

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision 17 January 2024

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Community
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Voluntary Sector Support Fund – Bee Released Counselling</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director (Democracy)
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	Leisure opportunities for wellbeing and fun

**Purpose:**

This report presents an application for funding under the Council's Voluntary Sector Support Fund Programme.

**Executive summary:**

An application for Voluntary Sector Support Funding has been received from Bee Released Counselling for £30 to cover the costs of one year's membership to Action Hampshire plus £446 for one day's one-to-one guidance from Action Hampshire to support future planning and increase referrals.

Bee Released are a local Community Interest Company operating in the community largely in Portchester and Whiteley. In the last year they have supported 50 people from across the Borough, offering low-cost counselling sessions for adults. They are professionally accredited and have a particular focus on providing counselling around mental health concerns and for carers.

The total income of the organisation for last year was £1,528. Bee Released is requesting funding to become a member of Action Hampshire and also for a one-to-one session for support with planning and projections for the future with aims and objectives to better target referrals.

**Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

It is recommended that this application is approved.

**Reason:**

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

**Cost of Proposals:**

The total allocation will be £476 which can be met from the existing budget for Voluntary Sector Support Fund

**Risk Assessment:**

There are no risks associated with this report.