

Agenda Item	7
Report No	SRC/010/15

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

Report by the Head of Policy and Reform

Summary

This report invites Members to approve £9,500 Youth Work and £7,165 Ward Discretionary Funding to support the cost of the Tain and District Youth Café YMCA's Youth and Community Worker. Committee approval is sought because in total the funding requested is above £10,000. The report also provides detail about the activities of the Tain and District Youth Café and the Youth and Community Worker post which delivers much of the activity program.

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 delivers youth and community programmes up to 6 days per week in the area. The Youth worker is key to this and also oversees the 35 volunteers supporting the planning and delivery of activities such as sport and drama. The Youth Café also offers social and development programmes, and they take part in and host a wide range of community events and regular fundraising activities. Young people are supported to work on projects around issues such as health, truancy and substance misuse and they 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 full cost of the Youth Worker post including on costs is £33,330.77. In recent years this has been met by Children in Need funding matched by Youth and Ward Discretionary Funding. However the 3 year Children in Need award has now finished and the Youth Café are seeking a new funding package. They currently have funding applications in to the Macdonald Trust and the Youth Link Cash Back and will seek other sources if necessary to cover 50% of the costs. The Cafe are seeking a total of £16,665 from the Council, made up of £9,500 Youth Fund and £7,165 Ward Discretionary Budget.
- 2.2 All Ward Members are fully supportive of this application and the work carried out by the Tain and District Youth café.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Resource implications:** The proposed award can be made from within appropriate existing budgets. Committee approval is sought because in total the funding requested is above £10,000.
- 3.2 **Equalities implications:** The project works with all local youngsters including vulnerable and disadvantaged youngsters and those with special needs.
- 3.3 **Rural implications:** 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 there is also work carried out in some of the villages.
- 3.4 There are no known legal, climate change/carbon clever risk or Gaelic implications.

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to approve £9,500 Youth Work and £7,165 Ward Discretionary Funding to support the cost of the Tain and District Youth Café YMCA's Youth and Community Worker.

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Date: 15 January 2015