

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Grant Funding – KIDS Family Centre
Report of:	Director of Operations
Strategy/Policy:	Leisure Strategy
Corporate Objective:	Strong and Inclusive Communities

Purpose:

This report presents an application for funding under the Council's Community Fund Programme.

Executive Summary:

An application for community funding has been received from Kitty Mcmonagle, Fundraiser for KIDS Family Centre, for the sum of £4,750 to purchase a birds-nest swing and accompanying safety surfacing and fencing for their play area and sensory garden.

KIDS is a National Registered Charity, which aims to enable disabled children, young people and their families to enjoy their lives and realise their aspirations. The Family Centre facility, located in the Delta Business Park on Salterns Lane, is owned entirely by this charity and supports over 1,000 families across Hampshire.

The Family Centre has developed plans to create an all-weather fully accessible play area and sensory garden in the grounds of the facility. The project, which will include appropriate play equipment, lighting, sound and water to stimulate children's senses, reduce anxiety and enable disabled children to challenge themselves in a more adventurous environment, will cost £40,000 in total.

The Centre currently has 20 children registered at their specialist nursery, 30 young people using their overnight short breaks facility and 50 young people using their 1-2-1 short breaks in the community. All of these children and young people will have full access to the play area and sensory garden. In addition, the Centre will make the garden available by agreement to local families who would benefit from using this facility.

Sixty seven percent of the local children and young people who currently are supported by the Centre are residents of the Borough of Fareham. Although over

one hundred and fifty Gosport families are also supported by this facility, Gosport Borough Council has been unable to offer financial support due to the abolition of their Community Funding Programme.

The KIDS national charity 'south area' holds total charity funds of £12,112 as of March 2016, although this covers several other services in this area of the country. Each KIDS facility is responsible for its own fund-raising for improvements, which can only be used by that facility. The KIDS Family Centre has currently identified £14,800 to put towards the play area and sensory garden project, and plans to develop the garden in stages as funding allows. They currently have funding applications submitted to The Tesco Bags for Help, the Rotary Club and the Freemasons.

Ward Councillors Mrs Trott and Dr Brady are strongly supportive of this application.

Recommendation:

That the application for £4,750 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Funding Programme, submitted by Kitty Mcmonagle of KIDS Family Centre for the purchase of a birds-nest swing and accompanying safety surfacing and fencing for the Centre's sensory garden, be approved.

That a condition of the award is for a Community Use Agreement to be committed to for the sensory garden.

Reason:

This application meets the agreed Community Funding Programme criteria for financial support for community capital projects.

Cost of Proposals:

The total allocation towards this project will be £4,750, which can be met from within the existing budget for the Community Fund Programme.

Risk Assessment:

There are no identified risks associated with this report.