

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Grant Funding – PALS Society
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 PALS Society, for the sum of £4,922.43 to purchase computer hardware and software for their new Computing Confidence and Surgeries project.

PALS Society is a recently set up local charity that aims to support young people with a diagnosis of autism, or other conditions that affects their learning, by nurturing their skills in IT.

The organisation plans to run a new Computing Confidence and Surgeries project to provide an opportunity through which their young people are able to offer basic computer training and IT advice to elderly people or people with mild learning difficulties.

The aim of the project is to increase the skills and employability of young people with autism, while offering a service for the community. The young people will also have the opportunity to upcycle donated computers, which once improved can be offered to the community or sold to fund the work of the Society.

PALS Society has secured free room rental at Fareham North West Community Centre on a weekly basis, where they plan to hold the IT help surgeries.

As the Computing Confidence and Surgeries project is new, PALS Society is unable to provide specific numbers of people who would benefit from either side of the service. However, they have contacted the local Women's Institutes and Age Concern to confirm the demand. They have also contacted Autism Hampshire, the National Autism Society South Hants branch and local colleges to secure channels for identifying young people who would benefit.

Although PALS Society is a new charity, the founder has already received a grant of £850 from Unltd, which will be used to cover volunteer expenses and promotional materials for the project.

Recommendation:

That the application for £4,922.43 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund submitted by PALS Society to fund computer hardware and software for their new Computing Confidence and Surgeries project be approved.

Reason:

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

Cost of Proposals:

The total allocation towards the project will be £4,922.43 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.