



Policy and Finance Committee

Date: 21 January 2019

Title: General Grant application

Purpose of the Report: To seek Committee views on a late General Grant application.

Contact Officer: Sarah Sandiford, Head of Democratic & Central Services

Corporate Objective/s		
Implications:		
Financial	X	To consider a grant application for £500 (the residual general grant budget stands at £1,758).
Human Resources	X	
Operational/Service delivery		
Procedural/Legal	√	To seek committee approval of a grant application.
Risk/Health & Safety	X	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Policy and Finance Committee be minded:-

1.1 To note the report.

1.2 To consider whether to approve the General Grant application for £500 submitted by Reclaim Life, in accordance with General Grant guidelines.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Town Council has delegated authority to the Grants and Awards Sub-Committee, through its Terms of Reference, to determine applications submitted by local community, voluntary and charity groups for both General Grant and Guaranteed Grant guidelines, as approved by Committee.

- 2.2 The Grants and Awards Sub-Committee is scheduled to meet twice a year, early into the new financial year and about half way through the financial year. Deadlines for applications are set and published accordingly.
- 2.3 The Town Council annual budget for General Grants is usually set at £10,000.
- 2.4 General Grants are for a maximum of £500 and must be used for projects to be completed within a year, which will be of benefit to the local community.

3. UPDATE

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 5 November 2018, the Grants and Awards Sub-Committee met and approved 8 General Grant applications totalling £3,241.55. This leaves remaining funds in that General Grants budget of £3,758.
- 3.2 Following the endorsement of additional General Grant funding to the Narrow Gauge Railway for its 2019 centenary celebrations, the funds remaining in the General Grants budget total £1,758.
- 3.3 A late application was subsequently received from local charity Reclaim Life with apologies for missing the deadline due unforeseen circumstances. At its meeting on 19 November 2018, the Policy and Finance Committee agreed to consider this late application on 21 January 2019.
- 3.4 The application is for £500 for the provision of KITE (Keep in Touch Evenings). This is a service offered to clients of Reclaim Life following their initial five life coaching sessions. Reclaim Life received a Start-Up grant from the Town Council in 2009/2010 and has received a number of General Grants since then in order to continue and expand its service, for which there is an ever increasing need due to constraints and waiting lists for NHS treatment.
- 3.5 The application from Reclaim Life is believed to meet General Grant criteria (as **attached** at Appendix B).
- 3.6 Information and testimonials are provided by the applicant below:

The Kite evenings are run once a month but really important to our clients that they know there is support after they finish their 5 sessions. Although the 5 sessions are sufficient to turn people around, we are aware that some have been under NHS services for years before coming to us and can be worried they will slip back without support. There is a separate room where we provide individual one to one help for anyone if needed.

We offer this service to ALL our clients (we have now seen over 1,300 Leighton/Linslade clients) It varies every time as to how many attend. Although we say we can see anyone within a 15mile radius of L/B nearly all our clients come from Leighton and Linslade. Some people come months or even years after completing the 5 session course and just need to speak to one of our Life Coaches who are always in attendance

The money would be spent on hiring the hall, refreshments and specific Human Givens books which we highly recommend. These are offered to our clients at a reduced rate but sometime our Life Coaches feel the client would benefit from having one but they cannot afford it so we can loan or give them one. Everyone has off days and these books are ideal to get you back on course easily and quickly thus saving the NHS a lot of money and stopping clients going to their doctor.

As we will no doubt continue to ask for a grant from Leighton Linlade Council to help us run this much needed and appreciated service for the town, I have attached a copy of genuine, unaltered or added to feedbacks from our clients. (see Appendix A)

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider whether to approve the late application for General Grant funding from Reclaim Life.

End.