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**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 - Norton/Pedmore and Stourbridge East/Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Centre Community Forum**

**Report of the Lead Officer**

**Community Forum Funding**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the 2014/15 year.

**Background**

2. The ten Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the delegated Community Forum Funding budget. The guidelines against which allocations from the delegated budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. These are corporate guidelines only and it is ultimately for each Community Forum to decide on individual applications.
3. A copy of the application/s referred to in this report, appendix 2 has been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

**Applications for consideration at this meeting:**

***Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch***

4. Funding of £4,452 is requested to repair a retaining wall at the back of their premises – Beryl House - and to assist with the replacement of three computers which require upgrading to cope with more up to date operating systems. Three quotes for the repairs to the wall have been provided and one quote for the purchase of computers.
5. This application was considered at the Brierley Hill / Brockmoor & Pensnett Community Forum on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and Members recommended that this application should go to the other 9 forums for consideration as the Samaritans are a borough wide service. They made an award of £180 towards new computers. They have previously received funding from DMBC including the Small Grants Scheme and the Brierley Hill Area Committee for computers and repairs to their premises.
6. The purpose of Samaritans is to provide emotional support – in full confidence and without judgement - to anyone who is experiencing feelings of distress, despair,

depression perhaps leading to suicidal feelings. The funding will enable them to continue to provide this service.

### ***Edward Cook – Scouts Jamboree***

7. Funding of £2995 is requested to enable Edward Cook to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Japan in 2015 as a member of the West Mercia Scout County unit (which comprises a total of 36 young people and 4 adults). Edward has been chosen after a rigorous selection process with each member of the unit expected to raise £2995 towards the total unit costs of £119,800. Other fund raising activities will be carried out including a series of sponsorship activities.
8. The purpose of a Jamboree is to develop young people giving them a sense of international unity as they partake in scouting activities with young people from countries all over the world. This education will have a great unifying quality within the local community as it builds tolerances and friendships across different boundaries.

### ***Greg McArthur – Scouts Jamboree***

9. Funding of £2995 is requested to enable Greg McArthur to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout jamboree in Japan in 2015 as a member of the West Mercia Scout County unit (which comprises a total of 36 young people and 4 adults). Greg has been chosen after a rigorous selection process with each member of the unit expected to raise £2995 towards the total unit costs of £119,800. Other fund raising activities will be carried out including a series of sponsorship activities.
10. The purpose of a Jamboree is to develop young people giving them a sense of international unity as they partake in scouting activities with young people from countries all over the world. This education will have a great unifying quality within the local community as it builds tolerances and friendships across different boundaries.

### ***The Teutoburger Wald Group***

11. Funding of £5000 is requested to provide and install upon the War Memorial in Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge a bronze plaque to identify the 26 names of men of the local area of Stourbridge who were killed in the actions of World War 2 and whose names were inadvertently omitted from the Memorial. One quote has been provided with two different options and advice and assistance has been given by Dudley MBC.
12. The purpose of the group is to support ex members of the Armed Forces and their relatives and to carry out research on the activities of the war years. It was this research that identified the omissions on the War Memorial in Mary Stevens Park. The group also give talks / lectures to historical groups, schools and community groups and arrange tours to battle areas in Europe.

### ***LIFE Debt Advice Centre (Stourbridge)***

13. Funding of £3960 is requested towards start up costs for the first year of a debt advisory service for those who are in need of debt advice and support. The service will be free at the point of need and will reduce the personal debt burden in the Borough. The costs will cover telephones, IT equipment, training, marketing and

affiliation fees. The total costs of the project are £30,410. They have received £6775 from local churches and individuals and have been promised a further £5950 from the same sources. There is no quote for the set up costs but a detailed proposal is attached with the bid.

14. This is a revised submission following feedback from the last community forum and includes a number of key one-off costs. They are also making a submission to the other nine community forums asking for a contribution to the 1<sup>st</sup> year's part time salary for the Debt Advice Manager and some one-off costs.
15. The centre will be legally run as a separate charity and under affiliation to Community Money Advice (CMA) a Christian based national charity that for eleven years has enabled community groups to establish local, free to client, face to face debt advice services through the provision of a range of services.

### ***Dudley Community Church***

16. Funding of £5000 is requested to contribute towards a building project (costed at £45,000 + VAT) which will create 3 counselling rooms dedicated to play therapy for children / teenagers. These additional rooms will enable them to increase the number of counsellors who specialise in play therapy and increase the number of children being counselled reducing waiting list. Two quotes have been provided and a third is awaited.
17. The total amount of the proposed project is £45,000 and they are requesting £5,000 from each of the forums. They have also made applications to other funding bodies but to date have not been successful. They will seek to raise additional funds through fund raising and a bank loan paid through the hire of rooms, donations from clients and potential contracts with GPs and the NHS commissioning service. They have also received £2280 from Dudley MBC's Community Development Fund.
18. Dudley Community Church have for the past five years managed the Dudley Counselling Centre (now a registered charity) who run a homeless project and a number of other children, youth and elderly projects including a play therapy project.

### ***Wollaston Village Community Association***

19. Funding of £5920.59 is requested to contribute towards the costs of the improvements to the driveway to the centre (£2520.59) , and to help towards utility costs – gas and electricity (£3400) This funding is required to enable community members to be able to access the educational activities which are run from the centre. A cost for the improvements has been provided by Dudley MBC's Street Care.
20. The remainder of the costs towards the maintenance of the driveway will be met by Dudley MBC.
21. The Community Association aims to advance education and to provide facilities to support social welfare and health and well being. This is carried out by running a range of activities for and on behalf of community members including IT classes, photography and exercise classes.

## ***Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS)***

22. Funding for £3625.60 is requested to help fund Dudley CVS's annual Dudley Volunteer Awards. The aim of the event is to recognise publicly the contribution of volunteers. It is a high profile event publicised through a range of media outlets and helps to promote the work of voluntary organisations and volunteering opportunities. A schedule of costs has been submitted with the quote.
23. This funding request has been submitted to all 10 community forums. DCVS receives funding from Dudley MBC, Dudley PCT and Dudley Community Partnership.
24. DCVS provides infrastructure support to the voluntary, community and enterprise sector in Dudley. It also provides support to organisations and individuals looking to undertake voluntary work.
25. Ward Members have been circulated with details of the applications prior to the forum.

### **Finance**

26. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate each financial year.
27. The total sum currently available to spend across all wards is: £31,672.51
28. This amount includes unspent balances for all three wards within the forum area.

### **Law**

29. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.
30. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory function.

### **Equality Impact**

31. This report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities which are available to children and young people.

### **Recommendation**

32. That the Forum members consider the application/s referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.

*Andrew Leigh*

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**Andrew Leigh**  
**Head of Housing Strategy & Development**

Contact Officer: Andrew Leigh  
Telephone: 01384 815007  
Email: andrew.leigh@dudley.gov.uk

### **List of Background Papers**

*Appendix 1 – Corporate guidelines for considering funding applications*

*Appendix 2 - The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under terms of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.*