

Chantry Library Youth Grant variation

In November 2016 the South West Area Committee awarded Chantry Library a grant of £8,365.00 (drawn down in 3 instalments) to deliver a programme of activities for children (5-10 years) and young people (11-14 years).

Regular reports have been submitted to the Committee with agreement to some changes to the original activities.

Anti-social behaviour issues in December 2017 led to a review by Senior Management and the change from 2 part-time managers to 1 new manager on 30 hours per week who was appointed at the end of July. During this period, with the exception of two activities the grant has been on hold.

During August a consultation was undertaken with library customers. Responses were positive and views on activities wanted will help to inform future planning.

An evaluation of activities/events delivered to December 2017 had helped to identify the most effective use of the remainder of the grant.

Events for children during the Summer holidays were monitored with limits on the number attending and places having to be pre-booked. Parents and children were asked to complete feedback forms, all of which were positive but also identified activities/events they would like to see in the future.

In early September we met with Mr Greenwood, Deputy Head at Chantry Academy. This has resulted in there being scope for working together to enhance opportunities for their students.

The Academy would be happy for events and activities at the library to be promoted via their systems for circulating information to parents.

The Academy has supported, via Active Lives, a group of students helping to clean and paint the Courtyard Garden. We hope that this will become an established partnership. It has been good to see the boys interested and engaged, particularly as two or three of them were often disruptive when they came to the library out of school hours.



Figure 1 - ActivLives garden activities

During the Summer holidays the grant has funded, for the 5-10 year olds a very successful Zoolab session **£149.00** and a puppet show at the Summer Reading Challenge **£140.00**. Other activities delivered were funded by the Friends of Chantry Library.



Figure 2- Activities and learning resources for the ZooLab session

Feedback captured from Zoolab

“lots of games and things for the children to do, Educational but fun! “Children aged 3,7 and 10 years

“nice interesting playtime, lots of information even for adults” Children aged 2 years

“lots of crafts, great face painting. Beach game really good idea” Children aged 3 years

“great to get the kids to explore, great info” Children aged 3 years

“children enjoyed the event, the lady was very knowledgeable and pitched her information well, making it really interesting for the children” Children aged 4,6 and 2 years

*“ kids loved it, really nice thing to do, very welcoming staff, kids have got to know a lot of new things”
Children aged 8 and 3 years*



Planned Activities

Two members of staff organised a very successful Halloween disco/party last year. We would like the grant to fund each of these members of staff extra hours for planning and delivering another this year. **5 hours each, total £150.00.** Friends of Chantry Library will fund any other costs and provide volunteer support for the event.

There have been requests for a Lego club at the library. We have a volunteer to organise and support this. Although we would ask for donations of Lego no longer wanted we would like to ensure that we had the basics to get the club off the ground. **2 x Creation Lego: £80.00.**

Mr Bean circus skills and magic has been extremely popular, particularly with 5-10 year olds. We would like to arrange further sessions, either at weekends or in school holidays. However, to ensure children can participate and learn skills sessions would have to be booked in advance with a maximum number participating at any one time. **4 x 1 hour sessions @ £85.00 per hour - £340.00.**

Craft sessions held at weekends have proved very popular, with children becoming really engaged and, with parents, may spend 2 – 3 hours at the library. These sessions are run with volunteer support but there is a need for time for staff to plan and prepare. Funding extra staff hours for this is invaluable. **20 hours x £15 per hour - £300.**

Now that ground rules for acceptable behaviour are in place and proving positive we want to build on this by providing opportunities for 11 – 14 year olds to interact positively with other sectors of the library community, from families with young children to older members.

There are plans in place to hold a Christmas lunch for people in the community, eg local care homes. One member of staff has been very successful in receiving pledges of donations of food etc from local businesses.

The plan would be for Chantry Academy students to be involved in all stages of planning and delivery from designing invitations, cooking and serving the food, decorating the tables. They would also be included in the meal to provide opportunities for interaction between the generations.

We will work closely with the Academy to identify and support students who would most benefit from this initiative.

The main cost involved would be for the materials needed: card, decorations, handmade presents: **£50.00.**

We recently met with Paul Press of The Offshoot Foundation to discuss media projects for young people. It was identified that a workshop for Year 7 students would be most beneficial to building engagement and self- confidence.

We would like to be able to fund an initial ‘Music Video Workshop’ – **1 day (weekend) £500.00.** This would be held in January 2019 and promoted via Chantry Academy.

The Foundation is able to access grants and funding and would be in a position to build on this first session by delivering a 4 day course.

Additional Needs

Library staff have become aware that a number of the children visiting the library have additional needs, eg Autism, mental health issues.

We would like to explore ways in which support can be offered and ensure that all can feel that they are a part of the library community. Discussions need to take place with parents and children to identify what they feel they would like.

Improving children and young people's literacy skills is another area in the library wants to support. Possible initiatives will be explored with other organisations and professions to identify the most effective contribution.

Should the South West Committee approve the proposals set out above and agree to Chantry Library's continued spending of the remaining grant we would provide regular updates and evaluations of the work undertaken.

It is planned that further activities/projects will be identified and costed for approval by the South West Committee by 28th February 2019 with delivery completed by 1st June 2019.

Parallel to the above in order that effective initiatives can be sustained and/or new ones developed applications to appropriate sources of funding will be made.

GRANT UPDATE

Original grant awarded	£8,365.00
Total spend to date	£5,388.00
Balance Remaining	£2,977.00

Planned Activities

Halloween Disco	£150.00
Creation Lego	£80.00
Circus Skills	£340.00
Craft sessions	£300.00
Christmas lunch	£50.00
Music video workshop	£500.00
	£1,420.00

Proposed spend to 28 th February 2019 (as above)	£1,420.00
Funding to be allocated by 28 th February 2019	£1,557.00

11th October 2018

Vicki Mann, Manager, Chantry Library

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