

# Community Chest Application Summary 2017/2018

Local Authority	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Organisation	<b>Millennium Farm Trust</b>
Amount Requested	<i>£31,598 over three years</i>
Total Project Cost	£39,698
Match Funding	None
Partnerships	TIME OUT will be delivered by MFT supported by Priory School, Broadlands School and homes and Riverwalk School. The marketing budget will be used to promote the service to school users as well as tertiary support agencies (eg Leading Lives, Julian Support)
West Suffolk Bid?	No

## Key Points

Our aim is to help people with learning disabilities, acquired brain injury or mental health issues reach their maximum potential by providing structured activities on the farm, including:

- Looking after the farm's animals, (donkeys, sheep, pigs, goats and numerous poultry).
- Helping grow, harvest and prepare fruit and vegetables for the farm's shop.
- Maintaining and developing the farms gardens.
- Routine farm maintenance, woodworking and agricultural construction.
  
- Our project addresses both national and local strategies to tackle health inequalities by offering people with mental illness and learning difficulties the opportunity to improve their physical fitness and mental wellbeing.
  
- TIME OUT will operate 2 days a week every week during the school holidays, including half terms, but excluding Christmas. Participants will spend a half or full day on the farm, working with the animals, on the land or in a related environmental activity. A typical session will involve feeding the pigs and goats, collecting eggs and grooming the donkeys as well as seasonal tasks on the farm, including planting or harvesting crops.
  
- Project start: **April 2017**
  
- Project end: **October 2019**

**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](mailto:richard.baldwin@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

1. Name of your organisation(s): Millennium Farm Trust

2. Organisation address details

Address Ln1	Rookery Farm		
Address Ln2	Depden		
Address Ln3	Bury St Edmunds		
City/Town		Postcode	IP29 4BU
Main phone	07816 828016	E-mail	tim@depden.com
Website	www.m-f-t.org.uk		

Main Contact Person		Second Contact Person	
Title	Mr	Title	Mr
Forename	Tim	Forename	Andy
Surname	Freathy	Surname	Hunter
Role	Director	Role	Chair of Trustees
Daytime Tel No.	07816 828016	Daytime Tel No.	██████████
Mobile No.		Mobile No.	
Email	<a href="mailto:tim@depden.com">tim@depden.com</a>	Email	████████████████████
Address Details (if different from Org address)		Address Details (if different from Org address)	
Ln1		Ln1	
Ln2		Ln2	
Town		Town	

Post Code		Post Code	
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### About your organisation

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

St Edmundsbury (90%) Forrest Heath (10%)
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\*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:
Applying for charitable status		1070145
Company limited by guarantee		Company number:
Community Interest Company		03567659
Part of a larger regional or national charity (Please state which one)		Not applicable
Constituted Community Group		
Social Enterprise		
Other (Please specify)		Limited Company with Charitable status

5. How many people are involved in your organisation?

Management committee	8	Service users	55
Full Time staff / workers	0	Volunteers and helpers (non-management)	15
Part Time staff / workers	4		

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.

Millennium Farm Trust (MFT) is a care farm established by a group of Suffolk residents with learning disabilities, to provide a safe and supportive learning and working environment in agriculture and horticulture.

Our aim is to help people with learning disabilities, acquired brain injury or mental health issues reach their maximum potential by providing structured activities on the farm, including:

Looking after the farm's animals, (donkeys, sheep, pigs, goats and numerous poultry).

Helping grow, harvest and prepare fruit and vegetables for the farm's shop.

Maintaining and developing the farms gardens.

Routine farm maintenance, woodworking and agricultural construction.

Most clients (aged 21-59) live in St Edmundsbury, are on the Autistic Spectrum and have moderate to severe learning disabilities accompanied with some motor or coordination difficulties.

The benefits that working with MFT provides, include

- i) Social inclusion; MFT helps people to regain their place in their community and enable them to move towards taking part in mainstream activities and opportunities along with everyone else.
- ii) MFT develops key social skills which help individuals to have the success in daily living they would like for themselves.
- iii) Improved social functioning; The ability to maintain and develop appropriate relationships with friends and colleagues are important dimensions to normal social functioning.
- v) Attenders at MFT can demonstrate improved cognitive function and an improvement in their ability to understand new or complex information.
- vi) Greater self-esteem; MFT benefits clients by giving people the space and time to become more socially confident, to give them new things to try and to support them to succeed in situations or tasks they might otherwise find challenging.
- vii) Improved mood and reduction in anxiety related symptoms; The none-judgmental, supportive atmosphere coupled with worthwhile and appropriate physical activities helps to create an atmosphere of fun, friendship and sense of shared endeavour.

What was your organisation's total income for last financial year?

£64,671

7. What was your organisation's total expenditure for last financial year?

£60,140

8. Does your organisation have more than six months running costs? No

9. What are your organisation's current unrestricted reserves or savings?

£0.00

10. 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?

11. 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.

Over three years, the funding will improve the lives of local people by extending existing MFT provision to deliver over 3,000 hours of new training and learning opportunities in agriculture and horticulture to over 1000 young people with learning disabilities in West Suffolk, as well as providing respite for their carers during the school holidays.

Our project addresses both national and local strategies to tackle health inequalities by offering people with mental illness and learning difficulties the opportunity to improve their physical fitness and mental wellbeing.

People with learning disabilities have poorer health than the general population, much of which is avoidable. These health inequalities often start early in life (e.g half of all mental illness starts before the age of 14 and three quarters by the age of 20). The impact of these health inequalities is serious. As well as having a poorer quality of life, people with learning disabilities die at a younger age than their non-disabled peers. TIME OUT seeks to mitigate the early onset of mental illness and poor physical fitness for these minority groups thereby increasing life expectancy, economic productivity, social functioning and quality of life and will reduce the burden on health, welfare and social services in the longer term.

TIME OUT will operate 2 days a week every week during the school holidays, including half terms, but excluding Christmas. Participants will spend a half or full day on the farm, working with the animals, on the land or in a related environmental activity. A typical session will involve feeding the pigs and goats, collecting eggs and grooming the donkeys as well as seasonal tasks on the farm, including planting or harvesting crops.

The clinical evidence for the benefits of working with animals and the environment is well documented and TIME OUT placements will contribute to participant's health and wellbeing in a number of ways, including combating social exclusion, improving social skills, (particularly survival skills and interpersonal skills).

At TIME OUT, within a structured day, individuals will be encouraged to choose their work for the session, exercise choices and take control for what they seek to do and take the credit for their achievements, thereby promoting empowerment and self-reliance. In turn this will help develop people's coping ability.

12. 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.

The project has been developed in response to the increasing number of enquiries we receive from individuals, their support workers and institutions to provide the service for young people in the locality.

We tested the approach in the summer and provided a trial service to young people in partnership with InterAct, a holiday activity provider. This proved highly successful and feedback was very positive. *"I was very impressed with how well things were organised. All of the young people thoroughly enjoyed the day and the members of staff supporting them thoroughly enjoyed it as well! It was very educational. Your staff were very patient with our group. Some of whom can be very challenging at times to work with. It was so nice to see some of our young people so engaged with the work on the farm. Trust me this is not an easy task to achieve and you more than surpassed it. The relaxed approach to the work was refreshing to see and your flexibility towards the activities was also much appreciated. It is very rare that you can get that hands on with a real working farm."* Andrew Denny, InterAct

In addition we have consulted local schools and support organisations to ascertain both the level of perceived need for the service amongst young people with learning disabilities and their families and carers. Their feedback indicates to us that there is clear need to provide "real world" experience appropriate for young people with learning disabilities as they prepare to leave the formal education sector, with few opportunities available, particularly in rural areas.

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

The project is being delivered in association with local special schools in St Edmundsbury. In particular, Priory School, Broadlands School and Riverwalk School have all been engaged and involved in the design of the project.

Together with MFT, TIME OUT provides a unique opportunity for the schools to work together and enable their young people to socialise and meet new people in a supportive and supported environment as they prepare to leave the formal education sector and find their way in the world. This is the first time that MFT has connected with other local providers in this way and it will support future working and help ensure the sustainability of the provision once funding comes to an end.

14. Are you working with any other organisations on this project? Yes

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

TIME OUT will be delivered by MFT supported by Priory School, Broadlands School and homes and Riverwalk School. The marketing budget will be used to promote the service to school users as well as tertiary support agencies (eg Leading Lives, Julian Support)

15. When will the project start? April 2017

16. When will the project finish? October 2019 is the project ongoing?

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

Services aimed at mitigating health inequalities for young people with learning disabilities are limited in West Suffolk, though competition for their time and money from other less healthy options are of course just as prevalent as for non-disabled people. Three year funding will help ensure that the service continues after that period by providing an element of security to enable MFT to invest long term resource in the service and provide enough time to develop a powerful relationship with other local providers to build an exceptional and truly valued service. The partnerships that are created through this project will live on and help future proof provision. All these factors will enable the service to compete more effectively in the wider market place for people's time and money.

17. Which years funding are you applying for? 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20

18. How many people do you expect to benefit directly from the project on either a weekly, monthly or annual basis? 276 in yr1, 344 in yr 2 and 424 in yr 3.



19. 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? If your project is health related how does it improve health outcomes for residents within community networks and beyond?

Year 1 Targets: 960 hours of training and experience of farm working delivered to 320 young people.

Year 2 Targets: 1200 hours of training and experience of farm working delivered to 400 young people.

Year 3 Targets: 1800 hours training and experience of farm working delivered to 600 young people.

We have tested the idea and strong local support from providers in the district (see 12. Above). The unique partnership between MFT and local special schools will help build lasting resilient relationships with purpose. Participants will gain in self-confidence, personal resilience and a whole host of social skills which help them become better prepared life in the wider community.

20. 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.

<b>Item or activity</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>
<b>Year 1: 2017/18</b>	
Staff	£3120
Risk management/HSE compliance	£3000
PPE/materials	£1600
Rents, utilities, farm consumables, office consumables	£1200
Marketing	£500
Admin (8hrs per week project runs @£10/hr)	£800
Insurance, project governance etc (pro rata)	£1102
Travel	£450
Tools/equipment	£828
Contingency	£400
<b>Year 1 total</b>	<b>£13000</b>
<b>Year 2: 2018/19</b>	
Staff	£4440
Risk management/HSE compliance	£500
PPE/materials	£2000
Rents, utilities, farm consumables, office consumables	£1400
Marketing	£250
Admin (8hrs per week project runs @£10/hr)	£800
Insurance, project governance etc (pro rata)	£1102
Travel	£450
Tools/equipment	£1032
Contingency	£450
<b>Year 2 total</b>	<b>£12424</b>
<b>Year 3: 2019/20</b>	
Staff	£4800
Risk management/HSE compliance	£500
PPE/materials	£3000
Rents, utilities, farm consumables, office consumables	£1600
Marketing	£250
Admin (8hrs per week project runs @£10/hr)	£800
Insurance, project governance etc (pro rata)	£1102
Travel	£450
Tools/equipment	£1272
Contingency	£500
<b>Year 3 total</b>	<b>£14274</b>
<b>3 Year Total cost of items listed above:</b>	<b>£39698</b>

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

£31,598
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22. What funds have you raised so far for this project?

Source	Amount (£)
Year 1 Earned income	£1600
Year 1 MFT contribution from reserves	£500
Year 2 Earned income	£2000
Year 2 MFT contribution from reserves	£500
Year 3 Earned income	£3000
Year 3 MFT contribution from reserves	£500
<b>Total fundraising:</b>	<b>£8,100</b>

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

Funder	Amount (£)	Timescale for decision
none		
<b>Total:</b>		

24. 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
none		
<b>Total:</b>		

