

Report to County Councillor Kim Snape

Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars

Electoral Division affected:
Chorley Rural East;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:

A Solution Within Community Interest Company

Contact for further information:

Local Member Grants, Tel: (01772) 530078, Legal and Democratic Services,
LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £2500 towards targeted support for families where one or more children are persistently or severely absent from school from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

Recommendation

That consideration be given to the request for grant funding as set out in this report.

It should be noted that the outstanding amount being requested by organisations for grant applications comes to a combined total of £2500. The total amount of funding available in County Councillor Kim Snape's budget is £2000.

Therefore, the maximum amount of funds that can be approved for outstanding grant requests is £2000.

Detail

On 16 December 2021, Full Council approved the reintroduction of the Local Member Grants Scheme. Under the scheme, each county councillor has been given a specific budget which they can spend to enhance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of people who live in their division. Following the reintroduction, using powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Leader of the County Council has authorised individual county councillors to take formal decisions on behalf of the county council.



For the financial year 2024/25, each county councillor has a budget of £2000. Each councillor can also carry forward a maximum of £200 that was unspent in the previous financial year. County Councillor Kim Snape's total budget is set out in the financial section of the report.

Details of the requests for grant funding are shown below:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Full name of your organisation | |
| A Solution Within Community Interest Company | |
| How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000 | |
| £2500 | |
| Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit? | |
| Name | Amount |
| Chorley Rural East | £2500 |
| What are you going to spend the grant on? | |
| <p>The money will be spent to provide targeted support for families where one or more children are persistently or severely absent from school. This is an innovative approach which could transform the lives of the families involved. The causes of persistent or severe absence are complex but it is well documented that wellbeing of both pupils and parents and carers is a significant factor. This project would focus on providing holistic support to the whole family through coaching delivered by a qualified wellbeing practitioner.</p> <p>The aim of the project is to improve wellbeing and resilience within these families thereby improving school attendance. All beneficiaries will be families who are on an Early Help Support plan and the practitioner would work with other services including schools and social services to ensure a joined up approach. The grant would be spent on funding the wellbeing practitioner as well as materials and activities that may incur cost in the course of the support being offered.</p> | |
| Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods | |
| 15 th April 2024 – 31 st March 2025 | |
| How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)? | |
| The families who will be supported will be those with an Early Help Assessment and with one more children who are persistently or severely absent from school. | |



The impacts of persistent or severe absence are extremely damaging to children and young people, not only affecting their academic potential but also their social and emotional development and their ability to contribute to society later in life. Pupils with persistent or severe absence are vulnerable. The families who are supported will see an increase in school attendance for their child/children but as well as this will see an increase in their wellbeing (measured using science backed measurement tools), a greater level of resilience and greater level of engagement in their community and wider society. This approach is holistic, working with the entire family so everyone will benefit and the ripple effect of this is that the wider community will benefit.

This project meets Lancashire County Council's corporate priorities by caring for vulnerable, ensuring children of all abilities do well in schools and helping people and families live healthier lifestyles and enjoy a better quality of life. The learning from this when shared could help Lancashire County Council look at how it tackles persistent or severe absence on a wider scale.

If successful in this funding application A Solution Within CIC will produce a comprehensive report on outcomes and learning from the programme which will be shared with relevant Councillors and departments at Lancashire County Council. The production of this report will be done outside of the funding as 100% of the funding will be spent on working directly with families.

Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.

£2000 – 100 hours of Wellbeing Practitioner coaching
£500 – Expenses related to activities conducted as part of coaching

If you are not asking for the full amount of the cost of your activity / equipment, please give us details of where the rest of the funding is coming from. Please also explain what you will do if we give you the grant, but you do not get the other funding.

Additional costs such as management and organisational costs will be covered by A Solution Within CIC. All money will be spent on the wellbeing practitioner working directly with the families any additional time needed for planning or reporting will be covered by A Solution Within CIC.

If the councillor offers a grant of less than you have asked for, please explain below how that will affect your proposal – for example, will you still be able to complete your project or purchase, will you scale the project back, or seek funding elsewhere?

If we are offered less than the requested amount, then we would work with fewer families unless we are able to source additional funding from elsewhere.



Will the activity involve members of your organisation having significant contact with children or vulnerable adults?

- Yes
 No

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

Finance

It should be noted that the amount being requested in this application is £2500. The total amount of funding available in County Councillor Kim Snape's budget is £2000, therefore the maximum amount of funds that can be approved for this application is £2000.

An up-date of spend in 2024/25 is shown below:



| | | |
|---|--|------------------|
| Budget for 2024/25 | | £2,000.00 |
| C/F from 2023/24 | | £35.00 |
| Refunds | | £0.00 |
| Total Grant Available in 2024/25 | | £2,035.00 |
| | | |
| Grant Allocations Already Approved | | |
| £0.00 | | |
| Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25 | | £2,035.00 |
| Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected | | |
| £0.00 | | |
| NEW REQUESTS | A Solution Within Community Interest Company | £2,500.00 |
| £2,500.00 | | |
| Total Grant Requests in Progress | | £2,500.00 |
| Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved | | -£465.00 |

List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact |
|-------|------|---------|
| None | | |

