

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Finances and Resources

DATE: 11 May 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Stewart Carruth

TITLE OF REPORT: Applications for the Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme 2010-2011.

REPORT NUMBER: CG/10/077

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for funding requests from the Equality of Opportunity Grants Budget 2010/2011.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee approve the following Equality of Opportunity Grants:

- £1115 to Challenge Dad
- £930 to Challenge Mum
- £490 to Hilton Older People's Group

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The awards recommended will be met from the Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme budget for 2010/2011, which includes the minority grants budget of £19,500 and the crèche budget of £3,000. Should committee approve all of these grants, the revised balance for the remainder of the financial year is £16,965 in the minority grants budget and £3000 in the creche budget. Please see Appendix 2.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The grants scheme supports the priorities of a Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking Aberdeen and the Council's City Regeneration Strategy to make 21st century Aberdeen a successful city for all its people. By creating a more inclusive city and by tackling the geography of inequality, the City Regeneration strategy seeks to lay firm foundations for the development of the City.

The scheme also contributes to the National Outcome 7 – We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society and the National Outcome 11 – We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. Meanwhile, it supports the aim of the Council's Strengthening of Local Democracy Strategy: Enable every citizen to be more active in his or her community regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live or disability to ensure everyone can contribute to 'active citizenship'.

An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is carried out annually on the Equality of Opportunity Grants Budget as a whole. The EHRIA carried out on the Equality of Opportunity Grants Budget 2008/2009 found that: The scheme delivers positive outcomes for all equality target groups in the City including women, people from ethnic minority communities, people with disabilities, people from LGBT Communities, people from faith groups, people from the regeneration areas, families and young people. Further promotional opportunities have been identified to encourage groups previously not applying for grant assistance to apply for grants in future.

The Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme is reviewed annually. It will also be necessary to review this grants scheme as part of a future review of the Council's Funding Pack.

The full EHRIA has been publicised on the ACC website:

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/Grants/SL\(Grants\)/gra_FundingGrantsAssistance_Home.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/Grants/SL(Grants)/gra_FundingGrantsAssistance_Home.asp)

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

6. REPORT

A folder containing the copies of the full original applications is available in the Elected Members' Library.

6.1 Challenge Dad

- The Challenge Dad project works with dads and male family members, providing opportunities for experiential learning between fathers / male family members and their children / relatives.
- The project works with nine city primary schools, all located with regeneration areas.
- As Dads often feel left out of care giving; the sessions allow the dads / male family members to be the primary care giver during and to and from the session. Single dads like Single mums can often feel excluded by society.
- Dads / male family members are a hard to reach group and this project engages with them, supporting and empowering them to access further education, employment or training and sometimes, volunteering
- This aligns closely with the action within the Council's Single Equality Scheme to provide support and confidence/capacity building for hard to reach groups.
- The funding of £1115 is requested to help provide the financial support to set up activities for the year ahead and help with the purchase of the resources required for each session. It would also be used for publicity, postage and evaluation of the project.
- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the committee award £1115.

6.2

- The Challenge Mum project supports mums or female family members to increase and develop their self-esteem and confidence. The activities offer the mum / female family members the chance to develop new skills and value and enhance their existing skills in a way that goes beyond their traditional role as a mum and often the primary care giver.
- Challenge Mum events are different to those of Challenge Dad in that the children do not attend the events apart from the children's party at Christmas.

- The project works with nine city primary schools, all located within regeneration areas.
- This aligns closely with the action within the Council's Single Equality Scheme to provide support and confidence/capacity building for hard to reach groups.
- The funding of £930 is requested to help provide the financial support to set up activities for the year ahead and help with the purchase of the resources required for each session. It would also be used for publicity, postage and evaluation of the project.
- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the committee award £930.

6.3

Hilton Older People's Group

- This is a group of local residents (over 50's) who wish to hold a weekly exercise class in yoga for 20 weeks.
- As well as the positive benefits of increased health and wellbeing this will provide participants with the opportunity to meet with other residents in the community.
- The main activity will be yoga, but this will also provide the chance for older people, as one of the equalities target groups, to engage in community events, increasing their participation in society and giving them an opportunity to come together and share views.
- For several older people this offers a first step from isolation to become part of a local community and may lead to building confidence and capacity to become involved in and influence local democracy.
- The funding of £490 is requested to cover total costs at £35 per hour for 14 sessions.
- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the committee award £490.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix 1

Grant Guidelines – Extracted from Aberdeen City Council’s Funding Pack

The Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme

Aberdeen City Council is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for everyone and values the diversity of all its citizens. There is a small grants budget to support community groups and other non-profit organisations contributing to this work.

Applications are considered by: The Council’s Finances and Resources Management Committee.

Funding available:

Most of the grants awarded are likely to be in the £250 - £500 range, although applications for larger amounts will be considered for longer-term projects. Applicants will be expected to contribute something in cash or in kind, or both, towards the costs of their project. These contributions should be in proportion to the size and income/expenditure of the group and the amount being requested.

The projects can be short term or long term but they must all demonstrate that they will contribute to promoting equality in the city and support the current equality work priorities.

Here are some ideas of the kinds of project likely to be funded:

Support to organise or attend conferences or meetings on equal opportunities issues.

Production of materials, training resources, etc to raise awareness of equalities issues and/or challenge discrimination and exclusion.

Publicity, travel expenses, speakers’ expenses, venue hire costs, etc for meetings arranged to give voice to those who face discrimination so that their views and voices are heard.

Initiatives to increase public awareness of equality issues or the needs of the equality target groups.

Projects which will influence policy and practice on equal opportunities matters at local, regional or national levels.

Projects building on the capacity of members of the equality target groups to get involved in and influence the democratic process.

Childcare, interpreting/translation and other access costs to enable people to participate in the above kinds of projects.

Funding is not available for:

Costs which have already been incurred or previously committed.

Food and drink costs.

Access costs (childcare, interpreting/translation, etc) for general events funded elsewhere.

Travel costs to equality events outside the City will only be considered if there is no reasonable opportunity to attend a similar event within the city.

Who can apply?

Page 4 of the Aberdeen City Council Funding Pack includes the following:

Groups working to benefit one or more of the Equality Target Groups i.e. Women, Minority Ethnic People, People with Disabilities, Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexual and Transgender People, Travelers and Refugees.

Groups including people from the Equality Target Groups.

In particular, the Council is keen to support projects in line with its own current equal opportunities work priorities, which are:

Tackling violence against women.

Promoting access to employment and services for the equalities target groups.

Developing anti-racist policies and practices.

Developing a strong ethnic minority voluntary sector.

Participation/representation of equalities target groups in decision-making and ensuring they are represented in the democratic process.

Removing any barriers to equality – by tackling exclusion or discrimination resulting from social attitudes, environmental or institutional barriers.

Providing support for refugees.

Tackling racist incidents/violence.

2. APPENDIX 2

**2010/2011 Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme Budget
Committed Expenditure and Balance left to Date (£)**

			Appendix 2	
			£	£
			Minority Grants	Creche Cost
			19,500	3,000
			Opening Balance	
To be considered				
Finance and Resources 11/05/10	Challenge Dad	Towards the costs of setting up activities for the year ahead and help with the purchase of the resources required for each session. It would also be used for publicity, postage and evaluation.	1115	
Finance and Resources 11/05/10	Challenge Mum		930	
Finance and Resources 11/05/10	Hilton Older People's Group	Towards the cost of exercise classes	490	
			2535	
			Sub-total of committed expenditure	
			16965	3000
			Revised Balance	