

Recovery Coaching Scotland

£4,255.00

Recovery Coaching Scotland (RCS) would like to create a breakfast club as a pilot project. The club will support individuals and families affected by substance use, social isolation, poor mental health, and poverty in the Eildon area. RCS is already providing weekday support for people in recovery, however across the Scottish Borders, there is no support available at weekends. RCS will work in partnership with all agencies concerned to provide lived-experience support for community members, which will be provided by its current staff, who will be offered additional hours. RCS is currently supporting approximately 60 people per week, via the recovery café network that it operates and sees the breakfast club as the next logical progression to help fulfil unmet need.

Panel thoughts

- Very worthwhile project that will provide valuable support to those in need, during a time of the week where there is a clear lack of service provision.
- The panel notes the close partnership working with other agencies and appreciates the effort of RCS to ensure the thoughts and views of clients and their families were captured via multiple consultation events.
- The panel is pleased that the Eildon locality is the host of the pilot project and looks forward to seeing how it develops in future years.

The panel recommends to fund this project in full, to the value of £4,255.00.

Melrose Imagination Library

£2,204.00

Melrose Imagination Library is a brand new, local organisation, keen to utilise the Dolly Parton's "*Dollywood Foundation*" Imagination Library which gifts a book to every child in a designated area (Melrose and District in this case), every month from birth until their fifth birthday.

Funding is sought from the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund to cover the first year of expenses, namely the purchases of books, with funding in future years to come from local fundraising events and other funders.

Panel thoughts

- The panel is supportive of this project as it is directly encouraging and improving the comprehension skills of young people.
- The project will help to fill a gap in service provision, previously covered by Live Borders' free, weekly "Bookbug" storytelling and singing sessions which are no longer taking place, without the need to attend a library at a specific time.
- The panel notes the expertise of the volunteers involved in the Melrose Imagination Library and the initial work that has been undertaken to develop working relationships with the Dollywood Foundation and Borders Community Action. The panel encourages Melrose Imagination Library to link in with the Community Engagement and Funding Officer at Live Borders.

The panel recommends to fund this project in full, to the value of £2,204.00.

Borders Chamber Choir

£4,820.00

Borders Chamber Choir is organising a performance of Bach's St. John Passion on Easter Saturday, 30 March 2024 in Melrose Parish Church. The performance will bring together 55 performers alongside the Borders Chamber Orchestra.

The application to the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund is primarily for solo performers, travel costs and marketing/publicity.

Panel thoughts

- The panel is keen to support free-to-enter, inclusive, events in the Eildon locality.
- The panel recognises the success of the Waverley Consort performance in 2023 and is supportive of another event in 2024.
- The panel notes the strong community focus of Borders Chamber Choir, namely the desire to engage with local schools to encourage participation in music and the arts as well as the significant funds that will be raised for local charities/ community organisations.

The panel recommends to fund this project in full, to the value of £4,820.00.
