

**Report to the Champion for Disabled People**

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

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

**Champion Grants Scheme Application from:**

The Visual Impairment Forum for the Lancashire Area

Contact for further information:

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**Brief Summary**

This report presents an application from an organisation requesting £1,400 towards the running costs and transport to their monthly meetings and larger event later this year from the Champion for Disabled 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 Disabled 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>
The Visual Impairment Forum For the Lancashire Area
<b>How much are you applying for? Minimum £100</b>
£1400
<b>What are you going to spend the grant on? Please give a brief outline of the project.</b>
<p>This grant will enable them to reach more isolated visually impaired and blind people in Lancashire who miss out on all kinds of key information and an opportunity to socialise and find our information and support that is available to them by us and other organisations</p> <p>The aim of the Forum is to be able to offer both face to face and meeting via teams as not all members of the community have access to technology so miss out on all kinds of key support.</p> <p>To build on their access and inclusion awareness workshops they have recently started with Lancashire Libraries the feedback has been extremely positive</p> <p>To promote the work they do together with LCC eg Highways, Transport ,Lancashire Libraries and Adult Social Care rehabilitation officers for visual impairment (Rovi services )</p> <p>The grant will enable them to engage with more members in the community and help towards cost of light refreshments at our meetings</p> <p>Transport is a huge issue for visually impaired and blind people, they don't have any resources and with the cost of living crisis impacting travel costs they would also use the grant to enable them to travel to their meetings and engagements.</p> <p>They would also like to host a larger event for the disabled community during hate crime awareness week, it is an issue many disabled people face on a daily basis, the community have missed out on the vital information and support ,we know events like these can and do make a huge difference to people feeling socially isolated and improve confidence and well being</p> <p>They aim to bring people together in a informal manner ,signposting to vital support so they can talk to others gaining vital peer support ,having previously done this in 2019 which was a huge success they know the positive impact this event will have .</p> <p>Their last event they reached out to 130 members of the Bame community during Disability awareness week, they gained positive feedback via email and forms praising them for providing this opportunity and how accessible they had made it.</p> <p>They are very proud of the successes they achieve together with LCC often in the background in Lancashire, that work creates positive outcomes improving Access for All in Lancashire .</p>



<p>The grant will enable them to promote the positive outcomes they achieve through working together to help improve services for others living in the area eg working with Lancashire Police the recent launch of the visually impaired protocol, they have started a new piece of work engaging with Lancashire libraries looking at accessibility and staff awareness and the excellent engagement we do with highways and transport and adult social care at LCC.</p>
<p><b>Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods</b></p>
<p>Once funding is awarded.</p>
<p><b>What are the benefits expected to be achieved?</b></p>
<p>To promote the work they do together with LCC and our partners eg Lancashire Police Visually impaired protocol and Lancashire Street Charter and our access and inclusion engagements.          To raise awareness in the community of support available eg Library services, ROVI services and other key support in the area.          To extended their access for all and inclusion engagement they know this has been highly successful showing small changes can make the biggest difference and Access for all doesn't have to cost millions.          To bring the community together under one roof offering a chance to gain peer support and meet local services</p>
<p><b>Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.</b></p>
<p>Meetings they host over 12 months including light refreshments £300          (Approximately 8 to 10 meeting including ones in the community )</p> <p>Transport to enable travel to our meetings and Forum engagements across the county over a 12 month period £500</p> <p>A larger event for the disabled community in October /November 2024          Venue cost, tea coffee and light lunch and publicity material £600</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>
<p>They will do their best to deliver within budget granted however they ,ay have to scale back as budget granted dictates.</p>
<p><b>Will the activity involve members of your organisation having significant contact with children or vulnerable adults?</b></p>



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 2023/24 is shown below:

Budget for 2024/25		£10,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£136.00
Refunds		£0.00
<b>Total Grant Available in 2024/25</b>		<b>£10,136.00</b>
Grant Allocations Already Approved	Lemondance CIC	£250.00
		£250.00
<b>Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25</b>		<b>£9,886.00</b>
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected	T.E.A.M.R.I.S.E	£2,600.00
	Basically Cheer CIC	£4,412.50
		£7,012.50
NEW REQUESTS	The Visual Impairment Forum for LCC Area	£1,400.00
		£1,400.00
<b>Total Grant Requests in Progress</b>		<b>£8,412.50</b>
<b>Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved</b>		<b>£1,473.50</b>

**List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

