

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND "Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live" WARD PROPOSAL FORM	
WARD Weoley	INNOVATION TITLE Over 25's crisis support service – within Weoley Ward,
Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below. (Tick all those that apply)	
<u>City Core Priorities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children - a Great City to Grow Up In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Jobs & Skills a great City to succeed in <input type="checkbox"/> • Housing a great City to live in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Health a great City to lead a healthy & active life <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<u>LIF Priorities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens' Independence & Well Being <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • New approaches to investment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Active citizens & communities stepping up <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Clean streets <input type="checkbox"/> • Improving local centres <input type="checkbox"/>
What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?	
<p>Working with partner organisation and community groups across Weoley ward we will develop a referral process that will provide direct access to AQS quality assured Welfare Housing, Benefit and Debt advice / casework for people over the age of 25 and families with children.</p> <p>In addition to direct case work for individuals The Project will deliver 10 x Benefit / Debt Sessions at the Weoley Castle Community Church, these community based sessions will provide Quality Assured advice and support to local residents with housing, benefit and debt issues and will include 10 hours of follow up work to ensure positive outcomes.</p> <p>Case work will be delivered via The Projects highly trained advisers based at The Depot in Longbridge. People / families should exit the service in a position to independently manage their finances in the future.</p> <p>Beneficiaries will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People / families with multiple & complex benefit and debt issues • People / families experiencing long term poverty / hardship • People / families with a history of long term unemployment • People / families whose financial situation is having a negative impact upon their children's wellbeing. • People / families facing imminent homelessness due to debt or rent arrears. • 	
The Project	
<p>The Project is a South Birmingham based advice centre offering free Quality Assured advice and casework on housing, benefits debt and crisis support. Our ability to provide a range of interconnected advice and</p>	

casework makes the charity so successful in preventing homelessness and improving the lives of its clients.

During the past 12 months the project has worked with 707 people and delivered 3179 advice sessions. (85 from Weoley ward) Our debt adviser has successfully achieved £31061.02 in debts written off (£11042.12 for Weoley ward) for vulnerable clients and secured 119 reduced / manageable repayment plans for 69 people. During the same period 360 people had their income checked resulting in 102 people maximising their income, in addition we supported 89 people to apply for backdated benefits that they were entitled to but had never claimed, for the reporting period the amount awarded totals £172,381.62. (£22581.28 for Weoley Ward)

Time Frame – is it:-

One off event/programme

Implement and complete within 6 months (2016)

Implement and complete within 12 months (2017)

x

How will the innovation be implemented?

Delivery Method:

Our delivery method is not a quick fix, we use asset-based approaches that enable people to develop the skills and confidence to manage the demands of life and become more resilient. We ensure clients are placed at the centre of their own support, using approaches which are collaborative and co-operative, advisers recognise that clients have strengths and capabilities that they can bring to bear in their own lives and challenge them gently to use them, this results in increased confidence and wellbeing which in turn leads to more sustained outcomes for clients.

Stage 1.

- Identify key stakeholders within the community.
- Develop referral processes with key partners.
- Develop communication strategy.
- Develop advice session resources.

Stage 2.

- Deliver advice and case work - work with clients to develop a financial support plan highlighting areas of need. Clients will be supported to work through their action plans using asset-based support until the desired outcome is reached. A focus upon financial sustainability will be paramount.
- Deliver Debt / Benefit Advice Sessions.

Stage 3.

- Evaluation.
- Share learning.
- Consider future funding for sustainability.

What outcomes will the proposal achieve? What will success look like and how will its impact be measured? How will you ensure legacy/ continuation and what learning will the project provide?

The benefits / outcomes:

The overall aim of the project is to reduce the risk homelessness and poverty for citizens living in the Weoley ward and create a system that ensures every citizen has access to high quality support at the earliest point of crisis.

- People and families with complex benefit and debt issues will be supported to overcome their issues through high quality advice and support.
- People and families will report that the threat of homelessness has now been eliminated through welfare benefit and debt advice and support.
- People and families will report they are in a better position to independently manage their finances in the future.
- People and families experiencing long term poverty / hardship will be supported to improve their overall financial situation and maximise their income.
- People and families report that their financial situation is no longer having a negative impact upon theirs and their children's wellbeing.
- People and families will report they are living healthy and happier lives due to the support they received from the The Project.
- People and families will have access to a wide range of crisis support via The Project and strong community partnerships / networks.
- Developing stronger community partnerships creating multiple crisis access points for anyone in the area who was either immediately or imminently homeless.

The Project has a long history of monitoring and reporting outcomes, a mixture of quantitative and qualitative data will be recorded, The Project uses a custom-built case management system called Lamplight to record and monitor all work records and outcomes, this enables us to provide detailed reports as required by funders. Data will be analysed by ward bases. (see attached)

Questionnaires, impact measurement tools and case studies will be used to report on soft outcomes and client's journeys.

Have you considered other sources of funding and whether the project can be used to leverage further funding from elsewhere (please specify funding sources)?

We currently have funding to support the under 25's with housing, benefits and debt support. No other funding applications have been submitted for this specific project to cover Weoley Ward at this time.

What resources will be required?

- Capital
- Running costs
- People power volunteers

£
7912.46

Advice surgery x 2hrs monthly (12 months) @ £23.69hr = 568.56

Follow up to the advice surgery clients from initial consultation 10 hrs month x (12 months) @ £23.69 = 2842.80

Contribution to continuation of support to existing case work 65 clients @ est 2hrs @ £23.69 per hr = 3079.70

Est increase to casework of 20% 15 clients @ est 4hrs @ £23.69 per hr = 1421.40
Total requested = £7,912.46

Contact person for proposal

Name Helen Sephton

Telephone 07712738445

E-mail helen@theprojectbirmingham.org

Which residents or community groups was the proposal discussed with and when (please give details of any meetings and which councillors attended)?

Ward meeting ... WARD FORUM ...

Date ... 18/01/17 ...

£7858

Signatures of all 3 Ward Councillors

Name Julie Johnson Signature [Signature] Date 18/01/17

Name Steve Borton Signature [Signature] Date 18/01/17

Name Peter Douglas-Brown Signature [Signature] Date 18/01/17

Internal use only

Received: Date

Go to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership for decision: Date

Approved

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>