

Report to the Champion for Mental Health

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

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Champion Grants Scheme Application from:

Samaritans of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £3,141.60 towards the purchase of four new chairs for their duty room from the Champion for Mental Health Grants Budget.

Recommendation

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

Detail

The role of Champion was first established in 2002 and the county council currently has six Champions, whose role is to support the Leader and individual Cabinet Members within their remits.

The six county council Champions are as follows:

- Armed Forces and Veterans
- Disabled People
- Mental Health
- Older People
- Parishes
- Young People

For the financial year 2023/24, each Champion has been given an annual allocation of £10,000 for use at their discretion to finance their activities, to which any unspent balance up to a maximum of £2,500 from the previous financial year could be added,



giving a maximum budget of £12,500 in any one financial year. The Champion for Mental Health total budget is set out in the financial section of the report.

Details of the request for grant funding are shown below:

Full name of your organisation
Samaritans of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100
£3,141.60
What are you going to spend the grant on? Please give a brief outline of the project.
Four new chairs for their duty room where the calls are taken from around 30,000 callers each year. They operate a round the clock listening service taking around 30,000 calls per year. Consequently, the chairs receive a lot of wear and tear. They are hoping to obtain some more robust chairs which must be comfortable for their volunteers.
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods
From the date of the application
What are the benefits expected to be achieved?
The new chairs will provide greater comfort for their volunteer listeners throughout their long duty periods. This will add to their mental well being which in turn will benefit our callers.
Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.
Two chairs @ £850.00 = £1700.00 Two chairs @ £459.00 = £918.00 Sub total = £2618.00 20% VAT = £523.60 Total expenditure = £3141.60
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.
Not applicable



If the Champion 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?

They would still go ahead with the purchase of these chairs but the shortfall would be paid out of our much needed and ever increasing operating costs which currently stand at around £40,000pa.

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		£10,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£2,500.00
Refunds		£0.00
Total Grant Available in 2024/25		£12,500.00
Grant Allocations Already Approved		£0.00
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£12,500.00
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		£0.00
NEW REQUESTS	Samaritans of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	£3,141.60
		£3,141.60
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£3,141.60
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£9,358.40



List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

