

APPENDIX B

(iv) Applicant: Oxfordshire Play Association, based in Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford

Years in existence: 33 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA) is seeking a grant towards core running costs.

OPA aims to improve conditions of life for children in Oxfordshire by promoting their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. It is an umbrella organisation which provides a range of practical and specialist support services to after-school clubs, holiday playschemes, nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and other play organisations which are members. This support includes the provision of play boxes and resources, playwork training, payroll services, outreach play support visits. Two new services offered are emergency staff cover for when play staff are ill or on training courses and the delivery of play boxes to settings (venues where the play is taking place).

The association has moved to larger and more central premises making it easier for play settings across Oxfordshire to access the services; they have also employed additional staff. This has led to an increase in core costs. There is an established membership of approx 150 play settings of which 47 members are within Vale district. These members use the play box and delivery service on a regular basis as well as the payroll and outreach services. Regular meetings and training are arranged for both members and non-members within the Vale district for both qualification and practical training courses.

OPA works closely with play and early years environments to encourage fully inclusive provision by providing support, guidance, training and play opportunities which are accessible to all. Training includes equal opportunities and anti-racism, cultural and religious awareness courses to help settings look at their own practice and identify any areas for improvement.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 5,500

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Membership fee £15 a year, play box hire weekly charge £5

Total estimated project cost: £59,995.00 for the Vale

Balances: £117,386.00 as at 31.03.08 for the whole of Oxfordshire

Running costs: £186,485.00 year ending 31.03.08 for whole of Oxfordshire

Own Contribution: £32,442 from reserves for the service provided in the Vale. OPA is funded by grants, donations and membership fees.

Grant Sought: £5,673.00 based on proportion of member play settings within the Vale

Previous Awards (Vale): 2008/09 £1,500 from Executive; 2007/08 £2,000.00, 2006/07 £2,500.00

Parish Council Support: OPA has not applied to town or parish councils for a grant towards core funding, however, they plan to approach them for funding towards specific projects which are included in their business plan for the next three years.

Other Support: Grants have been awarded by: West Oxfordshire DC £2,250.00, Cherwell DC £2,250.00, County Council £13,200.00 towards core costs. South DC funding stream has changed so OPA is unable to apply at the moment. Oxford City Council declined their application as they no longer have a fund for play.

Cherwell DC has also awarded a project-specific grant of £5,000 to purchase play equipment.

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

(xv) Applicant: South and Vale Carers' Centre, based in Didcot

Years in existence: 13 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: South & Vale Carers' Centre is seeking a grant towards core running costs of their Outreach Service for adults and young carers. This service provides information, advice and support for

anyone who is looking after a friend or relative, who because of age, illness or disability cannot look after themselves. Carers are offered: home visits, emotional support and someone to talk to, benefit checks and help with form filling to maximise income, training courses, an advocacy service and the chance to have a break from their caring role.

The service provides invaluable support to young carers, the elderly and people from ethnic minorities. Young carers, for example, often grow up in difficult circumstances and can lose their childhood as a result of their caring responsibilities. The Centre offers advice, information, emotional support and organises day trips so that young carers have a break. Young carers are also helped to fulfil their educational potential through early intervention.

Many carers have low incomes because they are not able to go out to work. The Centre provides an Outreach Service to help carers and their families to maximise their income.

Last year the Centre supported 917 carers in the Vale and provided information to over 4,000.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Health & Wellbeing and Access to Services

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: over 4,000

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None

Total estimated project cost: £162,573 (a further £244,463 is earmarked for specific projects and services)

Balances: £72,062 as at 31.03.08

Running costs: £143,144 unrestricted (ie core service) plus a further £137,410 restricted funding, year ending 31.03.08

Own Contribution: The Centre has set itself a fundraising target of £25,000.

Grant Sought: £7,938.00

Previous Awards (Vale): 2008/09 £3,214 from Executive; 2007-08 £2,957.00 was awarded towards outreach workers.

Parish Council Support: South & Vale Carers' Centre applies to all town and parish councils annually in September. In the last financial year they received £6,235.00 and they hope to receive about the same this year. This amount is included in the Centre's £25,000.00 fundraising target.

Other Support: Core grant from Oxfordshire County Council £100,000.00, SLA grant from South Oxfordshire District Council

£21,135.00, Bank interest £8,500.

Oxfordshire Community Foundation £1,500 – included in the £25,000.00 fundraising target.

Funding from the PCT and additional funding from Oxfordshire County Council cover specific projects and services (restricted funding).

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Health & Wellbeing; Access to Services
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

(xvi) Applicant: Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire (ARCh), based in Market Square, Bicester

Years in existence: Established in April 2008 to continue the service previously offered by Volunteer Reading Help, a countrywide charity which withdrew from 5 branches in Southern England due to financial difficulties.

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: ARCh is seeking a grant towards the costs of expanding its service in the Vale which offers a life-changing opportunity for children and volunteers.

ARCh recruits, trains and supports volunteers from all walks of life to work with the neediest children in Oxfordshire primary schools, with the aim of imparting a love of reading, thereby improving their life chances. Each child selected for assistance benefits from two thirty minute personalised sessions with their volunteer every week throughout the academic year. Many of the volunteers used to work for Volunteer Reading Help so bring with them a wealth of experience.

Volunteers currently work with over 400 children in more than 80 primary schools throughout the county including a significant number in the Vale. They provide support in schools in Abingdon (5 schools), Faringdon, Longcot & Fernham, Grove, Shrivenham and Sutton Courtenay and other schools are waiting for volunteers. It is to meet this demand that ARCh is seeking to expand its service in the Vale by providing 8 additional volunteers who will work with a total of 24 children.

The benefits of the service provided are far-reaching. Regular and sustained mentoring support from a designated volunteer helps the child to overcome difficulties in his/her life which have hitherto hampered reading progress and

had a negative impact on the child's attitude to learning. By intervening at primary school level it is possible to improve the child's prospects and self-confidence and indirectly his/her interaction with the community as a whole. Benefits for the volunteer are also great – for retired volunteers it provides contact with the younger generation, friendship and involvement in the community.

Results of a survey undertaken in July 2008 indicated that 100% of the children working with an ARCh volunteer had improved in their reading performance, confidence and attitude and 96% had improved in overall achievement.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 24 children and 8 volunteers

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Schools are charged £275.

Total estimated project cost: £6,720 to recruit, train and support 8 volunteers

Balances: Not available as charity set up in 2008

Running costs: See above

Own Contribution: Recruiting, training and supporting volunteers

Grant Sought: £3,000

Previous Awards (Vale): 2008/09 £1,000 from Executive; Volunteer Reading Help was awarded £1,000 in 2006/07

Parish Council Support: ARCh is asking all parish councils to sponsor a book box, which costs £264 to resource, for the volunteer in their local school, at a cost of £50.

Other Support: Oxfordshire County Council Children's Fund £9,761 to support 38 volunteers in Oxfordshire until March 2009, including 8 volunteers in the Vale; St Michael's & All Saints Charity £5,000 towards volunteers countywide
Mid Counties Co-op £500 to sponsor 10 book boxes for the volunteers

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Reasons:	

Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

(xvii) Applicant: Oxfordshire Playbus, based in Upper Heyford, Bicester

Years in existence: 29 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: Oxfordshire Playbus is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing their Sensory Bus. The bus has been running since 2003 for pre-school children with special needs, children with special needs in mainstream education, children who are excluded from education because of emotional/behavioural problems and adults with dementia/Alzheimer's disease.

The Sensory Bus has helped about 400 children and adults per year. Due to limited funding when the Sensory Bus was built, Oxfordshire Playbus were obliged to use a second-hand vehicle as the base. The core of the bus, now almost 30 years old, broke down permanently last summer and it is impossible to find replacement parts. This has led to the decision to fundraise to buy a new replacement vehicle to form the base upon which to build the Sensory Bus.

The Sensory Bus provides a unique sensory environment for people who do not normally have a chance to access static sensory rooms because of distance, affordability or overcrowding.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Access to services, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation, Culture & Leisure

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 100

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None

Total estimated project cost: £116,850 excl VAT; £137,299 incl VAT

Balances: To be provided

Running costs: To be provided

Own Contribution: £2,000 from fundraising campaign

Grant Sought: £6,000

Previous Awards (Vale): No previous community grants but Oxfordshire Playbus receives a partnership grant of £2,970 p.a. under a Service Level Agreement towards the provision of the “Big Bus” and “Sensory Bus” service throughout the Vale.

Parish Council Support: Oxfordshire Playbus has applied to all town and parish councils in the Vale but has received few replies to date.

Other Support: Oxfordshire County Council’s Rural Children’s Centre will provide approximately £30,000. Applying to West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and Cherwell District Councils for £25,000 each.

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support	Yes
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Access to services, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation, Culture & Leisure
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	