
**SCOTTISH BORDER COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME –
GENERIC BUDGET**

Report by Service Director Strategy & Policy

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

24 MARCH 2015

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report recommends an application for funding from the Community Grant Scheme (CGS) Generic Budget**
- 1.2 The application is from Interest Link Borders which is an organisation based in Duns but which offers a befriending service for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities across the Scottish Borders.
- 1.3 The request is for a project grant to contribute towards a pilot project to enable 3 service users, 4 peer support workers, one sessional worker and one member of staff to undertake an overnight trip to Edinburgh in April 2015.
- 1.4 £2,621 is available in the CGS Generic Budget and the grant request is for £816.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Committee approves a grant to the value of £816 to Interest Link Borders.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The terms and conditions of the scheme are as set down in the Scottish Borders Council Community Grant Scheme (CGS) application form, attached guidance notes and the Grants Policy and Guidelines. Copies of these documents are available on the Council's website (www.scotborders.gov.uk) or in hard copy from the Strategic Policy Unit. These include the criteria used to judge the suitability of a project and applicant body, procedures for the release of funds and monitoring requirements to comply with the rules of the scheme.
- 3.2 The CGS can provide either project funding or, in certain circumstances, a support grant to groups facing temporary financial difficulty. On 22 March 2006 the Grants to External Bodies Working Group agreed (approved by Executive on 18 April 2006) that, to reflect the intended one-off nature of support grants, a standard condition should apply. The standard condition requests that any group receiving a support grant should review its fundraising plan.
- 3.3 The base budget for the CGS Generic Budget is £10,000.
- 3.4 The Generic Budget was formed following agreement by the Executive Committee on 18 March 2014 to amalgamate the former Borders-wide and non-Borders based budgets into one single budget of £10,000 annually.
- 3.5 An approved ear-marked balance of £9,502 has been carried forward into the 2014/15 generic budget (£1,312 from the former Borders-wide budget and £8,190 from the former non-Borders based budget).
- 3.6 It was agreed by Executive on 26 February 2008 that any underspend in the annual Community Council Support budget should be vired into the Community Grant Scheme for further community benefit. There is no underspend to be transferred from the 2013/14 Community Council Support budget.
- 3.7 A further £1,569 has been paid back into the Generic Budget as a result of grant refunds by community groups in 2013/14.
- 3.8 The total budget for 2014/15 is therefore £21,071 and a balance of £2,621 remains.

4 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|
| 4.1 | APPLICANT: | Interest Link Borders |
| | PROJECT: | Central Borders Youth Group Overnight Trip |
| | CGS No: | CGS/51/14 |
| | PROJECT COST: | £906 |
| | GRANT REQUEST: | £816 |

- 4.2 Interest Link Borders is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The organisation's constitution has been reviewed and meets the requirements of the CGS. The organisation has been assessed as operating Borders-wide and is eligible for funding under the CGS Generic Budget.
- 4.3 The organisation's accounts and Equalities Statements have also been reviewed and assessed as satisfactory.
- 4.4 The organisation provides volunteer befriending for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome and Autism. The types of activities undertaken are chosen by service users and their peer support workers, examples of which are cinema, cycling, swimming, shopping etc.
- 4.4 The request for funding is for a project grant of £816 to contribute towards the cost of a pilot project to take 3 service users, 4 peer support workers and 2 staff members on an overnight trip to Edinburgh. The service users are in the 17-20 age range and have complex needs. The purpose of the trip is to determine the benefits to be gained from such an activity and to meet the needs of service users who have identified a desire to embark on short trips which they normally have no opportunity to undertake. The trip will involve educational and recreational activities such as a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia, the National Museum and the Edinburgh Ghost Tour. On completion, the participants will compile a Photobook to provide a lasting reminder of their trip. The grant would contribute towards the cost of the accommodation and catering, activity, photobook and travel costs. (See Appendix 1)
- 4.5 The trip will consist of an overnight stay in Edinburgh incorporating social and educational activities to stimulate the minds of the service users, increase confidence in social settings and build closer bonds with peer support workers. The overnight trip will also provide much needed respite for their carers.
- 4.6 The organisation has submitted a budget showing the total cost of the pilot project as £906. The organisation is asking the families involved to contribute £30 towards costs (£90 in total) and will meet the costs of any unexpected additional expenses from its own reserves.
- 4.7 The grant request is for the balance of £816 and it will fund accommodation, travel, photobook and activity costs.
- 4.8 The organisation's savings are below the minimum level and the application is eligible for support. This is a new pilot project aimed at developing additional activities to stimulate the minds and meet the needs of young people in the 16-25 age range. The organisation holds a Service Level Agreement with Social Work to support its adult befriending provision but its youth provision is not supported. The organisation currently supports its youth provision through Trust/Foundation funding.
- 4.9 The application has met the full assessment criteria of the CGS and is eligible for funding. A grant of £816 is recommended.

5 BUDGET INFORMATION

5.1 The total generic budget is £21,071.

5.2 The decisions made to date are as follows:

Date	CGS No	Description	Award
19/8/14	CGS/14/14	NTC Touring Theatre Co Ltd – Rumpelstiltskin	2,650
19/8/14	CGS/28/14	Survivors Unite – Group Development & Learning Project	1,370
11/11/14	CGS/41/14	Instinctively Wild – Support Grant	4,930
20/01/15	CGS/49/14	Borders Community Radio & Media Ltd – TD1 Radio FM Project	5,000
24/02/15	CGS/48/14	Alchemy Film & Arts – Support Grant	4,500
		TOTAL	18,450.

5.3 The balance available is £2,621.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

There is sufficient funding within the CGS Generic Budget to cover the recommendation contained in this report and there are therefore no additional financial implications on the Council's resources. Approval of the grant will leave a £1,805 balance in 2014/15.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are believed to be no direct risks to the Council with regard to the proposals in this report. The organisation has a strong track record of supporting people with learning disabilities and the project is well staffed with sufficient supervision.

6.3 Equalities

- (a) In accordance with the CGS assessment criteria, all applications are assessed in terms of how groups have taken account of equal opportunities. It is anticipated that there will be no adverse impact in regard to the protected characteristics (age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, poverty, health, marital status) arising from the proposal in this application. Membership of the organisation is open to service users, individuals and organisations without restriction.
- (b) Although the organisation does not have an Equal Opportunities Policy it has provided an equalities statement stating that it does not limit provision to its service or volunteering opportunities on the grounds of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs and it is dedicated to ensuring equality of opportunity for all people with learning disabilities.
- (c) An EIA Scoping Assessment has been undertaken and there are no apparent concerns. The project directly reduces inequality by providing a new service to young people with learning difficulties. In line with advice from the SBC Equality & Diversity Officer, the organisation will be advised to develop its own Equalities Policy.

6.4 Acting Sustainably

There are considered to be no environmental risks associated with the recommendation.

6.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.6 Rural Proofing

Not applicable.

6.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Service Director Regulatory Services as Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

David Cressey
Service Director Strategy & Policy

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Linda Cornwall	Grants Co-ordinator 01835 826659
Jean Robertson	Funding & Project Officer 01835 826543

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: Executive Committee 18.04.2006; Executive Committee 18.03.2014; Executive Committee 24.02.2015

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Linda Cornwall can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Chief Executives, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA. Tel: 01835-826659, Fax: 01835-825059, Email: communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk