

SMALL REVENUE GRANTS

Name of Organisation	:	4 th East Grinstead Scout Group
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Contribution towards a (second-hand) vehicle for towing equipment
Total Project Cost	:	£8,000
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£4,000
Previous Grants	:	Spotlight 2006/7 - £415
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information:

The 4th East Grinstead Scout Group located at Trinity Methodist Church, East Grinstead, established in 1981, provides scouting activities to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The minimum age to join is 6 years, they current have 83 members and the cost is £35 per term.

The Group has requested a grant of £4,000 to contribute towards the purchase of a second-hand vehicle, total cost around £8,000, which is suitable for towing a two tonne trailer laden with scout camping equipment. Their present vehicle is 20 years old and has broken down numerous times in the last year (including on the M1 on the way home from Scout summer camp). It has become very unreliable and uneconomic to repair.

The vehicle is essential for towing their trailer containing the camping equipment. It is also used to support their fundraising activities.

They have links with other Scout groups and have participated in joint activities and camps with them and lend/borrow camping equipment from each other.

Currently the group organises one Beaver sleepover (6 to eight year olds), one Cub summer camp (eight to 11 year olds), three weekend Scout camps and one week log summer Scout camp (11 to 15 year olds). These camps allow the members to experience living and sleeping outdoors and working as a team. The Scouts have to cook all their meals, as a patrol, over an open wood fire.

In addition, they are looking to expand the group by opening an Explorer Unit (15 to 18 year olds). Again, this will involve camps and expeditions requiring the use of a vehicle.

Without the vehicle to tow the equipment to camp, none of these camps would be able to go ahead or would be prohibitively expensive as they would need to hire a van on each occasion.

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2014, which show a deficit of £206.

Total income was £16,925; mainly generated from Camps (£6,643), Subscriptions (£5,155), Fundraising (£4,488), Gift Aid rebate (£559) and Miscellaneous (£80).

Total expenditure was £17,131; mainly consisting of Supplies and Services (£14,260), Premises (£1,961) and Transport (£909).

No balance sheet was provided.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Scout Group indicated that the purchase of a replacement vehicle capable of towing a large trailer full of tents, cooking equipment and all the other equipment required to run a camp would be necessary in order for the Group to continue to offer this activity, and that it would not be cost effective to hire a suitable vehicle. The Assessment Group were unsure whether this would be the case as no figures were provided to back this up.

The Assessment Group were uneasy about the request for a contribution towards a second-hand vehicle and the precedent this would create. They felt that consideration should be given by the Scout Group to investigate the possibility of hiring a vehicle, or even two vehicles if not fitted with tow bars, from a community transport operator which may be more cost effective in the long run as there would be no on-going maintenance or insurance costs.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – Opportunities and Quality of Life for All. The newer more reliable vehicle to tow the camping equipment would enable all those wishing to take part in the camps the opportunity to do so. Camping trips teach children and young people to plan outdoor menus, exhibit safe open fire cooking methods and produce a well-cooked meal with limited resources; it also increases self-confidence, enables them to gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities.

Recommendation

Nil

Name of Organisation	:	East Grinstead Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Projector (Epsom EB-W18)
Total Project Cost	:	£587
Amount of Grant Sought	:	
Previous Grants	:	2014/15 Partnership Agreement Core Funding - £13,440
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	2014/15 – £20,798 Core Funding

Background information:

East Grinstead Council for Voluntary Service, based at East Court, provides support for voluntary and community groups in the East Grinstead and surrounding areas.

The CVS provide a wealth of support services to local organisations and have a membership of over 120 groups. They offer governance advice to emerging and newly formed organisations, funding searches and fundraising ideas, finding volunteers, support in developing volunteering, training opportunities, development work, e-bulletins, newsletters and general advice and information about any issues affecting the voluntary and community sector. In addition, the service provides representation for the voluntary and community sector at local and strategic level meetings and fora enabling a two way exchange of information. They are members of Mid Sussex Liaison Group which organises Network Meetings to bring local groups together for mutual support and to discuss issues of common interest.

The CVS hold regular training courses and events for voluntary and community groups in East Grinstead. They do not own a projector and have to borrow one for events held in the East Grinstead area. For events held at East Court they can borrow one from East Grinstead Town Council, although this is not always available (if they are allocated a free room booking) as other paid hirers and local councillors get priority. In the past they have borrowed a projector from Mid Sussex South CVS but this involves travelling to Burgess Hill to collect and then return the projector which is not a good use of staff time, plus it is not always available for them to use. Consequently, there have been many times when they have had to run events without a projector.

The projector would also be made available for East Grinstead groups to use.

Head of Finance Comments

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2014, which show a surplus of £6,578.

Total income was £56,637; generated from Grants and Funding (£56,637).

Total expenditure was £50,059; mainly comprising of Staff related (£36,703) and Supplies and Services (£13,356).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £34,723, which comprised of Cash £37,463, Debtors £2,266 and Creditors (£5,006).

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Assessment Group considered that the purchase of EGCVS's own projector would enable training to be delivered more efficiently and effectively. It would save them money in staff time/mileage as they would not need to travel across the district to collect and return the borrowed projector and will enable trainers and presenters to provide a more professional delivery to groups.

The projector would, additionally, be made available to their 120 member groups.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – EGCVS supports third sector groups by offering accessible information and support to local groups, particularly those working with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in their locality. They provide help in areas such as governance, quality, policies and procedures, business planning and funding including one to one support and training opportunities. They help new groups to get established and meet unmet need and existing groups to improve their offer. EGCVS also represent the voluntary and community sector at local fora and strategic meetings.

Better Services – The project will bring an improvement in the delivery of their events by delivering presentations through a laptop/projector. There have been instances when they have not been able to obtain a projector and the trainer had to write up presentations on a flip chart. The purchase of a projector would also make better use of staff time as they will not have to travel to Burgess Hill to borrow one (if available).

Recommendation

£587

Name of Organisation	:	Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Equipment for outdoor activities programme
Total Project Cost	:	£1,294
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£1,294
Previous Grants	:	N/A
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information:

The Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network was established in February 2007 to perform conservation work for wildlife and wildlife habitats in and around Burgess Hill, as well as providing informative and educational activities throughout the year. All their activities are free except for their indoor talks, for which a small admission charge of £2-3 for people over 16 years (under 16 free) is made in order to cover the cost of the hall and speaker.

The group provide a programme of outdoor activities, many aimed at children though not excluding adults, such as bat walks, meadow sweeping and hedge-beating for “minibeasts”, pond dipping, small mammal surveys and exotic reptile handling with special emphasis on their annual Children’s Safari which has been growing in popularity each year attracting over 500 in July 2014. They aim to provide additional free holiday activities for children, especially during the summer.

They have received extremely positive feedback from children and adults who have attended their events.

The request to the Council is for a range of additional equipment which would enable the group to offer more free events and help them to cope with growing numbers attending their events without the need for people to wait a long time for their turn to take part.

The equipment request is for meadow sweeping nets, bat detectors, free standing bug cage, hanging butterfly cage with support rods, collecting pots, magnifying pots, field microscope, small mammal trap, microclimate thermostat, electronic lamp controller, basking lamp, ceramic heating bulb, ceramic heating bulb socket and flex and two second-hand 3ft and 2ft 6” vivariums from the RSPCA, total cost £1,294.

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2014, which show a deficit of £1,165.

Total income was £3,959; mainly generated from Donations (£1,670), Fundraising (£1,220), Subscriptions (£1,064) and Interest (£5).

Total expenditure was £5,124; consisting of Supplies and Services (£5,124). Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £7,290, which comprised of Cash £7,290.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Assessment Group were supportive of this application as they considered that this is a one-off request for equipment which will enable the Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle to cope with the growing number of people attending their successful events.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – Opportunities and Quality of Life for All. Studies have proved the value of the countryside, not only through walking and other healthy activities in the fresh open air, but also the therapeutic effects of enjoying wildflowers and trees and the occasional glimpses of wild creatures. These are lasting benefits for children and adults alike which their educational and conservation work can only foster.

Better Environment – The Friends encourage people to take a lasting interest in the wildlife around them and in the preservation of their habitats for all to enjoy. They aim to encourage people of all ages to appreciate and cherish open spaces and resident wildlife so that they will seek to preserve them for future generations. To help achieve this aim, they promote enjoyable educational activities and simple wildlife surveys.

Recommendation

£1,294

Name of Organisation	:	Kangaroos
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Contribution towards PALS Saturday Club and Playscheme
Total Project Cost	:	£74,100
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£5,000
Previous Grants	:	1993/94 - £350 1994/95 - £1,000 1997/98 - £600 1999/00 - £550 2003/04 - £750 2005/06 - £2,000 2006/07 - £2,000 2008/09 - £2,300 2009/10 - £2,080 2010/11 - £2,800 2011/12 - £2,500 2012/13 - £2,000 2013/14 - £2,000
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	£8,000

Background information:

Kangaroos Playschemes for special needs children, established in 1994, run Saturday Clubs, Holiday Playschemes and other appropriate out of school activities for children and young people living in Mid Sussex with severe learning disabilities, many of whom have additional behavioural, physical or sensory problems, as well as a number with Autism and Epilepsy. They aim to provide stimulating activities for the children in a caring, happy and safe environment where they have the opportunity to interact with their peers.

Kangaroos, a registered charity, is seeking funding for their PALS (Play, Activities, Laughter and Support) Saturday Club and Playscheme for children with severe learning disabilities age from six to 12. PALS runs throughout the year and offers a range of activities tailored to the needs of the members. Their scheme creates an extremely safe and structured environment in which the children can play whilst being supported by experienced, qualified staff as well as young volunteers.

Increasingly they have children with more complex needs joining them with medical requirements as well as increased numbers on the autistic spectrum who need specific strategies applied in a structured manner. The range of needs catered for at PALS is becoming more diverse and complex, requiring increased planning and appropriate staffing. They provide 1:1 support for the majority of the children and 2:1 for all who require it.

PALS currently has a membership of 42 children but even though they have accommodated 15 new children from their waiting list, the list keeps growing reflecting the needs for their services in the local area. At PALS they support children with a vast range of disabilities, including severe autism, complex epilepsy, Fragile X Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy. In addition almost half of the children at PALS have profound and multiple learning disabilities, complex and severe epilepsy, complex visual and hearing impairments, limited mobility and/or profound communication difficulties.

This is the only scheme in the local area which caters for the needs of this group, providing opportunities for children with severe learning disabilities to have fun, interact with their peers, learn new skills and enjoy new experiences independently of their families.

Fun activities include singing, games, playing with their parachute, small world activities, role-play, magic shows, dancing, playing on scooters and bikes, basketball, football, playing on the Wii and walks into town. They also have a wide selection of toys and equipment to suit the varied needs of the children.

In addition, during the holidays they organise trips out appropriate to the needs of the children's ages and abilities. These have included Hindleap Warren, Knockhatch Adventure Park, the seaside, Butlins, Guildford Ice Rink, Thames Valley Adventure Playground, Southwater Park and the Bluebell Railway.

Last year Kangaroos were awarded The Queens Award for voluntary Service which is the highest award that can be given to voluntary organisations.

Head of Finance Comments

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2014, which show a deficit of £51,540.

Total income was £273,560; mainly generated from Grants (£194,832), Charitable activities and resources (£52,210), Donations (£26,505) and Interest (£13).

Total expenditure was £325,100; mainly comprising of Staff related (£220,344) and Supplies and Services (£104,756).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £9,265, which comprised of Tangible Assets £16,810, Cash £16,958 and Creditors (£24,503).

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

PALS provide opportunities for children with learning disabilities to have fun, interact with their peers, learn new skills and enjoy new experiences independently of their families. These children are not able to access mainstream activities and do not usually get opportunities to spend time with their friends or make new friends, outside school. Kangaroos is a service led organisation and their members are at the heart of all planning and development of their service.

The schemes are run by qualified staff but they rely on volunteers from local schools and colleges to help provide the 1:1 care that many of their members need. Kangaroos has a growing waiting list and is the only scheme of this type in the area which caters for the needs of children with severe learning disabilities.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – Opportunities and Quality of Life for All. The children benefit considerably by having their own club where they can enjoy activities, meet friends, make new friends and experience leisure activities that other young people take for granted. It helps to build the children's confidence and self-esteem by providing them with activities they can do away from their families. PALS also provides families with a short break to do things that they cannot do with their special needs child around.

Recommendation

£2,500

Name of Organisation	:	Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus
Purpose for which Grant is	:	Contribution towards the Advisor, Social and Buddy Service
Total Project Cost	:	£6,997 Mid Sussex Area
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£2,000
Previous Grants	:	2006/7- £500 2008/9 - £500 2009/10 - £1,000 2010/11 - £1,000 2011/12 - £1,000 2012/13 - £750 2013/14 - £800
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	2014/15 - £4,666

Background information

SASBAH, a registered charity based in Worthing, was established in 1965 in response to the growing demand for support services for those with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus in Sussex. SASBAH looks at social, medical and other needs and, on an individual basis, aims to empower every member and provide the means for that person to live life to the full. The organisation's services include education, advice, general information advice, support and advocacy, family support, involvement with a housing project, social events, residential weekends, youth clubs, newsletter, website and a specialist clinic.

Since its inception, SASBAH has gradually increased both their services and membership, so that they now offer support for nearly 500 people of all ages in the counties of East and West Sussex, and Brighton and Hove. They deliver a wide range of services and programmes, all based on needs identified by service users themselves, who are represented at all levels of the organisation up to Trustee level, where nearly half of the Trustees are themselves service users.

Spina bifida occurs early in pregnancy and is a defect in the development of the spine when one or more vertebrae fail to close properly, leaving a gap. The spinal cord and nerves can be damaged, resulting in total paralysis below the defect. Many with the condition are permanently confined to a wheelchair or have severe mobility problems. Hydrocephalus is an excess of cerebro-spinal fluid in the head, often, but not necessarily, present at birth. Hydrocephalus can also be acquired later in life through trauma of one form or another, or through still unknown causes in people over age 50. The symptoms in later life can be associated with, and often mistaken for, dementia.

The Advisor service provides (through home visits, telephone and/or email) round-the-clock information, advice, support and advocacy in many different subjects, including health care, housing, transport, financial benefits, employment, family support and help towards independent living. This service is currently subject to increasing demand as a result of changes to Government policy and support for those with disabilities.

The Social Programme offers a full and varied programme of social events throughout the year (many taking place in Mid Sussex) but with assisted transport offered and open to Mid Sussex residents.

The Sussex Buddy Scheme offers disabled people a one-to-one befriending service to enable them to access community facilities and to engage in community social activity.

The Mid Sussex Local Support Group, which meets monthly, enabling local service users and their families to share experiences, improve understanding of the condition, combat social isolation, gain access locally to SASBAH support services and keep SASBAH informed of their needs.

Currently there are 37 service users in Mid Sussex and a grant of £2,000 has been requested to contribute towards the costs to provide the Advisor Service, Social Programme and Buddy Scheme.

Head of Finance Comments

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st December 2013, which show a deficit of £618.

Total income was £220,766; mainly generated from Activities (£183,633), Donations (£36,089) and Interest (£1,044).

Total expenditure was £221,384; mainly comprising of Staff related (£139,421) and Supplies and Services (£81,963).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £132,302, which comprised of Tangible assets £13,954, Cash £121,961, Debtors £42,046 and Creditors (£45,659).

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

SASBAH's wide range of services and programmes are designed to offer direct support and increase opportunities in life for each person in Mid Sussex with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus. All are linked and provide a fully integrated pathway for people to develop, learn and grow towards sustained independence wherever possible. All SASBAH staff are able to refer people to the most appropriate form of support and each person is able to take advantage of as many of their services as they wish.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – Opportunities and Quality of Life for All. SASBAH provides specialist support to enable people with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, and their families, to sustain fuller and more active lives in their community and in society as a whole. Both the Advisor Service and Social Programmes focus on social inclusion and independent living through helping service users create and develop opportunities for involvement in community life, thereby helping them towards a richer and more fulfilling life.

Recommendation

£800

Name of Organisation	:	Tadpoles Swimming Club for the Disabled
Purpose for which Grant is	:	Contribution towards Replacement Equipment, Pool Hire Costs and Training
Total Project Cost	:	£3,300
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£1,000
Previous Grants	:	2009/10 - £500 2010/11 - £860 (S106) 2012/13 - £500 2013/14 - £550
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information:

Established in 1982, Tadpoles swimming Club provide rehabilitation and social contact through swimming for people with disabilities. The club currently based at The Kings Centre, East Grinstead, provides this valuable service to Mid Sussex residents that could benefit from water therapy.

The club has over 50 people attending regular weekly sessions. The current membership is a very mixed group of children, men and women, whose ages range from 10 years to over 80 years old. The range of disabilities is also very varied and includes cerebral palsy, amputees, strokes, multiple sclerosis, the severe/partially sighted and arthritics. Members pay an annual subscription of £2 and 50p each time they swim.

The benefits of swimming are recognised as one of the best forms of therapy for people with disabilities. From the sensation of floating in the water for the most severely disabled to actually learning to swim for the more able. Movement of the body gives a sense of freedom for the disabled and those with limited movement.

The Club has requested a grant of £1,000 to contribute towards replacement equipment, pool hire costs and training.

The Club are reliant on grants to continue running as sponsorship from local businesses of individual sessions has very much diminished and pool hire costs continue at nearly £60 per session.

Club members continue to benefit from the swimming activities as evidenced by the continued high level of attendance and feedback of enhanced quality of life of the members.

East Grinstead Town Council has awarded the Club £400.

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2013, which show a surplus of £87.

Total income was £10,442; mainly generated from Donations (£9,680), Subscriptions (£523), Fundraising (£230) and Interest (£9). Total expenditure was £10,355; mainly comprising of Supplies and Services (£10,355). No Balance Sheet was provided.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Tadpoles Swimming Club for the Disabled is vital in providing people predominately in the north of district with disabilities and rehabilitation needs with a swimming and social contact session.

By attending swimming sessions their members enjoy social contact with other people with disabilities and also able bodied people, increase their self-confidence and learn to cope better with their physical and mental problems, thus ensuring a better quality of life.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – Opportunities and Quality of Life for All. Through active participation under trained supervision, the Club members gain self-confidence, learn to swim and become more active in water, including cases of temporary disability such as strokes or surgery, assisting rehabilitation.

Recommendation

£600