

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Berwickshire

Ref. No.: CF2021-BER-16

Organisation Name: ReTweed

Funding Requested: £5,503.50

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)		
Annual Accounts Balance	£24,047		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
Over 90% of current funding is restricted to project activity as per conditions of funding. The organisation currently has £3,028 in reserves. The Board are working towards securing £10k reserves to protect the project in the longer term and as per the OSCR guidelines for charities			
Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project brief	<p>ReTweed advances learning and opportunities particularly for the benefit of women who experience isolation and exclusion in Berwickshire.</p> <p>The organisation's core training activity includes an innovative 12-week textile upcycling programme where participants come together in a safe space to learn a wide range of techniques and skills in craft design and technology; teaching women a range of heritage, craft & upcycling skills underpinned by a clear environmental philosophy of promoting a reduce, reuse and recycle culture for the area. ReTweed provides routes into employment,</p>

		<p>education, enterprise and active citizenship for women from across the area.</p> <p>Students on the course are, on average, a 50:50 mix of women that have been referred and those signing up on their own behalf.</p> <p>Current training provision is based in Eyemouth and is not accessible to women who are living in more remote and rural areas with no access to public transport or with care responsibilities.</p> <p>A grant from Berwickshire Area Partnership would enable ReTweed to pilot the delivery of a minimum of two (maximum three) depending on resources 6-week intensive skills-based training (one day/week), in Berwickshire village halls in, communities where no other provision exists; it is planned that the session will take place in Cockburnspath and Westruther or Longformacus. Each outreach course would provide training small groups of a maximum of seven in order to ensure that everyone's needs are accommodated. The grant would cover the costs of employing a trainer, village hall hire, equipment (including two extra sewing machines), volunteer support, publicity materials and insurance.</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY		As soon a restrictions permit	
Total Expenditure (£)		£6,115	
Community Fund Request (£)		£5,503.50	
10% organisation contribution		£611.50	
Any Other Contribution?		No	
Other Funding Sources		Amount (£)	At what stage?
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		
Action Plan priorities	<p>The project meets the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen the opportunity and availability of modern apprenticeships and vocational training • Improve the access to further and higher education and the opportunity for lifelong learning 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services and specialist services • Focus on rural isolation and social inclusion and the impacts on mental health on people living across the locality
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ASSESSMENT

<p>What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Volunteers, students and referral agencies have highlighted that despite ReTweed meeting needs in Berwickshire, there are still many groups and communities that are not able to access the services provided. This is due to poor public transport and the complex needs of some prospective participants which means they could only take part in opportunities if they were based close to home. The courses will be delivered in areas where there is currently a gap with no other provision available.</p> <p>Unemployment amongst women in East Berwickshire increased by 87% in the period from December 2019 to December 2020. During the same period unemployment amongst women in Mid Berwickshire increased by 130%</p> <p>Each course is a run with mix of women who have been referred from partner agencies and those who have chosen themselves to attend in order to learn new skills.</p> <p>Since its inception in 2018 104 women have completed the 12-week programme.</p>
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<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>One of the overriding objectives is that delivering the training and skills and promoting wellbeing and social connectedness for women facing multiple disadvantage will help to break cycles of poverty, isolation, abuse, ill-health and low aspiration.</p> <p>The main outcomes of the training are improved confidence, self-esteem, social connectedness, motivation and aspiration. These are in addition to the further learning, citizenship/volunteering, employment and enterprise aspects of the courses.</p> <p>Students learn a range of skills that they can employ in their own lives and/or wider community through the design and production of a wide range of furnishings and crafts through the medium of innovative upcycling.</p> <p>Former students and volunteers have gone on to set-up other community projects after their participation with Re-Tweed, they have also worked with other community organisations and groups like Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Specialist Support Services, mental health support,</p>
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	Women's Rural, Youth Services, Environmental Initiatives etc. passing on their own learning to others.
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>ReTweed works with 39 referral agencies and services including NHS Borders, Berwickshire Housing Association, disability support services, violence against women services, drug & alcohol agencies, SBC services (Social Work, Justice Team and CLD), and Children 1st. These agencies/services report that see the transformation and progress of women who have taken part in ReTweed and, as a result, referrals are incrementally increasing well beyond the current capacity.</p> <p>ReTweed have 1,597 followers on Facebook</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	No other funders have been approached at this stage.
How will the impact and success of the project be measured? What happens at the end of the project/activity or when the funding is spent?	<p>ReTweed uses the Rickter Scale assessment process which helps to measure soft outcomes including increased confidence, motivation, education, skills, employment and happiness. This helps ReTweed better understand how people progress during and after the training and support. It also provides qualitative and quantitative analysis to enable ReTweed to develop and improve year-on-year in terms of structure, content, delivery and support.</p> <p>Following evaluation of the pilot courses other funder will be approached with a view to obtaining funding to support the roll out across Berwickshire and the wider Scottish Borders.</p>
Quotes received for items of expenditure	n/a
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	n/a

SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT

The application meets the criteria of the Community Fund.

Additional Terms and Conditions:

Scottish Government coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance must be adhered to with a protocol for safe participation in the programme and use of resources developed, and all participants agreeing to adhere to this protocol.

We would seek the group to particularly report on:

- Number of course participants
- Feedback from course participants

- Grants received from funders to support the rollout of the programme