

GRANTS COMMITTEE AGENDA



Thursday 22 December 2011

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: GRANTS COMMITTEE:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Brash, Hill and Payne

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2011 (previously circulated).

4. KEY DECISIONS

No items.

5. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 5.1 Hartlepool Families First – One 77 – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

GRANTS COMMITTEE

22 December 2011



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: HARTLEPOOL FAMILIES FIRST – ONE 77

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek consideration for funding for Hartlepool Families First's One 77 project, formerly known as Café 177, for the 2011/2012 financial year.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The Community Pool budget for the 2011/2012 financial year has been set at £457,024. However, the roll forward of the balance of the 2010/2011 Community Pool budget was approved by Grants Committee on 1st March 2011 making the total available to commit during the 2011/2012 financial year £516,034.

In rounds 1, 2, 3 and 4 awards have been approved totalling £452,612, there is now a balance of £65,726 available for commitment.

Hartlepool Families First has applied to the Community Pool for a one off grant of £19,481 for their One 77 project. The funding will contribute to the core costs of the project including the salary costs of a Training Manager, a Sous /Tutor Chef, a Caretaker/Cleaner, an Apprentice and utility costs.

The application has been made by Hartlepool Families First as a result of the group who shared the building having moved out in September 2011. The group, Avanta, were subject to a month's notice period as the lease was only for 12 months originally. The payment for the notice period was paid up front however, Avanta moving out of the building left the One 77 project with a shortfall in its rental income which has had a knock on effect on the project's core budget for the remainder of the financial year.

Officers would suggest that if this bid was not for crisis funding then support would not be recommended for such a diverse range of cost areas as it is the norm to only support a maximum of two key workers within an

organisation. Normally support with utility costs etc is only provided when salary costs are not borne, i.e. if a group is managed and ran by volunteers.

If the award to Hartlepool Families First for One 77 is approved, the balance of the Community Pool will be £46,245 which will be available should any other groups find themselves in a financial crisis before the end of the financial year. Any balance would normally be rolled over into the next financial year.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER(S)

The Grants Committee is responsible for determining the level of grant awards from the Community Pool to the voluntary sector.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Grants Committee will determine awards at its meeting on 22 December 2011.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Members are requested to consider:-

- (i) The request from Hartlepool Families First for the One 77 project for grant aid of £19,481 as a contribution towards the core costs of the project including salary and utility costs.
- (ii) Any allocation of grant aid to groups known to be experiencing financial difficulties to be released in monthly/quarterly instalments, as appropriate, in order to safeguard the Council's investment and minimise risk.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: HARTLEPOOL FAMILIES FIRST – ONE 77

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek consideration for funding for Hartlepool Families First's One 77 formerly known as Café 177 project for the 2011/2012 financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Pool budget for the 2011/2012 financial year has been set at £457,024. However, the roll forward of the balance of the 2010/2011 Community Pool budget was approved by Grants Committee on 1st March 2011 making the total available to commit during the 2011/2012 financial year £516,034.
- 2.2 In rounds 1, 2, 3 and 4 awards have been approved totalling £452,612. With the balance of the Directed Lettings allocation being added back to the budget and an under-spend of an award for 2010/2011 which has been deducted from the groups award for the current year, also added back there is now a balance of £65,726 to be committed.
- 2.3 Hartlepool Families First has applied to the Community Pool for grant aid of £19,481 to contribute to the core costs of their One 77 project including the salary costs of a Training Manager, a Sous/Tutor Chef, a Caretaker/Cleaner an Apprentice and utility costs for the current financial year.
- 2.4 The application has been made because the One 77 project has a shortfall in its core fund. This has come about because Avanta had to move out of the building they shared with One 77 because they obtained the contract for the Work Programme and needed much bigger premises, as they needed to accommodate a lot more staff. Avanta, who moved out in September 2011, were subject to a month's notice period as the lease was only for 12 months originally. The payment for the notice period was paid up front. Avanta moving out has left the One 77 project with a shortfall in rental income for the current financial year. This has had an impact on the core budget of the project. The vacant office space is being marketed to new tenants, any additional income will help to address the shortfall in income.
- 2.5 Hartlepool Families First has already been awarded a grant for the current financial year. Up to £24,621 was awarded as a contribution towards the salary costs of a Manager, a Finance Officer and a Senior Street Worker for the project formally know as RESPECT. The application for the One 77 project does not relate to the award that Hartlepool Families First received.

Although the Manager has management responsibility for the staff of One 77 the application being presented to Grants Committee today is for the salary costs of the project staff and does not directly contribute to the staffing costs of Hartlepool Families First.

3. ONE 77

- 3.1 One 77 is a centre for young people aged 13 to 25. The centre is a base for young people's creativity, health skills development and enterprise. During 2010 Hartlepool Families First took over the management and development responsibilities for One 77.
- 3.2 The 2011/2012 budget for the One 77 project has been provided by Hartlepool Families First. The budget shows a substantial shortfall of income in relation to the income and expenditure of the project. However, unrestricted funds will help to reduce the shortfall quite considerably. Also, if this grant is approved the project should finish at the end of the year with a balance, of approximately £3,000.
- 3.3 One 77 provides a youth enterprise/training project which has been established in the form of a bistro, which is open 6 days each week, giving young people the experience of learning new skills, increasing their knowledge of the catering and retail sectors, improving their confidence and general employability and skills. Learning about and running their own enterprise and aspiring them to run their own commercial or social enterprise in the future. The bistro has been successful in engaging those young people from disadvantaged backgrounds as well as those with a low level of prior learning. Working with a range of training providers to support and accredit this work the project regularly receives referrals from organisations like Avanta, Wise Group, A4e, JCP, Springboard, JHP and the council's Going Forward project.
- 3.4 There are currently 3 apprentices working in the bistro. During the last 18 months 87 young people have been taken on training placements from 12 weeks upwards.
- 3.5 One 77 also provides other opportunities for young people including the Street project which is a mentoring/befriending service for children and young people, aged 13 to 19 years, who have low confidence, self-esteem or social skills. It also provides services to children who have either Autistic Spectrum Disorder or who have suffered some form of emotional trauma in their lives. The project works alongside highly-skilled counsellors who can ensure that a holistic service is offered.
- 3.6 Rock Academy Wednesdays (RAW) is operated in association with Red Dreams. Approximately 30-40 young people are attending every week to engage in various forms of band crafts such as guitars, drums, bass, vocals and song writing. Young people engaged in this project report that they are developing their confidence not only when performing and rehearsing but also in a range of day to day situations.

- 3.7 Regular band nights are held allowing young people to perform in a safe and alcohol free environment. Often young people from the RAW project participate but many showcase nights are held to encourage young people from across the town to come and enjoy music safely.
- 3.8 Future developments of the One 77 project include work with Catcote College to open the centre one evening each week for their young adults, aged 18+, who wish to socialise in a safe environment. It is expected that this service will be fully operational by January 2012. Working in partnership with the council's Economic Development Team a first stage application has been drafted to the BIG Lottery in order to provide a young person led work club to help the young people who are on placement with One 77 to gain employment.
- 3.9 If funding is approved by the Grants Committee the One 77 project will deliver the following outputs during the period December 2011 to March 2012:
- A further 30 young people supported and offered training within the bistro enterprise.
 - 50 young people will attend weekly music sessions
 - The employment of 4 people will be sustained, 2 of which are young people.
 - Formal accreditation undertaken by 10 young people.
 - 15 young people will achieve 'UK Online' accreditation
 - The reduction in the number of young unemployed people and people who are NEET or at risk of being so.
 - An increase in the number of young people who's aspirations are increased and who are feeling confident about their skills and opportunities in the job market.
- 3.10 The One 77 project has been working with the borough council's Economic Development Team and a retail specialist over the last few months on a range of income-generating activities which have already been implemented. All aspects of the training bistro income and expenditure, including the profit margins on food and drinks and buying patterns have been reviewed. It is anticipated that this will result in an increase in turnover of 20% in the next 3 months and then a further 20% over the following 3 months. These figures are based upon modelling done by the retail expert and experience of other retail outlets. Also, an extensive marketing plan for 2012 is currently being drawn up. With the work that is being done to maximise rental income, these measures, once implemented, should ensure that the project is self sustaining going forward into the new financial year.

- 3.11 If this application is not approved then the staffing levels at the training bistro would have to be reduced which would have a significant impact upon the project's ability to run the bistro and take young people on placements. It may also mean that 2 apprenticeship contracts also have to be ended if the bistro has to be closed. If the grant is approved at the level requested the funding will allow One 77 the time to see the fruits of the changes that have been planned and implemented with the retail specialist and more time to secure more rental income. A BIG Lottery bid will be made but even if it is successful the funding won't be made available until Summer 2012. Other funding opportunities are always being sought but the aim is to make the project self-funding and therefore not reliant on grant aid.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Hartlepool Families First has applied to the Community Pool for grant aid of £19,481 for their One 77 project. The funding will contribute to the core costs of the project including the salary costs of a Training Manager, a Sous /Tutor Chef, a Caretaker/Cleaner an Apprentice and utility costs. The grant would cover a shortfall in income for the current financial year.
- 4.2 The application for funding is a one off request as Hartlepool Families First are confident that the project will be able to sustain its self going forward into the new financial year 2012/2013.
- 4.3 If the award to Hartlepool Families First is approved the balance of the Community Pool will be £46,245 which will be available should any other groups find themselves in financial crisis before the end of the financial year.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to consider:-

- (i) The request from Hartlepool Families First for the One 77 project for grant aid of £19,481 as a contribution towards the core costs of the project including salary and utility costs.
- (ii) Any allocation of grant aid to groups known to be experiencing financial difficulties to be released in monthly/quarterly instalments, as appropriate, in order to safeguard the Council's investment and minimise risk.

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Background Papers

Application to the Community Pool 2011/2012 - Hartlepool Families First – One 77