

Joint Area Committee – South 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009

## 12. **Oddments Theatre Company – Grant Request for Funding Support (Excepted Business) (Executive Decision)**

*Head of Service:* Steve Joel – Head of Sport, Arts and Leisure  
*Lead Officer:* Pauline Burr, Arts Development Officer, Sport, Arts and Leisure  
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### **Purpose of the Report**

To consider the allocation of funding support to assist in the purchase of equipment and two new workshop training programmes for the Oddments Theatre Company

### **Recommendation(s)**

Total costs of project:	£3,082.00
Grant Applied for:	£1,282.00
SSDC grant in the last 3 years:	Nil

- (1) That members allocate £1,282.00 from the Area South Revenue Grants budget towards this project, subject to the standard terms and conditions
- (2) That the following additional terms and conditions are applied to any support given to the project:

a) Oddments Theatre Company ensure, through promotion and marketing, that their productions are accessible to all members of the community.

### **Background**

Based in Yeovil, Oddments Theatre Company is a faith based organisation and registered charity that was established over 28 years ago to provide community theatre and drama training for adults and young people. The group has four main areas in which they specialise:

- a) Social awareness: covering a number of issues, including e.g. domestic violence, bullying, loneliness
- b) Advancement of religion: producing material for church events and faith school assemblies
- c) Education and training: workshops and training, mainly for young people in schools and youth clubs, exploring the creative and technical aspects of theatre and even teaching sign language through performance.
- d) Prison work: Opportunities for over 18s from Yeovil and the surrounding area to perform in prisons with a 40 mile radius of Yeovil

Oddments Theatre Group consult with other agencies, including the police, when devising their issue based productions. The performances are delivered to the community at large, in a range of venues, including churches, schools, community halls, the Swan theatre and even a local pub.

## Report

Following the success of the pilot scheme at St Gilda's school, where sign language was taught by means of a performance based piece of work; Oddments Theatre would like to extend this to two more schools in Yeovil, as after school activities. The experience of the pilot project has shown that in addition to learning the skill of sign language, the performance provided a stimulating environment where participating children learned to work in a team and appreciate communication difficulties amongst their peers.

They have also identified the need to acquire good quality projection equipment. They currently offer multimedia (drama and video) performances but are restricted to using venues which have projection equipment installed. They would like to increase their flexibility, to be able to deliver in more community settings; they have a target of reaching an additional 700 to 1200 people per year They have already worked with the Avon and Somerset Police, in making a film about domestic violence and there is the intention to create more issue based films, which they would hope to bring to the community along with plays and performance. They would also hope to encourage young people to learn how to operate the equipment as part of their technical skills development.

## Funding

The applicants have committed £400 of their own funds towards the project and have achieved an additional £200 through project specific fund raising. They have applied to the Town Council and Wellbeing of Yeovil Fund for additional contributions.

A full breakdown is detailed in the table below:

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding £	Status
Own funds	13%	400	Secure
Fundraising	6.5%	200	Secure
Town Council	10%	300	Applied
Wellbeing of Yeovil	20%	600	Applied
Fees	10%	300	Estimated
SSDC	40.5%	1,282.00	Applied

## Financial Implications

The Area South Revenue Grants budget 2009/10 was set at £32,750.00 and to date £10,893.00 has been spent. If members agree this award of £1282.00, it will leave a balance of £20,575.00.

## Implications for Corporate Priorities

The project addresses the following Corporate Aims:

- Improve the housing, health and well-being of our citizens
- Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

And contributes to the following Key Target Areas:

- (3.31) Increase engagement in the arts
- (4.1) Develop specific programmes of positive activities for children, young people (especially those at risk of exclusion or offending) and families designed to reduce anti-social behaviour
- (4.15) Decrease repeat incidents of domestic violence
- (4.25) Increase environment for a thriving third sector

**Other Implications**

None

**Background Papers:** *None*

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