

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Berwickshire

Ref. No.: CF2021-BER-17

Organisation Name: Outside the Box

Funding Requested: £12,903

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Company Limited by Guarantee		
Annual Accounts Balance	£97,684 restricted £1,903 unrestricted		
<p>Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much? Most of the income is grant funding paid in advance. The group currently have £18,000 in reserves which will cover essential winding up costs.</p> <p>Outside the box work across Scotland and the annual accounts and bank balance cover the organisation as a whole.</p>			
<p>Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
<p>Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project brief	<p>Outside the box are looking for funding for staffing costs 1 sessional, (4 hours) worker and 2 staff members (8 hours, in total) This will cover 12 hours' worth of delivery each week in Berwickshire.</p> <p>Outside the box have found that it is beneficial to have sessional workers on the ground, who know the local community, understand what would work for different groups, as well as not having to travel far.</p>

	<p>The overall aim of the project is to reconnect individuals with each other and encourage and support people back to attending group sessions. Outside the box aim to do this by;</p> <p>Developing and using risk assessments for each individual group scenario. With this funding OTB will also look to deliver 1 to 2 sessions per group (physical or virtual). With the aim of raising confidence in individuals.</p> <p>Where groups are not ready or restrictions do not allow, Outside the box (OTB) will aim to provide virtual sessions to maintain connections and to reduce isolation</p> <p>Where groups are not ready or restrictions do not allow, Outside the box (OTB) will aim to provide virtual sessions to maintain connections and to reduce isolation</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	March 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£14,336	
Community Fund Request (£)	£12,903	
10% organisation contribution	£1,433	
Any Other Contribution?		
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 checked="" 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"> • Focus on rural isolation and social inclusion and the impacts on mental health on people living across the locality • Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise) 	

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ASSESSMENT	
<p>What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Outside the box have successfully run activities across the Scottish Borders. Current projects include; Food Buddies, Garden Buddies, LINKS Eyemouth, Rural Wisdom and the recently launched Digital Buddies project. Their current work benefits people of all ages and abilities. During Covid restrictions they have been able to evolve and adapt practices to try and reach as many people as possible.</p> <p>Through this existing work Outside the box have found that many of the groups and people that they are engaged with are now feeling the effects of current Covid restrictions. Feedback from groups and individuals has been that resilience is starting to wane and that people are finding it frustrating that it is increasingly difficult to resume their previous activities.</p> <p>The need for staff support for projects and support for individuals has been highlighted by their LINKS project work. The project aims to link up families in Eyemouth, through social events centred around good food on a budget. Through this project OTB have been working in partnership with the third sector and local small businesses to best support families. 60 families have joined the project and receive food packages each week. There is less stigma around accessing food via the LINKS project. OTB have also created a closed Facebook page which has allowed individuals to remain connected to one another and also informed on any news regarding group work. There are currently 300 members.</p> <p>OTB have recently received more funding for their Digital Buddies programme. These individuals tend to be socially isolated or older adults. OTB feel that these individuals will require additional support when it comes to being able to attend physical sessions. OTB aim to evolve this programme into Border Buddies where individuals would be supported to do whatever they want to do; attend community groups, play golf, go walking etc. Any funding received would pay for staff time to support this new project.</p> <p>OTB hope to return to live, physical, sessions. Some outdoor cooking sessions were delivered last year and this may be replicated again while also taking a hybrid approach to both physical and virtual delivery of sessions. OTB are aware that individuals would require support to attend either of these</p>

	<p>offers. They hope that the funding for these post will allow these individuals to feel supported back into provision.</p> <p>OTB understand that there will be hesitation and nervousness about getting 'back to normal' for many of these individuals involved in current virtual groups and on virtual communities. OTB via this application will aim to offer support to these groups and individuals.</p> <p>Further information on the LINKS project can be found here; https://otbds.org/links-eyemouth-take-their-good-food-community-online/</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>If funded Outside the box will;</p> <p>Support individuals to reintegrate into the community when restrictions allow. OTB will support individuals with coping strategies to support individuals to access provision.</p> <p>OTB aim to tailor risk assessments and support based on the individual or group need. This can be done using a 'softer' touch approach, looking at what would make people 'feel better' about getting back to meeting up.</p> <p>OTB aim to use their staff time to support the many informal groups that have started during the pandemic. They are aware that not all of these groups have robust volunteer policies or guidance and this is a part of what we would like to address. Many of them have 'informal' volunteers not covered by guidelines etc.</p> <p>The Third Sector interface is still available to support groups with risk assessments and also to support their volunteer policies. OTB feel that they would be able to support the less formal risk assessments and their focus is on support of returning to provision.</p> <p>OTB want to support groups and individuals to build their confidence to get together with others again. This may be practical risk: benefit assessments or it may be providing them with extra equipment. It may involve delivering a session or two to allow groups to build their confidence in attending groups again. OTB aren't about service delivery but they aim to enable individuals and groups to return to a level of normality and to become sustainable.</p> <p>OTB have obtained funding to purchase tarpaulins, firebowl, outdoor seating and other equipment to enable people to meet comfortably and safely in the outdoors. OTB would use this</p>

	<p>equipment to encourage individuals back to meeting safely in a group setting, when government guidance allows. OTB would also be able to support other groups and organisations to utilise this equipment.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Through the LINKS project OTB are well connected with other local community groups these include; Eyemouth Early Years, churches, Splash, Eyemouth Development Trust, Abundant Borders, ReTweed, Eyemouth Healthy Living Network and others</p> <p>The group are also connected to the Linkim Court sheltered housing in Eyemouth. The have worked together with Berwickshire Housing Association.</p> <p>OTB have established a virtual 'Families Wellbeing' community with over 190 families involved, they have been able to use this as a sounding board for any ideas going forward.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>Outside the Box haven't approached others funders specifically for this project.</p> <p>The group have been successful in securing additional funding to obtain more digital devices.</p>
<p>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>	<p>The aim of this project is to provide long-term sustainability for groups and individuals by empowering and supporting them to carry out their own risk assessments and problem-solving, to apply for funding where needed, and to access resources and activities provided by Outside the box and other organisations.</p>
<p>Quotes received for items of expenditure</p>	<p>yes</p>
<p>Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?</p>	

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.

If successful, we would seek the group to particularly report on:

- *Number of groups supported in Berwickshire*
- *Number of individuals that have been supported to attend provision*
- *Number of Virtual and in-person sessions offered.*