

## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

*Locality: Tweeddale*

*Ref. No.: CF2021-TW-12*

*Organisation Name: Outside the Box*

*Funding Requested: £12,903*

ABOUT THE GROUP			
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	Company Limited by Guarantee		
<b>Annual Accounts Balance</b>	£97,684 restricted <b>£1,903 unrestricted</b>		
<p>Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why &amp; how much? Most of the income is grant funding paid in advance. The group currently have £18,000 ring-fenced 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?</p> <p><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?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project brief	<p>Outside the box (OTB) are looking for funding for staff and project costs.</p> <p>This funding would enable the OTB to engage with groups in Tweeddale to support them, virtually or physically, to get back to 'normal' post-Covid.</p> <p>Funding would provide additional staff time for existing part-time staff, plus for occasional specialist training or</p>

	<p>classes including Border Bushcraft, FitBorders, Outdoor first aid.</p> <p>OTB will work with a mixture of groups or individuals to support them to return to normal activities post covid. This may include supporting individuals to team up with a 'buddy' to build their confidence and support them in returning back to normal activities.</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	April 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	14336	
Community Fund Request (£)	12903	
10% organisation contribution	1433	
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> <p>Create a mentoring model within the community to build knowledge, skills and confidence</p> <p>Community connections need to be further developed to share information and activities across the Tweeddale Area</p>	

## ASSESSMENT

What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<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</p>
--	---

restrictions they have been able to evolve and adapt practices to try and reach as many people as possible.

Within Tweeddale OTB are working with older people who require digital support to stay in touch (Digital Buddies). OTB aim to support these individuals to get online and connected and are also aware that these individuals may require support to meet up with others in person when the opportunity arises.

OTB have established a virtual community which now has 190 families signed up. Many of these are in Tweeddale. Many families and parents have told this virtual community that they are feeling the effects of disconnection, lack of routine, lack of normal groups and activities, plus worries about the pandemic, mental and physical wellbeing.

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.

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.

Individuals have been saying;

'This Lockdown has been even harder than the first one. I've really felt isolated...at the same time I feel really nervous about starting to meet up with family or my old groups.'

'I feel unmotivated, even though there are things I could be doing...'

'Zoom is fine but it's just not the same as seeing people face to face.'

'Some of our participants have engaged better over Zoom.'

'We are going to have to rethink our way of meeting...we don't want to use a pub now.'

'More people are looking for a safe outdoor space where they can meet safely.'

'I'm aware that there has developed a real divide between older and younger people, with blame, fear and mistrust all playing a part.'

<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 'soft' 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>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 are aware of groups that they would be able to support effectively but don't currently have enough staffing hours to be able to support all the groups in Tweeddale. OTB would like to further engage and offer support with the Local Parent &amp; Toddler groups, while informal links have been made, OTB would be able to offer more in-depth support to these groups.</p> <p>OTB have previously worked with Community Learning and Development on an intergenerational Garden Buddies project and hope to be able to work with this group again, whether on intergenerational projects or otherwise</p>
---	---

<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Outside the box have involved services of other professionals across Tweeddale, these include craft tutors and yoga tutors.</p> <p>They have established a virtual community with over 190 families involved, they have been able to use this as a sounding board for any ideas going forward.</p> <p>Outside the box are already engaged with community groups across Tweeddale;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Learning and Development</li> <li>• Borders Families Wellbeing – many families with young</li> <li>• Clovenfords Village Hall/Curlers</li> <li>• Home Educators, a hard to reach, semi-invisible group OTB have facilitated connections and a few meetups. OTB feel that further support could be offered with additional staff time</li> <li>• Peebles French Group</li> </ul>
<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>They have received additional funding via Connecting Scotland to increase their Digital Buddies offer</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>	

<p><b>SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT</b></p>
<p>The application meets the criteria of the Community Fund.</p>

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