

2021/2022 BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND

Assessment Form

For the purpose of assessment, projects have been ranked high, medium or low to reflect how strongly the application meets the criteria of the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund.

High – a strong demonstration of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

Medium – provides acceptable examples of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

Low – lacks detail of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

1. Applicant Details

Organisation name	Volunteer Centre Borders					
Organisation structure	Company registered charity					
Application reference	BBBB/BER/11 VCB Mens Sheds					
Theme of application	Sport	Arts & culture	Environment	Community capacity	Community resilience	Intergenerational activity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Project start date	01/03/2022			Project end date	01/09/2022	

2. Organisation's Finances

End of year balance	£170,236
Current bank balance	£ (see attached accounts and statements)
Total cash/Unrestricted reserves available & purpose	£157,009 – costs to be spent solely for the charitable aims and objectives of the company. The board's policy is to maintain overall reserves equivalent to at least six month's unrestricted expenditure. The Directors consider that this level will provide sufficient funds available to cover support and governance costs. On expenditure levels of 2020-21 this would amount to £63,461.
Total restricted /committed funds & purpose	£13,227

3. Project:

Outline of what the group plan to do to help people recover from the pandemic. Projects will be ranked higher if the application strongly demonstrates that they are meeting an identified need in the community. (e.g. area of deprivation, protected characteristics, tackling wellbeing and isolation, tackling climate change)

High <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
Comment:		

VCB are requesting funding from BBBB to employ a part time Volunteer Co-ordinator in partnership with the Borders Shed Network.

The role of the co-ordinator will be to help reconstruct and rebuild the Borders Shed Network and increase the numbers of volunteers involved in the network from 9 to over 70 in Berwickshire (and from 28 to over 700 in the Borders Region).

The co-ordinator will be employed for 15 hours per week over 2 days per week for 6 months. The Volunteer Co-ordinator's salary will be £5,000 over the 6 months.

VCB are also requesting funding to cover staff and volunteer expenses (i.e. travel) and volunteer costs.

Volunteer Centre Borders (VCB) say that the past 20 months have seen more social isolation in communities and they, along with Borders Shed Network propose to develop a new Community Volunteer Partnership project across the Borders to support for older adults living in social isolation and poor mental health and wellbeing through its recovery phase. VCB say there is a need for a diverse Shed Network that is fully inclusive.

Evidence of individuals, groups or communities likely to benefit from the new initiative and how they have been affected by the pandemic:

High

Medium

Low

Comment:

VCB say that the Co-ordinator will work with adults over the age of 16 years, particularly those suffering from social isolation, poor mental health and wellbeing. VCB say that they aim to promote the inclusion of women in mixed skill sessions or one to one training depending on demand.

The hope is that the Co-ordinator post will support Sheds to open and encourage community members to meet up and offer peer support in larger groups covering topics such as reminiscence café sessions, musical therapies and encouraging of re-engagement with communities and reduction of post-Covid trauma.

There are 3 Sheds in Duns, Coldstream and Eyemouth with another in the pipeline in Greenlaw which needs support to start up. Pre-Covid lockdown numbers were 26 using Eyemouth, 25 using Coldstream and 22 using Duns Shed.

VCB say a whilst a previous perception of Mens Sheds has been that they are for "older men" the past 20 months have shown the benefit of mixed sheds bringing diversity and inclusiveness to communities.

VCB say there is now increased demand for women to access the facilities available in the Sheds. The new post will help to support Sheds in Berwickshire during an initial 6 months period to encourage new people from harder to reach areas to join and learn new skills.

During lockdown the Borders Shed Network worked alongside VCB to support a new volunteering project which followed canvassing and consultation with their network users focussing on offering structure and coordination, new communication skills and practical financial advice and VCB say this has been a huge success. VCB say they have around 28 volunteers from across the Borders Region delivering support to the network, ranging

from funding applications, signposting organisations, and sharing positive community projects.

Expected impact of the new initiative and how will it help those most in need recover from the pandemic

High <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
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VCB anticipate the impact of have a Volunteer Co-ordinator in post will be:

- Adults with Mental Health and Wellbeing issues will be less socially isolated.
- People will have access to peer support through Shed membership and will remain connected to their communities
- People can learn new skills to increase their resilience and manage the impact of any trauma.
- Community Sheds to be more inclusive and supportive and enhance community wellbeing
- Support those with protected characteristics Equality and diversity/Fairer Scotland Duty
- Increase or improve community capacity, resilience and engagement
- Enhance and support both formal and informal volunteering
- Recognise those that have given service to their communities during the pandemic
- Encourage intergenerational projects and events

4. Project Expenditure:

Total Project Cost	£7758.00
10% organisation contribution	£830.00
Request to BBBB	£6,928.00

Item of expenditure	Cost
Staffing Costs for 26 weeks	£5,000.00
Volunteer and Staffing expenses (travel, subsistence)	£1,728.00
Volunteer costs	£200.00
VCB admin costs, support Insurance etc	£830.00
Total Project costs	£7,758.00

Match/other funding sought:

Funder	Funding Requested	Status
	£	
	£	
	£	

Grants received from Scottish Borders Council or any other funder within the last three years

Date	Project Title	Amount
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£

SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT	VCB's proposal is to recruit a temporary co-ordinator, for 6 months, of an established service. The Co-ordinator post existed before the pandemic but it is VCB's intention is to use this role to introduce new members to the Sheds and to support individuals that have been impacted by the pandemic.
Comments	The application is scored as Medium as it meets an identified need with the groups of people the Sheds support. Additional detail on the activities that will be undertaken by the Co-ordinator would have strengthened the application.
Additional terms and conditions required	The applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance.
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from participants and the network • Photographs of participants taking part in sessions (if appropriate) • Attendance statistics from sessions across the six months