

CORE GRANT PROCESS

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER, 9.30am, BROADWAY ROOM

ATTENDEES:

CHAIR: Cllr Robert Humby

CLLRs Godfrey, Coates

OFFICERS: Appleby, Fletcher, Withers, Ronan, Lincoln,
Tong

AGENDA

- 1) Order and format of the day
- 2) WACA update
- 3) Grants evaluation 1-15 current partner orgs
- 4) Grants evaluation 16-23 other organisations
- 5) Panel recommendations

1	Trinity
2	CAB Winchester District
3	Home Start Meon Valley
4	Home Start Winchester
5	Age UK
6	Winchester Live at Home
7	Meon Valley Carers
8	Theatre Royal / Hat Fair / Rural Youth Theatre
9	Carroll Centre
10	KAYAK (Youth Options)
11	Winnall Rock School
12	Winchester Young Carers
13	Activ8 (held @ Winnall Comm Assoc)
14	Blue Apple
15	Winnall Junior Youth Club

Other organisations

16	Denmead Community Association
17	Bishops Waltham Festival
18	Bumps to Bundles
19	Winchester Festival
20	Relate
21	Olive Branch
22	Winchester Youth Counselling
22	Winchester Detached Youth Project (aka Street Reach)
23	Winchester Street Dance Academy (Integr8)

CORE GRANT PROCESS MEETING NOTES

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Grants budget:

There is less of a challenge for 14/15 budget however, for 15/16 and beyond there will be potentially significantly greater reductions, however, the allocations were made mindful of the fact that we need to look at the longer term/bigger picture of funding organisations.

A standard reduction of 5% was set for the Active Communities project grant fund allocation in line with wider Council savings targets for the coming year.

Textiles income:

There is a possibility of some income to support the community grants programme in 14/15. This funding will support a variety of one-off community grants/projects but will not support core funding

WTF Core grant Allocations

WTF (Town Account Grants) Informal Group allocations are the same as last year except for £500 allocation for Hat Fair, due to their budget of £80,000 for 14/15 as opposed to £80,500 in 13/14

WACA

As per December Cabinet paper CAB 2432, the Council will discontinue the core funding it has provided over many years for Winchester Area Community Action and will instead procure a dedicated support service based on this study and also on county-wide research carried out in 2012

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/community/voluntary-organisations/support-voluntary-sector/>

Core Grant allocations:

Trinity

Member Representative Reports:- Cllr Ian Tait, Cllr Fiona Mather

Trinity have run a successful *no second night out* project – DCLG money (13 rough sleepers off the streets) – support and dealing with the rough sleeps to get their issues under control

New project in progress on discharging homeless from hospitals to NFA – has had a positive start

Trinity are supporting a couple youngsters on the Supporting Troubled Families programme

The organisation has consolidated its finances over the last couple of years and the financial information has not raised any significant concerns.

Steve Tong – Trinity play a vital part and help WCC to deliver significant support to the homeless community. A request was made by Steve Tong to add some conditions to the SLA for 14/15 in support of the Council's housing initiatives. Housing would like to encourage them to be an active player in the Preventing Homelessness strategy. There is a required emphasis on supporting residents of the Winchester District, and aiding reconnection arrangements in order for users to return to their district to access services at their place of origin. Also looking at how we deploy our resources and providing a consistent approach across our homelessness organisations.

Recommendation = £83,000 GF
Total recommended award: £94,100

Recommendation is to retain their current core grant allocation in order for Trinity to start to pay down the capital sum outstanding from Bradbury House next year

Action:

SLA conditions to be applied by Housing in terms of supporting the council in delivering homelessness prevention

CAB Winchester District

Councillor Representative – report from David McClean

Strong working relationship with WCC

Additional monies granted by WCC from Housing, directly funds 2 individuals for 23 hours per week to support tenants

CAB have a large number of volunteers and as a national organisation they have good stats available for national lobbying purposes as well as local information

Fundamental organisation for the District, particularly in current economic climate and with Welfare Reform looming

CAB are bound to an operating model so there aren't many deviations to the 14/15 outcomes. We would like to encourage some more lateral thinking within their 14/15 objectives where possible.

It was noted that CAB need to review physical presence in BW. This local office is currently funded by the old Local Access Point budget to an additional sum of £9,000 pa. The search for new premises now needs to become a priority for 14/15 as there is a strong possibility of reducing this annual payment in 15/16. Estates may be able to assist in the search for new premises.

It was observed that CAB Winchester District appear to be cost efficient in their operations.

Recommendation = £140,000 GF
Total recommended award = £160,000
Reflects 5% reduction in funding as agreed by a previous Portfolio Holder

Actions:

Send CAB Finances to Stephen Godfrey
Not clear is the level of charitable income in the CABs budget is not clear,
require contextual finance information

Home Start Meon Valley

Home Start Meon Valley are doing a good job, and their workload is growing. We need to ensure that they are continuing to support the most vulnerable and needy families.

In terms of safeguarding children and troubled families WCC are statutory partners in supporting in Section 11 of the Children's Act.

We need to explore a more robust funding model for future years for the Home Starts. It was suggested to start discussions with the Home Starts (as both core funded by WCC) with regards to economies of scale to explore ways of working differently or together ie: training courses

Recommendation = £9,500 GF
Standard reduction of 5%

Home Start Winchester

It was observed that Home Start Winchester and District are heavily reliant upon on LA grants

Reflection upon same comments at Home Start Meon Valley in terms of economies of scale

Recommendation = £4750 GF
Total recommended award = £6,450
Standard reduction of 5%

Age UK

It was suggested that we investigate the services that are being provided and for Age UK to quantify them appropriately

Recommendation = £4750 GF
Total recommended award = £6,250
Standard reduction of 5%

Action:

The panel proposed a condition of the SLA for Age UK to assess the way they operate their lunch clubs to ensure cost effective delivery

Winchester Live At Home

A productive and well run organisation whose expenditure is increasing, their good work in the community is endorsed by officers

WLAH have taken on and are now running the Singing for Wellbeing programme which was initially set up by the University of Winchester

Recommendation = £5,500 GF
Total recommended award = £6,000
No change in order to support significant new service developments

Meon Valley Carers

Meon Valley Carers are assessing their overheads and service provision. They are seemingly moving towards a reminiscence type approach which may attract additional external funding

Meon Valley Carers are a well respected and endorsed organisation by WCC. They work closely with Age Concern locally

It was tabled that officer support be given to Meon Valley Carers in order to expand their service and to potentially tie them into some of the health and wellbeing priorities – set for 14/15

Total recommended award = £2,850
Standard reduction of 5%

Conditions of SLA – connection to Health and Wellbeing priorities in 14/15 – to be set by Lorraine Ronan

Carroll Centre

Member Representative report - Jamie Scott

The Carroll Centre is an integral part of the community. They have risen to various challenges and been proactive at looking at ways to move forward.

The closer working of the Carroll Centre and Stanmore Community Association has potential to deliver significant benefits to the local community.

It is essential for the new organisation to expand its ambition in order to support their infrastructure and grow their income.

Lorraine Ronan met with Young Carers and Carroll in order to support the Supported Families programme.

Recommendation = £11,000 GF
Total recommended award = £15,000
No change in order to support integration with the Community Association

KAYAK (Youth Options)

It was noted as per last year that other core funding allocated (ie. WRS, Young Carers) is ploughed back into KAYAK/Youth Options.

The service being delivered at KAYAK to young people is not currently comparable to some other youth-based organisations in the district, in terms of quality and support delivered.

It was noted that there needs to be some work on the opening hours and accessibility to Youth Options staff present in the building.

A request for an additional £5000 was made by KAYAK however, it was felt that there was no justification for increasing the grant recommended as KAYAK/Youth Options are not delivering the same quality and depth of service in line with other core funded organisations

Recommendation = £8,550 GF
Total recommended award = £11,550
Standard reduction of 5%

Actions:

Require financial details on the running of KAYAK – nothing supplied apart from high level accounts for Youth Options

Theatre Royal/Hat Fair/Rural Youth Theatre

Councillor Representative – report from Mike Southgate

The old Hat Fair board will cease to operate once the final tranche of European grant funding for 2012 comes through. The Hat Fair has been managed by the Theatre Royal since its 2013 event and its accounts are completely separate from 'old' Hat Fair.

There is a ring fenced debt in the Theatre's accounts for Hat Fair following an experiment with charged-for events in 2013 designed to increase income streams.

2013 saw the largest attendance at Hat Fair. The Theatre managed to get the safety issues sorted in advance, which was positively received.

This application was strongly supported by EA, who also observes the TRW board meetings. The TRW have made positive steps in relation to leadership and direction under the current Chief Executive.

It was noted that Officers may offer support to the TRW to work more closely with the University. TRW have grown strategic alliances with the University, but there is no regular funding from the University at this time.

The Theatre have been making progress on their community involvement work: the panel felt that more could be done to promote this work to Members and the public.

In terms of income, ticket sales for cultural venues across the country and down because of the economic climate, so there is a drop in % of seats sold from 12/13. However, the panto is already up on sales from this time last year.

Hat Fair

Recommendation = £21000 GF

Total recommended award = £24,000

Reduction of £500 from TF

Rural Youth Theatre Outreach = £7,500 GF

Theatre Royal

Recommendation = £135,000 = GF

Total recommended award = £155,000

c. 25% cut in GF allocation over 3 previous financial years – no further reductions in 14/15

Action:

Condition of SLA - Require evidence of more external project funding

Winnall Rock School

Stephen Boyce, Arts Advisor is currently supporting the Rock School to develop its capacity and create a stronger financial base.

Individual case studies demonstrates a good response to the programme being run at the Rock School.

WRS are broadening their horizons by collaborating with SoCo (a WCC funded commission) to deliver an additional commissioned project for WCC across the District.

As per last year it was commented that a large proportion of their core funding is given back in rent to KAYAK.

Quality of delivery is good, and the work with Stephen Boyce will help to improve governance. The grant for 14/15 will not be paid until WRS have achieved charitable status; this was an SLA condition of their core grant for 13/14

WRS received additional funding from Boom Town which came about as a result of an officer introduction and is set to continue in 2014.

Recommendation = £4,750 GF

Total recommended award = £7,750

Standard reduction of 5%

Actions:

Condition of grant for 13/14 charitable status has still not been met, payment for 14/15 grant will not be made until this has been achieved

Winchester Young Carers

It was noted that the workload for the Young Carers has increased and that they offer a superior service which is a “gold standard” for Hampshire Young Carers.

Winchester Young Carers have received a 100% outstanding Ofsted report.

It was observed that other core funding sources were ceasing.

Recommendation = £2,000 GF Total recommended award = £4,000 No change in order to support transition from 3 year core funding reduction from another source

Activ8 (Winnall)

The panel queried whether there was a business case for this holiday club to continue running from the Community Association. It wanted to know how many days the holiday club runs and how many attendees there were per session.

It was suggested that the Winnall round table discussion (local voluntary organisations) commence again with officer involvement to discuss local youth activities and provision in order to potentially ascertain a hub for activities/funding in the future.

We need to establish youth provision for the future and potentially fund 1 or 2 organisations locally to provide this service instead of core funding multiple organisations which is what is currently happening

Recommendation = £2,580 GF Total recommended award = £4,050 Standard reduction of 5%
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Winnall Junior Youth Club

As per the notes on Activ8 we need to look at the youth provision within Winnall to provide a cohesive funding solution

Dwindling numbers attending the youth club, well below the 20 on the performance indicators, WJYC have 25 children on the register. However, they are regularly only getting attendance of 12-14. The club was shut for a 4 week period and during the summer it collaborated with Activ8 in order to maximise numbers.

It was noted that the standard of service provision is below the standard of other providers locally and that there are safeguarding issues which have been noted previously and need to be addressed.

KAYAK currently provide a junior youth night on a Monday and have applied for additional funding to HCC to run another junior youth night on a Friday, with the current quality and level of service provision in mind, the recommendation from the General fund is £0.

Recommendation = £0 GF
Total recommended award = £1,000
Reflects changing local service provision

Blue Apple Theatre

BAT strongly supported by Officers as a worthwhile and beneficial local organisation supported adults with learning disabilities.

BAT separated from Winchester Mencap to form its own charity with effect from August 2013.

There is concern with regards to their finances as their income is mostly discretionary as opposed to output related: this needs further exploration by Finance.

Recommendation = £3,325 GF
Total recommended award = £6,325
Standard reduction of 5% in GF allocation

Action:
Need to review finances

Denmead Community Association

As per 13/14 – not eligible for core funding.

Total recommended award = £0

Bishops Waltham Festival

SLA – additional funding to be sought. It was noted that organisers were seeking to develop the Festival formula going forward as many of the original programmed activities had now been 'mainstreamed' into life in BW throughout the year.

Total recommended award = £2,000 GF

Action:
SLA – as per 13/14 request for additional funding to be demonstrated

Winchester Festival

The Winchester Festival provides a multi disciplinary cultural festival which isn't covered by other festivals that we core fund.

Total recommended award = £2,000 GF

Relate

Councillor Representative report- Ian Tait (who is also a Volunteer for Relate)

Relate do not qualify for discretionary rate relief which does demonstrate that a high proportion of their users are from outside of the Winchester district

It was noted that Relate will be merging with Relate South West Hampshire & IOW from 1 April 2014 and that we will review their funding situation following the merger.

Total recommended award = £1,500 GF

Olive Branch

Olive Branch do not qualify for discretionary rate relief which does demonstrate that a high proportion of their users are from outside of the Winchester district

Total recommended award = £1,000 GF

Winchester Youth Counselling

Positive support for this organisation, they provide a good level of professional service. They are also currently running sessions at Perins School in Alresford.

Their Trustees are very actively involved with supporting and fundraising and raising the profiles of this organisation

Total recommended award = £3,000 GF

Street Reach

Provide detached youth work out on the streets which is very good and high quality

Their expenditure has risen from £22-45K. They have accrued a surplus of £23k in the last 2 years

They have made a surplus of 30% for the last 2 years and a 20% increase on income over the last 2 years

Total recommended award = £5,000 GF

No change

Integr8

As per 12/13 application, not prioritised for core funding.

It was felt again that there was not a strong enough business case to consider core funding this organisation and its activities. It was suggested that Stephen Boyce, Arts Advisor works with them to strengthen their business case

As per 13/14 we are not looking to increase the amount we allocate on core funding in 14/15 and are there not taking on new organisation

Total recommended award = £0

Recommendations:

It was recommended to move to a delegated authority procedure for the small grants up to £500 in order to speed up the process and make it less bureaucratic, in line with the Town Forum small grants process. The Funding and Support Officer will ensure that Members are aware of awards that have been made.

Textiles recycling fund the grant funding from this income be used to develop project funding and not core funding. It was requested to be displayed as a separate line in the budget so that the additional benefits of this funding can be reported separately.