

Champion for Young People

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members on efforts across Service Areas to provide high quality employment opportunities and apprenticeships for young people, and to encourage external organisations to do likewise.

It has been a privilege once more to have been given the opportunity to support and serve Young People by becoming Lancashire County Council's Champion for Young People. I have had the pleasure to make new and old acquaintances and networks from the previous time I served as the Champion for Young People back in 2009 /2013 period.

In this first year it has been a pleasure to renew and establish links with young people groups/organisations across Lancashire County Council. I look forward to building on this by supporting young people in the Lancashire for the forthcoming years.

Here are the projects I have funded this financial year:

Chorley Wildcats £500 - 15th Year Anniversary

I provided a grant so past and current disabled children and young people who attend the weekly Saturday run sessions can hold an event to celebrate the achievement of the organisation's 15th year anniversary which is run entirely by volunteers.

Child Action North West £1,200 - Triage Service

The grant enabled Child Action North West to deliver and support young people through their highly effective Triage process across Lancashire. The service is for young people who have committed minor offences and by what means they can make amends to the victims or the community at large. It is important to not only ensure that the victim's voice is heard but are encouraged, they have an input on the outcome of the young person and how they should address the consequences for their actions.

If there is no immediate victim Child Action North West support the young person through the process and give them new skills to encourage them to take responsibility for their actions and this can be done in numerous ways that always benefits the community. The aim is to reduce the opportunities for them re-offending and encourage them to be involved in activities that will benefit them in the long term with life skills that include, painting & decorating, woodwork, gardening as well as an opportunity to gain an ASDAN Award.

Reparation sessions are arranged so it does not conflict with: school, work or religious commitments.

UR Potential £1,000 - Providing Accredited Babysitting Courses

The grant would assist in enabling them to deliver a series of babysitting courses to young people living in Fylde and Wyre. Providing an accredited course, engaging young people, particularly those who may already be young carers for siblings.

The courses provide clear support for young people and covers issues such as:

Safeguarding

Fire safety

Internet safety

1st Aid

Developing a business to become a babysitter

Communication

Child development

Healthy relationships

Chorley Sport Partnership £2,100 – Delivering Targeted Active Lifestyle Learning Programme

A 16 week programme for 3 small groups of selected year 9 pupils from high schools in Chorley. After very successful Learning Outside The Classroom (LOTC) projects over the last few years, the high schools have been very intent on continuing the provision provided to their pupils who suffer with low self-esteem / lacking in self-confidence. The pupils were chosen through close consultation with Heads of Years and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators in each high school. The programme includes a variety of outdoor activities such as indoor climbing, lifesaving, swimming, assault course, BMX biking, trampolining, water rafting and bush craft. The programme also includes leadership activities in local primary schools which is linked in with the Sports Leaders Level 1 Award.

Proffitt Investing In Communities £1800 – Delivery of Three BMX Park projects in the East of the county.

The money was spent on the delivery of 3 projects:

Steve Burkes Pump Track - Creating the pump track facility for bikes will consist of a starting mound with approximately 240lin.m of track with beams and jumps. The surface will be a compacted stone with reinforcing at corners and berms (to be confirmed if this will be a concrete based material or macadam based). The entire area will be fenced off to ensure it is dog free and to deter motorbikes. There will also be new seating, storage and signage installed. The track is not for the sole use of BMX's --mountain bikes can also be used alongside children's cycles. It is expected that this will also help improve fitness levels, levels of participation in local events and reduce anti-social behavior. <http://www.proffittscic.com/community-projects/steve-burke-pump-track-pendle-lancashire/>

Mercer Park Wheeled Sports - The project would be an improvement on an existing popular space which is used for wheeled sports - including BMX, Skateboards, Inline skates and scooters. They have been working with the current regular users - listening to their concerns of the area and how the site can be improved to ensure continued popularity and up to date materials and features.

The area will be improved by improving the site which is a fairly small site consisting of tarmac surface and steel frame structures to constructing a sprayed concrete to form the surface and humps, jumps and banks.

<http://www.proffittscic.com/community-projects/mercero-park-wheeled-sports/>

Hargher Clough and Stoops Wheeled Sport - The project would essentially be a wheeled sport area constructed using sprayed concrete as a material to form the surface and humps, jumps and banks. The site would allow inline / roller skaters, BMXing / cycling, scootering and skateboarding to take place. The project will make the existing site which is derelict, under used and neglected into a multifunctional space where a wide range of local people (mainly young people) can utilise and engage in positive play and sport activities. The project is part of a larger site which the local community have been developing over the last 6 years and would be perfectly sited next to existing / new multiuse ball court areas, a youth shelter and a play area aimed at younger to junior children. <http://www.proffittscic.com/community-projects/hargher-clough-recreation-ground/>

Lancashire Voice £1,000 – Opening of a Charity Shop/ Group of rooms for HIV Awareness

Having met with the HIV Support worker for Central Lancashire, I was convinced this group needed the support of the Champion to help progress their project to acquire premises/rooms in Preston, as the group can only offer their confidential service from their current Blackpool premises. It was very much a grant to support their work and pump prime the ongoing fund raising for premises. Last year they utilized free rooms kindly granted by work places such as Morrison's and Lancashire Victims service. However, confidentiality problems have arisen and so they are continuously moving groups to different locations. Feedback was that the majority of clients really miss the old building as it was permanent, consistent, and confidential. Sometimes clients might not attend through fear of being identified as HIV positive.

The idea Lancashire Voice had was to put in a funding bid for a building to rent as a charity shop, group room, testing location and a place for one to one support, counselling and peer support. It is hoped that the shop would then pay for itself and any proceeds would go to Healthier Living's hardship fund supporting those in most need with HIV or HIV/AIDS related illnesses.

Sporting Challenge £1,000 – Sporting activities and coaching in West Lancashire

Sporting Challenge are a group of Parent/Carers who from 2008 have been providing sporting activities for around 45 people with learning disabilities in West Lancashire to keep them fit and healthy. These evening and weekend activities include Ten Pin Bowling, Aerobics, Swimming and Boccia/Kurling at local sports centres. Many people with a learning disability don't take part in any exercise activity because the family/carers who support them are not motivated or are unable to take them on such activities and they can't go on their own. They provide sessional workers who will collect them from where they live, support the people whilst they are at the sports centres and then return them home after the activities. Parents/Carers get a break during the evening whilst they are providing activities. They applied for funding of £1,000 to be used towards their sessions.

They want to expand their range by continuing their evening activities, starting daytime activities and also working with schools to introduce new transition aged young adults to join their activities (16-22 years of age). There is a huge gap where people of this age with learning disabilities can leave education and have very little to do, no way of making friends and become isolated and unfit. They currently support 16 of this age range.

The project will involve regular physical activities and social contact to help improve the individuals mental and physical health and wellbeing which will lead to improvements in confidence, independence skills and opportunities.

These activities will be based at local venues across West Lancashire (predominantly the towns of Skelmersdale and Ormskirk, but also incorporating venues in more rural areas such as Burscough and Bickerstaffe).

McDonald School of Dance £500 – Dancing Sessions for disadvantage young people in West Lancashire

McDonald Dance were set up in Burscough in 1970. People who participate in their sessions do not just live in Burscough where the studio is located they live in areas such as Tarleton, Banks, Scarisbrick, Newburgh, Rufford, Parbold, Ormskirk and Bickerstaffe. Sessions are for a range of groups, children, teenagers, adults, adults with disabilities and sessions for the U3A. The funding granted was to assist with the sessions for younger people.

Dancing is good fun and good exercise. NHS 'Change for Life' say that we need at least 60 minutes of exercise a day (dancing and competing helps with this). Being active every day keeps hearts healthy, reduces the risk of serious illness and strengthens muscles and bones. Dancing is a great way for people to keep fit and healthy and dancers will also gain health benefits from taking part. Social isolation will be reduced amongst the children, adults and their families. This will be particularly beneficial for those who live in rural areas and also in areas of social and economic deprivation (who can often find themselves excluded financially). The sessions for younger people are particularly beneficial. The regular physical activity and social contact received as a result of taking part will improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing. The project will also lead to further improvements in self-confidence, self-esteem and independence skills.

High Five Group £250 – Disabled Young People Valentine Disco Chorley & South Ribble

High Five is a small, volunteer run charity who offer social support for disabled children and their families throughout Lancashire. Their aim is to provide activities suitable for their most vulnerable children, while also engaging mainstream siblings. They do this through a number of programmes in order to reach as many families as possible. They provide 'meet and play' sessions as a monthly anchor of support; specialist sensory provision in school holidays; organise family days out to create confidence; run family parties and awareness events to celebrate all their children; run age appropriate senior events for teenagers; and offer respite opportunities for parents and siblings. Although the children have various abilities and disabilities, many struggle in social situations, display sensory difficulties and have communication problems.

Each family is dealing with different needs, but essentially need similar social support. The grant awarded funded their Senior Programme, which supports older children.

Earby Town Council £500 – A Children's slide for Sough Park

Inclusive Slide for Sough Park. In late 2015, a mother that lives near Sough Park asked for help. Her disabled son was unable to use any of the play equipment that was available locally, and suggested a design for an inclusive slide that parents and children of all abilities could use together.

An individual began a fundraising effort and set off cycling from Lands End to John O Groats in the summer of 2016, raising £1,020 from local donations.

Since then, the individual joined the Town Council and convinced colleagues to support the project as much as they could afford, and applied for as many grants as possible. They also selected a contractor from tender, and the borough council has agreed to take on the insurance and long-term maintenance of the equipment once it is in place. The grant was used towards the project and to a successful conclusion.

***County Councillor Mark Perks
Champion for Young People***

Schedule of Expenditure for 2017/18

County Councillor Mark Perks - Champion for Young People

Applicant	Amount of Grant
Chorley Wildcats – 15 th Year anniversary event	£500
Child Action North West (Lancashire) – Triage services for the young people and new planters/seating	£1,200
U R Potential (Fylde/Wyre) – Provide accredited babysitting courses	£1,000
Chorley School Sports Partnership – Deliver The Targeted Active Lifestyle Learning Programme	£2,100
Proffitts Investing in Communities (Rossendale) – Delivery of three BMX park projects	£1,800
Lancashire Voice – Opening of charity shop/ group rooms for HIV awareness sessions	£1,000
Sporting Challenge (West Lancashire) – Sporting activities/coaching for 16-22 year olds	£1,000
McDonald School of Dance (West Lancashire) – Dancing sessions for the disadvantage youths	£500
High Five Group for vulnerable children (Chorley) – Valentine discos for their older members	£250
Earby Town Council (Pendle) – Children's slide for Sough Park	£500
TOTAL SPENT	£9,850