

Yeovil Hospital Charity (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To consider funding towards the new Create @ YDH project at Yeovil Hospital.

Public Interest

Community grants are available in each area to voluntary and charitable organisations, not-for-profit groups, Parish or Town councils and other organisations that benefit the wider community. Applications are encouraged that meet a clearly identified local need.

Recommendation

That members agree an award of £2000 from the grants budget.

Background

Yeovil Hospital Charity (YHC) raises funds to improve the hospital and to make life easier for patients. Anyone can get involved with the group's fundraising and make suggestions about how they should improve the hospital and what the funds should be spent on. The group have a strong community and social media presence so it is easy for people to find out about them and to participate. There are a range of opportunities for volunteering, including fundraising volunteers and community ambassadors.

The group have raised £150,000 for a new Special Care Baby Unit in the last 12 months and have started music performances to help improve the patient experience at Yeovil Hospital. They have paid for lots of extra equipment for the hospital and funded art in the hospital to help patients to relax. They have also funded a bereavement room for parents whose babies do not survive and have funded improvements to outdoor space so that patients can enjoy some time outside during what can often be a very stressful time for them.

Project

Create @ YDH is a new participatory arts project to benefit patients at Yeovil Hospital through participation in regular stimulating activities. Create aims to provide an uplifting and positive environment for patients, visitors and staff at Yeovil Hospital through the use of targeted and varied participatory activities. A main focus of the project will be to benefit the health and well-being of older patients particularly those with dementia, as 1 in 4 hospital beds are occupied by people with dementia (Alzheimer's Society, Counting the Cost.)

YHC will work with local schools and colleges to provide placements for students to gain experience of activities in healthcare; this will broaden their knowledge and enhance future career prospects. The group aim to boost staff morale by means of providing a break from daily routine, and teaching staff how to use creative interventions in their care of patients.

Research commissioned by Chelsea and Westminster Hospital (2003) reveals the introduction of arts activities enhances the quality of life of patients, improves communication, empathy and understanding of patients' needs, reduces stress and the perception of pain and often leads to a reduction in the level of medication required, number of falls and can shorten lengths of stay in hospital.

Create aims to be an effective response to the following identified needs: the need to increase interaction with hospital patients to aid recovery; the need to find new ways to engage with acute patients who have dementia; the need for students to gain knowledge of the application of the creative activities in non-traditional settings and the need to demonstrate the value of the arts in healthcare.

The project will be overseen by the dementia care team. The participatory sessions will be delivered by local artists identified by the Arts Coordinator. YHC have been in discussions with Emma Gordon (Art and Design Court Manager Yeovil College) and will be working with art students to create reminiscence resources for patients. They have also had performances from music students at Yeovil College, working alongside the Head of Music, Simon Squire.

YHC have delivered a pilot series of activities for older patients, and through the feedback gathered it is evident that patients and staff would welcome regular varied participatory activities. A new dementia friendly ward (funded by the Department of Health) has opened at Yeovil Hospital; its main admission is older patients over 65 with a specific focus on patients with dementia. A regular series of activities will allow them to further enhance the ward environment and patient experience for older patients.

Taking part in creative activities can develop coordination, hand strength and mobility. These activities also open up a forum for discussion and communication, making people feel more relaxed and calm and more likely to voice anxieties, fears, recall memories and form friendships within the group.

YHC have recently contributed to a pilot programme developing an evaluation tool kit working in collaboration with seven hospitals across the Southwest to develop an online resource to support staff in using creative activities to engage people with dementia while in acute hospital settings. The online resource will allow YHC to share projects and 'best practice'.

The Neighbourhood Development Officer (NDO) is supportive of this application as it supports the corporate aim of improving the health of our residents.

Area South Representative Comments

The Yeovil District Hospital representative is supportive of this application.

Assessment Scoring

Below is the summary table from the grant assessment form. It is recommended that funding is only awarded to projects scoring 22 points or more.

Category	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	3	7
C Project	1	5
D Capacity of Organisation	11	15
E Financial need	6	7
F Innovation	3	3
<i>Grand Total</i>	24	37

Funding Breakdown

Funding Sources	% Funding of the Project Cost	Amount of Total Funding (£)	Status
Parish Councils (Mudford and Hardington Mandeville)	2	344	Applied
Own Funds	14	2,400	Secured
Awards for All	60	9,940	Secured
Greggs Foundation	12	2000	Applied
SDDC Area South Grants	12	2000	This application
Total Project Cost	100%	16,684	

Financial Implications

The uncommitted 2014/15 budget stands at £8,230. If members agree to support this application, this will leave a balance of £6,230.

Corporate Priority Implications

Focus Four: Health & Communities.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

Background Papers: None.
