



## Grant Working Party 20 March 2014

### Substance Misuse Funding

#### 1. Summary and reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 This report is brought to resolve the position in relation to the allocation of core funding and project funding from the Substance Misuse funding established by St Edmundsbury Borough Council from 1 April 2012.

#### 2. Recommendations to Cabinet

2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that:

- (1) for the financial year 2014/2015, the full £5,000 be made available for core funding, with project applications being met from the underspend in project funding in 2013/2014, as detailed in Section 4.2 of Report E324;
- (2) the Working Party establish through debate at the meeting on 20 March 2014 whether it wishes to allocate any funding to the Southgate Church Liquid Youth Club, as detailed in Sections 4.4 to 4.10 of Report E324; and
- (3) if an allocation is made in relation to (2) above, to further recommend that this award be treated as an exception to the usual policy of not providing funding retrospectively as the need to call a meeting of the Working Party delayed the decision which would otherwise have been reached before the event was staged, as detailed in Section 4.4 of Report E324.

#### Contact details

Name  
Title

Telephone  
E-mail

#### Portfolio holder

Robert Everitt  
Portfolio Holder for Community

01284 769000  
[robert.everitt@stedsbc.gov.uk](mailto:robert.everitt@stedsbc.gov.uk)

#### Lead officer

Cathy Manning  
Families and Communities  
Manager

01284 757002  
[cathy.manning@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.manning@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

### **3. Strategic priorities**

3.1 The recommendations meet the following, as contained within the West Suffolk Strategic Plan:

- (a) *'Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active'*; and
- (b) Vision 2025: St Edmundsbury will be a place:  
**V:He3** where local support networks for the whole community are on hand to provide advice on emotional and physical wellbeing

### **4. Key issues**

#### **Core funding/project funding split**

- 4.1 On 5 December 2013 officers recommended, and the Working Party accepted, an award of £2,500 of core-funding to Artheads from the Substance Misuse grant which totals £5,000 each year (Report E192 refers). What officers had overlooked in making that recommendation was the division of the pot into equal amounts for core funding and project funding (see extract from Report C254 attached at Appendix 1). As Open Road are already in receipt of £2,500 of core funding for three years from 2013/2014, officers should have reported that there was no core funding available.
- 4.2 In the circumstances, and following discussion with the Portfolio Holder, officers are suggesting that the Grant Working Party recommends that Cabinet vary the terms of the scheme to devote the full £5,000 to core funding as a one-off arrangement in 2014/2015. Report C254 made provision for unallocated funds to be carried forward. To date no project funding has been allocated in 2013/2014 so that funding, less any sum the Working Party might recommend allocating to the Southgate application outlined below, can be rolled forward to 2014/2015 so project funding would still be available.
- 4.3 The Substance Misuse funding, along with all other grants, will be part of a wider review of the grant giving of the Council during the coming year.

#### **Southgate Church Liquid Youth Club**

- 4.4 The application was for £1,025 of project funding towards the cost of running a substance misuse awareness raising event for young people. The application was circulated via the e-mail system on 17 February 2014 but as no clear consensus was reached, the Chairman has called a meeting of the Working Party to allow the application to be debated. The original e-mail circulation would have allowed the application to be considered before the event took place. Hence, if the Working Party wishes to recommend any funding to be awarded, it will need to be accompanied by a further recommendation relating to making an exception to the usual policy that awards are not made retrospectively.
- 4.5 The following details have been reproduced from the application submitted. Members of the Working Party will note that the event includes an entry fee, which the group have donated to Focus12. Details of the number of young people attending and the resulting donation will be reported at the meeting. As grants cannot be used to promote fundraising events, the committee will

wish to discount this element from the overall cost of the event and then consider any grant against this lesser amount.

- 4.6 Aims of the group: Southgate Church Liquid Youth Club aims to further young people's personal, social, spiritual and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and place in society throughout their transition from adolescence to adulthood.

We want the young people to:

- (1) Enjoy and achieve

The club seeks to encourage personal and social development while creating an enjoyable environment.

- (2) Be healthy

The club encourages young people to take part in games and various activities whilst making them aware of health issues.

- (3) Make a positive contribution

The club encourages young people to develop positive relationships and challenge issues around bullying and discrimination. The club also provides a positive alternative environment in the early evening to discourage anti-social behaviour.

- (4) Achieve economic well being

The club seeks to offer leisure opportunities for children and young people in the area.

- (5) Stay Safe

The club offers a safe caring environment for young people in the locality where the safety of young people is paramount.

- 4.7 No grant or any other assistance has been received from the Borough Council. We are looking to run a pilot event primarily aimed at young people aged from 13-21 years to raise awareness of substance related health issues. We are working with local charities Focus12 and Artheads to provide a fun but informative evening including food and music for young people and the recovery community.

- 4.8 The event will combine testimony from individuals in recovery, giving an honest and open overview of their experiences of substance misuse and their subsequent recovery. Entertainment will include musical performance from three local bands and an artwork presentation from Artheads. The event is taking place in Southgate Community Centre on Saturday 8 March 2014 from 6.30-10.30pm. The entry fee of £2 per person will be donated to the charity Focus 12

- 4.9 We would like to use the event to develop relationships with other substance misuse organisations which operate in our locality eg Matthew Project. If the event is successful we aim to run them regularly. The grant will be used to the fund this innovative and informative youth event.

- 4.10 If the Working Party decides to recommend some support for this project then, as originally suggested in the e-mail circulation, officers suggest attaching a condition that the group is prepared to share the model with others wishing to stage similar awareness raising events.

## **5. Other options considered**

- 5.1 The Working Party can make a recommendation to fund the event, either to the original amount requested or a lesser amount.

## **6. Community impact**

### **6.1 Crime and disorder impact** *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

- 6.1.1 Substance misuse is a contributory or major factor in many community safety issues. Any event which raises awareness and so reduces the likelihood of those attending becoming involved in substance misuse has a community safety benefit.

### **6.2 Diversity and equality impact** *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*

- 6.2.1 The event was open to all young people to attend and provided an informative and informal setting in which young people could hear the stories of those in recovery from substance misuse, something most of them would not normally have the opportunity to hear.

### **6.3 Sustainability impact** *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*

- 6.3.1 N/A

### **6.4 Other impact** *(any other impacts affecting this report)*

- 6.4.1 N/A

## **7. Consultation** *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

- 7.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Portfolio Holder for Communities.

## **8. Financial and resource implications** *(including asset management implications)*

- 8.1 As there is £2,500 of project funding available in 2013/2014 any award can be met from existing budgets.

## **9. Legal and policy implications**

- 9.1 When this funding was established no parameters were set on what constituted a substance misuse project. It was deliberately left so that organisations could put forward a range of projects for consideration. Although some query was raised during the e-mail exchanges, consideration of this application as to whether an event could be funded there is nothing in the policy to prevent this.

## **11. Wards affected**

- 11.1 Bury St Edmunds and surrounding wards.

## **12. Background papers**

- 12.1 Application received from Southgate Liquid Youth Club, held by the Families and Communities Team.

## **13. Documents attached**

- 13.1 Appendix 1: Extracts from Report C254 to Grant Working Party on 6 December 2011.

**Extract from Report C254**

- (a) unless alternative provisions are specified, the Council's existing Grants Policy will apply to this scheme;
- (b) grants can be awarded to any constituted organisation working to tackle drug or alcohol problems in St Edmundsbury;
- (c) grants are for revenue funding only, but may be applied to core revenue costs or one-off projects to tackle drug and alcohol problems;
- (d) the available fund for the grants scheme will be limited to £5,000 per annum. Any un-spent balance can be carried over into the following year;
- (e) to enable more than one scheme to be commissioned, the maximum grant available under the scheme in any one year will be:-
  - (i) core revenue funding: up to £2,500; and
  - (ii) one-off project funding: up to £2,500 (minimum £250).
- (f) core funding grants may be awarded to cover periods of up to three years (subject to a maximum grant of £2,500 in any one year);

Minute 19, Grant Working Party Minutes, 6 December 2011



**RECOMMENDED:- That**

- (a) subject to the normal budget setting process, a new grant fund of £5,000 per annum to tackle drug and alcohol problems in the Borough be established from 1 April 2012 on the basis outlined in section 3 of Report C254; and**
- (b) the Council's Grants Policy and other documentation be updated to include details of the scheme.**