

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND "Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live" WARD PROPOSAL FORM	
WARD Shard End	INNOVATION TITLE Community Caretaking
<p>Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below.</p> <p>(Tick all those that apply)</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><u>City Core Priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children - a Great City to Grow Up In <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/> • Jobs & Skills a great City to succeed in <input checked="" 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"/> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><u>LIF Priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens' Independence & Well Being <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • New approaches to investment <input type="checkbox"/> • Active citizens & communities stepping up <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Clean streets <input type="checkbox"/> • Improving local centres <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </div> </div>	
<p>What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?</p> <p>Welcome Change CIC will support the introduction of community led gardening and DIY service. The aim of the service is to increase the independence of people living in their own home but unable physically (or for some other reason) to maintain their garden or home. The project supports Birmingham City council's priorities as set out below and is very different from the previous handy man service that existed which employed a stand- alone employee who was recruited by a large local organisation.</p> <p>In 12 months the project will ensure the up-skilling of local active citizens in performing small DIY jobs and also gardening jobs such as mowing, turning over borders, pruning, waste disposal and power washing. Rather than employ someone, Welcome Change aims to offer sessional payment to skilled individuals from the local area and relevant agencies, to offer training courses (OCN accredited) to local active citizens. We aim to reach these individuals with the help of Lea Village and Glebe Farm Neighborhood Forum, the Tile Cross Residents Neighborhood Forum, Shard End Communities, Yorkswood Residents Association, Brownfield Road Residents Association, Shard End housing Liaison Board and Murfield Housing Liaison Board. The sessional paid individual/s will accompany the volunteers, to jobs, referred in by local groups and statutory/voluntary agencies.</p> <p>We understand from the local neighbourhood manager and other sources that there is a great demand for such a Community Caretaker service. We aim to charge for the service but at a banded rate to ensure affordability. On exceptional occasions, the work might be done free of charge as Welcome Change CIC is already active in the community and recently sent a team of volunteers to cut back some very problematic bushes for an elderly gentleman. Welcome Change run two Charity shops and we have donated furniture such as beds and essentials to local people in desperate need. However as a social enterprise, our aim is to charge in order to make this project sustainable beyond 12 months.</p> <p>At the end of this 12 month project will aim to leave two legacies which we believe make this project innovative</p>	

1. A group of up-skilled volunteers, willing to help others in their own very local area with gardening or DIY, who will continue to help out in their community and continue the improvement to the local environment. As someone recently put it to us

"If you are mowing your own lawn and you can see your elderly neighbour's is overgrown why not cross the road and spend half an hour cutting theirs as well"

These volunteers would be encouraged to continue to do just that and volunteer their help. That is what makes this project an innovation.

2. A sustainable enterprise offering 1 paid role or 1 paid apprenticeship to continue to deliver a Community Caretaker service into the future.

Our project is a collaboration between Welcome Change CIC, our local community residents groups, Positive Impact Mentoring (Who offer a sitting service, advice and information for vulnerable people) and the BCC Safe Clean and Green Team. We expect referrals to the project from all of the above including from our own community centre and shops where the service will be openly advertised.

Additional referrals and volunteer recruitment through our close working relationships and partnership working with Birmingham Settlement, The Pump, Fitcap, DIVA's and Moorfield Hall

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?

Timetable/ Implementation Plan

Month 1 (1st May 2017)

- Form small steering group to meet bi-monthly to Include one member from each local groups-There is a possibility the steering group might be via the neighbourhood Safe Clean and Green meeting.
- Begin Volunteer recruitment drive-via launch event. (Joint event with other Innovation funded organisations)
- Process DBS for sessional staff and volunteers
- Produce flyer and poster for the service
- Advertise service through local area distribution of leaflets and posters in Primary care, supermarkets, libraries and other venues
- Advertise through Social media campaign using ours and others Websites, FB and Twitter
- Recruit skilled sessional workers in Gardening/horticulture and basic building/DIY skills (Discuss with Helping Hands team)
- Prepare workshop at East Meadway (Welcome Community Gardens) for learning and set up pop up community training dates quarterly (Peer to peer support)
- Prepare training materials/OCN accreditation
- Produce banded pricing list and criteria for job allocation and charging
- Deliver round 1 of training course (Gardening and Horticulture skills / Health and Safety)

-Purchase trailer for Landrover

Month 2 (June 2017)

- Round 1 of referrals to the service.
- 1 Paid sessional worker and 4 volunteers recruited and actively taking referrals
- Land Rover reserved at least two days a week for use on referred work
- Lead to contact local schools and colleges -a secondary push to recruit young volunteers
- Deliver round two of training course (DIY jobs around the home)

Month 3 (July 2017)

- Hold second steering group meeting and evaluate progress
- 2 Paid sessional workers and an additional 4 volunteers recruited
- Process DBS for new volunteers
- Deliver round 1 and round 2 of training course
- Project now able to operate at fuller potential of offering skilled gardening and small fixing jobs around the home

Month 4 (August 2017)

- Continue marketing campaign
- Continue rolling programme of training
- Continue Volunteer recruitment
- Increase number of referrals

Month 6 (September 2017)

- Hold third steering group and evaluate 6 month progress
- Continue rolling programme of training delivery, volunteer recruitment and service delivery.

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 proposal supports the council strategies *Every place Matters and Better Deal for neighbourhoods*. By putting in a Community Caretaker service our local community and Welcome Change CIC supported by other VCS organisations we can *Do things differently and make a better place to live*.

By maintaining the gardens and homes of those less able to achieve this themselves the project will support *Citizens Independence and Wellbeing and Housing*. Whilst with a local community member the team may identify other needs and be able to refer on to partners such as Positive Mentoring or Age UK. This project also aligns itself well with a meals on wheels project in development adding another service that might also be identified as being needed.

Outcome 1 (Work with 100 residents)

The project aims to pay a sessional worker/s to train local active citizens to support the community care taking work. This therefore supports the priority of *Active Citizenship*. It is the ambition that these citizens will go back into their own neighbourhood and continue to

volunteer to help others in need of this type of support.

Outcome 2 (Recruit 25-30 volunteers who will gain skills and return to local area and continue to volunteer)

By assisting our local community to maintain their gardens and homes, which may sometime appear unkempt, we aim to help achieve the priority of **Clean Streets and Local Centres**. The project will have a part to play in assisting the neighbourhood team in local community clean ups which is already our practice. A strong partnership will exist with Social Housing providers who can help identify individuals/families in need of the service.

Outcome 3 (Improvements in local environment reported into Safe cleann and Green group)

As we aim to introduce a banded charging system for the project, we aim to **Create Jobs and improve skills**.

Outcome 4 (Create at least one new paid employment opportunity and aspire to create 1 apprenticeship through developing the project as a continuing social enterprise)

Measuring Impact

Outcomes will be monitored by maintaining figures on a central database and reporting into the steering group. Feedback forms will be completed by customers of the service and the volunteers involved. Case studies will be collected. At 12 months an evaluation of the project will be carried out.

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

Welcome Change CIC has a grant writing and fundraising strategy reviewed annually and so we are constantly sourcing funding from grants and donations. The project is part of our strategy for 2017/18. Some of the other funders we are considering are BLF Awards for ALL, The Tudor Trust and The Henry Smith Foundation. We have already sourced some funding which will be key to this project (Summarised below) The funding strategy document is reviewed quarterly when new grants are added as they become open and available.

What resources will be required?

Sessional workers to deliver training and referred work (paid at £8.25 and hour 3 days in the first 6 months/ increasing to 4 days in the second 6 months)

Trailer for use with the Land Rover

PPE for 25 volunteers

Volunteer expenses to include travel, training and DBS

- Capital £3000 (Trailer, PPE, marketing and publicity materials)
- Running costs £12,761 (Sessional payments/Management)
- People power volunteers £2,800 (DBS, Training and expenses)

Amount required from LIF £ 18,561

Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind?

1. We have a Landrover gifted to us for the Community Caretaker project and its value is £36,000 (insurance for the vehicle is £4,000 annually)
2. We have secured a number of grants for our community garden on East Meadway in order to bring it up to a good standard. The site will be used as one of the main training venues for the Community Caretaker project. The workshop has received a free refurbishment from local company Waites (Approximately £5,000) it has also received £2,000 from Birmingham Airport, £2,500 from Greggs, £4,600 from ALCOA and £2,500 from Change Grow Live (CGL) Birmingham. Most recently we secured £10,000 donation from Trusthouse Charitable Trust for someone to lead the garden project. All of this funding is match funding for the community Caretaker project. Some of the resources purchased with these grants (Petrol lawnmowers, strimmers and some power tools) will also be available for use by the Community Care taking team.

Contact person for proposal

Name Mrs. Joanne Mackinnon

Telephone 07983427311

E-mail joannemackinnon@welcome-charity.org.uk

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

Joanne Mackinnon CEO of Welcome Change has been attending the Safe Clean and Green Group for two and half years. This project has long been discussed at this meeting as a gap and a need in the area. This proposal was discussed at the most recent safe Clean and Green group which brings all residents together in Shard End Ward. At the February 2017 meeting, the proposal was discussed and gained the verbal backing of those representatives. Councillor Marje Bridle was present at this meeting. However, this service has also long been the topic of the Community Garden steering group and also has support from members there (2 Local counsellors and 3 members of the local community keen to get involved. Welcome Change CIC host an elderly lunch club twice a week at its community centre and Café. Attendees were asked in February 2017 if they would take up this service and a meals on wheels service. Of 19 respondents 8 said they would like to have access to the handy person/gardening service. Joanne Mackinnon is due to attend another ward Meeting on Monday 10th April at 7pm. The project will be the subject of discussion at that meeting as well.

Discussed at

Ward meeting

Date

Signatures of all 3 Ward CouncillorsName CLL. MARIE BRIDLE Signature  Date 5.6.17Name CLL. JOHN COTON Signature  Date 6.6.17Name CLL. IAN WARD Signature  Date 19-6-17**Internal use only**

Received: Date

Go to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership for decision: Date

Approved

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