



Organisation Name	Burnham Resilience CIO
Project Name	Pen-Pal Project
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£670
Amount of Match Funding	None
Amount being applied for	£670
Amount suggested	£670

Project Summary

The pen-pal project is a collaborative project between Burnham Resilience CIO, St Peter's School, Burnham Health Promotion Trust (BHPT) and elderly people living in Burnham. This is an inter-generational project to help children learn and communicate more with the elderly members of our community and at the same time, help to combat loneliness and isolation that many of our elderly residents are currently dealing with.

It is hoped that if this project is successful it will then come under the already very successful intergenerational project overseen by BHPT and can be expanded to other schools.

How does the project address local priorities?

Young People: The project will benefit children who have been unable to spend time with their grandparents due to Covid-19, or those who do not have living grandparents. It will offer them an opportunity to develop their writing and communication skills, whilst also allowing them to communicate with older members of the community in a safe manner.

Supporting Older & Vulnerable People: The project will benefit elderly residents in the community by helping to combat loneliness and isolation. Elderly residents will have the opportunity to safely interact with younger children in the local area, which will hopefully foster good inter-generational friendships between younger and older residents in the local community.

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

Strengthening Our Communities: This project will strengthen the ties between younger and older residents within the local community. The project will bring immediate benefits, helping to enable children's learning and development and seeking to combat loneliness and isolation in elderly people, and it will hopefully also have longer term benefits brought about through improved communication between younger and older residents.

If the project is successful, it is hoped that it can be expanded to other schools and communities which would bring benefits across a wider area.

How does the project achieve value for money?

A financial breakdown has been provided with this application. For a class of 30 children and 30 elderly participants running over 12 months, the total cost is £670. Costs include 2nd class postage, and purchase of envelopes and writing paper.

Community Board Coordinator comments

This project is an excellent opportunity to help foster intergenerational ties within our community. It will bring benefits to children in terms of developing their writing and communication skills, and it will help to combat loneliness and isolation in elderly residents, which has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members of the Supporting Older & Vulnerable People and Young People sub-groups have considered this application and have unanimously recommended that it be agreed.

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.