

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR NOVEMBER 2012

IMPROVING AND EXTENDING PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OXFORDSHIRE CHILL OUT BIDS FOR 2012/2013

Report by the Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. Oxfordshire County Council believes that YOUTH MATTERS and has set up a fund of £100,000 to support work with children and young people across the county. The fund supports the aspirations of those working with children and young people in Oxfordshire to ensure all children and young people can access positive activities in their leisure-time by 2020.
2. We know that how children and young people spend their leisure-time has an important influence and impact on their resilience and their quality of life. Engaging in constructive activities can increase children and young people's positive attitudes, improve motivation, increase aspirations, develop social and life skills, enhance interpersonal skills and help build social capital. All of which is vital for children and young people to help them avoid taking risks such as experimenting with drugs/alcohol or being involved in anti-social behaviour and crime. Participation in positive activities can also help increase the resilience of vulnerable children and young people who are trying to rebuild their lives. For children and young people with physical or learning disabilities it can be a lifeline and reduce social isolation. For groups such as young carers, positive activities provide respite and can improve their outlook and quality of life.
3. Projects must meet the broad aspirations above and be targeted at children and young people 8 – 19 years (extended to 24 years for young people with learning disabilities).
4. The Chill Out Fund will consider a wide range of bids supporting children and young people's access to positive activity. Applications for funding are invited that comply with the following criteria:
 - Aimed at children and young people 8 – 19 (up to 24 for those with learning disabilities).
 - Show evidence of the involvement of young people in the application.
 - Demonstrate increased access to positive leisure-time activity.
 - Show matched funding from a source external to the county council.
 - Demonstrate the ability to account for funding.
5. Applications will be considered on a monthly basis.

Bids for November 2012

6. 5 applications have been received:

Applicant organisation	Amount Requested	Amount recommended
Leys Youth Programme	£2,841	£2,000
Cherwell Theatre Company	£4,860	£1,000
The Children's Society	£500	£500
Great Tew School Trust	£5,000	£5,000
Oxfordshire Family Mediation	£5,000	£2,500
TOTAL	£18,201	£11,000

Awarded to date

£ 128,985.61

Amount left:

£ 71,014.39

Applications to November meeting

£18,201

Amount recommended for November

£11,000

RECOMMENDATION

7. **The Cabinet Member for Children & the Voluntary Sector is RECOMMENDED to consider the applications (listed in paragraph 6 of this report) for grant support in the light of the officer recommendation as set out in the application annexed to this report.**

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Background Papers: Applications

Contact Officer: Ruth Ashwell, Youth, Engagement & Opportunities – Service Manager Tel: (01865 810649)

November 2012