

To: North Area Committee

Date: 5th November 2009 **Item No:**

Report of: Head of Community Housing and
Community Development

Title of Report: The SHOUT Youth and Community Project

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: The purpose of this report is to introduce David Trebilcock and Joe Frampton (SHOUT project manager and youth worker respectively) who will be making a presentation to North Area Committee about the work of SHOUT on the Waterways estate and requesting grant aid from the Committee. The report also provides an update on the current position relating to the Waterways community room.

Key decision: No

Report Approved by: Janine Graham (Finance)
Victoria Fennell (Legal)
Graham Stratford (Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

Policy Framework: Stronger and more inclusive communities.
Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Recommendation(s): North Area Committee is recommended to:

Note the report about the activities of SHOUT on the Waterways estate.

Consider the comments of the Small Grants Panel, which will be reported orally on 5th November, and decide whether it wishes to allocate £2,500 from its discretionary revenue budget to support work with young people and adults on the Waterways estate (primarily OCHA residents).

Note the current position relating to the proposed community room.

Background

1. The SHOUT project has been operating in the Waterways estate since 2005. It was initiated by Oxford Citizens Housing Association and Spurgeons. The project works closely with individuals and families to build trust and provide direct support to those struggling with personal and community issues. The overarching aim of the project is to promote social cohesion and build stronger communities.
2. The new youth and community worker Joe Frampton started work in August. After the departure of his predecessor, there was a period when activities were run by volunteers.
3. Regular activities include two football / rounders sessions per week for different age-groups (held at St Edwards Sports Hall), an After School Club (held at Woodstock Road Baptist Church), a Homework Club (at St Edwards School) and various opportunities for individual support for children, young people, parents and older residents.
4. Other activities have included a fun day on 12th September (which was a great success with many positive links being established between SHOUT and the community, and between members of the community themselves) and a pizza evening for 13-18 year olds.
5. There are two new activities, *Unity in the Community* (held at Woodstock Road Baptist Church on Tuesday mornings for adult residents) and a Monday evening support group for young people (at Joe's in Summertown). Both of these were instigated in response to expressed need from residents and are aimed at offering opportunities for social interaction, conversation, friendship and informal support. SHOUT has made a grant application to the Area Committee for funding for these two new projects (Appendix 1).

Community Room

6. The *Unity in the Community* group is organising a petition, which it is planning to present to the North Area Committee on 5th November. The petition is asking for the community room, which has not yet been made available for community use, to be brought into use.
7. As can be seen above, groups are forced to meet elsewhere as there is no meeting place currently available on the estate.
8. Negotiations to allow the lease on the community room are progressing, although it is not yet possible to say when they will reach a conclusion.

Grant Application

9. SHOUT has made a grant application to the Area Committee for a total of £2,500 to contribute to the cost of running the *Unity in the Community* group and the Monday evening group for young people. Jointly these activities will continue to provide informal support and a focal point for social interaction for adults and for young people from November 2009 to March 2010.
10. The application was considered by the Small Grants Panel on 21st October and the Panel's recommendation will be reported orally to the Area Committee on 5th November.

Budget

11. The Area Committee has £16,948 remaining in its 2009/10 discretionary expenditure budget.

Recommendations

North Area Committee is recommended to:

Note the report about the activities of SHOUT on the Waterways estate.

Consider the comments of the Small Grants Panel, which will be reported orally on 5th November, and decide whether it wishes to allocate £2,500 from its discretionary revenue budget to support work with young people and adults on the Waterways estate (primarily OCHA residents).

Note the current position relating to the proposed community room.

Background papers: APPENDIX 1 The SHOUT Grant Application	Report author: Richard Grant, Area Co-ordinator. Tel: 01865 252803. Email: rgrant@oxford.gov.uk
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Application for an Area Committee Grant

www.oxford.gov.uk



Please read the enclosed criteria before you complete this application form.
 If you require any help or support to complete this application form, please contact
 Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action (OCVA) on (01865) 251946.
 Completion of all information required on this form is mandatory.

1. Your details

Name of Organisation	Spurgeons
Project name (if different from above)	Spurgeons' Shout project
Address of organisation	42 Laburnum Crescent, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 1HB
Contact name	Joe Frampton
Position held	Youth & community worker
Project address (if different from organisation address)	Contact address: 2 Glanville Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2JJ
Contact tel no. (day)	07891 129280
Contact email address	deepjuise@hotmail.com
Contact fax no.	n/a
Where will the project take place?	We are seeking funding to work specifically with residents living in the community of Waterways, North Oxford. Particular venues for work are likely to include residents' homes, Woodstock Road Baptist Church, St Edwards School and local cafes, as well as trips out locally to places of interest
What is the total cost of your project?	£2,500
How much grant is being requested from Oxford City Council?	£2,500

2. Organisation details

What type of organisation are you? (please tick)

(give registration number)

Registered Charity

✓

1081182

Unregistered Group

--

Other (please state)

--

How many people are involved in running your group?

Management Committee

15

Volunteer

12

Paid Staff

5

Other

--

Please enclose a copy of your Constitution / Aims and Objectives if you are applying for the first time.

3. About the project or activities you are planning

Please describe what it is that you want to do with the grant.

We are seeking a contribution to the cost of running the youth & community work undertaken by the Shout project with residents in Waterways, North Oxford. A grant would be used to fund local activities in the community to counter the lack of accessible amenities for such residents. Whilst the community still does not have access to the community room on Waterways, the Shout project attempts to compensate for this by networking with other local agencies and making use of their facilities.

We are seeking a grant to fund two particular strands of our work, both of which are relatively new.

1. *Unity in the Community*

The first strand of work is a relatively new attempt to provide a focal point for social interaction for adult residents on the Waterways. This is an attempt to bring residents together - hence the name - and to begin to build community, and leave behind the area's history of social tensions and disharmony. Residents meet once a week at Woodstock Road Baptist Church on a Tuesday morning. The format includes games, activities, refreshments, conversation, friendship and mutual support. Residents have also expressed a desire to have a meal together once a month and also to go out on a trip together once a month, the most recent trip having been to Blenheim Palace. Occasionally the group has been used as a vehicle for consultation about local issues and concerns. It has also been a source of ideas such as the possibility of local residents participating in *Art Week* next year. Up to 20 residents have been attending, from a range of backgrounds, including single mothers and elderly residents.

2. *Joe's - Support for young people*

A similar need for social interaction exists for young people, simply because there is nowhere for them to congregate safely in the neighbourhood without drawing adverse attention from other residents. The Shout project has recently set up a session for young people at *Joe's* in Summertown on Monday evenings, catering for the 13-18 age group. The format is not dissimilar to the provision for adults and focuses on friendship, conversation and support. On average 12 - 16 young people from the Waterways have participated each week, including those who are at risk of anti-social behaviour. These sessions can also be used for consultation on relevant issues but perhaps more importantly, the youth worker can follow up on some of the issues raised by young people later in the week and offer individual support as necessary. This is proving a valuable relationship-building opportunity and underpins much of the other work we do.

How do you know that there is a local need for the project or activity?
(please give recent evidence)

Historically, the needs of the Waterways community are well-documented. Rebecca Carley (former coordinator of the NAC) has previously referred to the *"glaring lack of facilities"* in the area. As one resident observed: *"We don't even have a post box."*

Councillors and officers are aware of the history of deprivation, disaffection, social tensions, conflict and incidents of anti-social behaviour in this community. It is equally clear that this has been linked to a lack of leisure and recreational amenities in the neighbourhood, particularly for residents living in social housing who cannot afford to access such facilities in North Oxford.

Indeed, concerns arising out of the above scenario were instrumental in the formation of the Shout project in the first place. The findings (in 2005) of local consultations, interviews, surveys and focus groups carried out by Shout on the occasion of a local fun day reinforced this overall impression and formed the basis on which the North Area Committee agreed to part-fund a Shout worker for a year.

Consultations carried out by the North Area Committee with local stakeholders in relation to the canal corridor further emphasised the lack of provision for local residents. An Area Planning Consultation (2007 / 2008) held on 5th April 2008 at St Margaret's Institute noted concerns about *"gaps in provision for young people and older people (particularly along the Waterways Developments)"*. Specific recommendations included *"a meeting space for children and young people on Waterways Estate"* and *"More funding and support for the extension of the 'Shout' project"*.

Such concerns have been reflected in the Local Area Plan, which highlights the need for ongoing discussions with residents groups and *"a need for support for young people and children - through leisure opportunities, [and] youth and family support."* The plan also refers to the fact that *"the numbers of young people are clearly increasing in the area"* and the consequent need for *"dedicated and supervised space for young people."*

It should also be emphasised that many residents with whom we are working are very vulnerable. In economic terms this is true of a majority of OCHA residents, but we have also found that many tenants face a range of complex issues which require considerable support. Even if these needs are intractable it can still help to establish informal support networks in the community and this applies to both adults and young people alike.

The final evidence demonstrating need for the work we are undertaking is that it has been requested by the residents themselves. Again this applies to young people and to adult residents. The Shout project tries to be as responsive as possible to local needs and this means acting on residents' expressed needs wherever possible. We have received consistent feedback that Waterways has no sense of community and a real desire to have a place where residents can share ideas and access activities, get to know one another and attempt to deal with the issues they face in the community, not on their own but as a group.

This application to the NAC is an attempt to deliver specific strategies in relation to the issues identified in this community and needs as they have been expressed by residents.

What neighbourhood of the city will your project be delivered in?

Waterways, North Oxford - specifically tenants from the social housing provided by OCHA

What are the expected benefits and outcomes you hope to achieve with the grant for local people?

The expected outcomes are as follows:

For adults:

- support for adult members of the community
- opportunities for socialising and informal networking / support
- opportunities for trips outside Oxford
- opportunities for consultation
- identification of needs requiring follow-up support
- reduced isolation and marginalisation

For young people

- a safe place to meet together without disruption to other members of the community
- an opportunity to share feelings, concerns, life experiences and circumstances
- a source of support
- identification of needs requiring follow-up support
- reduced isolation and marginalisation

Generally

- Increased sources of support
- Increased social cohesion

Who will benefit from your project or activities?

Those who would benefit will be (mainly) social housing residents from the Waterways area. Project activities are also accessed by a small number of others, however. This may include young people / adults / volunteers from partner agencies such as St Edwards School or WRBC. In addition there are one or two vulnerable people from other parts of North Oxford who have some connection with Waterways or are part of friendship circles which include people from Waterways.

How many people will benefit?

The maximum number of people participating in these activities in a single week has been 36 (adults and young people), but it is not always the case that the same people come each time. It is also the case that the numbers attending both groups have been gradually increasing and we expect this to continue.

4. Meeting the aims of the Council

Please choose ONE of the themes from the list below, if you fill in more than one box you will NOT increase your chances of getting a grant.

Tell us how the grant will help you achieve, all or part, of the objectives within the theme you have selected

Theme: Stronger and More Inclusive Communities.

Some of this theme is commissioned. However Oxford City Council invites applications that are aimed at:-

- Training and skills projects aimed at areas of deprivation, which are **not** provided by other agencies and/or which show a major investment from other agencies
- Projects, which support people living on low incomes and which are **not** provided by other agencies and/or which show major investment from other agencies.

Waterways is a large housing estate comprising expensive private properties and 128 units of social housing. OCHA residents generally are at risk of experiencing poverty and disadvantage. The Shout project aims to concentrate on provision for this most vulnerable group. The average OCHA tenant is characterised by the following data:

- Average net income of all OCHA households is £12,500
- 52% of all OCHA households receive some form of housing benefit.
- 51% of all households include at least one child
- 25% of all households are one parent families
- 35% of all residents have a limiting longstanding illness, disability or infirmity.

There are no other agencies supporting these vulnerable residents in Waterways on low income. Many residents on Waterways face issues associated with poverty and disadvantage. These include long-term unemployment, dependence on benefit, chaotic lifestyles, chronic health problems (both physical and mental health issues), limited or inconsistent parenting skills, dysfunctional relationships and family life, low expectations, powerlessness, low self-esteem and a range of entrenched behavioural problems.

Residents comments have included the following:

'So many people lack a point of contact and become isolated and depressed. The SHOUT project is essential in the community for everyone young and old.'

Social isolation and social tensions are a common theme highlighted by residents:

'I was under so much pressure ... it affected my health. I wasn't like this until I moved to the Waterways. I didn't want to go out - didn't even want to put the rubbish out.'

As recently as 2008 an independent evaluator observed:

"Residents, young and old, describe a sense of isolation and abandonment. They talk of not feeling welcome in North Oxford, unable to get into local schools and unable to afford local activities. Young interviewees continue to feel marginalised and scapegoated."

The Shout project aims to address these issues by providing vital opportunities for building social cohesion.

Theme:- Improve the environment, economy and quality of life.

Some of this theme is commissioned. However Oxford City Council invites applications that are aimed at:-

- Local cultural, recreational and sporting projects particularly for disadvantaged communities or group where they are not the primary responsibility of another statutory agency.
- Projects that protect and enhance Oxford's built and natural environment

Shout's work also brings recreational and sporting opportunities for the same disadvantaged community outlined above

5 . Monitoring and evaluation

How do you plan to monitor the success of the project or activity?

Shout project monitors both quantitative and qualitative data. As far as the particular activities mentioned in this application are concerned, we will monitor and record the number of people participating in the activities. We will also seek feedback from residents (young people and adults) about their views of the project, the activities in which they are involved and how this contributes to their well-being as individuals and as a community.

6. Financial details of your organisation

Please tell us if you have received any funding or subsidy from Oxford City Council within:- (please tick box)

a) the last 3 years

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If yes, please give details

Grant assistance of £18,300.50 (for the period April 08 - March 09) to fund community development work in **Falcon Close, Blackbird Leys.**

Grant of £2,200 from the North Area Committee (Jan - July 2008) to contribute to the cost of community activities (family craft activities, sports sessions, video project and 'Oscar' event etc) in **Waterways, North Oxford**

b) expecting to receive during 2009/10

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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If yes, please give details

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Please provide the following details from your most recent annual accounts: Please input data below, DO NOT refer to any attached documents

Account year ending (Day / Month / Year)

31st March 2009

Total (gross) income

£88,152

Total expenditure

£79,047

Balance at year end

£9,105

Savings (reserves, cash, investments)

£39,190

If your savings are more than your annual income, what are they for?

N/a

7. Financial details of the project

Amount of grant sought from City Council

£2,500

Income sources

Income / Funding source	Status (definite or estimated)	2009/10 £
Youth & community worker post (salary and on costs (1.11.09. to 31.3.09.))	definite	£9,366
Spurgeons contribution to project overheads payroll, hr, supervision and management, training, operational services, safeguarding etc, IT, finance	definite	£4,782
Total		£14,148

Details of Costs

Expenditure Item / Items the grant would pay for (e.g. volunteer training)	2009/10 £
Support for work with vulnerable adults	£1,250
Support for work with vulnerable young people	£1,250
Total	£2,500

8. Value for money

Would the grant (if agreed) lever in funds or support from other sources?
If so, how much and from where?

Spurgeons and OCHA have already committed significant funds (totalling £14,148) to Shout's work in Waterways for the period November 2009 - March 2010. It is unlikely that the grant from OCC would lever in any additional funding on this occasion. However, when we are fundraising for the next financial year (April 2010 - March 2011) it will undoubtedly help to be able to refer to an element of funding received from Oxford City Council for this current year.

Extract from the unaudited accounts of Spurgeons

Project name Oxford Shout

Year 2009

Financial year 2008/09

Period 12

Cost Centre Oxford Shout

"443"

Printed

Income and Expenditure Account for the period from 1st April 2008 to 31st

	£
Income	<u>88,152</u>
Expenditure	
Employment costs	51,034
Office expenses	1,668
Travel and subsistence	2,016
Furniture and equipment costs	929
Professional fees	3,417
Staff training and conferences	5,514
Project expenses	1,550
Other expenses	231
Contribution towards core costs	12,688
	<u>79,047</u>
Excess of income over expenditure/ (expenditure over income) for the year	<u><u>9,105</u></u>

These accounts are an extract from the audited accounts of Spurgeons

Finance



Date

09-Oct-09