

COMMITTEE: SOUTH WEST REF NO: SWAC/18/26
DATE: 7 MARCH 2019
SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST: ACTIVLIVES 'GROW TO LEARN' PROGRAMME
REPORT AUTHOR: JAMES TURNBULL
HEAD OF SERVICE: SHIRLEY JARLETT

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report requests that the South West Area Committee considers this funding request of £4,920.00 to ActivLives to sustain the 'Grow to Learn' project in the People's Community Garden, which will involve young people who experience multiple disadvantages learning about horticulture, nature conservation, carpentry and construction, enterprise and citizenship.

The aim is to engage with young people to develop practical and personal skills, enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing, and link into their community.

This report has been prepared by James Turnbull

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This report was prepared after consultation with:
Internal consultees

External consultees
Susannah Robirosa – ActivGardens Development Manager

The following policies form a context to this report:
(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

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OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report requests that the South West Area Committee considers this funding request of £4,920 to ActivLives to sustain the 'Grow to Learn' project which will involve young people who experience multiple disadvantages learning about horticulture, nature conservation, carpentry and construction, enterprise and citizenship.
- 1.2 The aim is to engage with young people to develop practical and personal skills, enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing, and link into their community.

2. Background

- 2.1 ActivLives is a charity that aims to create stronger, healthier communities, reduce health inequalities and provide new learning to enable people to live full and active lives.
- 2.2 Their services are developed to engage, support and empower people to improve their health and wellbeing, create and connect people in their community, and provide opportunities for new learning and volunteering.
- 2.3 ActivLives achieves its aims through a range of community-led projects, including community gardening, lunch clubs for older people, adapted and accessible exercise sessions, health walks, singing, and community/social events.
- 2.4 Ipswich is one of 12 areas in the United Kingdom identified in January 2018 by the Department of Education as an "opportunity area", where challenges facing young people are among the greatest in the country, resulting in low achievement.
- 2.5 ActivGardens are situated in areas of Ipswich ranked within the top 10% most deprived nationally.
- 2.6 The 'Grow to Learn' programme will take place at the ActivGardens People's Community Garden (PCG), which is based at the Maidenhall Allotments on Halifax Road. This will involve children and young people who experience multiple disadvantages and give them the opportunity to learn about horticulture and food growing, nature conservation and beekeeping, carpentry and construction, enterprise and citizenship.
- 2.7 The learning journey begins at the PCG, from where they will trace a path out to their schools and help to develop their grounds, before progressing into projects in the local community to develop an understanding of how they can contribute to both the natural environment and the people living in it.
- 2.8 These young people will develop practical skills alongside transferable skills such as teamwork and leadership, communication, taking initiative and helping other people, while developing local pride and a strong sense of

citizenship. This will help to build confidence and self-esteem, as well as positive attitudes to learning and their own future.

- 2.9 ActivLives works with four Ipswich academies on a weekly basis and a number of primary schools, pupil referral units, and colleges. The programme will offer school holidays sessions, National Citizen programmes for young people, Forest School sessions and other out of school activities.
- 2.10 The continuation of the programme will help at least 70 young people and children with special educational needs to develop skills and confidence that are transferrable to school, employment, and their day-to-day lives.
- 2.11 The amount requested of the South West Area Committee is £4,920.

3. Relevant Policies and Area Action considerations

- 3.1 To support the Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:
 - Priority 3: An Enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study
- 3.2 To alleviate deprivation in the domain of:
 - Education, Skills and Training
 - Health

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

- 4.1 **Option 1** – Approve the allocation of £4,920 to ActivLives to enable the weekly running of four half-day horticultural/environmental education sessions for young people.
- 4.2 **Option 2** – Approve a lesser allocation toward the same.
- 4.3 **Option 3** – Do not fund.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 ActivLives engages participants, teachers and support staff to receive regular feedback, in order to plan and develop the programme offered.

6. Risk Management

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1 – almost impossible 6 – very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (scale 1 – negligible; 4 – catastrophic)	Actions to mitigate risk

Schools pull out of service	Poor use of public funds	Strong relationships with schools Existing work	3	3	Agree contract for a term in advance
Unable to secure funding for ActivGardens as a whole	Poor delivery with lack of resource		3	2	Development Manager continues to seek funding and project works towards financial sustainability through business planning

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 7.1 Only negligible environmental impact is foreseen.
- 7.2 The project promotes caring for the environment through growing your own food, conserving and creating habitat for local wildlife, environmentally friendly ways of growing and gardening, re-using, recycling and upcycling.
- 7.3 The work ActivLives does excites and inspires people to get involved in nature and environmental issues, and take action to make a difference. Furthermore, it makes environmental issues relevant to people's everyday lives, enabling groups that may be disconnected from nature to become more engaged.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 The "Grow to Learn" programme is not anticipated to have a negative impact in relation to any of the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. It is targeted at younger people, for whom there is a particular need, but provides opportunities for people of all ages to be involved and plays a part in the much wider scheme of ActivGardens.
- 8.2 ActivLives projects are very successful in engaging people from different cultural backgrounds and working with people of all abilities. The organisation is governed by an Equality Policy and their services are open to people of all backgrounds.

9. Financial Considerations

9.1 This funding request is to help cover the costs (detailed in the second section of the table below) of running four educational sessions at ActivGardens for young people with complex needs at local high schools/ academies:

Description of expenditure	Cost (£)
Salary Costs	
➤ Project Leader 4 half-day sessions a week (£13 p/h x 15 hrs/ week) x 52 weeks	£10,140
➤ Development Manager approx. 3.5 hours/ week (£15 p/h x 180 hrs over the year)	£2,700
Running Costs	
Proportion of running costs for People's Community Garden	£5,980
This is made up of	
1. Site consumables – e.g. seeds, plants, compost, timber £1100	
2. Tools and equipment £1500	
3. Pavilion and ActivSheds (rent, insurance, repairs, cleaning and maintenance) £1980	
4. Staff travel, mobile, IT, stationery £900	
5. Publicity £500	
Total project costs	£18,820
Total amount requested	£4,920

9.2 ActivLives have received previous Area Committee funding:

- Sep 2016 - Disabled toilet in CRESS Pavilion (£9,589)
- July 2018 – Big Garden Party (£960)

9.3 The organisation is working towards financial sustainability through contributions from schools, sales of plants and produce, development of community business, and further grant funding.

- 9.4 Schools contributions to the amount of £13,900 have already been committed towards the project, which covers the remaining project costs after the amount requested from the Committee.
- 9.5 The total amount requested from the South West Area Committee unallocated budget is £4,920.

10. Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The Council has the power to make grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 10.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 10.3 ActivLives is a registered charity (No: [1147615](#)) and non-profit company registered with companies house (No: [7672809](#)) with named posts, named bank account, business plan and year-end accounts. As such, the group meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Area Committee Funding Guidelines.

11. Performance Monitoring

- 11.1 ActivLives would be required to complete the Area Committee monitoring report as part of the standard funding agreement if granted.
- 11.2 It is intended that ActivLives would complete evaluation of the project through staff monitoring and observation of participants, feedback via active consultation and feedback forms, case studies, and photographs.

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 The Committee is asked to consider supporting the ongoing ActivLives 'Grow to Learn' programme, as part of the ActivGardens offering.

13. Recommendations

- 13.1 **The South West Area Committee considers the merit of the options for funding set out in Section 4 and determines an outcome.**
- 13.2 Reasons:
- To support the running of the 'Grow to Learn' programme at the People's Community Garden.
 - To support the opportunities for young people to partake in enrichment activities in the South West area of Ipswich.