

**Report to County Councillor Jennifer Mein**  
**Report Submitted by: Head of Democratic Services**

**Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:**  
Sahara in Preston

	<b>Corporate Priorities:</b> Better lives for all;
<b>Electoral Division(s):</b> Preston South East;	
<b>Contact:</b> Local Member Grants, Democratic Services, Tel: (01772) 530078, <a href="mailto:LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk">LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk</a>	

**Summary**

**Purpose of the Report**

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £800 towards materials and activities for BME women from the Local Member Grants Scheme

**Recommendation**

County Councillor Jennifer Mein is asked to consider the request for grant funding as set out in the report.

**Background**

1. On 16 December 2021, Full Council approved the reintroduction of the Local Member Grants Scheme. Under the scheme, each county councillor has been given a specific budget which they can spend to enhance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of people who live in their division. Following the reintroduction, using powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Leader of the County Council has authorised individual county councillors to take formal decisions on behalf of the county council.
2. For the financial year 2024/25, each county councillor has a budget of £2000. Each councillor can also carry forward a maximum of £200 that was unspent in the previous financial year. County Councillor Jennifer Mein's total budget is set out in the financial section of the report.
3. Details of the requests for grant funding are shown below:

**Full name of your organisation**



Sahara in Preston	
<b>How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000</b>	
£800	
<b>Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Preston South East (Cllr Mein)	£800
<b>What are you going to spend the grant on?</b>	
We will spend the money to provide materials and activities for BME women who will be attending 3 support groups for women with mental health problems (25 women in each group).	
<b>Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2025.	
<b>How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?</b>	
<p>The money will be used to support, BME women, who have complex mental health issues. Which are the result of, isolation, depression and anxiety. In some cases this is because they have been the victims of domestic abuse in all its forms or coming from households where they are not valued and have no 'voice' or influence within the home.</p> <p>The sessions they will be attending, will enable them to relax in a supportive atmosphere with other women who have faced and are facing the same problems. The craft classes will enable work to be finished off at home as many women say that 'just sitting there' with nothing to do increases their depressions.</p> <p>The groups and activities, are part of our support for the most vulnerable in society and help to improve the health and quality of life for the participants, so they can enjoy a happier healthier life.</p>	
<b>Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.</b>	
The grant will be used to provide activities for 3 groups of BME women who will come together for weekly meetings. We are going to ask the women what type of activities they wish to take part in, but are likely to include craft classes as working on something with your hands can help create a relaxed atmosphere, cookery classes with women practising how to prepare healthy meals on a budget, exercise classes to	



help them keep fit and an outing and so will include;

Craft materials £100

Food to be used during cookery classes £100

Tuition fees for the exercise classes £200

One outing for each group, including coach hire' £400

We wish to take the approach of asking the women, as for many of them, this will be the first opportunity they will ever have had to make a decision for themselves and can help build confidence and give them a feeling of empowerment and self-worth.

**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 staff costs involved in the actual running of the Groups is being met from a Big Lottery Grant.

£1500 of the materials etc. is being met from a grant from the Lloyds Foundation.

**If the councillor 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?**

If the full amount is not provided, this will restrict the activities, the women are able to take part in or we would need to reduce the support group meetings. This we would be reluctant to do as there is already a waiting list for the Groups, due to the number of women needing support.

**Will the activity involve members of your organisation having significant contact with children or vulnerable adults?**

Yes

No

### Options and Proposals

4. There are three options available:
5. **Option One:** Approve the application in full for the amount requested.
6. **Option Two:** Approve the application in part for a reduced amount.
7. **Option Three:** Reject the application.



## Consultations

8. This report has been written in consultation with Sahara in Preston and using the information provided in their application.

## Context and Implications

### Legal (including Human Rights)

9. In submitting their application, the organisation has signed the Local Member Grants Scheme Funding Agreement which sets out the terms and conditions of the grant. Those conditions include a requirement that any funding awarded to them will be used solely for the purposes set out in their application and this report.

## Financial

10. The outstanding amount being requested by organisations for grant applications comes to a combined total of £1,290. The total amount of funding available in County Councillor Jennifer Mein's budget is £1,600.

11. Therefore, the maximum amount of funds that can be approved for outstanding grant requests is £1,600.

12. An updated summary of spend in 2024/25 is shown below:

Budget for 2024/25		£2,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£0.00
Refunds		£0.00
<b>Total Grant Available in 2024/25</b>		<b>£2,000.00</b>
Grant Allocations Already Approved	Residents Association of Farringdon & Thirlmere (RAFT)	£400.00
		£400.00
<b>Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25</b>		<b>£1,600.00</b>
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected	TAAG Youth Committee	£250.00
	Mill Bank Wellbeing Centre	£240.00
		£490.00
NEW REQUESTS	Sahara in Preston	£800.00
		£800.00
<b>Total Grant Requests in Progress</b>		<b>£1,290.00</b>



<b>Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved</b>
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£310.00
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### **Equality and Diversity**

13. The Local Member Grants Scheme enables each county councillor to enhance the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of people who live in their division. Applications for grant funding may relate to projects or activities that seek to benefit specific groups with protected characteristics.

### **Risk Management**

14. No significant risks have been identified.

15. Following the receipt of grant funding, organisations are contacted for evidence to demonstrate that the money awarded has been spent in accordance with their application. The outcome of this monitoring activity is reported to the council's Audit, Risk and Governance Committee.

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

### **Part II Reason**

16. N/A

