

Community Chest Application Summary 2016/2017

Local Authority	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Organisation	REACH Community Projects
Amount Requested	<i>Yr1 - £5,000 / Yr2 - £5,000 £10,000 over two years</i>
Total Project Cost	£55,658
Match Funding	£35,300
Partnerships	MENCAP, the Papworth Trust, Avenues East, HMP Highpoint
West Suffolk Bid?	No

Key Points

- REACH Community Projects exists to tackle poverty in and around Haverhill. REACH stands for 'Restore, Encourage, Action in the Community and Hope'. The vision is to uncover and resolve the root issues for people and lift them out of poverty, restoring dignity and reviving hope.
- REACH are looking to secure funding to run a supported volunteer programme within their foodbank.
- The Foodbank is a very popular project and a team of volunteers are needed to collect food, weigh and sort food, pack boxes and distribute to local collection points.
- There are a number of vulnerable volunteers who require a little extra support to enable them to volunteer, ie. Those with physical or learning difficulties and mental health issues. The Foodbank also works with HMP Highpoint taking inmates on placements whilst serving their sentence, naturally this requires constant supervision.

**St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Community Chest Grant Application Form
Part A**



Community Chest funding supports voluntary and community groups who make a contribution to improving the quality of life for people in West Suffolk. The information you provide will help us consider your application. If you have any questions, please give us a call on 01638 719763. Before completing this form, we ask you to please read the guidelines, which are available on:

<http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants.cfm>

Please return your completed, signed form and supplementary documents to:
richard.baldwin@westsuffolk.gov.uk

1. Name of your organisation(s):

2. Organisation address details

Address Ln1	8 Lime Grove Estate		
Address Ln2	Falconer Road		
Address Ln3			
City/Town	Haverhill	Postcode	CB9 7XU
Main phone	01440 712950	E-mail	info@reachhaverhill.org.uk
Website	www.reachhaverhill.org.uk		

Main Contact Person		Second Contact Person	
Title	Mr	Title	Mrs
Forename	Henry	Forename	Ann
Surname	Wilson	Surname	Merrigan
Role	Projects Director	Role	Operations Manager
Daytime Tel No.	01440 712288	Daytime Tel No.	01440 712950
Mobile No.	██████████	Mobile No.	██████████
Email	henry@reach-cp.org	Email	ann@reach-cp.org
Address Details (if different from Org address)		Address Details (if different from Org address)	
Ln1	1-3 Wisdom Facilities Centre	Ln1	
Ln2	42 Hollands Road	Ln2	
Town	Haverhill	Town	
Post Code	CB9 8SA	Post Code	

About your organisation

3. What local authority area(s) does your organisation work in?

Haverhill and district

*Community Chest funding is offered by both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils. As the decision making process is different any projects applying for funding across West Suffolk, must apply separately.

4. What is the status of your organisation?

Registered charity	✓	Charity number: 1115810
Applying for charitable status		
Company limited by guarantee	✓	Company number: 5867649
Community Interest Company		
Part of a larger regional or national charity (Please state which one)		
Constituted Community Group		
Social Enterprise		
Other (Please specify)		

5. How many people are involved in your organisation?

Management committee	3	Service users	200+
Full Time staff / workers	2	Volunteers and helpers (non-management)	68
Part Time staff / workers	2		

6. What is the purpose of your organisation? Please briefly describe why your organisation was set up, its aims and objectives and who primarily benefits from your organisation.

REACH Community Projects exists to tackle poverty in and around Haverhill. We have worked in the community since 2005 on a number of projects that are still on-going and launched REACH in January 2010 to bring all our projects together into one organisation.

REACH stands for 'Restore, Encourage, Action in the Community and Hope'. Our vision is to uncover and resolve the root issues of the people we see and lift them out of poverty, restoring dignity and reviving hope. We do this through 6 key activities/projects:

- REACH Resource Centre, a drop-in centre open weekdays providing a warm welcome and practical support for people struggling with poverty, debt, family problems and much more
- REACH Money Advice - Debt counselling, budgeting and money management support
- Foodbank, providing emergency food parcels to families and individuals in need
- Furniture Bank, providing and delivering good quality second hand furniture to families and individuals in crisis
- Starter Packs – Providing essential bedding & kitchenware
- Client Aid – Financial assistance through donation based projects such as Acts 435 & Warm Homes

Healthy People (gas & electricity grants)

7. What was your organisation's total income for last financial year?
8. What was your organisation's total expenditure for last financial year?
9. Does your organisation have more than six months running costs? Yes / **No**
10. What are your organisation's current unrestricted reserves or savings? £20,000
11. West Suffolk prioritises building resilient families and communities that are healthy and active. Please indicate which of the following areas your project contributes towards:

✓	A thriving voluntary sector and active communities who take the initiative to help the most vulnerable.
	People playing a greater role in determining the future of their communities.
✓	Improved wellbeing, physical and mental health.
	Accessible countryside and green spaces.

About your project – why are you applying for this funding?

12. What do you want the funding for? Please be specific. Please note that 'project' is meant to describe the project for which you are seeking funding, and not your organisation.

We are looking to secure £5000 towards the total cost of £23,000 to run our supported volunteer programme within the Foodbank.

The Foodbank exists to provide a safety net for unexpected crisis such as benefit delay/change, debt, unemployment, relationship breakdown etc. Sadly for those already struggling financially a sudden change in circumstances can result in families not having enough money to buy food. The Foodbank provides emergency food for 3 days of nutritionally balanced meals, thus allowing time for other agencies to get involved.

The Foodbank is an essential tool within the REACH projects, first as an intervention based project to alleviate the misery that poverty can bring whilst we tackle the root causes of the crisis and ultimately begin to lift people out of poverty. Secondly, as an excellent way of anyone regardless of ability can get involved with.

The Foodbank is a very popular project and we need a team of volunteers to collect the food, ie. food collections that happen periodically throughout the year. We need volunteers to weigh and sort the food, pack the boxes at the warehouse and finally at the distribution centre where the food is collected by clients.

We currently have a team of 68 volunteers working within the REACH projects. 60 are involved with delivering this project at the warehouse and the distribution centre. Of the 60 volunteers, 13 have been recipients of a food box (a further 3 are engaged in other areas of the REACH projects), 4 are supported volunteers (ie. those needing extra support to enable them to volunteer, for example physical or learning disabilities) and 24 are either U/18 or vulnerable volunteers, ie. those with mental health or learning disabilities who can work with others or alone but need supervision. Through our volunteer program, we are able to assist approx. 1200 people per year with emergency food following a short term crisis.

(We also partner with HMP Highpoint on their 'Breaking the Cycle' re-offending initiative by taking inmates on placement with us whilst serving their sentence. Naturally, this requires constant supervision while they are volunteering at the Foodbank.)

In addition to helping families in need, we also believe in providing volunteer opportunities for anyone regardless of their social status and ability. A number of our volunteers are members of the community who have retired from their day job and are looking at filling their time helping others in the community, but we also actively encourage volunteers who struggle with life issues whether it's disability, ill health etc., to enable them to contribute to society. We are looking to increase the number of supported volunteers as well as those who are vulnerable, but this needs managing. Therefore we are seeking funding towards our supported volunteer programme.

13. How has the project been developed out of the community's desire to improve the lives of local people? What evidence do you have that there is a need for this project? Please include sources of evidence, including any public/user/community consultation.

"Nearly 1 in 5 children in our community are living in poverty. Families living on our doorstep are unable to feed their children. This is a disgrace and we must take action now".
Cllr Roger Andre - Haverhill Town Mayor (February 2015) (1).

On a recent visit to a local school in Haverhill, Head Teacher Caroline Zwierzchowska-Dod stated that the most pressing issue facing local families is 'making ends meet' (Clements Primary School, situated in the Haverhill South Ward). (1)

Poverty related issues lie at the heart of Haverhill South - the area where the highest number of our clients are from and where our collection point/distribution centre is situated (REACH Resource Centre). This is backed up by national statistics(2). Haverhill Foodbank has been up and running since October 2008 and is an essential part of REACH Community Projects. Sadly poverty related issues are affecting our local community(2) and look like continuing for the foreseeable future(3). The Foodbank exists to provide emergency food for families and individuals in crisis. A crisis can happen through a sudden change in circumstances, ie. Ill health, redundancy, benefits change, debt, homelessness, domestic violence and low income.

Food is donated by the local community and this is sorted into food boxes ready for distribution at the food collection point (REACH Resource Centre). We partner with many front line care professionals who will refer clients to us for food help. It isn't just about a box of food, at REACH our highest priority to get to the root of the problem and begin to lift them out of poverty and we do this through a number of different projects.

On one hand, we need the food packed to assist families and individuals in crisis, whilst providing a volunteer project within the local community.

We are seeing an increase in the number of people asking for volunteer application forms especially from organisations who care for those struggling with mental health issues and learning difficulties.

Notes:

1 <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/why-end-child-poverty/poverty-in-your-area>

2 (www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk) show that Haverhill South is the most deprived ward in St Edmundsbury and is ranked amongst the 20% most deprived wards in Suffolk with Education Deprivation being in the lower 5% region nationally, crime around the 15% and Employment & Income Deprivation scoring in the lower 20's (23 & 25 respectively). In addition, a recent report by 'End Child Poverty' showed that Haverhill South has the highest number of children living in poverty in St Edmundsbury

<http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/why-end-child-poverty/poverty-in-your-area> It's not just one part of Haverhill that suffers from the effects of poverty, 3 out of the 4 Haverhill wards are classed as experiencing higher levels of poverty than the rest of the county - <http://www.westsuffolkccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/FINAL-Haverhill-Health-Needs-Assessment.pdf>

3 According a research report for Action for Children, The Children's Society and NSPCC child poverty is likely to continue rising beyond 2015 <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/files/intheeyeofthestorm.pdf> this coupled with the accelerated role out of Universal Credit in early 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-announced-for-accelerated-rollout-of-universal-credit-after-success-in-north-west> the future looks grim for many low income families.

14. How will the project help local people to support one another?

For many of our volunteers, feeling a sense of belonging is crucial. One young man who was homeless when he came to us said, "it's good to have something on my CV". Ben who is partially sighted and volunteers with us 2 days a week, said "I enjoy helping people, it's my favourite thing" and Dean a vulnerable young man with learning difficulties recently stole the show at a volunteer get together when he stood up and said "Thank you for letting me help at the Foodbank. I came in my suit and I got the job. I enjoy helping people". For Dean and for Ben they both see this as a job, and both see their involvement with the Foodbank as a way of contributing to society and help others in need.

15. Are you working with any other organisations on this project? **Yes / No**

If yes, please state the names of these groups and the nature of the relationship.

We partner with a number of agencies who care for those with special needs. Through this partnership we have been able to begin to develop a supported volunteer programme with agencies such as MENCAP, the Papworth Trust and Avenues East. We also partner with Highpoint Prison and their 'Breaking the Cycle' initiative to reduce re-offending (with some excellent results too!). In addition to this we also partner with the Job Centre regarding work experience, Samuel Ward Academy where we provide volunteering opportunities for their Duke of Edinburgh Award students.

In addition to the above, our referral partners are vital in delivering the project to those in need, such as Job Centre Plus, the Health Visiting team, Citizens Advice Bureau, Cartwheels Children's Centre (and family support workers, Social Services, Genesis Housing, Julian Support, the Bury Drug Advisory Service amongst others.

We also partner with Suffolk County Council on their Local Welfare Assistance scheme, Warm Homes Healthy People to provide vulnerable people with gas & electricity.

Lastly, we couldn't manage this project without the long term partnership we have with a number of key organisations such as Royce Group who have provided the warehousing we are in free of charge since 2005! We also rely on Community Money Advice & Advice UK for our debt counselling support, the Trussell Trust (network of Foodbanks), Acts 435 (on-line client aid fund), Haverhill & District Churches Together for their support and volunteers.

16. When will the project start?

April 2016

17. When will the project finish? Or is the project ongoing?

If this is an ongoing project, how will it be funded and continue going when the funding ends?

We are continuing to build relationships locally with local business, regular supporters, local churches as well as investing in income generation projects such as REACH Services – this is in infancy and still being trialled. This includes gardening, odd jobs etc., currently for a local church congregation (River of Life Community Church) as well as the basic maintenance of the Chalkstone Community Centre. We recognise the need to diversify and generate our own income streams and for the first time this year have undertaken our own fundraising activities which have generated just over £2000.

18. Which years funding are you applying for?

19. How many people do you expect to benefit directly from the project on either a weekly, monthly or annual basis?

20. What results (including targets/numbers) do you expect to see as a result of the funding and how do these relate to the Community Chest funding criteria?

To achieve 'a thriving voluntary sector and active community who take the initiative to help the most vulnerable' we expect the following:

- Distribute 700+ boxes of food and feed between 1000-1200 people in the year and address short-term hunger
- Provide at least 5 volunteering opportunities to vulnerable, marginalised and socially excluded people
- Provide at least 5 volunteering opportunities to our clients

In addition, we also expect to do the following:

- Improve health and wellbeing amongst our clients and volunteers
- Restore dignity and revive hope
- Support the more vulnerable people in our locality and provide a safety net when clients have nowhere else to turn

We also signpost a considerable amount of clients to other agencies as well as REACH resources such as debt & budgeting, furniture and form completion to enable clients to tackle the root of their problem.

21. What is the total cost of the project?

Please provide a full breakdown of the total cost of this project, including VAT if applicable along with any in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours.

Item or activity	Cost (£)
Staffing costs (Projects Director 8 hrs p/w; Operations Manager 16 hrs p/w; REACH Worker – deliveries etc., 4 hrs p/w)	18216.00
Volunteer hours (based on 30 volunteers, each working 2 hrs p/w over 48 weeks)	23000.00
Operational costs (van, training, client aid, subscriptions)	3650.00
Office, overhead, premises costs (warehousing, utilities, insurances, stationery)	7772.00
Capital costs (repairs, renewals & IT purchases)	960.00
Publicity costs	100.00
Other costs (IT support & professional fees)	1960.00
Total cost of items listed above:	55658.00

22. How much funding are you applying to us for?

£5000.00

23. What funds have you raised so far for this project?

Source	Amount (£)
Regular giving (based on previous years)	1300.00
River of Life Community Church	1800.00
One-off gifts (based on previous years)	3500.00
Gift Aid	200.00
Warehousing costs (gift in kind)	5500.00
Volunteer hours	23000.00
Total fundraising:	35300.00

24. What other funders have you applied to for further funding for the project?

Funder	Amount (£)	Timescale for decision
We have the following already in place and will apply again next year:		
Rope Trust (until February 2016)	£4000	February 2016
Henry Smith (until August 2016)	£8000	August 2016
Martineau Family Fund (May 2016)	£2000	May 2016
Total:	£14000	

25. What other grants and contracts has your organisation received over the past year from either Forest Heath District Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council?

Funder	Amount (£)	Reason for funding
Rent funding until March 2016	3750.00	Rent funding
Total:	3750.00	