

The Highland Council
Skye, Ross & Cromarty Area Committee
6 August 2014

Agenda Item	12
Report No	SRC 29/14

Tain & Easter Ross Discretionary and Youth Work Fund Support for Tain & District Youth Café YMCA

Report by the Acting Head of Community & Democratic Engagement

Summary

This report invites Members to homologate £8,268 funding already provided and approve an additional £8,268 funding from the Tain & Easter Ross Discretionary and Youth Work Funds to support the cost of the Tain and District Youth Café YMCA's Youth & Community Worker. The report also provides detail about the activities of the Tain & District Youth Café and the Youth and Community Worker post which delivers much of the programme.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Tain Youth Café formed in April 1998 and has provided a highly valued service in Tain and the surrounding area since then. Tain Youth Café aims to provide a safe, non-judgemental environment where all young people are welcomed, nurtured and listened to.
- 1.2 The Youth Cafe is open up to four lunchtimes a week and up to five evenings. The evening activities are a mixture of Café drop-in facilities and planned programmes. They also offer social evenings and structured educational, social and development programmes, and they take part in and host a wide range of community events and regular fundraising activities. Young people are also encouraged to take ownership of and to take part in the decision-making processes of the running of the Youth Cafe, for example through attendance of the Board of Management.

2. Funding Requested

- 2.1 The project has received regular support from local budgets over the years and is also well supported by external funders such as Children in Need. Income from donations and fundraising is also substantial. Key to the success of the project is the Youth and Community Support Worker, whose role includes assessing the needs of young people, planning and delivering the programmes, supporting young people to develop ideas and make changes in their lives etc. This post is in receipt of 3 year funding from Children in Need and the Youth Café has applied for match contributions from the local Ward Discretionary Budget and the Youth Work Fund. Support towards running costs have also been provided in previous years and this year a contribution of £5,400 towards running costs has been made from Ward Discretionary Funds.

- 2.2 Tain Youth Work Café has requested £7,036 Ward Discretionary Budget and £9,500 Youth Work Fund in 2014/15 towards the costs of the Youth and Community Support Worker, to match the £16,908 Children in Need contribution in place. This covers salary, employer costs and training. All Ward Members are fully supportive of this application, and a 50% proportion of each has been paid out, i.e. £3,518 Ward Discretionary Budget and £4,750 Youth Work Funding, totalling £8,268. Members are asked to homologate this award and also to approve payment of the second tranche to bring the total award from local budgets to £16,536 towards this post.
- 3. Implications** Resource; Legal; Equalities; Climate Change/Carbon Clever; Risk; Gaelic; and Rural Implications
- 3.1 The proposed award can be made from within appropriate existing budgets, so there are no additional resource or financial implications.
- 3.2 The project works with all local youngsters, including vulnerable and disadvantaged youngsters and those with special needs; for example, there is a specialist youth group for those attending the St Duthac school.
- 3.3 Whilst based in Tain, the project is open to all youngsters in the ward and young people from Seaboard Villages do attend in Tain. The youth and community worker also does some work in schools within the ward and the programme proposed includes a summer tour of the villages and the provision of Cage football in some of the villages.
- 3.4 There are no known legal, climate change/carbon clever risk or Gaelic implications.

4. Recommendation

The Committee is invited to:

- a) homologate the awards made of £3,518 Tain & Easter Ross Ward Discretionary Funding and £4,750 from Tain & Easter Ross Youth Funding to the Tain and District Youth Café YMCA towards the cost of the Youth and Community Worker post; and
- b) approve a further payment of £3,518 and £4,750 respectively from each of these budgets, which will bring the total funding from the Council to £16,536.

Designation: David Haas, Acting Head of Community and Democratic Engagement

Date: 22nd July 2014

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