



EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 8TH JANUARY 2024 – 17:00

To: Members of the Community Services Committee:

Councillors Birch (Chair), Holland-Delamere (Deputy Chair), Ashraf, Alwahabi, Hallam, Hibbert, Ismail, Lane, Marriott, Miah, Russell and Soan

You are summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held at Northampton Town Council Committee Room on Monday 8th January 2024 at 17.00 hours.

This committee meeting is open to the public and press to attend and those attending the meeting shall be informed that it is being recorded. Public participation is in accordance with the Town Council's public participation policy. Members of the public wishing to take part or ask a question of the committee are required to contact the Town Clerk in advance.

Cc'd electronically to all other councillors for information

Stuart Carter
Town Clerk
3rd January 2023

Guildhall
Northampton
NN1 1DE

A G E N D A

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. TO REVIEW BUDGETARY REPORT FOR THE GENERAL COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME**
To follow
- 4. TO REVIEW TIME SENSITIVE GENERAL COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION – CGF86 INSIDE OUT THEATRE**
Democratic Services Officer's Report Attached

Community Engagement Reports Attached – MEMBERS ONLY

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5. TO REVIEW DEFFERRED COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION – CGF83 – NIGER DELTA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Democratic Services Officers' Report Attached

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Community Engagement Reports Attached – MEMBERS ONLY

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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER'S REPORT – CGF86 OUTSIDE IN THEATRE

PURPOSE: To provide the Community Services Committee background on General Community Grant Scheme (CGF) Application CGF86.

RECOMMENDATION: That Members review the following information and utilise this in their decisioning.

BACKGROUND

Outside in Theatre submitted a CGF application for '*Willow's Winter Hug*' after the Grant Sub-Committee meeting however, the organisation intends to complete their project within the February 2024 half-term and therefore time sensitive.

GRANT APPLICATION

Name of Project	Willow's Winter Hug
Name of Organisation	Outside In Theatre
Organisation Type	Community Organisation
What are the aims and objectives of your organisation	We are passionate about creating innovative projects that promote health and wellbeing through the arts and providing employment for local theatre practitioners. We take a dynamic approach to devising new work and reaching our audiences, underpinned by our values to be inclusive and provide accessible engagement for all.
Please provide details of your organisation's membership	We are a small voluntary organisation, our members live in Northampton.
How is the organisation managed	We have a management committee of three. We employ freelance staff and local artists to deliver our projects.
Trustee/Committee Members	3
Total Project Cost	£10,000
Contribution from other sources	£5,000
Please detail contributions from other sources	£5,000 from Northamptonshire Community Foundation - The Northampton Queen's Institute Relief Fund.
Please detail any non-financial 'in kind' support you have for your project	£200 library venue hire in-kind (for project funded by NCF.) Possible additional in-kind venue hire for this project - tbc

<p>Does this project involve collaboration with other organisations</p>	<p>Funding secured for Willow's Winter Hug to take place in Northamptonshire Libraries (Kingsthorpe, St James, Duston, Weston Favell)</p>
<p>Please explain the project</p>	<p>'Willow's Winter Hug' is aimed at improving the mental well-being and resilience of children aged 4 to 8 and their families in Northampton. We will provide free, interactive and high-quality arts experiences delivered through family-friendly workshops in the local community.</p> <p>The grant will pay for the delivery of four events for 200 children and their adults, at four community venues in Northampton. Our experienced artists will engage children and their families in fun, interactive arts, craft and storytelling activities using delightful illustrated activity sheets designed to promote well-being.</p> <p>During the workshop, children will be invited to take part in an interactive storytelling activity and invited make a craft with us and encouraged to make a Teddy Toolbox keepsake at home to store items they make and collect inspired by our workshop, activities and storybook.</p> <p>Participants will take home a goody bag of the craft they make, the activity sheets and a copy of 'Finding Robin's Rainbow' - this is our original storybook designed to support wellbeing and emotional health for children aged 4+. It includes tried-and-tested, evidence-based, creative and mindful activities embedded within the narrative to help self-care and support mental health.</p> <p>Our online version of 'Finding Robin's Rainbow' and our 'Teddy's Magical Toolbox' series, will also be available to families with internet access.</p> <p>These items will serve to remind them of self-care tools to safeguard and protect their mental wellbeing and self-esteem, enabling them to thrive as they move through life.</p> <p>The communities accessing our events face significant disadvantages stemming from financial and digital hardships. Many families in the communities we will be visiting lack the financial means to purchase essential craft materials and are unable to print activity sheets from our online resources. The digital divide exacerbates these challenges, as highlighted by the Ofcom Connected Nations Report 2020, with millions having no internet access and relying on pay-as-you-go services for critical tasks like healthcare, education, and benefits.</p> <p>This disadvantage is exacerbated by the economic landscape in Northampton. With 16% of children living in poverty, surpassing the national average of 17%, and 19.1% residing in low-income households, families in this community grapple with limited resources (Local Insight). These circumstances deprive children of vital material, spiritual, and emotional resources required for proper development, impeding their ability to fully participate in society and achieve their potential, as outlined by UNICEF.</p>

The consequences of these challenges are far-reaching. Children facing financial and digital hardships often experience worse cognitive, socio-behavioral, physical, and mental health outcomes. They may feel excluded, anxious, and embarrassed, potentially becoming targets of bullying. Additionally, they miss out on opportunities and items that could enhance their education, learning, play, and overall well-being, as noted by CPAG.

Our project aims to address these disparities by offering an offline, inclusive experience. By providing activities that don't rely on internet access or costly materials, we strive to ensure that families facing these hardships can still engage in meaningful experiences. The project acts as a way to counter the adverse effects of their circumstances, offering opportunities for creativity, bonding, and personal growth. In doing so, we hope to contribute positively to the lives of these disadvantaged individuals and provide them with resources to overcome the challenges they face.

Please set out what outcomes you believe your project will achieve: :

This project is designed to bring about significant positive changes in the lives of the participants:

Reduced Anxiety and Enhanced Calmness: Through the project's activities, participants can anticipate a noticeable decrease in anxiety levels, leading to an increased sense of calmness and emotional well-being.

Boosted Self-Esteem and Confidence: The project is designed to contribute to elevated self-esteem. By actively engaging in creative and well-being exercises, participants will cultivate a stronger sense of self-worth and confidence.

Mindful Presence and Grounding: Project engagement will foster a heightened state of awareness and grounding in the present moment. This mindfulness aspect is reinforced by insights from our Mindfulness expert and training from Public Health England on psychological first aid during COVID-19.

Enhanced Observational Skills and Curiosity: Our activities are structured to nurture qualities of increased observation and curiosity. Participants can expect to develop a heightened sense of wonder and exploration in their surroundings.

Strengthened Family Bonds: A profound outcome lies in the project's potential to strengthen family bonds. Families participating together will likely experience increased bonding and the creation of shared positive experiences, thus enriching their relationships.

Unleashed Creativity and Inspiration: Engaging in the artistic and well-being activities we offer will serve to unlock participants' creative potential and inspire them. These activities will open new avenues for self-expression and imaginative thinking.

	<p>These anticipated outcomes are grounded in expert insights and training. The project leverages strategies informed by our Mindfulness expert, training with Public Health England, and collaboration with the University of East Anglia in addressing anxiety in children. As a result, participants can look forward to experiencing meaningful changes in their emotional well-being, self-esteem, mindfulness, creativity, and family connections.</p>
Cost 1	<p>Operational/Activity Costs: £450 - printing copies of full colour storybook x 200 £50 - printing for activity sheets x 200 £1200 - resources for workshop and craft materials for activities</p> <p>Total £1,700</p>
Cost 2	<p>Publicity costs £50 - printing for promotional literature (leaflets/posters)</p> <p>Total £50</p>
Cost 3	<p>STAFF COSTS Based on ITC/Industry rates of pay. £600 Producer (3 days @ £200 per day) - Project Management £1400 Creatives Practitioner x 2 (6 days £175 per day) - event development, content design and delivery. £300 Illustrator (2 days @ £150 per day) activity sheets design £150 Marketing Officer (1 day @ £150 per day) £200 Graphic Designer (1 day @ £200) - Social media assets and website updates for project page</p> <p>Total £2,650</p>
Cost 4	<p>Other Costs & Contingency 5% of total project costs</p> <p>Total £220</p>
Cost 5	<p>Overhead & Core Costs 7.5% of project costs</p> <p>Total £380</p>
If the Council is unable to fund your project, what would the impact be?	<p>The project will not go ahead in the areas we have outlined in this application - Briar Hill, Semilong, Kingsheath, Blackthorn. 200 children and their families will not benefit from taking part.</p>
Do you have suitable Public Liability Insurance to cover your project?	<p>Yes</p>
Additional Information	<p>Willow's Winter Hug is designed to bring joy to families in the winter months. We would like to deliver this in late January/Early February 2024, therefore we would like to request that our application is given urgent review due to the short time frame of the project dates.</p>

This project is already tried and tested to be successful and in response to families' needs. We ran this project in four libraries last winter and we would like to share with you a summary of our evaluation from this below:

We had an extremely positive response to our events which we recorded through feedback postcards from the participants, testimony from library staff at each venue and through observation journals of our own.

Families who attended reported high levels of enjoyment (93% scored 7/10 and above), feeling happy (76%) with 58% finding the workshop 'a bonding experience for the family' and 65% feeling inspired to try new ideas at home as a result of attending.

There was a clear legacy to the event as families were already planning their next activities for doing at home. One Mum asked her child if he would like to make a Teddy Toolbox (as featured in the storybook we distributed in goody bags) and he responded enthusiastically, both of them making plans to visit The Works to choose a box after the event.

One parent commented in feedback that "I love that children are learning about feelings now, skills for life. :)"

It was also significant that 41% of participants hadn't attended an arts or culture event in the previous 12 months. The current cost of living crisis as well as the lasting effects of the Covid19 lockdowns may have played a part in this - which is why we felt so passionately about providing this high-quality free event.

A typical piece of feedback on this was: "Absolutely amazing & I can't believe it was free! Beautiful idea."

Families felt encouraged and excited to attend more events in the future. Feedback on this included: "looking for more sessions" "looking forward to attending more arts and cultural events" and "can't wait to see more shows/activities"

Several parents commented that they appreciated this event as they found that local activities and events for this age group (4-8) was very limited. One parent said "There isn't much for younger children to do so this is brilliant"

There was wonderful and effusive feedback from library staff - particularly on the engagement levels of the children. Nick from Hunsbury Library said "To have something that keeps kids engaged for an hour and a half is just amazing". Staff at each venue mentioned that they would love us to come back again. We also recorded several families coming especially for our sessions having seen them advertised on facebook.

For instance, one child at the Abington Library event commented "I've not been in this library before"

	<p>We fulfilled our aims of keeping our work inclusive and families from a diversity of backgrounds and needs came and participated equally. A highlight from one session was a young boy with special educational needs who formed an attachment to the performers in character and came back over especially to show them the suncatcher that he had made as part of the event.</p> <p>We are still securing the venues for this part of the project, however we anticipate a positive response and will inform you of partner venue confirmations asap. We have contingency allocated to the project grant which will cover costs if there is a hire charge.</p>
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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER'S REPORT – CGF83 NIGER DELTA ASSOCIATION

PURPOSE: To provide the Community Services Committee background and the further information received on General Community Grant Scheme (CGF) Application CGF83.

RECOMMENDATION: That Members review the following information and utilise this in their decisioning.

BACKGROUND

Niger Delta Association submitted a CGF application for their 'Anti-Knife Crime Concert' and was reviewed and subsequently deferred for further information at the previous Grant Sub-Committee meeting held on 25th November 2023.

The Grants Sub-Committee requested further information on the following:

- Would the event to be a paid ticketed event.
- When would the event take place.

The Applicant was contacted who provided the following information:

"The date for the anti-knife crime concert is March 22, 2024, at Roadmender. The event is not a ticketed event; however, attendees must register for free through Eventbrite so we can keep track of those who attended and for security compliance. It is free for young people and adults to attend so they get educated about doing away with knife crime, gang cultures, drug abuse, drug crime, youth violence, and bullying, including cuckooing. We are utilising good music artists to send this message to young people who will be attending the concert because young people are influenced by music culture, and we aim to utilise the artist fanbase to galvanise the youth community.

There will be a workshop, which will last 2 hours and be the first activity before the artist's performance. During the workshop, road-mender will not open the bar for alcohol sales; the artists shall be performing after the workshop, which should be for three hours, and road-mender will only sell alcohol when artists are performing.

We have raised 15,000 pounds so far (10k from West Northampton council and 5k from the vice chancellor of the University of Northampton); we just need an additional 10,000 pounds to set sail for the anti-knife crime concert scheduled for March 22, 2024."

APPLICATION FORM

Name of Project	Anti-Knife crime and youth violence concert
Name of Organisation	Niger Delta Youth Association
Organisation Type	Registered Charity

Do you have a constitution or governing document?	Yes
What are the aims and objectives of your organisation?	Youth and Educational empowerment and youth violence prevention
Please provide details of your organisation's membership	NDYA's membership is primarily drawn from the Niger Delta region in Nigeria. Our members are located in various counties within England, including but not limited to Wales. We aim to represent the youth from diverse communities within the region.
How is your Organisation Managed	The Niger Delta Youth Association (NDYA) is managed through a structured organizational framework that ensures effective governance, decision-making, and implementation of our objectives.
Trustees/Committee Members	3 trustees
Staff	0 staff
Total Project Cost	£23,145.00
Contribution From Other Sources	£13,000
Total Requested from Northampton Town Council	£2,500
Please detail contributions from other sources	We have been awarded £10,000 grant from West Northampton Council from it knife crime and youth violence grant and Student union of Northampton University will cover £3000 cost of the concert. We are working in partnership with student union of Northampton University.
Please detail any non-financial 'in kind' support you have for your project	As the representative of the Niger Delta Youth Association (NDYA), I would like to provide details regarding the non-financial 'in kind' support we have for our anti-knife crime concert project. These contributions play a crucial role in the success of our initiative. Here are some examples of the non-financial 'in kind' support we have
Venue	We have secured the support of a local venue that has generously offered their space for the concert at a reduced price. This includes providing the necessary infrastructure, such as a stage, seating arrangements, lighting, and sound equipment. Their contribution enables us to host the event and create a safe and engaging environment for attendees.
Artists and Performers	We have received support from talented artists and performers who have volunteered their time and skills to entertain and educate the audience during the concert. These individuals are passionate about raising awareness about knife crime and have agreed to perform with reduced financial compensation.
Promotion and Marketing	We have partnered with media outlets, radio stations, and social media influencers who are supporting our cause by providing free advertising and promotion for the concert. Their assistance helps us reach a wider audience and generate awareness about the event's objective and message.
Event Management	The event management team has offered their expertise in event management, assisting us in planning and coordinating various logistical aspects of the concert. This includes activities such as stage management, crowd control, and overall event coordination at a reduced price.

Volunteer Support	We have a dedicated team of volunteers who have committed their time and energy to support the concert's operations. These volunteers assist with tasks such as event setup and teardown, ushering, providing information to attendees, and ensuring the smooth running of the event.
Security Services	In collaboration with the RoadMender venue, NDYA and the student union will be providing additional security personnel to supplement the existing security team. This proactive approach ensures that there will be an adequate number of trained professionals present throughout the concert to maintain a safe and secure environment.
Collaboration with Northamptonshire Police	We have established a strong partnership with the Northamptonshire Police, specifically with Police Constable 0010, Tracey Sandy, who serves as the Northamptonshire Police Licencing Constable (WEST) at Campbell Square Police Station. In a recent meeting, PC Sandy assured us of the full support of the police force on the day of the concert. She has confirmed that multiple police officers will be present throughout the event to maintain law and order, as well as to ensure the smooth and safe delivery of the anti-knife crime and youth violence concert. Attached to this document is a screenshot of an email from PC Sandy, demonstrating her commitment and support for the event.
Does this project involve collaboration with other organisations?	Student union of University of Northampton
Please explain the project	Using Concert to Educate Northamptonshire Youth about Knife Crime & Youth Violence
Aim	The aim of this project is to educate and raise awareness among the youth in Northamptonshire about the collective combat against knife crime and youth violence. The project will utilize a concert as a platform to engage, inform, and empower young individuals to actively contribute to creating a safer community. Additionally, workshops led by charitable organisations will aim for a more direct approach to educating youths on the topic of violence.
Objectives	<p>2.1. To inform and educate the youth about the consequences and impact of knife crime and youth violence on individuals, families, and communities.</p> <p>2.2. To raise awareness about the importance of collective efforts and community involvement in combating and preventing knife crime and youth violence.</p> <p>2.3. To provide educational resources and materials that promote understanding, empathy, and positive alternatives to violence.</p> <p>2.4. To foster a sense of empowerment and encourage young individuals to actively take part in initiatives aimed at reducing knife crime and youth violence.</p> <p>2.5. To collaborate with local authorities, educational institutions, and community organizations to establish long-term strategies for addressing and preventing knife crime and youth violence.</p>

	<p>2.6. To evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the concert as an educational tool in influencing attitudes and behaviours related to knife crime and youth violence.</p> <p>2.7. To use the voice of peers and role models to discourage knife crime and violence.</p> <p>To share and raise awareness of information regarding support for issues relating to knife crime and violence.</p>
Please set out what outcomes you believe your project will achieve	Given the gravity of the situation, our project recognizes the pressing need to address these issues head-on and provide the youth with educational resources, support, and alternatives to violence. By focusing on prevention, awareness, and empowerment, we aim to contribute to a safer and more resilient community in Northamptonshire, where young people can thrive and fulfil their potential.
Item Description 1	Roadmender - Venue Hire Fee Total £850
Item Description 2	Stage/Backstage Refreshments Total £200
Item Description 3	Door Staff Total £500
Item Description 4	UNCSS & the MIC Bands Total £500
Item Description 5	Student DJ Total £200
Item Description 6	3 security Total £250

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – CGF83 NIGER DELTA – MEMBERS ONLY