

Somerset Care and Repair (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Strategic Director – Place and Performance
Assistant Director: Kim Close, Assistant Director - Communities
Service Manager: Kim Close, Area Development Manager - South
Lead Officer: Natalie Ross, Community Development Officer
Contact Details: natalie.ross@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462956

Purpose of the Report

To consider funding towards the Active and InTouch Project.

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 a grant award of £5,000. £4,856 from the Area South Community Grants budget and the remaining £144 from the Neighbourhood Development Officer's budget.

Background

Somerset Care and Repair are a Home Improvement Agency providing a range of practical services and home adaptations designed to support elderly, disabled and vulnerable people and enable them to continue to live safe, warm and secure within their own homes.

The organisation promotes independence, reduces the need for residential care and hospital admissions and improves the quality of life for the client group. They provide services throughout the whole of the Somerset and all of Bath and North East Somerset.

The group are also working with SSDC to reduce empty properties and have recently bought 22 homes back in to use.

Project

Through their work, the organisation has identified that many of their clients have additional needs beyond housing. Many clients are isolated and not engaging with their community. This can cause mental health issues, and subsequent physical health problems, and also reduce chances of gaining employment.

The organisation worked with the very successful Active and InTouch project that was run by Vista in the Birchfield area of Yeovil last year. Sadly, Vista closed in December 2014 so they ended the Active and InTouch project in November. Active and InTouch worked by encouraging volunteers to support other isolated members of their community. Volunteers helped other residents to access support and advice. They also set up new activity groups based on residents interests or supported them by accompanying them to existing groups that they did not have the confidence to join on their own.

Somerset Care and Repair would like to take over running the Active and Intouch project. The project was successful in helping isolated residents to take part in community activities and many of the groups that were established are still running as they were set up to be user led and sustainable. These groups include a gardening group, knit and natter group and a widow support group. Somerset Care and Repair would like to extend the area covered by the original project and use the lessons learned to benefit other communities in Yeovil.

This application is recommended for approval as the original project was very successful and only ceased through circumstances beyond its control.

Ward Members Comments

Cllr David Ricardo commented that it is a worthy cause and he is supportive of the 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 Equality Impact	2	7
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	4	7
F Innovation	1	3
<i>Grand Total</i>	24	37

Funding Breakdown

Funding Sources	% Funding of the Total Project Cost	Amount of Funding (£)	Status
Town Council	6	1000	Pending
Own Funds	12	2000	Secured
Local Funders i.e. Somerset Community Foundation	26	4620	Pending
Yarlington Housing Group	28	5000	Secured
SSDC Area South Grants	28	5000	This application
Total Project Cost	100%	17,620	

Financial Implications

The uncommitted 2014/15 community budget stands at £4,856. If members agree to award £5,000 this will conclude the grants budget for this year. The remaining £144 would be covered by the current underspend in the NDO's delegated budget.

Corporate Priority Implications

The project contributes to the Council Plan Focus Four: Health and Communities

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None.

Background Papers: None.