assisting police officers with victims.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>No detailed user information has been included in the application, however during the first half of 2018 the Group has helped 40 residents from Woking, with half from the Sheerwater area.</p> <p>In Woking, True Honour runs a women's support group once a week which is funded by the Community Foundation of Surrey. Ongoing support to victims is provided, either through telephone or face to face session on a twice weekly basis. Several training sessions are stated to have been carried out for Surrey Police, who make referrals to the service alongside Health Centres and Health Visitors.</p> <p>The training and presentations are provided free of charge. Donations to the charity are always welcome but are not a prerequisite to the support provided.</p>
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£15,000 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>As the charity is expanding its work and influence it is seeking a permanent office from which it can be based to maximise its support to the victims who receive the help of the Group. An office was previously rented which had to be terminated due to other expenses.</p> <p>Volunteers claim expenses from the Charity such as mileage and general travel costs. This is stated not to be a significant amount but a constant expenditure.</p> <p>Many of the organisations for which the Group provides training have their own accommodation and refreshments free of charge but a number do not. The Group would like to have funds to enable the hiring of larger venues to be accessed so that more people can be reached.</p> <p>In addition, the Group would like to pay its founder a small yearly bursary, noting that by providing some remuneration it would enable</p>

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	her to devote more time to the Charity's work and its effects would be more far reaching.
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>£6,480 would be used to rent an office for one year.</p> <p>£3,520 would be used for expenses, such as paying volunteer expenses and the hiring of venues for presentation and consulting work.</p> <p>£5,000 would be used as a bursary paid direct to the Group's founder towards her ongoing work.</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	On average the Group receives 1-3 calls a week from victims who wish to seek advice on family matters, how to handle an abusive situation, or simply to speak to someone about an emotional family matter. Volunteers meet with victims in a safe place away from their home address, assisting them with understanding court documents and hearings, and understanding their needs. Nobody is turned away by the Charity.

<b>2.0 Financial Background</b>	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £17,000 in the bank, with no funds reserved.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2019/20 with no income identified and anticipated expenditure of £30,750.</p> <p>Anticipated expenditure includes expenses (£13,500), honoraria (£10,000), training (£2,500), office equipment (£1,000), accountancy (£1,000), travel (£500) and office rent and room hire (£500).</p>
2.2 Accounts	The Group has not submitted accounts for 2017/18, however unaudited accounts for 2016/17 have been submitted which show an income of £47,954 against expenditure of £19,370, resulting in a surplus of £28,584. The sum of £28,584 was carried forward at the end of the 2016/17 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	New application.

<b>3.0 Assessment of Application</b>		
3.1 Key Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constitution</li> <li>○ Registered Charity</li> <li>○ VAT Registered</li> <li>○ Equal Opportunities Policy</li> <li>○ Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>○ Reserves Policy</li> <li>○ Quality Mark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Other funding sources pursued</li> <li>○ Other support by the Council</li> <li>○ Fundraising</li> <li>○ Two quotes</li> <li>○ Regular monitoring provided previously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>N/A</li> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Sylvie Marshall, Community Development Manager</u></p> <p>True Honour was formed in 2015 to highlight issues and train professionals who work within the police service, education, local authority, social services and immigration service to deal with cases of forced marriage and honour based violence. Services are utilised through the Woking Children’s Centre in Sheerwater as well as individuals being signposted by the Police, GPs and Health Visiting Teams.</p> <p>True Honour has applied for a revenue grant of £15,000 towards the cost of hiring an office, volunteer expenses and a bursary to be paid to the founder for her work for the Charity.</p> <p>Unfortunately there are no accounts for 2017/18, with this section of the application form incomplete, making it difficult to see a financial picture. We do however see the great benefit that True Honour can offer our local communities so providing this information is provided, and accounts show no significant issues, we would support True Honour but only to the level of £5,000 towards running costs of the organisation. It would also be beneficial going forward for greater detail to be collected on user numbers.</p> <p><u>Refeia Zaman, Senior Policy Officer</u></p> <p>There is potential for the weekly support group run by True Honour to be promoted more widely amongst local community groups, for example Liaise Women’s Centre and Shifa.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Formed in 2015 by Sarbjit Athwal, True Honour aims to help victims of honour based violence and forced marriage by providing confidential one to one or group support to victims, and carrying out training to the police and local agencies to raise the awareness of hidden abuse. The Group’s website sets out a support page for victims and includes a direct line for victims to call the Group’s founder.</p> <p>Training sessions can also be provided to organisations such as schools and colleges, local authorities, GP surgeries and community based organisations. The Group aims to provide training to assist where it is needed and in the past much training and awareness raising has been carried out within the UK and abroad.</p> <p>The application reports that a number of training sessions have been carried out with Surrey Police. Within Woking, the Group reports that 40 residents of Woking have been supported in 2018, with around half residing in the Sheerwater area. Three males have also telephoned the Group to ask for advice. A weekly women’s support group is held in Woking which is funded through a grant of £5,000 from the Community Foundation of Surrey.</p> <p>The Group has applied for a revenue grant of £15,000 towards the cost of hiring an office, volunteer expenses and a bursary to be paid to</p>	

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the founder for her work for the Charity.

The community benefit of a Charity devoted to dealing with honour based violence and forced marriage is clear, through work with the police and local organisations to raise awareness whilst also supporting victims when they need it most and providing help with court cases. In addition to the Police, referrals are received from health centres, social workers and children's centres. Women who are experiencing domestic abuse are also invited to join the weekly women's group, although a number prefer to meet one to one in a venue they feel comfortable with. It is regularly attended by around six women and the Charity helps them to avoid living in isolation.

Taking into account the consultee comments which note the benefit which True Honour can provide to the community, it is recommended that a one-off grant of £5,000 be awarded for 2019/20 only towards the core costs of the Group, subject to the provision of satisfactory accounts being provided for the 2017/18 financial year. As it is one-off funding, the grant would be paid from the Community Fund.

REPORT ENDS