

Forum Area or Division:	Eden - Eden
Reference:	CGA/693-21
Group Name:	Churches Together in Penrith
Community Development Officer:	Tracey Moran
Community Development Assistant:	Amy Frith
Amount Requested:	£13,002.00
Total Project Cost:	£20,573.00

APPLICATION REPORT

Application Summary

Churches Together are a 'not for profit' group seeking funding to start a "Linking Lives" project in Penrith supporting people who are lonely or isolated. Stressing that although the service will be set up by a religious organisation it is aimed at the whole local community and other Churches Together schemes, such as Cockermouth, support people who do not attend or belong to a church.

Linking Lives is a national organisation. Each local service is set up independently following a national model, however benefiting from national advice and support. More information can be found on the website: <https://linkinglives.uk>

Funding would be used to recruit a paid co-ordinator, who in turn would recruit a team of volunteers to be matched with clients. Referrals would be accepted by health and social care colleagues, other established partner agencies or by self referral. All client -facing volunteers as well as the co-ordinator will need an enhanced DBS check.

The proposal is that support would initially be given as a telephone call once a week lasting approximately 1 hour, this could develop into face to face contact if appropriate and with proper safeguards in place. This session could be a home visit or could involve going together to a local community activity, with a view for the linked volunteer to encourage clients to go out and meet others in various settings e.g. café, leisure type activities so that they will start to feel part of the community and enjoy community life. It is hoped that those supported by the service, through the social contact they will receive, will not only feel less lonely and isolated, but will also be less anxious and stressed and have improved health and well-being.

Loneliness not only leads to unhappiness and depression but even physical illness. Research links it to cognitive decline, heart disease, obesity, a weakened immune system and even premature death. Loneliness not only impacts on the affected person, it is costly, the London School of Economics estimates that £1 spent on preventing loneliness could save £3 in services provided by the Public Sector.

The group advise that they are already in talks with other funders for subsequent years' delivery and the project has been met with positivity.

Key Themes Met

COMF

Deliver new services to meet demand created by the pandemic

Area Planning

Project is listed on the Penrith Town Working Group Action Plan

The project supports two of the strategic priorities of Eden Local Committee as outlined in the 2014-17 Eden Local Plan under the themes: The development of strong and resilient communities and Access to services

This project also supports Cumbria County Council's vision, included in the Council Plan, that it will be an effective and efficient organisation that delivers the best possible services for the people of Cumbria within its available resources, protects the most vulnerable, and works with others in the community to shape services and help find solutions for the future.

Number of People Benefiting

50 - 100

Breakdown of Project Costs**Costs**

£750 - Fee to National Linking Lives

£750 - Laptop

£250 - Office equipment (eg Filing Cabinet)

£400 - Mobile phone

£500 - Recruitment costs

£157 - Project Insurance

£940 - Contingency

Running costs to 31st March 2022

£2,600 - Administrator-salary & other costs

£350 - DBS /training & other volunteer costs

£525 - Office/room hire

£405 - IT/Phone/stationery/Printing/postage /other running costs

£203 - Churches Together Staff time - volunteers Start up support

£270 - Churches Together Staff time - volunteers Ongoing support

£1440 - Volunteers time - Befrienders

£120 - Room hire for training

Running costs from 1 April 2022 to Nov 2022

£3,640 - Administrator-salary & other costs

£450 - DBS /training & other volunteer costs

£725 - Office/room hire

£560 - IT/Phone/stationery/Printing/postage /other running costs

£378 - Churches Together Staff time - volunteers Ongoing support

£5040 - Volunteers time - Befrienders

£120 - Room hire for training

Total Costs from Nov 21 to 31 March 22: £9660

Total Costs from April 22 to October 22: £10913

Total Project Costs: £20573

Match Funding

£7331 - 'In kind' Churches Together Staff time & Volunteers time

£240 - 'In kind' Room for training at St Catherine's Haydock centre

£5000 - Cumbria Community Foundation (result pending)

Previous CCC Funding

N/a

Grant Amount Recommended

Up to £13002.00 (see comments)

Officer comments

Recommendation is for

£7627 from COMF Capacity Building grant

Up to £5375.00 from ELC Area Planning budget:

£5375.00 if application to Cumbria Community Foundation is unsuccessful

£375.00 if application to Cumbria Community Foundation is successful

The project will look to establish a new service in Penrith supporting those that are isolated and lonely, issues which have been highlighted and exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

Comments from Elected Member(s) / Neighbourhood Forum / Grant Panel

Member Signature:

Date: