

**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:**

St John's Hospice

Contact for further information:

Janet Nuttall, (01772) 533110, Legal and Democratic Services,

[Janet.nuttall@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Janet.nuttall@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Brief Summary**

This report presents an application from an organisation requesting £1,500 towards the cost of replacement wood to rebuild planters, plants and seeds for their garden from the Champion for Mental Health 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 2024/25, 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:

<b>Full name of your organisation</b>
St John's Hospice
<b>How much are you applying for? Minimum £100</b>
£1500
<b>What are you going to spend the grant on? Please give a brief outline of the project.</b>
<p>St John's Hospice is seeking support for the running costs of its two-acre garden; made up of a very productive raised bed vegetable garden, flower borders, grassed and patioed areas, a summer house, woodland, an orchard and a small nursery.</p> <p>The hospice's garden provides numerous benefits including supporting our patients' mental health and general well-being, physical, social and environmental benefits.</p> <p>Produce for our hospice kitchen is also grown in our garden ensuring patients, and customers at our café, eat nutritional meals that support their mental and physical wellbeing with low food miles</p> <p>Their garden is also a source of income for our Hospice helping to support the care of our patients and their families through the sale of plants and produce.</p>
<b>Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods</b>
June 2024 – March 2025
<b>What are the benefits expected to be achieved?</b>
<p>They know that 'being in nature' can lift our mood, calm our minds and help us feel less isolated. Our Hospice gardens are a place of calm and sanctuary for our patients and their families at some of the most challenging times of their lives. There is much research into the science of nature's impact on our wellbeing – we know that exposure to natural light, contact with soil and some of the chemicals released by trees and plants can have a positive and uplifting effect on our mental health and sense of wellbeing.</p> <p>At St John's Hospice we see how our hospice's gardens benefit our patients and their families, those receiving bereavement support, children and young people attending outdoor therapy sessions at our Forget me Not Centre, our nursing staff, customers in our café and shop, and garden volunteers.</p>



Conservatively, our gardens benefits over 650 individuals, however this doesn't include additional family members or wider volunteers, customers at the café and shop or event attendees.

Benefits include:

- A place of sanctuary and peace for patients and their families to sit, helping to decrease stress levels, depression and anxiety
- Produce for the hospice kitchen ensuring patients, and customers at our café, eat nutritional meals with low food miles
- A view from patients' windows where they can see the gardens and wildlife such as squirrels, birds and rabbits making our Hospice ward a place of peace and tranquillity
- A venue for special occasions – weddings, birthdays and anniversaries. Helping patients, as they approach the end of their life, to make lasting memories
- Provision, propagation and development of plants and produce to sell to raise funds for our Hospice
- A space for staff to relax and reflect
- A volunteering opportunity: a place to come, socialise, a community to be part of, the provision of physical activity and a bit of fun

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

Replacement wood to rebuild raised beds where we grow our produce for the Hospice kitchen (these beds were last updated 12 years ago and need repair) £800  
Plug plants and seeds for our gardens and hospice grounds £700

**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.**

The full cost of their gardening upgrade project is £4000. They have a pending application for £1,500 with David Wilson Homes NW and will apply to other Trusts and Funders for the remaining support required. If we do not get this other funding the Hospice will fund the gardening project due to its value to and positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing our patients, their families, staff, volunteers and visitors and the contribution to our Hospice funds which enables us to continue our palliative nursing care.

**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 are grateful for all support received and will continue with our project due to its positive impact on the mental health and well being of our Hospice community. We will continue to seek funding to support our project and to ensure that it will go ahead.



**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 outstanding amount being requested by organisations for grant applications comes to a combined total of £6,112.50. The total amount of funding available in the Champion for Mental Health budget is £11,500.

Therefore, the maximum amount of funds that can be approved for outstanding grant requests is £6,112.50.

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
<b>Total Grant Available in 2024/25</b>		<b>£12,500.00</b>
Grant Allocations Already Approved	Samaritans of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	£1,000.00
		£1,000.00
<b>Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25</b>		<b>£11,500.00</b>
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected	Basically Cheer CIC	£4,612.50
		£4,612.50
NEW REQUESTS	St John's Hospice	£1,500.00
		£1,500.00
<b>Total Grant Requests in Progress</b>		<b>£6,112.50</b>
<b>Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved</b>		<b>£5,387.50</b>



## List of Background Papers

Paper

Date

Contact

None

