



Supplementary Agenda: Aylesbury Community Board

Date: Tuesday 17 November 2020

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: MS Teams

Membership:

B Adams, C Adams, M Bateman, J Bloom, S Chapple, A Christensen, A Cole, T Hunter-Watts, N Hussain, T Hussain, A Huxley, S Jarvis, R Khan, R King, S Lambert, G Moore, S Morgan, G Powell, W Raja, B Roberts, B Russel, M Smith, M Stamp, A Waite, J Ward and M Winn (Chairman)

Aylesbury Town Council; Buckingham Park Parish Council; Coldharbour Parish Council

Please note that this meeting will be recorded and will subsequently be available to view via the Buckinghamshire Council website.

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
10 Funding Ratification To be presented by Councillor Mark Winn.	8.15pm	3 - 22

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Anne-Marie Kenward on 01296 382236, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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Aylesbury Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date of Decision 17/11/2020

Organisation Name	Community Youth Ventures CIC
Project Name	Mobile Outreach Unit
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£21,026.81
Amount of Match Funding	£6,000.00
Amount being applied for	£15,026.81
Amount suggested	£15,026.81

Project Summary

[Community Youth Ventures](#) (CYV) are a community interest company that focus on inspiring young lives through innovative and diversionary activities. Their aim is to empower young people to make positive choices, enhance their opportunities and widen their horizons, including the impact and support within the community around them.

CYV provides strategic oversight and expertise as well as direct youth engagement through a range of youth programmes and projects. Changes to the youth sector for both statutory and voluntary areas along with the rise in exclusions from education and the development of destructive habits young people have lost faith in the possibilities that await them.

Covid-19 has meant that 2020 has been a tremendously stressful and demanding time for everyone, for young people the amount of inconsistency and change has been dramatic. Lack of routine, a reduction in places open that they can access independently, absence of educational structure and a greater void left by services unable to offer the amount of support required. CYV are therefore seeking for funding towards a Youth Outreach Unit for Aylesbury as a robust movement towards stronger intervention, support, engagement and access for young people. It will provide a safe place they can meet, have fun and develop new skills without restriction of needing a venue or to travel far from home.

During ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, CYV can offer outreach work in communities offering projects focusing on mental health, sport, healthy eating, music and arts to young people to express themselves at this difficult time whilst building relationships and championing inclusion. It would support families by offering parents respite by giving their children positive activities in their spare time reducing family conflict, breakdown and isolation.

The Aylesbury Community Board Area is the largest and most up built area of North Bucks, combining old and new estates with the town centre. This lends itself to providing a diverse selection of areas that be reached with this project. The mobile Outreach Unit will be assigned to three key hotspot areas across Aylesbury – Bedgrove, Walton Court and Buckingham Park. Identified by a need analysis conducted through statements from services in the Aylesbury area, local data reports and national statistics. Using the bus in targeted areas of need due to high crime and negative behaviours; working with Thames Valley Police (TVP) around safeguarding issues in local communities from all types of backgrounds. Combined with providing a

unique engagement tool in areas of deprivation, lack of provision or youth engagement. There is also the added benefit of the community impact, a tool for cohesion and a chance to reduce isolation. Bringing a positive presence to areas common for street crime, drug lines or people involved in Anti-Social Behaviour. Validating the need for communities to feel valued, included and appreciated by local government within the services they receive.

The mobile Unit will provide regular visits to parts of the area where there is little or no youth provision in the evenings or across the weekend. The provision will offer young people a safe place to go where they can share their worries in a calm settled environment with professionally trained staff. The mobile Unit will complement existing youth/ community provision in the area, from specialist services to uniformed or sports groups. With the ability to work alongside schools requiring extra facilities or in more rural settings with restricted public transport. For CYV, part of the reasoning for getting the mobile Youth Outreach Unit will be to establish the demand for youth facilities in the more isolated parts of the county once the pilot phase is completed, giving thought to the need of more permanent centres or provision. Young people will see the Youth Outreach Unit as their space, giving them something to identify with, something to do and the chance to meet other young people; including for those deemed as most vulnerable.

The mobile unit will provide a space for:

- Cooking, health and nutrition
- Targeted youth projects (gender specific groups, issue based, employability or training)
- Positive Activities for Young People
- Driving course simulator or similar online courses
- Information point near the entrance full of leaflets covering everything from local events, to booklets on where to go for help for foodbanks to alcohol use.
- A list of confidential helplines will also be displayed.
- Music training schemes
- Craft projects
- Games and competitions
- Peer advice sessions
- Youth participation projects
- Access to help, support and guidance with professional workers providing ket role models
- Alternative education facility

The need for this intervention has been highlighted through numerous channels:

1. Local crime statistics published by Thames Valley Police
2. Areas of poverty within Aylesbury highlighted by the Department for Work and Pensions
3. Area data looking at Crime, Child Poverty and Mental Health Heart of Bucks- Buckinghamshire Uncovered Report
4. Search results for existing youth provision in Aylesbury on <https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/>
5. Discussions with workers from CAMHS trailblazers, TVP, YOS, VAHT Buckinghamshire Council Family Support Community Youth Development Manager.
6. Sport England (July 2020) reported on the results of the unprecedented disruption and behaviour changes felt by 7-16 years across England. 31% were less active as normal through lockdown, only 16% met or exceeded the recommended 60 mins of activity per day.
7. Barnardo's- Mental Health and Covid19 'In our own words report' highlights "Too many children and young people are having to meet crisis point before they access support - children and young people said they wanted to be supported with their mental health and wellbeing at the earliest possible stage, before their needs escalate."

Other partners involved in this project:

The Youth Outreach Unit is able to be used to support other services work within Aylesbury: for example, SWITCH or CAMHS Trailblazers could attend sessions offering bespoke support to young people on topics such as drugs and alcohol awareness or anger management to bereavement. The Unit can be used as a 'hook' for active sessions, music tutorials, cooking events, fitness sessions or other activity days in collaboration with Active in Communities CIC, Fitness Garden or Leap. With other uses as an outreach tool for the Healthy Living Centre, Aylesbury Town Council Youth Council or as a meeting point for environmental projects with Chiltern Rangers.

Who in the community will benefit?

- Children & young people
- Families
- Carers
- TVP/ Community Safety
- Schools and teachers
- Town and Parish councils
- Support Services (statutory)
- Local Community members
- Local businesses, e.g. young people not hanging out by supermarkets etc

How does the project address local priorities?

Health & Wellbeing, Enhancing the Lives of our Young People, Community Safety: The Aylesbury Public Health Community Board Profile 2020 demonstrates that Aylesbury has a higher proportion of children living in income deprived households or poverty (19.1%) compared with the County average (12.1%), but similar to the England average (18.2%). Aylesbury has a higher proportion of overweight or obese Year 6 children (37.2%) compared with the County average (29.4%). Aylesbury ranks amongst the highest for emergency admissions to hospital overall, for both adults and children compared with the other Community Boards. Aylesbury has 13,481 residents living in households at higher risk of food poverty – 16.9% of the County total. It also has a higher rate of domestic abuse related incidents and crime than the County average. With these statistics in mind, as well as the rise in mental health concerns for young people themselves, but also those impacted by the mental health of someone in their household or family, the need for young people to have an outlet and support is paramount.

As in January 2020 mental health statistics for England: prevalence, services and funding noted one in six people aged 16+ reported having symptoms of a common mental disorder in the week before being surveyed. Emotional wellbeing has been defined as: "A positive state of mind and body, feeling safe and able to cope, with a sense of connection with people, communities and the wider environment." (World Health Organization. 2007). Although any child can experience mental health problems, those at greater risk are children who have one or a number of risk factors in the following domains:

- from low-income households; families where parents are unemployed or families where parents have low educational attainment.
- who are looked after by the local authority.
- with disabilities (including learning disabilities.)
- from black and other ethnic minority groups.
- who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)

- who are in or have family members involved the criminal justice system.
- who have a parent with a mental health problem.
- who are misusing substances.
- who are refugees or asylum seekers.
- in gypsy and traveller communities.
- who are being or at risk of abuse or witness abuse within the home.

The negative impacts for young people -particularly in the last 6 months- has escalated by the closure of places and venues young people normally attend to be active, including any extracurricular activities they may have been involved in and outside school. There is also heightened anxiety and worry about mixing with others outside the home or not being allowed to participate in activities or socialisation by parents or guardians. There is reduced capacity of support services able to meet with young people face to face and reduced services opening their doors at all or over the evenings or weekends. Meaning the support, the friendly face and listening ear may not be as common as CYV would like.

A Youth Outreach Unit allows interaction to take place safely, in a place that is accessible; somewhere that is 'their space' and give them a chance to work with professionals in a circumstance-based service, access advice and guidance as well as participate in positive activities, develop new skills, relax and have fun.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

The project is supported by Buckinghamshire Council's (BC) Early Help Support Service who have a key priority to 'develop a responsive offer to VCS youth organisations to meet local needs.' This includes a partnership approach. Historically, Buckinghamshire Council had a Youth Service Mobile and Detached Team who had a mobile outreach that delivered a number of positive community projects across Bucks to address local needs in relation to youth Anti-Social Behaviour in particular- CYV's project would fill this void.

The former Youth Service is now part of the Family Support Service and the main focus of the service is around targeted 1-1 support for the most vulnerable individuals and families. However, it recognises the need for community, detached and outreach work, so partnership working with VCS partners is absolutely crucial.

CYV's project also compliments the key priorities from the BC Early Help Strategy to build and maintain the Early Help partnership to increase opportunities to allocate relevant support to families & children and to ensure that partnerships are developed with Early Help organisations as listed in the Early Help strategy.

The project would also support Buckinghamshire Council's Safer Bucks Plan to address issues with Serious Youth Violence including though: Identifying and mapping community assets that can support delivery of safeguarding, diversionary activities; Identifying neighbourhoods and settings at most risk of serious violence and develop engagement activities to build resilience to crime and the factors which may draw young people towards crime; Utilising youth workers within the community to identify opportunities to deliver outreach youth work in "hotspot" areas.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The project achieves value for money through providing additional value to Buckinghamshire Council services. CYV have delivered successful projects in Buckinghamshire in the past 2 years and are an

appropriate funder for this type of project. The total value of this scheme is £21,086.81 and the Community Board is asked to allocate £15,086.81. £6,000 in match funding is being provided to this project- £4,000 has been confirmed from the Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood, Safeguarding & Problem-Solving team and CYV will be providing £2,000 from their reserves. The Community Board funding would be allocated as follows:

£7,800: Contribution towards mobile Youth Outreach Unit (inc. renovations and branding, insurance, equipment). CYV are planning to purchase a second-hand vehicle and have provided indicative quotes.

The project will include a minimum of 120 hours mobile unit use alongside face to face delivery:

£2,100: Southcourt/Walton Court- 40 hours of face to face time- 10 sessions with 2 youth workers, including 1 hour of set up/down, 1 hour of travel.

£2,100: Bedgrove- 40 hours of face to face time- 10 sessions with 2 youth workers, including 1 hour of set up/down, 1 hour of travel.

£2100: Buckingham Park- 40 hours of face to face time- 10 sessions with 2 youth workers, including 1 hour of set up/down, 1 hour of travel

£500: Planning/Preparation (calls/meetings with local partners including schools, site visits, H&S checks

£60: Artwork for fliers & x3 hours of design work (in house design team)

£66.81: Printing of fliers (250 for each area)

£100: Promotion- social media x 5 hours @ £20 p/h

£200: PAT testing of electrical appliances to meet Health & Safety requirements

CYV will be required to provide financial evidence to show that the funding has been spent as agreed.

Community Board Coordinator comments

This project is supported by Buckinghamshire Council's (BC) Early Help Support Service. A project overview was presented at the Aylesbury Community Board's Health & Wellbeing subgroup, and the Enhancing the Lives of our Youth subgroup, where it was agreed that the aims of the project did meet the priorities of the group. The above therefore provides an indicative view that this project should be funded.

This report has been reviewed by Buckinghamshire Council's Unitary Members and the majority have voted in favour of allocating £15,026.81 of community board funding to towards this project.

The project has therefore been agreed, and the decision will be formally ratified at the Aylesbury Community Board meeting on 17/11/20.

Funding is conditional on CYV providing a Covid-19 risk assessment that details how the project will be delivered in line with national lockdown restrictions and any subsequent localised tiered restrictions that are put in place for Buckinghamshire. The start date of this project may need to be delayed but it is still currently viable to be delivered and completed before 31 March 2022.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.

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Aylesbury Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date of Decision 17/11/2020

Organisation Name	The Healthy Living Centre
Project Name	LGBT+ Friends and Family Hub
Funding Stream	Health & Wellbeing
Total Cost of project	£6,975
Amount of Match Funding	£2,600
Amount being applied for	£4,375
Amount suggested	£4,375

Project Summary

The [Healthy Living Centre](#) (HLC) in partnership with the Aylesbury Vale LGBT Social Group have the aim of establishing a LGBT+ families and friends hub based at The HLC, providing a safe environment for the LGBT+ community to meet on a regular basis. HLC had established a regular meeting on the first Tuesday of each month from Feb 2020, unfortunately shortly after the launch of this activity HLC was forced to close under the Covid-19 restrictions. HLC has now reopened and the group have held their first and second meeting since the Lockdown on 1st September and 6th October. HLC now wish to recommence this LGBT+ social group on a weekly basis for a pilot programme for 6 months and are seeking funding from the Aylesbury Community Board to achieve this.

Aim:

- To provide a specialist LGBT+ Café club - providing a safe space for the LGBT+ community of Aylesbury and the surrounding area to meet on a regular basis in a closed environment in the Café area (Closed group) on a weekly basis
- Provide a specialist [C-card](#) clinic for the LGBT+ community to be held at the same time as the Café activity, hosted by a C-card trained member of staff
- At the same time as the Café club, the HLC would host a range of talks, interactive sessions, healthy living seminars and creative activities to encourage social interaction and encourage befriending to reduce social isolation

How the need has been identified:

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the LGBT community. More than 220 pride celebrations around the world have been cancelled or postponed leaving members of the LGBT+ community isolated. LGBT Asians have faced increased discrimination in line with xenophobia and racism related to the pandemic. LGBT seniors are also more likely to encounter isolation and therefore other health issues. National health organizations have warned that some members of the LGBTQ community may be "particularly vulnerable" to the effects of the disease. Reasons for the increased risk include higher rates of cancer, HIV, and smoking, as well as health care discrimination. There are also concerns about reduced support for LGBTQ people, particularly those who are homeless, and unsafe family environments.

The HLC have held group discussions with partners and interested parties over the last 12 months, these discussions have unanimously given support for a LGBT+ Friends and Family hub to be held in Aylesbury at the HLC. We have identified the needs for a support group open to the Trans community as there is currently no support group for this community in Aylesbury. We are therefore keen to position our meeting as open to all of the LGBT+ community plus any friends or family members. We have recently held sessions on 1st Sept and 6th Oct adhering to the Covid-19 rule of 6 , and have asked attendees to complete a short survey of their needs. There is strong support to hold the LGBT+ Friends and Family hub on a weekly basis and the current participants have indicated the types of activities and interactive sessions that they would like to see in the future.

Representatives from the following groups have offered their support for session held at the Healthy Living Centre and support the LGBT+ community in Aylesbury and the surrounding area Aylesbury Vale Transgender and friend's community including Aylesbury Vale Transgender and friend's community, Aylesbury Vale LGBT social group, Terrance Higgins Trust, SWITCH, Oasis and Healthwatch Bucks.

Beneficiaries:

Going outside without fear is important for mental wellbeing in particular LGBT people of colour (PoC) are more likely to experience discrimination. While they're twice as likely to attend LGBT-specific venues or events as white LGBT people, they have now lost vital safe spaces. HLC will offer a safe space for all members of the LGBT+ community plus their friends and family to meet regularly in a safe environment, we will offer a closed door meeting where individuals can build new friendships and offer support to each other. Together with partner organisations HLC will offer activities and informative talks on the topics of interest raised in the survey. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender people may be more susceptible to mental health problems than heterosexual people due to a range of factors, including discrimination and inequalities. Evidence suggests people identifying as LGBT are at higher risk of experiencing poor mental health with members of the LGBT community being more likely to experience a range of mental health problems such as depression, suicidal thoughts, self-harm and alcohol and substance misuse. This higher prevalence of mental ill health among members of the LGBT community can be attributed to a range of factors such as discrimination, isolation and homophobia. The HLC want to support the LGBT+ community and their families though the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

How does the project address local priorities?

Health & Wellbeing (including Covid-19 social recovery) and Community Safety: The project offers a support service specifically to the LGBT+ community, offering a safe space to meet on a Tuesday evening which is accessible to those who are working during the day. HLC offer the opportunity to come along with friends or family or to simply come along to make new friends and build a local support network. HLC will be open to the whole LGBT+ community in the Aylesbury area. One of HLC's key partnerships in establishing this group is with the Aylesbury Vale LGBT Social Group, who have been seeking a partner and venue to enable the support described above. Using their network of partners HLC can specifically promote this new group to the LGBT+ community and offer a range of specific information sessions for this group. HLC believe it is also important to simply offer a place to meet and catch up, therefore specific talks and activity sessions may be offered in a separate room so that individuals can choose to attend the sessions of interest whilst still offering a relaxed meeting place to those who simply want to come for a coffee.

Supporting the Vulnerable:

In May 2020, the [LGBT Foundation](#) published findings from the largest and most substantive research into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on LGBT communities in the United Kingdom to date. This research has uncovered some of the wide-ranging and profound effects the pandemic has had on the lives of LGBT people in areas such as mental health; isolation; substance misuse; eating disorders; living in unsafe environments; financial impact; homelessness; access to healthcare; and access to support. The data revealed: 42% would like to access support for their mental health at this time, 8% do not feel safe where they are currently staying, 18% are concerned that this situation is going to lead to substance or alcohol misuse or trigger a relapse, 64% said that they would rather receive support during this time from an LGBT specific organisation.

The HLC LGBT+ Friends and Family Hub offers some of our most vulnerable residents the opportunity to meet in a safe space together with friends and family creating a local community where new friendships can develop. In this safe environment we will offer support from local organisations to improve mental health by promoting specialist support services, healthy lifestyles and wellbeing activities thereby reducing social isolation and loneliness.

How does the project achieve value for money?

This project represents good value for the outcomes that can be achieved through providing a new service that engages a minority group and works collaboratively with a number of other local partners.

Cost for elements to be funded by the Community Board can be broken down as follows:

- Oasis Workshops (once per month @ £50 per session) = £300
- Receptionist to open up the HLC out of hours (3hrs per week @ £9/hr)= £675
- Café facility hire (2 hours per week @ £20/hr) =£1000
- Room hire for C card clinic (2 hrs per week @£10/hr)= £500
- HLC project management, organisation of activities and speakers, maintenance and administration overheads (10% of overall project costs)= £400
- Recreational activities, tuition fees for facilitators (2 sessions per month @ £50 per session)= £600
- Arts and craft materials= £500
- Professional fliers for wide distribution - design and print= £400

Match funding in kind compromise of:

- LGBT+ C- card clinic host (THT provide training for HLC staff to host these sessions), Staff costs to be covered by the HLC match funding= £700
- Management coordinator - CEO will supervise sessions on a voluntary basis- HLC match funding= £1100
- Regular Yoga / mindfulness and relaxation (2 sessions per month provided on a voluntary basis) estimated value £300
- Third meeting room to be provided by the HLC for separate sessions/workshops to be held= £500

HLC will be required to provide financial evidence to show that the funding has been as agreed.

Community Board Coordinator comments

This application has been fully assessed in line with the Community Board funding criteria and is recommended as a project which is suitable to receive funding from the Aylesbury Community Board. A representative from The Healthy Living Centre presented at overview of the project at the Aylesbury Community Board's Health & Wellbeing subgroup where it was agreed that the aims of the project did meet the priorities of the group which provides an additional indicative view that this project should be funded.

This report has been reviewed by Buckinghamshire Council's Unitary Members and the majority have voted in favour of allocating £4,375 of community board funding to towards this project.

The project has therefore been agreed, and the decision will be formally ratified at the Aylesbury Community Board meeting on 17/11/20.

Funding is conditional on HLC providing a Covid-19 risk assessment that details how the project will be delivered in line with national lockdown restrictions and any subsequent localised tiered restrictions that are put in place for Buckinghamshire. The start date of this project may need to be delayed but it is still currently viable to be delivered and completed before 31 March 2022.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.



Aylesbury Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date of Decision 17/11/20

Organisation Name	Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity
Project Name	'A Time to Reflect' film
Funding Stream	Health & Wellbeing
Total Cost of project	£1,800
Amount of Match Funding	£0
Amount being applied for	£1,800
Amount suggested	£1,800

Project Summary

The [Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity](#) (FNHC) are a Buckinghamshire based charity who's core service is to provide palliative and end of life care services for people in Buckinghamshire and parts of Oxfordshire and south Bedfordshire.

FNHC hold an annual 'Tree of Light' service in Aylesbury at Christmas to bring together those who want to remember a loved one. The service is secular and is led by the chaplain of the hospice. Attendees have the opportunity to enter a dedication about their loved one into an annual 'Book of Honour', and these dedications are also printed in the Bucks Herald, so families can see their loved one's name, and know others can see it too. Messages are often poignant and touching words to a loved one who is no longer there: *"May each tear and fond memory forever be a message of our love for you", "Missing you is a heartache that never goes away. How I wish you were here"*. The service is free and open to all and more than 500 people attended last year. Of the 284 people who pre-booked tickets, 70% lived in Aylesbury, with the remainder living within a 10 mile radius of the town.

This year, the Tree of Light service is not possible due to COVID-19. FNHC been talking with the hospice and the hospital about how they can help people as they comprehend an unexpected year. Nearly everyone in Aylesbury has experienced a loss of some kind, and FNHC's volunteer committee have been working to find a way to replace the Tree of Light which is relevant for a year when many more people have experienced losses, but not necessarily the loss of a loved one in a hospice.

Whilst the possibility of cancelling the event and not having any remembrance service was considered, FNHC feel that additional support should be given to those whose loved ones had died in the hospice since COVID19. This additional support was thought necessary because those who will have experienced the tragic loss of a loved one during the last six months will simply not have been able to say goodbye to them in the way they would have wanted. At one point the hospice was only allowing a single visitor for the final hours of life, funerals directors had to restrict the number of people at funerals, household mixing was banned. This meant families had to stand outside the hospice deciding the one person to spend the final hours with their loved one. It meant having to decide which friends or family should be invited to a funeral restricted to fifteen people. It meant people grieving alone at home, unable to see friends or family.

FNHC are therefore seeking funding to produce a secular 'A time to reflect' film service available online, aimed at anyone who has used the NHS in Buckinghamshire this year. This would contain music, talks and reflection from 6-8 Bucks NHS staff and volunteers and the film would not have religious content. It would help mark a tumultuous year, and give local people the time to pause, understand and reflect on the impact of COVID-19. The content would be developed and led by a team of volunteers and staff linked to the NHS, so it will represent the community of Aylesbury. It would be distributed via Facebook and YouTube, and FNHC will contact the 1,400 people on their database who have opted in to receive information about remembrance services.

Following the recommendations of committee of volunteers, Hospice staff and NHS staff, FNHC propose that the 30-minute secular service called "A time to reflect" should not only focus on loss by bereavement, but on the loss caused by COVID-19. The film will contain short readings and music from 8 NHS and Hospice staff and volunteers, and cover the following areas: the realities of working in the NHS, the realities of funerals, the reality of losing loved ones, an acknowledgment of the unknown environment we continue to be in, but that we are all in it together, moments of reflection to music and images, a chance to remember and a positive note.

How does the project address local priorities?

Health & Wellbeing: A time to reflect will provide our local community the opportunity to reflect not only on bereavement, made more challenging during a difficult year with Covid-19 pandemic, but also loss in a more general sense as we get used to changes in our daily lives, including other types of loss, such as connection and relationships.

Whilst the video will be recorded it will help create a sense of togetherness for the community, knowing that a message of support is being shared. The video will be accessible to view as and when people feel the time is right for them, supporting their mental health as we head towards Christmas in unprecedented times.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Strengthening our Communities: The film will give individuals the chance to reflect on a very challenging year, and also signpost people to additional support, for example the charity's Volunteer Bereavement Listening service which will help viewers deal with the challenges they face before they become too hard to manage.

The film will also ensure that the local community continues to have an annual opportunity to remember as a community, rather than 2020 being a missing year, at the time it was needed most.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The funding represents good value for money as it will be accessible to all residents of the Aylesbury Community Board who may have been affected in different ways during the Covid-19 pandemic. As the video will be available online it will also be available county wide which provides additional value for

money. FNHC have a good reputation within the local community and have demonstrated that they are a suitable organisation to produce this video having delivered virtual events and projects including their virtual 'Not the Midnight Walk' which replaced the well-known 'Midnight Walk' which attracted over 800 walkers during the pandemic, which evidences that they have a good reach to their audiences.

How the funding will be spent:

- Filming and editing of the film by professional videographer four days @£400 per day= £1,600
- Promotion of the service on social media and in local funeral directors= £200
- Total cost =£1,800

Community Board Coordinator comments

This application has been fully assessed in line with the Community Board funding criteria and is recommended as a project which is suitable to receive funding from the Aylesbury Community Board.

A representative from FNHC presented at overview of the project at the Aylesbury Community Board's Health & Wellbeing subgroup, where it was agreed that the aims of the project did meet the priorities of the group which provides an additional indicative view that this project should be funded.

This report has been reviewed by Buckinghamshire Council's Unitary Members and the majority have voted in favour of allocating £1,800 of community board funding to towards this project.

The project has therefore been agreed, and the decision will be formally ratified at the Aylesbury Community Board meeting on 17/11/20.

Funding is conditional on FNHC providing a Covid-19 risk assessment that details how production of the video will meet requirements for national lockdown restrictions and any subsequent localised tiered restrictions that are put in place for Buckinghamshire.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.

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Aylesbury Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date of Decision 17/11/2020

Organisation Name	Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault & Abuse Support Service
Project Name	Crisis Counsellor
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£21,391
Amount of Match Funding	£10,696
Amount being applied for	£10,696
Amount suggested	£10,696

Project Summary

[Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault & Abuse Support Service](#) (SAASS) are a local charity whose primary aim is to provide support, information, advice and guidance to victims and survivors, empowering and enabling them to work with the trauma and suffering caused to them and their loved ones by sexual assault and abuse, including non-recent and childhood sexual abuse.

SAASS provide holistic support to women and men over 16 living in the north of Buckinghamshire and accept self-referrals and referrals from voluntary and statutory organisations. SAASS currently support individuals by providing Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG), up to 24 face to face counselling sessions, Advocacy, group therapy, Thrive 2gether weekly drop-in service and cyber therapy (including webchat, counselling telephone support), Referral to the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service, telephone helpline and emotional support. Services are delivered, when possible, from premises in Aylesbury or online or by telephone.

Last year 139 of SAASS service users are adults who were sexually abused and assaulted when they were children mostly by family members, 185 people had non recent experiences and 273 were recent incidents. 163 reported that they had been abused multiple times. 308 unique individuals from Aylesbury Vale were supported.

SAASS are looking for funding to set up a pilot crisis counselling service for 14 months, in response to increased need for support services due to Covid-19. SAASS advise that their referral rates have increased significantly, especially since the schools returned following lock down, that new service users are presenting with more complex experiences and needs, and that many are in crisis following a lockdown in which they experienced traumatic sexual assault and abuse events. SAASS advise that those who have suffered childhood sexual abuse or non-recent assault the emotional experiences of the lock down have triggered memories of fear and being trapped with the perpetrators of their abuse.

Funding will enable SAASS to deliver a pilot short term intervention crisis support service to help survivors to receive assistance, resources, stabilisation, and support to decrease emotional pain, provide emotional support, make sure that the person in crisis is safe, and help develop a plan for coping with the situation. (Crisis counselling is not intended to provide psychotherapy or similar). The service would include a programme of 6 support sessions for clients, including counselling, to new service users living in

Aylesbury Vale. The service will be open to both male and female victims of sexual assault and abuse and male survivors of domestic abuse. Sessions will be delivered one to one, Face to Face when possible and/or using online platforms such as Zoom, Teams, Messenger/WhatsApp, or telephone.

The support given will include:

- Preparatory work including an Information Advice and Guidance session to identify individual need, referral when appropriate to appropriate agencies e.g. One Recovery, Women's Aid, Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)
- An assessment to identify their individual need and ensure SAASS are the most suitable agency to support them
- Exploration of the individual's response to the situation
- Support and self-care planning to include family, friends, and SAASS services including telephone helpline, telephone support and advocacy
- Exploration of tools the service user can use in order to cope and reduce panic attacks and bouts of anxiety.

SAASS's expected outcomes are:

- Survivors will be more in control of their lives- they know what options are available to them, they feel able to decide what they want to do about the sexual violence, they feel able to make decisions about their future
- Survivors have better health and well-being- they understand how the sexual assault and abuse (and domestic abuse) has affected them, they have positive coping skills and strategies for taking care of their emotional well-being
- Survivors are more able to access further support- they know what resources are available to them and they feel able to access the support they need

Evidence which supports the need:

- The Thames Valley Police (TVP) Crime Summary for Aylesbury Vale for September 2019 – August 2020 records that reports to the police totalled 371- 134 Rape and 237 non rape sexual assaults.
- Rape Crisis England and Wales estimate that only 15% of incidents are reported to the police and the NHS report Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault and Abuse Services Lifelong care for victims and survivors: 2018 - 2023 estimate that 20% of cases are reported. SAASS therefore estimate that between 1885 and 2473 sexual assaults have taken place in Aylesbury Vale over the last 12 months. However, due to Covid-19 it is expected that incidents are above average due to the lockdown.
- [Equation](#) reports that 'due to current measures, it is anticipated that domestic and sexual abuse incidents and risk posed to survivors will increase'.
- Since the reopening of schools, SAASS have seen a rise in referrals as survivors have found safe spaces and time to reach out for help. The Ministry of Justice have told centres to expect a surge of referrals.
- SAASS's Ministry of Justice Mid-Year monitoring report for 2019 – 2020 shows they supported a total of 255 unique individuals. The report for this year shows 334 unique individuals have been supported, an increase of 24%. However, this does not reflect the increase in contacts SAASS have made as many survivors have required increased number of interventions/contacts as mental health conditions deteriorated.
- SAASS's baseline assessment based on the first 2 weeks of March 2020 show 191 contacts were made to professionals and survivors, at the height in lock down over 450 contacts were being made per fortnight.

How does the project address local priorities?

Health & Wellbeing (including Covid19 social recovery) & Community Safety: The SAASS Crisis Counselling project will support the development of local services to meet the challenges of survivors who have experienced deteriorating mental health through lockdown. This will include those who have lived through high levels of abuse during lockdown and have been unable to find safe places and times to seek support. SAASS services will help to empower individuals, build their resilience and improve their health and wellbeing, providing urgent support to stabilise their mental health whilst they wait for longer term therapeutic support.

SAASS's work supports the wider priorities of the Aylesbury Community Board, including preventing homelessness, supporting clients to seek benefits and ensuring that clients (and their families) who are at risk of food poverty can access healthy food provision through partner organisations. Other outcomes that support the Aylesbury Community Board priorities include tackling social isolation and loneliness. With feedback from survivors shared in the application including:

"My anxiety has calmed down, relationship with husband is better and I am more assertive"

"It has helped me to feel more empowered and less worthless, it has been a critical opportunity for me to be able to move on from a difficult past and build strength"

"It has helped me to process and come to terms with the difficulties I faced to go forward with my life and that of my family"

"I am so grateful to come in lay all my thoughts and feelings down, to be listened to and not judged and come out feeling positive"

"When I started, I had anxiety- now leaving I am off my tablets"

"I really hope that every woman in the county that has been affected by sexual trauma has access to the same amazing support that I've had access to. Please keep doing what you're doing. I really value you all so much more than you could ever know"

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Strengthening our communities: SAASS's project will support residents of Aylesbury Vale whose lives have been affected by sexual violence in all its forms to live independent, fulfilling lives. SAASS aim to prevent the deterioration of mental health through providing tailored support and counselling. SAASS will support people to understand their trauma and the challenges they face with individual support and safety plans. Initial support through the crisis counselling offers early help and interventions designed to meet individual need and reduce or prevent mental health deterioration before it becomes too hard to manage and has lasting impacts on an individual's life. SAASS will improve knowledge of, and access to, services and support enable healthier lifestyles for all, enabling the development of strong positive and healthy relationships, building resilience and reducing the possibility of the survivor becoming a repeat victim and raising the quality of life for those disadvantaged.

Protecting the vulnerable: SAASS's work with survivors of sexual assault and abuse can build self-esteem and confidence, empowering individuals and reducing the possibilities of them becoming repeat victims. SAASS support individuals from the age of 16, with the oldest client 84 years old- who had been assaulted by her father between the ages of 8-14. SAASS advise that survivors often blame themselves for their experiences and the impact of trauma results in the loss of self-worth, which results in them becoming isolated unable to build positive friendships and integrate within the local community. SAASS's mission is to rebuild lives so that survivors are able to become resilient and identify their own solutions, so they are healthy, safe and protected from harm able to reach their full potential and not living defined by their trauma.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The SAASS monitoring and evaluation report shows that in 2019 – 2020 94% of service users reported a positive improvement in their health and mental wellbeing; 96% reported they felt their ability to cope with aspects of everyday life had improved; 90% reported feelings of safety had increased; 97% reported they were better informed and empowered to act. It is therefore felt that this project represents good value for money for the outcomes that can be achieved through providing early intervention services via the project.

Funding will be allocated to:

Clinical Lead, Management of the service, Counselling support, Data, monitoring and Evaluation. Support to sessional counsellors= £10,775

Sessional Counsellors- 2 counsellors supporting 8 individuals per week = £6,912

Counselling Supervision costs 12 sessions @ £50 per session to meet Ethical standards £600

Management Time for performance and project management= £1,278

Overheads to include database licenses, IT software licenses and support, Zoom Licenses and mobile phone costs= £1,826

Total cost: £21,391

The Aylesbury Community Board is being asked to fund 50% of this cost, £10,696, to support residents within the Aylesbury Community Board area. Match funding is currently being sought from 5 other community boards to enable the full project to be delivered. The project is still viable for Aylesbury if the other community boards do not agree to allocating funding towards this project.

Please note that applicant will be required to provide financial evidence to show that the funding has been spent as agreed.

Community Board Coordinator comments

This application has been fully assessed in line with the Community Board funding criteria and is recommended as a project which is suitable to receive funding from the Aylesbury Community Board. A representative from SAASS presented at overview of the project at the Aylesbury Community Board's Health & Wellbeing subgroup, and its Community Safety subgroup, where it was agreed that the aims of the project did meet the priorities of the group which provides an additional indicative view that this project should be funded.

This report has been reviewed by Buckinghamshire Council's Unitary Members and the majority have voted in favour of allocating £10,696 of community board funding to towards this project.

The project has therefore been agreed, and the decision will be formally ratified at the Aylesbury Community Board meeting on 17/11/20.

Funding is conditional on SAASS providing a Covid-19 risk assessment that details how the project will be delivered in line with national lockdown restrictions and any subsequent localised tiered restrictions that are put in place for Buckinghamshire.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.

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