

Inspired to Achieve Grant Application (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To consider funding towards the cost of running the Incredible Tuesdays Group.

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 consider this application for up to £3,500 from the community grants budget.

Background

Inspired to Achieve (i2a) was set up as a Social Enterprise in 2011 and in October 2014 became a wholly owned subsidiary of Yarlington Housing Group (YHG). I2a remains independent but the practical support provided by YHG such as administration and H.R. functions has allowed the organisation to remain competitive in a challenging financial climate.

I2a provides: Mentoring for young people within local educators (primary, secondary and post 16 education); one to one and group delivered parenting support and guidance; employability training and one-to-one support; partnership working with social housing providers to deliver a holistic employment service; youth and community work. The organisation holds both Investors in People Gold and The Social Enterprise Mark.

Incredible Tuesdays is for young people (up to 24 years old) who have significant learning or physical disabilities and their siblings. Previously funded through a Somerset County Council grant, Inspired to Achieve took over the running of the group 2 years ago.

Project

Recently, the group have faced challenges with finding a suitable venue following the closure of Morley House. The group have now found the right venue and are applying for funding to enable them to continue delivering the project whilst implementing a new stable management structure to take the group forward. The group will be moving to St James Church, Preston Road on March 22nd 2016, which will allow the group to provide hot meals and also teach the young people independent living skills such as budgeting for food, shopping and preparing meals.

Incredible Tuesdays supports young people to fulfill their educational and skills potential to maximise their life chances and opportunities in a fun and safe environment appropriate to their needs. The group strives to improve the quality of their lives through making opportunities more accessible. Sessions include: life skills (independent living, employability and skills, job hunting); sports and recreation and outreach visits to country parks, the sea-side and tourist attractions; delivery of housing and benefit advice; keeping young people and vulnerable adults safe in their physical and on-line communities. The group also provides support for parents and carers through respite care. There is a nominal weekly attendance fee of £2.

I2a work with local educators to identify and engage young people who would benefit from the group. They encourage peer referrals and link with external providers such as The National Autism Society. The average group size is 15 but i2a aim to support 35 young people throughout this year. The group runs for 39 weeks per year as well as providing trips throughout the holidays (these are funded separately through Somerset County Council's Short Breaks scheme).

The group leaders are either professionally qualified youth workers or information advice and guidance practitioners and therefore have the necessary skills, knowledge and networks to provide a service that can make life changing differences to young people with physical and learning disabilities.

The NDO recommends approval of the grant application as group has set objectives that meet SSDC's strategic priorities to provide activities for young people and to support education, skills and employment development. The group has been running for almost 20 years and this is their first request for funding from this committee.

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 Equalities Impact	6	7
C Evidence of Need	3	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	3	7
F Innovation	1	3
<i>Grand Total</i>	26	37

Funding Breakdown

Funding Sources	% Funding of the Total Cost	Amount of Funding (£)	Status
Parish and Town Councils	33	3000	Pending
National Career Interviews	6	500	Secured

Yarlington Housing Group	11	1000	Pending
User Contributions	11	1000	Secured
SSDC Area South Grants	39	3500	This application
Total Project Cost	100%	9000	

The majority of young people who attend the group are from Yeovil but young people do attend from various communities within Area South, so the group are also applying for funding from Yeovil Town Council and also surrounding Parish Councils.

Beyond April 2017, following the development of the project, i2a intend to better align themselves with large scale funders such as the Big Lottery, DWP Work Programme and large charitable organisations. This grant would help the project to continue in the meantime, while the group work to become more sustainable and less reliant on local grants.

Financial Implications

The uncommitted 2015/16 grants budget stands at £3,547. If members agree this award of £3,500, it will leave £47 in the budget. This under spend will be returned to corporate funds at the end of March, as part of the financial year end procedures.

Grant Conditions

The grant would be subject to all the standard grant conditions.

The grant offer would be made based on the information provided in the application form and would represent up to 39% of the total project costs (the final payment may be reduced if the costs of the total project are less than originally anticipated, however payment will not exceed the grant amount approved at committee).

Corporate Priority Implications

The project contributes to the following Corporate Focus Area:
Focus Four: Health and Communities

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

Project is to allow young people with physical disabilities or additional learning needs to fulfil their educational and skills potential, to maximise their life chances and opportunities in a safe environment appropriate to their needs.

Background Papers: None