

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Grant Funding – Crofton Youth Project
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 the Crofton Youth Project in Stubbington, for the sum of £3,120, to replace the pendant lighting within the Crofton Youth Centre building.

Crofton Youth Project is a local charity with the key objective of providing a dedicated youth facility for young people who reside in the wards of Hill Head and Stubbington. The aim being to provide support for local young people to grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

The Project is currently attended by 24 young people weekly and is developing initiatives to expand this number. In addition, the Project hire the facility to a number of local community groups and services, including a carers' group, a children's activity group, a church group and a local after-school child care provider.

The Crofton Youth Project lease the building from Fareham Borough Council and have responsibility for the internal fixtures and fittings. Unfortunately, the pendant lighting within the facility has begun to deteriorate due to age, and several of the lights no longer function. As the original light fittings are now defunct, it is not possible for individual lights to be repaired.

The cost to replace the pendant lighting at the Crofton Youth Project facility has been quoted at £3,120.

At the close of September 2016 Crofton Youth Project had £12,712.31 in their accounts. This equates to approximately one year's running costs. This amount is equivalent to the financial buffer which all charitable organisations are recommended to retain by the Charity Commission.

The organisation is very proactive at identifying funding opportunities, having secured donations from the Hammond Memorial Hall Trust and the Stubbington Fayre Committee. As a result of this positive approach, the Project has not needed to apply to the Council's Youth Activities Fund to cover a shortfall in financing their open access provision.

Ward Councillors, Councillor Wood and Councillor Heneghan are both strongly supportive of this application.

Recommendation:

That the application for £3,120 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund Programme, submitted by the Crofton Youth Project, for the replacement of the pendant lighting at this facility, be approved.

Reason:

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

Cost of Proposals:

The total allocation towards this project will be £3,120, 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.