

COMMITTEE: CENTRAL AREA **REF NO:** CAC/22/10
DATE: 2 NOVEMBER 2022
SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST – EMMAUS SUFFOLK
 WELLBEING HUB PROVISION
REPORT AUTHOR: LAURA COOLEDGE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: SHIRLEY JARLETT

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

Emmaus Suffolk is seeking funding of £4,281 to expand its wellbeing hub provision in the town centre. The hubs offer free activities including music, art, cookery and creative sessions to support individuals experiencing social isolation, poor mental health and difficulties with unemployment.

The wellbeing hub in Central Ipswich is located in Sailmakers and opened in January 2022 as a direct response to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Sessions run in Sailmakers on Monday afternoons and Wednesdays 10am – 4pm. Due to high demand, Emmaus Suffolk is looking to extend the service to open for longer hours and for more days a week.

Emmaus Suffolk would like to open its wellbeing hub for an additional day in Sailmakers on Fridays and extend its services on Mondays and Wednesdays to 5.30pm, totalling an additional 11 hours of service provision in the town centre.

List of Appendices included in this report:

- a) Appendix 1 - Completed Application Form

This report has been prepared by Laura Cooledge

Tel: 01473 433273

Email: laura.cooledge@ipswich.gov.uk

This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

External consultees

Claire Staddon, Chief Executive of Emmaus Suffolk

The following policies form a context to this report:

(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

Building a Better Ipswich 2017

1. Item of business and issues for consideration

- 1.1 To consider the application of Emmaus Suffolk and decide whether to agree to:
 - i) Fund the total amount requested;
 - ii) Fund a lesser amount to the amount requested; or
 - iii) Not fund any amount
- 1.2 The Committee will make its decision on the basis of whether the application meets the funding criteria and the funds available to the Committee.
- 1.3 Emmaus Suffolk is a charity that works with vulnerable, socially isolated people and those at risk of homelessness across the county. It aims to alleviate and provide relief from poverty, hardship and distress arising therefrom and tackle entrenched homelessness, isolation and unemployment in Suffolk.
- 1.4 Emmaus Suffolk currently runs two wellbeing hubs in Ipswich, in Sailmakers in the town centre and the Royal Oak on Felixstowe Road. The hubs offer a range of free activities including music, art, singing, cookery, creative sessions, alongside drop-in coffee and chat. Sessions support individuals experiencing social isolation, poor mental health and difficulties with unemployment, who need a caring and welcoming community to spend time with.
- 1.5 The wellbeing hubs act as a warm bank, offering refreshments and a 'help yourself shelf' of ambient food. Emmaus Suffolk also works with external partners to offer additional services such as covid-19 vaccines, hepatitis B nurse and cervical cancer screening.
- 1.6 Wellbeing hubs are offered every day of the week but not all from the same venue. The wellbeing hub in Central Ipswich is located in Sailmakers and opened in January 2022 as a direct response to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Sessions run in Sailmakers on Monday afternoons and Wednesdays 10am – 4pm.
- 1.7 Emmaus Suffolk has received positive feedback from wellbeing hub service-users.
 - a. 80% of service users asked feel less anxious about fears affecting them.
 - b. 94% of service users asked would recommend the Hub to others.
 - c. 86% of service users asked feel part of the community.
 - d. 79% of service users asked feel it helps them to understand their feelings better.
 - e. *"I find it easier to talk to strangers than previously. I have less anxiety generally."*
 - f. *"Emmaus Suffolk has helped with my confidence and interacting with other people, which I struggle with."*

- 1.8 Due to high demand, Emmaus Suffolk is looking to extend the service at Sailmakers to open for longer hours and more days a week. Emmaus Suffolk is seeking funding of £4,281 to extend its service in Sailmakers for an additional day on Fridays and longer hours on Mondays and Wednesdays to 5.30pm. This would total an additional 11 hours of service provision in the town centre.
- 1.9 Demand for Emmaus Suffolk's services has seen an increase of 50% compared to pre-pandemic levels and Emmaus Suffolk are currently not able to meet this demand. By opening the Sailmakers wellbeing hub for an additional day and longer hours, Emmaus Suffolk will be able to support more people in Central Ipswich.
- 1.10 In a year of wellbeing hub provision, Emmaus Suffolk expects to work with 250 individuals, and deliver 150 sessions, with over 500 hours of arts and therapeutic support for the individuals supported.
- 1.11 Since opening in January, the Sailmakers wellbeing hub had an average of 10 people attend on a Monday each week and 15 attend on a Wednesday each week. Emmaus Suffolk has also recruited 10 volunteers who support the sessions.

2. Links to Area Action Plan

2.1 Domains of Deprivation:

- **Education, Skills and Training**, which is an area priority

3. Financial implications

3.1 There is £6,845.26 remaining unallocated in the Central committee's budget, which is available to fund grant applications.

3.2 The table below shows the breakdown in costs:

Description of expenditure	Cost (£)
Craft Materials – fabric, pens, paper, paints, furniture upcycling paints etc.	3,000
Utilities (5%)	800
Refreshments – Tea, coffee, biscuits (£10 per session x 52)	520
Current staffing hours	17,500
Additional staffing hours	2,961

Total project costs		£ 24,811
Total amount requested from the Area Committee	North West	
	South West	
	Central	£4,281.00
	North East	
	South East	

- 3.3 Emmaus Suffolk has received £20,000 in funding from Reaching Communities Fund that will be used for staff costs, and it has reserves that will cover the cost of the rent.
- 3.4 Area Committee funding is being requested for the remaining elements, which are the craft materials, 5% of utilities costs, and refreshments.
- 3.5 Emmaus Suffolk receives no statutory or core funding and generates over 50% of its income through its Retail and Community Café social enterprises. For areas of its work that cannot generate funds, it applies for grants and carries out localised fundraising.
- 3.6 Emmaus Suffolk previously received Area Committee funding in September 2019, totalling £10,000 from all five areas, to subsidise costs of travel and food parcels for its volunteers.
- 3.7 **The total amount requested from Central Area Committee £4,281.**

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Emmaus Suffolk is a registered charity ([1128051](#)) and has provided its articles of association, annual accounts, a named bank account and safeguarding policy, as required by the Area Committee Funding Guidelines.

5. Risks considered

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 (1 negligible - 4 catastrophic)
Risk of Coronavirus infection through contact in proposed activities	Covid-19 illness to clients or staff	Measures as described in Government guidance at time	2	3
Actions to mitigate risk	Emmaus Suffolk is required to follow the Government guidance pertaining to all relevant activities current at the time of delivery.			
Safeguarding risk to venerable people	Physical or psychological harm/ abuse	Safeguarding policy and procedures	3	3
Actions to mitigate risk	Emmaus Suffolk has provided the Communities team with a Safeguarding Policy. This risk is owned by Emmaus Suffolk.			

6. Options

- 6.1 Option 1 – Approve allocation of funding of £4,281 to Emmaus Suffolk to enable the extension of services at the Sailmakers wellbeing hub.
- 6.2 Option 2 – Approve allocation of less than £4,281 as contribution to the same.
- 6.3 Option 3 – Do not fund.

6. Record of Decision taken

--

7. Exemption from call in (if applicable)

I certify that this decision is urgent and therefore exempt from call-in for the following reasons:

--

Signed.....

Councillor Jane Riley
Chair of the Central Area Committee