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| Organisation Name | Oasis Bagnall Centre |
| Project Name | Employment, Training & Education Project |
| Funding Stream | Community Area Priorities / Health & Wellbeing |
| Total Cost of project | £9000 |
| Amount of Match Funding | £0 |
| Amount being applied for | £9000 |
| Amount suggested | £9000 |

Project Summary

The Oasis Partnership requires funds to part finance a project worker, in order to launch its Employment, Training, Education and Volunteering, (ETEV) project for the Chesham and Villages community at its Bagnall Project premises located on Waterside. This project provides a wide range of different opportunities that focus on supporting people to move towards employment, breaking down barriers that may be in their way. This project will also support the Chesham and Villages community as a whole by supporting people to become economically stable and in employment.

The part-time worker will provide a range of different support options depending on assessed need for each individual working to an action plan that has been set in collaboration with the participant. The part-time worker will provide 12.5 hours per week of targeted support. Our ETEV model is well established, and has been running for over 5 years. We have a proven track record of supporting people towards and into employment, achieving successful outcomes.

There are often many barriers that stop people getting a job or starting a training course, which is where we can help. We are able to support people to claim benefits, but we make sure they also have a plan to get into work, and we offer support along the way. This can be a very daunting and stressful task for some, particularly in these times, where many experienced people are finding themselves being made redundant for the first time since leaving school and have to work their way through the system that they have never experienced before, like benefit claiming and job hunting.

We know that the support we offer meets the needs of participants and helps them move forward, reducing stress, mental health issues and a feeling of hopelessness. A part-time ETEV project worker is able to support on average 100 people over a 12-month period with a caseload of about 25 at any one time.

This grant is supporting a role within a larger county wide ETEV project but the post holder will be specifically employed to work in Chesham supporting local residents. Without this grant we may be unable to offer such a targeted service to the Chesham community. The hours worked will be spread throughout the week allowing for flexible service delivery, which can include late night if required. This project worker will be able to support people to access other opportunities that we plan provide in Chesham, allowing a holistic approach to be taken to case management, which leads to an increase in

successful outcomes. At the Bagnall Project Oasis can also offer a range of groups and courses that support employment outcomes, for example we run the Digital Skills course with Bucks Adult Learning and we have recently submitted an application to DWP to provide the SIA (security guard), Training Course, where we plan to train 40 people in Chesham area to gain this statutory accreditation, which is based on a recent successful pilot we ran in Wycombe.

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How does the project address local priorities?

Health & Wellbeing: We know this project makes a difference and changes people's lives forever, as our beneficiaries begin a training course, start education or secure meaningful and paid employment following their engagement with the project. Participants are able to lead more fulfilling lives, contributing to society and enhancing their self-esteem and improving health and wellbeing.

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Economic Development and Regeneration:

In light of increasing unemployment, career diversification may be required: capitalising on talents and skills-set. Perhaps following redundancy which may present business start-up opportunities for our participants. Our ETEV project can support such new initiatives and entrepreneurship. There are also potential service users who may not necessarily be digitally aware, may have been in a former long-term job and are un-used to re-crafting a skills-based CV, may benefit from digitally up-skilling and the support we can offer.

This project will support the economic development and regeneration of Chesham and its locale, as its communities become more able to invigorate the local economy, through securing paid and meaningful employment through their engagement with the programme.

The ETEV project will strengthen the Chesham and villages community, providing a clear path to support, especially during the current Coronavirus pandemic social environment, strengthening the Chesham community in its socio-economic recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic.

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

Strengthening our communities: The ETEV project will strengthen the Chesham and villages community, providing a clear path to support, especially during the current Coronavirus pandemic social environment, strengthening the Chesham community in its socio-economic recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic. Above all, social wellbeing can be enhanced in the locality, strengthening communities.

Improving our environment: The Chesham community will have the opportunity to access this new service, offering more choices for Chesham, and the wider community. Once engaged, residents in Chesham and localities can self-refer to the additional and complimentary health and wellbeing projects

delivered by Oasis at The Bagnall project.

Protecting the vulnerable: As mentioned above, the project is fully inclusive, moving those people furthest away from the job market towards meaningful, fulfilling and productive lives. The service also offers debt management and budgeting advice. People will access targeted training and support that would otherwise be difficult to access via mainstream pathways. Working with key stakeholders we are able to support those most in need.

Increasing prosperity: By the advancement of education, training, volunteering and unemployment support, improving skills seeks to reduce the impact of poverty and hardship on individuals, families and communities.

The service offers debt management and budgeting advice, helping people break away from the benefits trap, saving the public purse. Each participant will have the opportunity to re-appraise their situation, will be empowered and enthused to seek new opportunities, whether furthering their education, re-training, digitally up-skilling or perhaps branching out on their own to establish their own business. There are also indirect beneficiaries, the family members of participants, who will benefit from increased prosperity, owing to securing paid employment through our service.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The community board investment will make a difference to the economic outcomes for Chesham, without it participants may not be able to move forward in their lives and possibly become more dependent on limited health and social care resources. The funding will go directly to pay for a worker, in Chesham, a 10% support charge is included to cover HR, IT and mobile phone costs.

The funding requested £9,000, will provide 12.5 hours' worth of dedicated ETEV support each week, in addition to this we are able to match the hours worked with volunteer placements thus increasing support hours by at least 100% .

This individual aspect of the project does not require match funding. However, Oasis will be applying elsewhere for additional funding so we can increase ETEV support hours and provision in Chesham depending on need and also to ensure a sustainable project is provided.

Pending applications associated with this project: There are applications pending to help part fund the cost of a full-time project worker role for Chesham. For clarity: £9,000 in grant funding applied for respectively, to The Rothschild Foundation and The National Lottery Covid Emergency fund. Awaiting outcome of applications. The Oasis Partnership has also recently applied for £5,000 respectively to The Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund and John Apthorp Charity, to fund 10 laptops (including insurance costs), in total, intended for dedicated use at The Bagnall Project for those service users access the Employment, Training, Education and Volunteering project.

Community Board Coordinator comments

Oasis aim to offer the right support at the right time which can reduce the risk of developing potential mental health issues, substance misuse problems or negative outcomes, such as stress, suicide risk, gambling, domestic violence issues, health and well-being issues. There are currently ninety-four people residing in the Chesham area that are currently registered with the One Recovery Bucks treatment service, sixty-four of whom are currently receiving UC/JSA, demonstrating the need for this project in the Chesham community within just one cohort of the community. The Oasis plan would be to help any participant that needs additional support. Beneficiaries can expect to acquire life skills, enhancing communication skills, time management abilities, personal presentation, listening skills, financial management and healthy living. They will learn about CVs, job searching and interview processes, receive coaching, gain work experience by supporting other project within the Bagnall project and the wider

community, access volunteering opportunities at Oasis and other organisations.

The Oasis ETEV project costs in the region of £165,000 per year to operate which includes the proposed Chesham post. Oasis has consistently been able to generate funds through fundraising campaigns and income generation and is confident they will be able to fund the much needed posts beyond the community board funding period.

Working with partners including Citizen's Advice and DWP will increase referrals into the service and vice versa.

The have used the PH profile, insight data, DWP and the Business Intelligence Team to identify the need and demographics and revealed benefit claimants have escalated in Chesham during 2020 as follows:

The number of men in Chesham claiming UC and JSA in September 2020 was 948, (ages 18-50+), compared with 318 in February of 2020.

The number of women in Chesham claiming UC and JSA in September 2020 was 711 (ages 18-50+), compared with 242 in February of 2020.

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.