

Applications for West Neighbourhood Fund

Application No. 1

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Fund
Name of Project	Extension to Holiday Hunger
Lead Organisation	Active Families NE CIC, Grindon Young People's Centre, Pennywell Community Centre, Farringdon Youth and Community Centre, Plains Farm Youth and Community Centre and Youth Almighty Project

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NF Application
£48,000		£48,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
12 months	May 2021	End of April 2022

If Area Committee approve the £48,000 the current 6 leads will be invited to submit a full application for £8000 per ward to deliver 2 sessions per week throughout the following school holidays.

- ***May half term 2021***
- ***Summer 2021***
- ***October half term 2021***
- ***Christmas 2021 – Activities/hampers***
- ***February half term 2022***
- ***Easter 2022***
- ***Each session should last at least 2 hours and children should be provided with a healthy meal and activities.***

If approved the following condition is recommended: Full application presented to the April Neighbourhood and Community Board.

Recommendation – Approve

The Neighbourhood and Community Board (via correspondence) recommend approval of this project, which delivers to the West Area Investment Delivery Plan Priority - ***Eating healthy meal and learning to prepare and cook food, delivery sessions within local community***

Application No. 2

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Fund
Name of Project	West Welfare Rights
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NF Application
£150,000		£150,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
36 Months	1.6.2021	31.5.2024

ALL PROJECT DETAIL TAKEN VERBATIM FROM APPLICATIONS

Project Description:

Background

A May 2020 ONS Report detailed just under 1 in 4 adults (23%) said Covid was affecting their household finances.

This impact also resulted in a doubling of people experiencing food insecurity with the FSA estimating this was experienced by 16% of adults in the UK (7.8 million people) during the Pandemic. Increasing fuel debt is also causing concern

Many current Government support measures are due to end within 2 months, this includes the additional £20 Universal Credit (UC) entitlement. The DWP will be resuming more vigorous assessment and potentially negative decision making

A surge in housing /rent arrears issues leading to potential evictions with residents is also anticipated. Other debts will also have increased, and others will have used existing savings to cover living costs, and / or have had to borrow money or use credit to survive.

Despite all the additional local support offers last, from Community Hubs and coordinated partner activities, many residents, families and communities have continued to struggle day-to-day, and with more difficulties to come.

Unfortunately, the in-work poor, the self-employed, and those just outside the benefit system, may have fared worse as they have faced loss of employment, reduction in hours / furlough – and without always being able to access government support.

Data

The most recent figures for UC claimants in SR2, SR3 and SR4 postcodes was 13,393 (January 2021) 2021

Overall the city has seen an increase of just over 12,600 UC claimants between March 2020 and January 2021 (12,566 to 31,313).

Despite this increase there are still significant numbers of legacy benefit claimants that need to migrate to UC -including complex claims from families receiving tax credits and from severely disabled people.

Impact on the West

Given that West contains some of the most severely deprived postcode areas in the city the impact is likely to be that demand for first tier and specialist advice will remain high and increase. Both welfare reform and covid have been shown to disproportionately affect poorer areas

Project Description

To increase capacity for first tier advice and financial resilience checks

To increase capacity for specialist case work support including complex case work and representation

Proposal:

To fund 1 x P/T Specialist Welfare Rights Officer to add capacity in the West 3 years @ £30k =£90k

To increase capacity for first tier advice and financial resilience support in the west 3-year contract @ £20 =£60k

Key Objectives

To support residents in the West to manage the financial impact of the pandemic by following the 3 key steps:

1. Know your rights
2. Assert your rights /Know where to get help and advice
3. Make your money go further

This includes working very closely with other services to improve residents' overall resilience e.g. Credit Union, Financial Resilience Programme, Crisis Support

Recommendation – Approve

The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend Approval of this project, which delivers to the West Area Investment Delivery Plan Priority of **Support those who are struggling due to Universal Credit and other financial conditions**

Application No. 3

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Fund
Name of Project	Improve Access to ICT to reduce Social Isolation Programme
Lead Organisation	Media Savvy CIC

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NF Application
£169,000	£69,000	£100,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
36 months	April 2021	March 2024

ALL PROJECT DETAIL TAKEN VERBATIM FROM APPLICATIONS

Project Description:

The aim of this application is to demonstrate how *Media Savvy CIC (MS)* can best support the West Area Committee's (WAC) three-year project, which aims to 'Improve Access to ICT to reduce Social Isolation'. *MS* is able and optimised to meet all of the essential criteria as well as the desired project outcomes which are laid out in the full project brief. We also sent feedback and proactively signposted to the *Let's Talk* sessions last year which may have also partially influenced the project brief.

This project should integrate seamlessly within Sunderland's 2019-2030 City Plan. We know that this project has the potential to significantly contribute towards improvements in (physical and mental) health outcomes for residents and the project can clearly link into certain areas within the Plan's three key themes: a dynamic city, a health city and a vibrant city. For example, providing and signposting to better qualifications (leading to job opportunities), helping empower more independent people (via digital upskilling / confidence building) and facilitating opportunities so that more residents participate in their communities (as volunteers / digital champions).

Track record -

MS has a track record of delivering successful and high-standard interventions across Sunderland and beyond. This includes a previous, successful (WAC funded) project in 2018 in partnership with the *Carer's Centre* and delivered at *Parker Trust*, which involved the provision of appropriate devices (Inc. computers, desktop computers iPad and smart phones) and related digital

upskilling. Following that we successfully provided social media / web / IT support sessions for VCSE projects and Area Committee staff. In addition, we have recently concluded a three-year project in the East area relating to central IT support for organisations as well as 'ground level' training and support for local residents.

Digital training –

For several years *MS* has been the sole provider funded by SCC's FACL department for accredited digital skills courses and we have also been the largest provider of non-accredited (digital-focused) courses and workshops throughout the city. We have been previously judged by Ofsted as being 'Outstanding' for this delivery and we have the highest attainable levels of retention, achievement and success. Our provision is constantly evolving

based on new technologies and learner need and demand. Based on this demand we launched seven brand new digital taster courses for the start of the 2020-21 academic year (see attached flyer).

We have experience delivering workshops and courses specialising in ALL eight examples which have been bullet pointed in the project brief document. We have significant experience in the areas; computer basics, using the internet, staying safe online, managing money online (Inc. using price comparison sites) and completing forms.

We are open to creating new content, workshops and courses for the project, based upon West area demand. For example, setting up and optimising *YouTube* channels could be request and we already know video conferencing (*Zoom*, *Google Meet*, *Teams* etc.) training is now, not only beneficial, but essential.

Our approach –

- We are mindful that this project will not be successful with a 'one size fits all' approach. We expect the needs and priorities to differ between wards, projects and individuals
- Work with projects to sign up to and/or update their provision on the Sunderland Information Point
- Create varied channels of communication (Inc. dedicated number, email, social media channels)
- Have a response time of (maximum) 48 working hours with a target of 90% receiving a same day response
- Target - resolving each query / issue within 5 working days. N.B. Smaller issues might be solved in minutes whereas complex issues may require multiple site visits
- IAG and signposting to be strategically implemented and embedded into the delivery of the wider project brief (see below)
- Commit to attending a minimum of 80% WAC network meetings (virtual or face-to-face)
- Commit to liaising with projects in each ward to offer drop-in 'stall-style' sessions. These would roll-out in response to demand, with a minimum of 1 per quarter. N.B. We would envisage virtual sessions, at least for the first quarter
- We would liaise with West area projects and encourage them to put forward and/or signpost us to suitable candidates to become digital champions (see below)
- The above three points would all contribute towards supporting the local communities to become digitally active and break down any barriers and misconceptions in this area
- Begin completing an information 'database' in the first quarter which will be added to, and amended throughout the lifespan of the project
- We are aware that many West area projects have been supported through Area Committee funding in the past couple of years, which has included the purchase of digital devices. We envisage working closely with the projects (and perhaps beyond) to establish them as main Hubs (at least one per ward, six in total). We also suggest establishing 'mini Hubs' in the larger wards. For example, *St. David's Church* or *Richard Avenue School* might be appropriate as a mini Hub, but not a main Hub for their respective Wards. N.B. We believe six main Hubs and twelve mini-Hubs is a reasonable and attainable target
- We would not only be very happy to work alongside SCC Area Arrangement Service to support the Cooperative Council Innovation Network Policy Lab, we would be very keen to be part of these discussions and happy to share experiences, perceptions as well as good/bad practise

WIFI –

We would provide a point of contact for West residents to receive support to get online and remain confident operating ICT equipment and securing wi-fi coverage for ongoing use. This would involve signposting to appropriate local Hubs (offering free, safe and secure access) and in some cases, possibly offering IAG around securing a home broadband package. This would also link to the city-wide objectives to become a digital city with 5G connectivity.

IAG / Signposting –

We have highly experienced IAG accredited staff members who would be part of the delivery. We have internal (digitally focused) pathways, which include up to five levels of progression and we separately source funding to deliver these courses. Therefore, we would be able to signpost and recruit learners (West area residents) to any appropriate further learning without any further cost impact to either the individual or WAC. N.B. Some of the accredited learning is valued at Government level over £700 per head.

We would be able to run courses for closed (West based) groups as well as inviting individuals to be part of open courses if there was not sufficient demand for a bespoke delivery.

In addition to our internal progression pathways, at MS, we are always keen to have a keen understanding on external opportunities and we are proactive to signpost to other opportunities, if it is a good fit for the individual.

Digital champions –

We have a long and successful track record in developing 'digital champions'. In 2015 we supported a learner (PT) who was originally part of our services, via a referral through mental health secondary care services. PT went on to be a great success, and at one stage they went on to represent SCC as the Council's 'digital champion' within a regional collective of (six) local authorities. PT even facilitated and led workshops on behalf of the collective.

There are numerous examples of us helping to support on smaller scales, for example, upskilling volunteers to assist with social media content production and management for smaller projects and organisations.

We would aim to upskill enough digital champions across the West area during the three-year duration of the project so that once the funding was complete, there would be enough skilled champions / volunteers to ensure the ethos of the project left a legacy and was able to continue. This would be embedded into the delivery as part of an exit strategy.

Upcycled ICT –

We have significant experience facilitating this, on a local and national level. We have positive relationships with national bodies (Inc. *Good Things Foundation*) due to our local leadership and work in the area of digital upskilling. Where possible we would be happy to prioritise leveraging any future opportunities (to receive new / upcycled digital devices) for equipment donations for the benefit of West area residents.

Last summer we secured over 100 upcycled modern smart phones from a single organisation, to be redistributed to individuals with a learning disability. This was a national

project which was highly successful. The wider project was much bigger, and we were simultaneously using our expertise and knowhow to roll-out a similar initiative in the East area, mainly focusing on desktop computers.

We have internal safe systems or working, GDPR and Data Protection policies which we adhere to when undertaking such (digitally) sensitive tasks (available upon request).

We are confident in our ability to safely store equipment at our premises. We cannot be responsible when beneficiaries loan equipment, however, we have not previously had any issues, which grew significantly during the first national lockdown. This is likely helped by our requests for individuals to sign basic agreements or care and usage. All of the actions and practises help us to mitigate against damage / loss / theft or loaned equipment.

It is also key for us to ensure that upcycled ICT equipment is fit-for-purpose. We have previously had to scrap donated devices / computers as they have often been too old to be of use to beneficiaries.

Evidence and feedback –

We plan to utilise short surveys for all individuals participating in the support related to the brief. Surveys would include questions relating to the six areas listed to form the overall project outcomes; from increased confidence amongst residents to use online services to improving mental health and wellbeing through being connected online.

We would target a minimum of an 80% rate of positive responses against all target outcomes, though we would anticipate 90-100% in most (relevant) areas. Charts would be created to help visualise the data at the end of the project, as well as possibly at some agreed milestones during the delivery.

COVID-19 -

We have touched on the pandemic throughout this application as we believe it is key to why and how this project has emerged and evolved. *MS* did not furlough any staff in 2020, continuing to operate at ground level. We know that the pandemic has helped to highlight the huge need for digital equipment and knowledge within the city, particularly for the most vulnerable, who often are already facing multiple and complex barriers. Examples can range, including difficulties for parents and carers have had in home-schooling, and older / vulnerable people becoming more socially isolated.

We know there are five COVID Hubs throughout Sunderland and two are based in the West area; *PAG* and *Youth Almighty*. We believe these will be key projects for this project and both have the potential to be confirmed as the main Hubs for this project for their respective wards.

MS is a digitally focused organisation and we have been pushing for a greater level or significance and priority to be placed upon 'all things digital' since we were established in 2010. The circumstances for this push to escalate is extremely unfortunate, however we hope to contribute to the legacy of the longer-term benefits; this project being a perfect example.

If approved the following condition is recommended:

Yearly confirmation of match funding

Attendance at full induction meeting with ACDL

Full project reviews at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months to ensure the projects continues to deliver to the outcomes required and meets the needs in the community.

Recommendation – Approve

The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend approval of this project, which delivers to the West Area Investment Delivery Plan Priority of – ***Increase 5g access across all neighbourhoods and support people with digital resources***
and

Social Prescribing – develop local offer to improve health and wellbeing and access to services locally to reduce social isolation, improve mental health and support long-term health conditions, and ensure physical activity sessions are accessible and not cost or time prohibitive, in partnership with All Together Better

Applications for West Neighbourhood Capital Fund

Application No. 1

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Capital Fund
Name of Project	Environmental Improvements – Phase 1 Bins and Benches
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NCF Application
£36,529		£36,529
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
7months	April 2021	October 2021

ALL PROJECT DETAIL TAKEN VERBATIM FROM APPLICATIONS

Project Description:

Project to replace bins across the west which are either poor quality/damaged or not the correct size for the demands.

The full list was presented to the Neighbourhood and Community Board.

Benches and bins in the sandhill extension and ski slope area will be located throughout to enable residents to be able to freely walk around without having to worry about resting points. The bins will be placed around the area at key points to ensure less litter in the areas.

- 48 x 110ltr Freestanding bins
- 6 x benches for Sandhills extension and Silksworth Ski slope
- 4 x Dog bins
- 2 x liners
- 19 x postmounted bins
- 1 x shorud

Recommendation – Approve

The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend Approval of this project, which delivers to the West Area Investment Delivery Plan Priority of **Invest in Street Furniture including additional bins**

Application No. 2

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Capital Fund
Name of Project	Silksworth and Albany Pit Wheel
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NCF Application
£26,625	£9125	£17,500
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
8 months	April 2021	November 2021

Project Description

Silksworth and Albany Pit Wheel Relocation Project

Project Description

Remove existing pit wheel from Albany Village Centre and relocate to Silksworth Miners Hall, 12 Blind Lane, Silksworth

Refurbish pit wheel located at Washington F Pit and once refurbished, transport and install at Albany Village Centre, Washington.

Project will require the appointment of an Architect to lead on the design, planning permissions and oversee the installation of the pit wheels in both locations.

F PIT WHEEL Washington to Albany

Visit site and undertake detailed survey of the wheel Provide scaled drawing Visit Albany site and undertake survey of current wheel location Review proposed fixing installation & support structure with Structural Engineer Prepare proposed layout drawing and 3d visualisation Make planning application (in conjunction with Albany wheel re-location)

ALBANY WHEEL Albany to Silksworth

- Visit site and undertake detailed survey of the wheel Provide scaled drawing Visit Silksworth site and undertake survey of wheel location and adjoining building Review proposed fixing installation & support structure with Structural Engineer.

Albany & Silksworth

- Prepare proposed layout drawing and 3d visualisation
- Make planning application (in conjunction with F Pit wheel re-location)
- Provide all necessary detailed drawings, calculations and specifications to form a complete set of tender documents.
- Provide Principal Designer duties including Pre-Construction Information
- Invite competitive tenders from approved contractors OR utilise SCC procurement route
- Tender review and contractor selection
- Chairing pre-start meeting
- Formalising Building Contract HSE F10 notification
- Reviewing works on site during construction Authorising interim payments
- Undertaking snagging inspection
- Issuing Completion Certificate

Agreeing final account Review and issue of Building Manual , Undertaking Rectification Period inspection Contract close-out

Following discussions at the board and subsequent meetings, the project will work with local schools and encourage a school from Washington and Sunderland West to be mining friends and encourage involvement in the Mining Heritage of Sunderland

Recommendation – Approve

The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend giving further consideration this project, which delivers to the West Area Investment Delivery Plan Priority of - **Communicate heritage assets and delivery heritage activities to improve health and wellbeing and improve community cohesion**