

Yeovil4Family Grant Request (Executive Decision)

Communities Lead: Helen Rutter, Communities
Service Manager: Natalie Fortt, Area Development Lead (North & South)
Lead Officer: James Divall, Neighbourhood Development Officer
Contact Details: james.divall@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462261

Purpose of the Report

For members to consider the request for a community grant from Yeovil4Family for the provision of on-going important family support programs across Yeovil.

Public Interest

Community grants are available in each area to voluntary and charitable organisations, not-for-profit groups, Parish or Town councils and other organisations that benefit the wider community. Applications are encouraged that meet a clearly identified local need.

Recommendation

That members consider this application for up to £5,000 from the community grants budget.

Background

Yeovil4Family is a Charitable Incorporated Company (CIO) working under the umbrella of Yeovil Community Church. Yeovil4Family is a family support project set up in response to the fact that some families in our community are in need of additional support.

Yeovil4Family is hosted by Yeovil Community Church and works in partnership with the local council and key agencies. Their role is to provide link workers and volunteer mentors, (if appropriate) to work alongside isolated families and individuals in South Somerset. This work has seen Yeovil4Family play a key part in the local council's response to the national government initiative to positively impact families with complex needs in Britain (the DCLG Troubled Families Agenda). Yeovil4Family works with all types of families and individuals regardless of faith, gender, race, disability, marital status, social class, age or sexual preference.

Project

In the last 12 months Yeovil4Family have run a successful pilot programme with vulnerable adults in partnership with SSDC which has now been commissioned.

Yeovil4Family is negotiating long term funding starting from September 2018 but there is a funding gap between the end April and September 2018. This grant and the contributions from other grants listed below will enable these essential services to continue.

Officer Comments:

Alice Knight (Welfare & Careline Manager):

Yeovil4Family are invaluable. Over the past 2 years we have commissioned them to do floating support for single people at risk of homelessness and also families needing support for up to a year. Their unique model of Link Worker and trained volunteer mentor offers long term, valuable support which is not available through any other provider in South Somerset.

In particular we have seen results in terms of sustaining tenancies/preventing homelessness, improved life skills, employment, training, volunteering, education and budgeting skills. They have more recently developed specific expertise around helping people struggling with Universal Credit claims.

With family support they are one of the few organisations who visit people in their homes and work across agencies rather than in silos. They have helped improve education attendance; parents address drug and alcohol issues, climb out of debt problems and manage their lives on a day to day basis or order they can participate in their local community.

I would say they have become one of the essential support agencies available in South Somerset.

On another note they support volunteering both through their mentor programme (currently have 18 trained mentors) and volunteering opportunities for young people within the wider Gateway community.

Assessment Scoring

Below is the summary table from the grant assessment form. It is recommended that funding is only awarded to projects scoring 22 points or more.

Category	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Equalities Impact	6	7
C Evidence of Need	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	11	15
E Financial need	3	7
F Innovation	2	3
<i>Grand Total</i>	26	37

Funding Breakdown

Funding Sources	% Funding of the Total Cost	Amount of Funding (£)	Status
Parish Council	0	0	No Application
Own Funds (Yeovil4Family)	6	1,860	Secured
Yarlington Housing Association	40	11500	Secured
SSDC (Area South)	17	5000	This application
<i>Funding GAP</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>7500</i>	
Total Project Cost	100%	28,860	

Financial Implications

If the Hardington Parish Council and West Coker Commemoration grants (previous agenda items) are approved the uncommitted 2017/18 grants budget would be £5,935. If members agree this award of £5,000, it will leave £935 remaining in the budget.

Grant Conditions

The grant would be subject to all the standard grant conditions.

The grant offer would be made based on the information provided in the application form and would represent up to 50% of the total project costs (the final payment may be reduced if the costs of the total project are less than originally anticipated, however payment will not exceed the grant amount approved at committee).

Corporate Priority Implications

High quality cost effective services

In order to protect front line services we will:

- Work with partners to achieve economies, resilience and influence.

Homes

To work with partners to enable the provision of housing that meets the future and existing needs of residents and employers we will:

- Enable people to live independently for as long as they are able.

Health and Communities

To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities we will:

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions.
- Target support to areas of need.
- Work with partners to tackle health issues such as diabetes and hypertension.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

Providing local access to a range of activities and services reducing the need to travel which therefore reduces carbon emissions.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Case studies support and evidence how the project has and will continue to support a range of families and individuals with high needs (*mentally, physically, financially and socially*). There is a proven track record and clear evidence (including Cost Benefit Analysis) of how it supports both family and individual need with national and local policies and efficient working & budgeting.

Large scale training systems have been incorporated for volunteers and paid staff.

Background Papers: None