

COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME - ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION DETAILS		
Ref No: CGS/07/15	Grant Request: £2,500	Total Project Cost: £-
Project Title: Support Grant		
Brief Summary: One-off support to assist with the cost of increased electricity charges as a result of the need to purchase new technology to operate a helpline communication system. The application also seeks support for increasing costs associated with volunteer travel expenses.		
Match-Funding From Other Sources:	Not applicable as the application is for running costs.	
Contribution by Organisation:	Not applicable as the application is for running costs.	
ORGANISATION DETAILS		
Name of Organisation: Border Samaritans		
Type of Organisation: Charitable association		
SBC Members/Officers who are members of organisation:	Nil	
The following information has been received and checked by an Officer as correct:-		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signed and dated Constitution (<i>all organisations</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Bank Statement less than 3 months old (<i>all organisations</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independently approved annuals accounts (<i>all organisations over a year old</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Estimate of Income/Expenditure for first 12 months (<i>newly formed organisations only</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Quotations/Estimates (<i>project grants only</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of Support (<i>project/support involving children or vulnerable adults only</i>)		
SBC Grants Received in last 2 years: Nil		
ASSESSMENT		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The organisation has been in receipt of a grant from the Community Grant Scheme in the past which has been signed off appropriately 2. The organisation is properly set up and appears to be operating in line with its Constitution 3. The organisation has submitted accounts to 31st August 2014 which have been checked and appear in order 4. The organisation has savings of £28,162.99 which is more than one full year's typical income of £18,543.55, however it should be noted that £15,000 of these savings are restricted in a separate 'Development & Property Fund' to cover property maintenance, leaving a balance of £13,163. Any organisation which has more savings than the amount of income it receives in a year and which is not set aside for a specific purpose is unlikely to receive a grant. This amount of savings satisfies the terms of the Community Grant Scheme 5. The organisation's savings are below the minimum level and it is demonstrating a need for temporary financial assistance 6. The organisation has confirmed that the support for electricity costs includes £800 already paid out for computers, the cost of which is not eligible for support under the terms of the Community Grant Scheme as this cost is retrospective. Ideally, the organisation should have applied to Awards for All for development funding for the new computer equipment rather than use its own limited savings and it will be advised to consider this route for any future developments 7. The organisation has confirmed that it is applying for general support towards volunteer travel expenses which continue to rise year on year; it is not as a result of increased volunteers. 		

8. The project meets the scheme outcome 'more local groups or services are better supported to recover from financial difficulty' which links to the SOA outcomes:-
- Growing the economy
 - Reducing Inequality
 - Maximising the impact of the low carbon economy
9. The application meets the Corporate Plan priorities:-
- Encourage** sustainable economic growth
 - Improve attainment and achievement levels** for all our children and young people, both within and outwith the formal curriculum
 - Provide high quality support, care and protection** to children, young people, adults, families and older people
 - Build the capacity and resilience** of our communities and voluntary sector
 - Maintain and improve** our high quality environment
 - Develop our workforce**
 - Develop our assets and resources**
 - Ensure** excellent, adaptable, collaborative and accessible public services
10. The organisation provides a valuable support service for those in emotional crisis who may be facing suicidal tendencies. It offers confidential support via a variety of mediums such as SMS, email, telephone and one-to-one sessions, tailored to suit the requirements of the individual in times of extreme stress. The organisation can offer intermediary support which relieves pressure on formal health service referral routes if it is deemed that this is all that is required
11. Due to the pressure on the generic budget, it is recommended to award at the lower level of £1,700, £200 to cover increased electricity charges and £1,500 towards volunteer travel expenses. The organisation is aware that there is pressure on funding and has confirmed it would be grateful for whatever level of support may be available
12. Membership of the organisation is open to all and it appears committed to equal opportunities although it does not have its own Equal Opportunities Policy. The organisation has provided an Equalities Statement which confirms its activities benefit all in the community without restriction. An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and there are no apparent concerns. It is recommended by the SBC Equality & Diversity Officer that all organisations applying for funding should be asked to produce an Equal Opportunities Policy and this advice will be passed on to the organisation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Recommend to approve to the lower value of £1,700. To reflect the intended one-off nature of support grants, the offer of grant should be conditional on the organisation revising its fundraising plans to bridge this gap in future years.

Assessment Criteria

- *Grants received before*
- *How group has made use of previous grants*
- *How group is set up and managed*
- *Finances and financial need for funding*
- *Need/demand for project/activity*
- *How well the project meets the Community Grant Scheme outcomes (Communities have more access to better quality local services of activities; Communities have more access to better quality environment; Communities have more pride in their community; Communities have more access to better quality advice and information; More local groups or services are better supported to recover from financial difficulty)*
- *Support and involvement of wider community*
- *Efforts to secure other sources of funding*
- *How group has taken account of equal opportunities*