

Report to County Councillor Terry Aldridge
Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars

Electoral Division affected:
Skelmersdale East;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:
About the Town CIC

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 £600 towards 6 dementia support café sessions from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

Recommendation

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

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 Terry Aldridge'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	
About the Town CIC	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£600	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Skelmersdale East	£600
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
<p>The funding requested would facilitate 6 Dementia Support Craft Cafe Sessions (involving arts and crafts activities) for up to 12 people at the ATT Art Studio located in the Concourse Shopping Centre. These sessions will be specifically designed for the patients and the families of dementia sufferers. These sessions will allow attendees to choose from a range of crafts to partake in, and each session will last 2 hours.</p> <p>During this time, there will be hot drinks and light refreshments available. In addition, a team from the local dementia support network Home Instead, will be attending the sessions to offer support and advice to patients and their families on all aspects of the illness, offering advice, support and signposting, all while enjoying the therapeutic benefits of art.</p>	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
We hope to launch in April 2024.	
How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?	
<p>There is much evidence from thousands of studies that demonstrate the powerful benefits of art on mental health in the older generation, these benefits include stress relief, reduced anxiety, improved self-esteem, improved sleep, trauma healing and much more. A study published in The Arts in Psychotherapy found that 81% of patients reported improvement in their overall psychological health after participating in art therapy sessions.</p> <p>Additionally, engaging in arts and crafts not only contributes to mental and emotional wellbeing but also encourages older adults to utilise their hands and arms in unique ways, distinct from routine daily activities. This active involvement can enhance blood circulation, foster the development and retention of muscle strength, and refine dexterity. In dementia patients particularly, the benefits are expansive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stimulates the brain ● Improves non-verbal communication. ● Creates a sense of accomplishment and purpose. 	



- Emotional and behavioural benefits.
- Increases feelings of connectivity.
- Improves confidence.

Moreover, the social aspects of meeting with like-minded individuals in a safe and calming environment are invaluable, not just for the patient, but for the families too.

Ensuring there is a representative from a local dementia support network at each group will help assist the families of the patients in receiving the extra support they may need and signposting them to other useful services.

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

Materials = £240

Sundries = £200

Admin and Advertising = £160

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.

Requesting the full amount of funding for the project.

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?

Without any funding from this grant application will have to reconsider launching these specific sessions until we can source funding from elsewhere or raise the funds from another source.

If we can only be partially awarded, we would seek to fundraise for the remaining amount.

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

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

Budget for 2024/25		£2,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£0.00
Refunds		£0.00
Total Grant Available in 2024/25		£2,000.00
Grant Allocations Already Approved		
£0.00		
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£2,000.00
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		
£0.00		
NEW REQUESTS	About the Town CIC	£600.00
£600.00		
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£600.00
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£1,400.00

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

