

Champion for Disabled People

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

"To assist the Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holders by advising on service issues which support and encourage active, independent and healthy lives for disabled people and to raise the profile of disabled people and their needs in the development of policy across Directorates."

Applications I have awarded in 2014/15 are as follows:

Earby Town Council £500

Earby Town Council are to relocate, refurbish and add one additional disabled public toilet at Earby Bus Station, giving a total of two disabled conveniences, including a baby changing facility and under floor heating provided from the Town Councils existing biomass boiler.

The Zone Rossendale £1,250

The Zone Rossendale is a joint group with the Uclan, Bernardo's and YPS. The project is a group of young people with disabilities who have been working on the impacts of disabled young people's day to day life and how they are not getting their full rights met. This has taken over a year of research work up and down the country. They have produced a DVD and a report that has been presented to the Children's commission in London. The group have met with the deputy speaker of the house of commons and have been invited back to present their work to a group of MP's with a view for raising questions in the house of commons. The funding enabled the group to achieve this.

Chorley Shopmobilty £578

Chorley Shopmobilty will provide Waterproof covers for their clients to use in the wet weather when using their scooters.

Colne Community Church Community Cohesion Committee £500

For the past 4 ½ year Colne Christ Church has been fund raising to enable them to make a suitable community meeting place for the people who live in their area. There is no such facility between Skipton Road in Colne and Laneshawbridge, and generally the population consists of many elderly people, plus young families who they feel would benefit from such a place. They have replaced what was a very antiquated and tiny kitchen and a single toilet, which was most unsuitable, with 2 toilets, one of which is specifically for disabled persons. Unfortunately they ran out of money, so the grant would pay for the tiling and painting of the disabled toilet, boxing in heating pipes and generally finishing off the toilet facilities to make them suitable for purpose. This project would benefit disabled and older people by providing a meeting place for them with suitable facilities at an earlier time than predicted.

VICS Christmas Party £1,000

VICS are a support and play group for families registered blind or partially sighted children in Lancashire, offering a safe environment for their children to be in, whilst taking part in numerous stimulating activities that are organised for them.

The funding of £1000 enabled the VICS Group of 30 children to enjoy a Christmas Party with a real reindeer, Santa visit, games, refreshments together with a Santa train ride where each child will each receive a present.

Unity Trust Outrageous Ambition Project £2,000

Outrageous Creative is a unique project that enables disabled people to be part of an inclusive community which is both safe and creative. Outrageous Creative is an inclusive project which inspires to move away from a culture of 'them and us' to one of 'I and we'. Funding was used to develop a strong community of people all working towards bringing real value to the lives of disabled people, we will do this by delivering a program of health and well being activities which are creative, engaging and enjoyable.

Benefits of the Project were:-

Increased inclusion for disabled people.

Improved health and well being for disabled people.

Increased volunteering opportunities for disabled people as a result of improved confidence and self esteem from taking a lead in developing and delivering the activities.

Greater community Cohesion, breaking down barriers as a result of disability.

Gold Coast BMX Club £1,132

Gold Cost BMX Club had recently acquired some disability bikes in order to start a Bike It centre at the Park. These will enable people with disabilities to experience the freedom of cycling regardless of their ability. We have a variety of specially adapted bikes and the sessions will run every Saturday afternoons and during holidays and will be open to all.

They have to house the bikes in containers at the park, however the planning department of the council has insisted that we clad the containers to make them more in keeping, this is a cost that we hadn't budgeted for. Therefore they will be spending the money on materials to be able to put a wooden cladding around the containers, so that they become more in keeping with the park but still remain as temporary structures.

The benefits are that the containers will be less noticeable to the general public and therefore more acceptable in the long run. Having the containers clad will mean that we can now begin the Bike it sessions, allowing the many disabled cyclists to take part in the sessions.

Leyland Warriors £1,247

The funding will enable the group to purchase new wheelchairs to be used by members of their wheelchair rugby league teams who are National Champions and also their handball section. The chairs are used for 3 hours of training each week by the club and for matches at weekends. The sports wheelchairs were also used by their coaches to do development work in the community, which includes running accessible sports coaching in schools, together with promoting disability awareness in sport.

Royal Cross Mini Bus £2,000

Royal Cross is Lancashire's only school for deaf children (aged 4-11) and the pupils need to develop their language and communication skills through first hand experiences. The minibus enables their children to reinforce their learning through educational visits. Although pupils come from across the county, they have strong links with local mainstream schools in Preston North West and well established partnerships for inclusion arrangements that benefit the local community. Most of the pupils move on to Ashton Community Science College (Deaf Support Department) for their secondary education.

Rosendale Rubicon - £300

Rosendale Rubicon are installing new steel handrails in their Rubicon Garden to enable all their members to have access to the garden as they have some with limited ability to walk in the garden unaided. The installation of the rail will encourage all their members to use the garden as it is very therapeutic.

***County Councillor Gareth Molineux
Champion for Disabled People***

Schedule of Expenditure for 2014/15

County Councillor Gareth Molineux - Champion for Disabled People	
Applicant	Amount of Grant
Earby Town Council – Disabled toilet	£500
The Zone Rossendale – House of Commons visit	£1,250
Chorley Shopmobility – Waterproof scooter covers	£578
Colne Christ Church Community Cohesion Committee – refurbish of disabled toilet	£500
VICS - Childrens Christmas Party	£1,000
Unity Trust – Outrageous creative ambition project	£2,000
Gold Coast BMX Track – Storage containers	£1,132
Leyland Warriors – sports wheelchairs	£1,247
Royal Cross – Mini bus	£2,000
Rossendale Rubicon – Garden handrail	£300
TOTAL SPENT	£10,507