

Community Chest Application Summary 2017/2018

Local Authority	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Organisation	Community Action Suffolk (Locality)
Amount Requested	<i>£7,500 per year for three years = £22,500</i>
Total Project Cost	£34,676
Match Funding	Own core and generated income funding: £17,176
Partnerships	Whilst there are no formal partnerships for this piece of work, Community Action Suffolk works closely with local partners throughout all activities.
West Suffolk Bid?	Yes

Key Points

- Community Action Suffolk is the infrastructure organisation working with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) in Suffolk.
- Funding will support the CAS local delivery model through our West Suffolk Locality Officer to enhance the service in the area. CAS provide wide ranging support to the VCS to enable them to have greater impact on the local residents and communities they serve.
- Project start: **April 2017**
- Project end: **Ongoing**

**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	Brightspace		
Address Ln2	160 Hadleigh Road		
Address Ln3			
City/Town	Ipswich	Postcode	IP2 0HH
Main phone	01473 345400	E-mail	info@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk
Website	www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk		

Main Contact Person		Second Contact Person	
Title	Mrs	Title	Mrs
Forename	Hannah	Forename	Christine
Surname	Reid	Surname	Abraham
Role	Senior Manager VCSE Sector Development	Role	Director of Community Services
Daytime Tel No.	01473 345332	Daytime Tel No.	01473 345302
Mobile No.		Mobile No.	XXXXXXXXXX
Email	hannah.reid@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk	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	

About your organisation

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

Suffolk

*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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charity number: 1150501
Applying for charitable status	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Company limited by guarantee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Company number: 8316345
Community Interest Company	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Part of a larger regional or national charity (Please state which one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Constituted Community Group	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social Enterprise	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. How many people are involved in your organisation?

Management committee	7	Service users	
Full Time staff / workers	25	Volunteers and helpers (non-management)	489
Part Time staff / workers	25		

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.

Community Action Suffolk is the infrastructure organisation working with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) in Suffolk. CAS's vision is that Suffolk communities are stimulated, empowered and strengthened through an effective and sustainable voluntary and community sector. Our mission is to strengthen and champion community action in Suffolk by supporting the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in its work.

CAS has four key aims :

- 1) Supporting a diverse and resilient VCSE sector to build capacity and sustainability
- 2) Stimulating and developing impactful community and voluntary action
- 3) Creating and maintaining influential, equitable and beneficial relationships between the public, business and voluntary community sector
- 4) Develop CAS as a sustainable and essential business in Suffolk, driven by continuous improvement and innovation

CAS employs experienced, skilled and knowledgeable staff to provide support to both new and established VCSE organisations. Quality information, advice and guidance is provided on a range of topics about organisation development through 121 support, website, newsletters, toolkits and training. CAS has a bespoke Quality Standard for the sector endorsed locally by the Public Sector.

We provide networking opportunities for groups through local events, and facilitate workshops and conferences around information sessions to alert the sector to specific issues and opportunities.

Volunteering is a key area of our work supporting both individuals and organisations. CAS has recently led and facilitated the production of the Suffolk Volunteer Strategy on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board to provide a framework and county wide ambition for the future of Suffolk's Volunteering. We support good practice in organisations with the recruitment, development and retention of their volunteers.

CAS works collaboratively with colleagues across the Suffolk system through a myriad of services, programmes and work streams to create a resilient and effective VCS across the county.

7. What was your organisation's total income for last financial year? £2,125,477
8. What was your organisation's total expenditure for last financial year? £2,365,705
9. Does your organisation have more than six months running costs? No
10. What are your organisation's current unrestricted reserves or savings? £216,000 free reserves

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. **300 words**

Funding will support the CAS local delivery model through our West Suffolk Locality Officer to enhance the service in the area. CAS provide wide ranging support to the VCS to enable them to have greater impact on the local residents and communities they serve. Officers have expert knowledge in a range of areas and are supported by further specialist knowledge throughout CAS. In WS, the locality officer will work alongside the Families & Communities team to provide:

- 1:1 support for VCS organisations to build capacity including effective governance, management, policies & procedures, financial planning etc.
- Develop and implement a triage/healthcheck system for organisations in West Suffolk. Specifically, this innovative approach will be developed here with a future implementation plan to roll out across Suffolk. This will enable any size or structure of organisation to perform an 'Organisation Efficiency' check, which will troubleshoot and identify gaps in capacity or capability that can then be supported for resolution.
- Health & wellbeing initiatives: including support for Good Neighbour Schemes which actively encourages communities to support themselves from within and become more resilient. New schemes will be introduced as a result of this funding
- Organisation start up and business planning support
- Specialist support and guidance for Community buildings and village halls, including specific support for less proactive community facilities to become community hubs supporting residents through social networking activities and local services
- Working with organisations to achieve the CAS QS Award
- Provide up to date online resources, toolkits & e-learning opportunities
- Community consultation in conjunction with the F&C team, through Locality Network Events ensuring communities are part of and informed of changes & opportunities
- Support for Community Action, resilience and reducing social isolation including partnership working.
- Tailored, locally delivered training courses

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.

The West Suffolk Localities Officer currently has a positive relationship with the 7 Families and Communities Officers and the team administrator which has enabled genuine partnership working. The CAS Locality Officer is co-located in West Suffolk offices and receives regular referrals from the F&C officers to work with external groups. Outreach projects such as Good Neighbour Schemes, Asset Transfers (land), engagement with Parish Councillors regarding governance, information and advice on village halls, usage of promotional equipment, supporting the West Suffolk Network committee, attending One Haverhill Board meetings, sign postings to Ward Cllrs Locality Budgets are a regular conversation with all staff members and provides evidence of needs based issues that the Locality Officer helps to resolve.

West Suffolk Families and Communities staff regularly attend the VCSE quarterly network events as agenda speakers outlining their roles, responsibilities (including funding) and the connections with local proactive organisations. These events are also used to carry out regular consultation with the organisations attending and understand the support they need from which our service delivery is planned.

Regular community consultation events are also carried out to understand demand from local residents and community groups, particular success has been with the People's Health Trust project in Haverhill during this year.

For Good Neighbour Schemes, of which there are 29 across Suffolk there are only currently 4 active schemes in West Suffolk (1 in Forest Heath and 3 in St Edmundsbury) and 2 in development. Good Neighbour Schemes are local voluntary groups which offer a service in their community for those in need of help and support. The people who may need support may be the elderly, disabled, single parents and young mothers, those temporarily in need through illness or anyone who may be isolated within the community. Good Neighbour Schemes are not there to replace the work done by Social Services and other professional care agencies. There is proven evidence that they can improve the quality of life of people living more isolated lives particularly in rural communities.

Over the past year, the West Suffolk Locality Officer has supported an average of 12 VCS organisations per month. This need is increasing in the area with a total of 59 organisations engaging between June and September 2016.

CAS regularly surveys the VCSE sector as a whole across Suffolk to understand local issues and inform the organisations strategic planning with particular reference to locality areas and community resilience.

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

Helping people to foster a sense of control over their own health is critical. In enabling individuals, it's important to create a pathway towards good health that is achievable, often beginning with small but manageable steps. These build confidence and, in turn, empower people to take control, building an individual vision of a healthy future. Through supporting organisations to deliver more effectively, expand services for communities and operate in a more robust manner, this funding will increase individual independence, sector sustainability and reduce reliance on statutory services i.e. health services and social care.

Peer to peer support – Good Neighbour Schemes are groups of local people who volunteer to support others in their local community with practical and emotional support. Tasks include transport, household tasks, errands, befriending, etc. They also provide valuable volunteering opportunities for local people, many of whom are retired or not currently working, leading to increased confidence, improved skills, and more active local people with local knowledge providing local solutions. GNS also create new social networks which are proven to significantly reduce social isolation encouraging members to be more active members of their community.

Better health, trust in community groups, regard for the whole person, their culture and values, and taking responsibility for individual health doesn't happen in isolation - relationships with others are of the greatest importance. These relationships are first personal: with family, friends and neighbours. This funding will enable individuals to take more control of their lives with the support of new 'safe' networks and community groups/organisations.

15. 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.

Whilst there are no formal partnerships for this piece of work, Community Action Suffolk works closely with local partners throughout all activities. In West Suffolk, CAS has strong working relationships with Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury District Councils through Family and Communities Teams (from whom referrals are made), Suffolk County Council (locality officers, BCCOs), West Suffolk Council (Parks and open spaces, facilities, health & safety, environmental service and customer services teams). We also work closely with town councils and other VCS organisations i.e. Keystone Development Trust, Brandon Community Agency, Suffolk West CAB, Unity & Diversity CIC, St Nicholas Hospice and many more.

16. When will the project start? April 2017

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

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

CAS Locality Officers form a core part of the service provided by CAS across the county. We receive financial support from district and borough councils and Suffolk County Council to contribute to their work. However, in the current climate of funding cuts, CAS is working towards sustainability through the implementation of charges for services to ensure delivery continues post 2020. This work will contribute to long term sustainability particularly through the triage/healthcheck system that will allow us to not only highlight and promote West Suffolk as a proactive area in this field, but enable a Suffolk wide roll out to generate income and sustain future services. The Locality Officer service as a whole will also allow West Suffolk organisations to be more proactive themselves and increase their own sustainability through good financial systems allowing them to plan for service support within their own budgets.

18. Which years funding are you applying for?

2017-2020 3 years

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

66 Volunteers and 150 service users (residents) per year for good neighbour schemes

300 organisations throughout the project lifetime

Plus numerous additional impact on local residents and communities through the organisations supported delivery

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

Outputs

Over 3 years:

- 5 new Good Neighbour Schemes supported
- 6 training courses delivered (90 delegates) to develop organisation capacity and capability (2 per annum)
- 1:1 support for 75 organisations
- 8 new start up organisations/community groups supported to introduce or increase services to meet an identified unmet need in communities
- 1:1 support for 60 community buildings/village halls to ensure organisation efficiency, build capability and increase community reliance through realisation of community assets
- 38 organisations undergo the new 'healthcheck' and utilise the resulting action plan
- 6 Locality network events take place
- Minimum of 20 West Suffolk VCS organisations attend the CAS Locality Conference each year
- 150 organisations reached with quality information to improve their resilience and sustainability
- A minimum of £150,000 additional funding leveraged into West Suffolk through support and advice for VCS organisations
- 15 organisations working towards CAS Quality Standard

Outcomes

Over 3 years:

- VCS organisations are better able to support themselves and offer peer support through use of new/existing networks and resources
- Organisations are more resilient and self sustaining, enabling effective local delivery for residents and communities
- Local communities benefit from additional funding leveraged in to organisations able to offer more local services and become more resilient
- Local residents benefit from improved health & wellbeing through increased opportunities and reduced social isolation
- Increased and improved access to information for local organisations to support the impact in their communities
- VCS organisations understand being a 'safe' organisation
- More organisations work together locally to strengthen communities and utilise assets (partnership working/collaboration)
- Increased prevention / early intervention approaches adopted by organisations working in local communities through increased understanding of sustainability and implementation of Good Neighbour Schemes reducing reliance on statutory services

21. What is the total cost of the project?

£34,676

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 (£)
Annual cost	
Salaries	28366
Other staff costs	4800
Events/venue hire	1510
Total cost of items listed above:	£34676

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

£7500 per year for three years

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

Source	Amount (£)
Own core and generated income funding	£17176
Total fundraising:	£17176

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

Funder	Amount (£)	Timescale for decision
Forest Heath District Council Community Chest	7,500	
Total:	7,500	

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
None – we were commissioned for core funding by St Edmundsbury in 2013/14 and 14/15 £18,000 and 16,000 respectively No funding since		
Total:		