



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	<b>£1,800</b>

### 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.**