

Champion for Disabled People

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members 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 the Council.

The past 12 months has seen me visiting a variety of groups involved with disabled people across Lancashire, and whilst a small number have been seeking grants, many more are requesting support, advice and coordination across separate groups. I have also been asked to act as an independent co-chair for the Lancashire Visually Impaired Forum, the Autism Forum and the Lancashire Learning Disabilities Partnership. It has proved to be a baptism of fire, but an enjoyable experience.

Sandy Lane Gardening Group £770 – This group support adults with learning difficulties by introducing them to horticulture as a recreational activity and in some cases helps and supports attendees employment into gardening work. They also produce woodwork items that are sold at Craft Fairs etc. to raise funds for the group. The grant requested was to repair plant storage benches and replenish woodwork stocks.

Staining Craft Group £158 – This group again supports those with learning difficulties, the grant request was to replenish printing supplies that the group use for therapeutic art activities.

Community Solutions North West £852 – The group assists both disabled people and their carers to reintegrate into the community, the grant request was for a safety rail for the disabled access and a replacement door for a storage area.

The Goodlife Community Allotment £600 – This group again provides support and training through gardening activities. They were in desperate need of a leaf blower and hedge trimmer so the participants could keep the site tidy.

Carers Link Lancashire £1,100 – The Carers Link in Hyndburn provides support for disabled families and carers. The group acquired new premises in the centre of Accrington that required restoration. The grant helped to provide disabled access and repairs to a disabled toilet.

Visually Impaired Forum for the LCC area £1,000 – The grant was used to stage and advertise one-day long awareness events in December 2018 and January 2019. These events brought together those with visual impairments, carers, and statutory and voluntary support groups allowing them to network for the benefit of all attendees.

Caritas Care Limited; Mental Health awareness and Life Expectancy awareness events £1,000 – As with the Visually Impaired Forum these events allow networking to ensure providers and recipients get together to maximise the benefits and expertise that are available. It was a privilege to attend and speak at both these events.

McDonald School of Dance £100 – This group provides support and activities to groups supporting those with learning difficulties and autism via music and dance. This grant was one of a number from external providers to help with building restoration work at the facility used by the group.

Charter House Activity Centre CIC £1,000 – The centre provides sensory activities for people with autism and similar disabilities. The centre had to relocate to new premises that required restoration work. The grant provided funding for a disabled toilet.

Rossendale Memory Choir £1,222 – The Memory Choir is made up of people with Dementia and their Carers, they meet once a week with numbers in the region of 50 participants and they give regular concerts throughout Rossendale. The funding requested help to purchase percussion instruments, display equipment and a Christmas party attended by over eighty people.

Danceable £650 – Danceable is the initiative of a young female in the Morecambe area, she engages young people with varying disabilities to exercise using music and dance. The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, County Councillor Shaun Turner and I attended a session and were very impressed by what we observed whilst skilfully avoiding participation.

Friends of Reminisce £600 – This is a support group for people with dementia and meets in Haslindgen, Rossendale. The funding provided the group with a day out on the East Lancashire Steam Railway. I'm advised that the trip evoked some wonderful memories and received extensive publicity in the local press.

All groups that have received a grant from my Champion for Disabled People's budget received two visits from myself, an initial visit to assess the validity of the claim and a follow up visit once the funds have been allocated.

***County Councillor Peter Steen
Champion for Disabled People***

Schedule of Expenditure for 2018/19

County Councillor Peter Steen - Champion for Disabled People	
Applicant	Amount of Grant
Sandy Lane Gardening Group – Repairs to plant storage benches and woodwork stocks	£770
Staining Craft Group – Printer supplies	£158
Community Solutions North West Ltd – Safety rail and replacement storage door	£852
The Goodlife Community Allotment Pendle Leisure – Leaf blower/hedge trimmer	£600
Carers Link Lancashire – Masonry work to new property	£1,100
Visually Impaired Forum for LCC area – Awareness events in December 2018 and January 2019	£1,000
McDonald School of Dance – Building restorations	£100
Charter House Activity Centre CIC – Disabled bathroom facilities	£1,000
Rosendale Memory Choir – percussion instruments, display equipment and Christmas party	£1,222
Caritas Care Limited – Mental Health awareness event and life expectancy awareness event	£1,000
Danceabled – Dance classes for people with disabilities	£650
Friends of Reminisce – Social outings	£600
TOTAL SPENT	£9,052