

**Report to the Champion for Older People**

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

**Electoral Division affected:**  
(All Divisions);

**Champion Grants Scheme Application from:**

Hesketh Bank Community Centre Dementia Carers

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 £336 towards their weekly gatherings from the Champion for Older People 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 Older People 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>
Dementia Carers
<b>How much are you applying for? Minimum £100</b>
£336
<b>What are you going to spend the grant on? Please give a brief outline of the project.</b>
<p>The group came about from acknowledging the need for support for those caring for loved ones with dementia. It is a safe place for carers to meet, find information, signpost to services and share experiences. It alleviates some of the stress and gives those involved a voice to express concerns or frustrations, with minimal impact to those they care for. It is a self-directing group, organising speakers and activities around the needs of those involved.</p> <p>The group quickly identified the need to have an equally safe space for their loved ones whilst the carers meet, and so a number of volunteer sitters, some of whom themselves are lonely, now look after these individuals separately, so that both parties are at ease. It is worth noting here that we are not charged for the additional space required for this, which remains the case for additional time used and we get free tea/coffee and biscuits included.</p> <p>The weekly gatherings address social isolation for all involved and activities include speakers and advice sessions for the carers, and dancing and reminiscing for the cared for.</p> <p>Speakers so far have been NHS and Alzheimer's, and we have some funding to coach individuals through the process of getting a diagnosis to dealing with each progressive stage in the form of 'Alarm to Calm' starting soon.</p> <p>But sometimes the sessions are just a chat over a cup of tea.</p> <p>The group has quickly grown from zero to 9 carers, 9 cared for, 4 volunteer sitters and 2 ex-carers from the Northern Parishes, with friendships forming and referrals being made from Age UK and the local services.</p> <p>As a result, we are finding that an hour goes two quickly and certainly is not enough for training sessions so we have been increasing our hall hire bookings from one to two hours per week.</p>
<b>Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods</b>
1st July – 31st December 2024
<b>What are the benefits expected to be achieved?</b>
The additional time will allow for a more relaxed atmosphere and afford more in-depth discussions, training and support.



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

Increase Hall Hire from 1 hour per week at £14 to 2 hours per week for 6 months, which is a total of £672 = £336 additional costs.

**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.**

They already have funding for one hour per week for the next six months.

**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 seek funding elsewhere to cover any shortfall or reduce the hours they book.

**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 £4,948.50. The total amount of funding available in the Champion for XXX budget is £4,030.06.

Therefore, the maximum amount of funds that can be approved for outstanding grant requests is £4,030.06.

An up-date of spend in 2023/24 is shown below:

Budget for 2024/25		£10,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£0.00
Refunds		£0.00
<b>Total Grant Available in 2024/25</b>		<b>£10,000.00</b>



Grant Allocations Already Approved	Blue Flamingo Community Hub CIC	£689.94
	Friends of Pendle Brook	£500.00
	Brindle Over Fifty Fives (The BOFFS)	£400.00
	Rosemary and Time CIC	£480.00
	Longton Over Fifties Lunch Group	£250.00
	North Meols Nifty Fiftys	£500.00
	TOFFS	£400.00
	St Stephens in the Banks	£500.00
	St Stephen's Church - Friends Food and Fun Group	£400.00
	Hilldale Community Association	£300.00
	St Vincent De Paul Society	£600.00
	Hesketh Bank Community Centre	£450.00
	Community Network and Outreach Service	£500.00
<b>Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25</b>		<b>£4,030.06</b>
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected	Basically Cheer CIC	£4,612.50
		£4,612.50
NEW REQUESTS	Hesketh Bank Community Centre Dementia Carers	£336.00
		£336.00
<b>Total Grant Requests in Progress</b>		<b>£4,948.50</b>
<b>Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved</b>		<b>-£918.44</b>

### List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

