

## 10. Revenue Grant Request – The Lynx Project (Executive Decision)

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### Purpose of the Report

To request a contribution towards a two-year project to provide activities for young people in Wincanton using a purpose built mobile facility.

### Recommendation

That an award totalling £7,000 over two years be offered to the Lynx Project towards developing the React project and establishing delivery in Wincanton from the Community Planning Implementation Fund subject to the following conditions;

- (1) That SSDC support is acknowledged on publicity.
- (2) That a Service Level Agreement is agreed.
- (3) That the project is reviewed at the end of year one with outcomes reported to Area East Community Planning Sub Committee.

### Background

In 1999 a new youth project was launched and funded by the Churches of various denominations in South East Somerset. The primary aim of the Lynx Project was to serve the local secondary schools with the intention of enabling the church to better support the teenage community. The project was initiated with trainee youth workers who worked in the local community.

### Previous awards from Area East

The Lynx Project has not received financial support from SSDC however the React project (previously managed by different group) has received grant support totalling £2,615 to refurbish the bus and buy equipment.

### Report

The Lynx project has three distinct areas of work:

**Schools:** Running lunch time and after school clubs; mentoring, coordinating Restorative Justice programmes; supporting staff and individual students and contributing to the planning and running of assemblies and collective worship.

**Community:** Developing a range of youth provision, including a drop-in and targeted work in Wincanton, the React youth bus in Castle Cary; supporting youth councils and community local action groups. The Lynx Project works in partnership with the Locality team youth specialists (formerly the County Youth Service) in all three towns.

**Church:** supporting local churches in their youth work.

The project has grown rapidly over the last three years and there is a lot of new work being done by the project.

'React' is the Lynx Project's community based youth work and is aimed at supporting young people aged between 11 and 19. The project uses a single-decker bus to provide activities for all young people but has been particularly successful in attracting those at risk of exclusion. 'React' currently works very successfully in Castle Cary where a small group of volunteers work alongside Lynx staff to enable the bus to be available on one evening a week. There are a number of ways local people get involved including driving the bus, attending the sessions or providing refreshments. This has had a remarkable impact in Castle Cary where significant improvements in the perceived 'problems' caused by young people have occurred. The project has been identified as a key reason for a dramatic reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour in the town.

The two-year funding will enable the development work to take place to establish a similar group of volunteers in Wincanton.

Despite increasing involvement in broader work with young people in the community the organisation is almost completely funded by local churches. Growth is not sustainable unless other sources of funding can be found and the management committee does not consider funding generated by the Lottery appropriate.

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>% Funding of Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>Amount of Funding</b>	<b>Status</b>
Own funds	47%	£7,700	Secured
Town Council	3%	£500	Applied for
South Somerset District Council	50%	£7,000	Applied for
<b>Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£15,200</b>	

The application has been scored using the community grants assessment criteria and the following scores apply.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Maximum score</b>
<b>A Eligibility</b>	<b>Y</b>	
B Target Groups	2	6
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	3	5
F Innovation	3	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34</b>

Projects need to achieve a score of 20 or more to be eligible for SSDC funding.

### **Financial Implications**

There is currently £37,878 unallocated in the Community Planning Implementation Fund, if members agree the above recommendation it will leave £30,878 unallocated.

### **Implications for Corporate Priorities**

The Lynx Project support the following corporate priority:

- To ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities
- To promote the health and well-being of our citizens.

### **Other Implications**

The Wincanton People's plan highlights a need to provide more activities and facilities for young people and expanding the Lynx project is a priority for the next five years.

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