

2019/2020 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Eildon

Ref. No.: CF1920-EIL-12

Organisation Name: Stable Life

Funding Requested: £20,000

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Registered charity		
Annual Accounts Balance	£140,469		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
Yes Stable Life holds £50,000 in reserves for unexpected costs such as a funding crisis, redundancy, significant maintenance costs or for long term investment in the Dryden infrastructure. The restricted funds would also cover the costs of supporting their equine herd in the event of closure and / or a break in business continuity until alternative arrangements could be made. There is an additional Capital Reserve fund of £12,300 and funds ring-fenced for an IT upgrade and the Out of the Woods pilot programme totaling £12,600.			
Has the applicant applied for SBC community funding within the last three years?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Fund	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
Localities Bid Fund	2019/20	£15,000	Indoor riding school upgrade
Education's ASN contribution	2019/20	£7,000	To fund costs of young person referrals
Education's ASN contribution	2018/19	£7,000	To fund costs of young person referrals
Education's ASN contribution	2017/18	£7,000	To fund costs of young person referrals

ABOUT THE PROJECT		
Project Brief	The application is to part fund Stable Life's annual rental cost and additional Estate overhead costs of £41,228.00 for 2019/20.	
Project Start Date:	01.12.19	
Total Expenditure (£)	£372,825.00 (Stable Life running costs for 2019/20)	
Community Fund Request (£)	£20,000.00	
10% Match-funding	£2,000	
Any Other Contribution?	£350,825.00 (for 2019/20)	
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
	£190,325	Secured grant funding
	£25,000	Commissioned services (voluntary sector + other LA's) + SBC Education ASN contribution
	£90,000	Commercial income (ongoing)
	£39,326	Pending funding applications
	£8,174	Donations/Fundraising (ongoing)
Total	£352,825.00	For 2019/20
Community Fund Outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality local services or activities <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to a better quality environment <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more pride in their community <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality advice and information <input type="checkbox"/> More local groups or services are better supported to recover from financial difficulty	

ASSESSMENT	
What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>Stable Life supports around 100 disadvantaged young people aged 10-18 years annually. Of the 104 young people referred last year, 57 came from Eildon. Over 544 1:1 sessions and group sessions took place during the year with 29 young people discharged with a medium to significant increase in their self-confidence. 26 have shown a medium to significant increase in their resilience, 31 have improved relationships and 23 have shown a significant to moderate increase with Life Skills. 5 young people are now working towards an SQA Level 4 award. 15 young people are re-engaging with school, 6 young people went into further education, 4 young people gained accreditations 16 young people became volunteers (Peer Mentors and Yard Volunteers) and 3 young people became volunteers elsewhere.</p>

	<p>A holiday programme and residential trip was provided over the summer to provide continued support and a variety of learning experiences to young people who had no alternative.</p> <p>Scottish Borders Council's Education and Social Work services are the main referrers to Stable Life. The voluntary sector and other Local Authorities who have young people placed in Scottish Borders also refer to Stable Life. These are commissioned services.</p>
<p>What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?</p>	<p>Through Equine Assisted Learning, Stable Life is supporting young people to become more motivated, fitter and happier. Learning is delivered through 1:1 and group sessions as well as life skills sessions, work placements, volunteering opportunities and a summer programme. Over the past five years, over 549 young people have engaged with Stable Life. 80% say they are now more resilient and have better life styles. Over 85% showed increased confidence and 84% have improved relationships. 44 young people became peer volunteers with over 8,000 hours of volunteering completed. The economic value of 8,000 volunteer hours is the equivalent of £99,680. 43 young people secured college placements, 54 completed work placements and 16 secured employment. There has also been benefits for the adult volunteers including two re-engaging with further education, two securing employment and completion of a 200 hours volunteering certificate.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Stable Life actively encourage and support the involvement of all people in the running and development of the organisation. Young people help design future developments of the service and often become peer volunteers helping to deliver sessions. Young people also participate in Board meetings as do parent representatives. Stable Life are planning to set up a steering group with young people who will feed in ideas and suggestions to team meetings and Board meetings. Stable Life regularly receive donations from community residents. Local businesses regularly have volunteer team days where staff help out around the yard.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>Almost a third of Stable Life's running costs for 2019/20 will be met through income generation. Stable Life are in Year 2 of three year funding from a variety of external funders. These funds will cover 52% of their costs for 2019/20. To address the shortfall in external funding, Stable Life also have a number of pending applications, including their application to the Community Fund for £20,000.</p> <p>£115,307 in funding has been secured for 2020/21 with a further £271,668 pending. £27,000 funding has been secured for 2021/22 and a further £279,924 pending. Income raised from commissioned work, commercial activity and donations will help achieve the balance.</p> <p>Stable Life's Board has spent considerable time reviewing their financial situation and identifying adjustments that can be made to help them bridge a funding shortfall. Stable Life has significantly reduced their staff travel budget as staff no longer collect young people to transport them to and from Stable Life. Where possible volunteer drivers from Stable Life are used or the referring service</p>

	will transport young people. This has allowed them to reinvest their money in to project delivery.
<p>What happens at the end of the project/activity or when the funding is spent?</p>	<p>Stable Life has been working with Community Enterprise in Scotland (CEIS) for the past six years to develop their strategy and increase income generation. CEIS supported Stable Life's move from premises in Galashiels to Dryden, a move which has increased their income levels from 0% to 30%. The focus of CEIS's work is sustainability of the project and centers on two key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the refurb of the riding school - a refurbished indoor riding school creates opportunity to increase earnings by staging competitions, events, hiring out for private functions etc, bringing people to the Eildon area. • Establishment of Stable Life as an SQA accreditation centre - Stable Life has recently started supporting service users to complete SQA portfolios which are verified through Borders College. Stable Life are considering developing this model to become an accredited learning centre themselves. As SQA accreditation generates tariff points for schools there is motivation for schools to work with Stable Life to create learning opportunities for students and a dialogue has begun with schools regarding paid referrals to Stable Life. <p>There is also a vision to widen Stable Life's criteria to include other client groups such as Veterans, Criminal Justice programmes for young female offenders etc. The aim is to develop a clear commissioning framework between Stable Life and referring partners which includes SBC.</p> <p>These measures, along with commercial income, should eventually provide Stable Life with at least 50% of their overall costs which would cover core expenditure of the project.</p> <p>A refresh of Stable Life's Business Plan has begun and an application has been made to secure business support from the Scottish Government's Just Enterprise Programme.</p> <p>Stable Life's current lease runs until 2023. An agreement is in place that their lease will be extended by 10 years (to 2028) If they are successful at securing funding to upgrade the riding school indoor facilities. Funding of £25,000 has been secured and £15,000 raised through crowdfunding. One funding application for £10,000 is pending. The landlords have agreed to an arrangement where any shortfall could be covered through future rent payments. A local family trust has also offered Stable Life a monthly contribution in support of the work they are delivering.</p>
<p>Quotes received for items of expenditure</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?</p>	<p>N/A</p>

SBC OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Recommend to approve to the value of £20,000

Additional Terms and Conditions:

To address concerns regarding project sustainability, Stable Life will be required to refresh their Business Plan and continue to explore income generation opportunities to reduce reliance on grant funding and ensure core costs can be met.

