

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND "Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live" PROPOSAL FORM					
WARD Sutton Vesey Ward	INNOVATION TITLE Communithea HUB				
<p>Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below. (Tick all those that apply)</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>City Core Priorities</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>LIF Priorities</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children - a Great City to Grow Up In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Jobs & Skills <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Housing for Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/> • Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> <td> <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"/> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>City Core Priorities</u>	<u>LIF Priorities</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children - a Great City to Grow Up In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Jobs & Skills <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Housing for Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/> • Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<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"/>
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<p>What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?</p> <p>Our innovative idea:</p> <p>The development of Communithea, a project to address positive social inclusion for younger and older people, led by Age Concern Birmingham, a local Birmingham based charity. Our aim is for Communithea to be an accessible high street hub, where the community can take part in a variety of innovative, meaningful and supportive social activities and events which will increase social interaction between different groups of people, creating stronger, friendlier local communities. Healthy Food and drinks will be served at a low cost benefiting people on low incomes.</p> <p>The focus of the project will be to support individuals in overcoming a range of issues that affect themselves, their family and the community, reduce isolation, and increase the development of friendships, general wellbeing and levels of social cohesion. We will focus on building intergenerational relationships between old and young and different cultural and ethnic backgrounds by, for example providing a number of volunteer roles for the running of the hub in order to offer a range of activities in consultation with users. We believe the Sutton Coldfield has a large number of retired ex professionals (accountants, police officers, solicitors, businesspersons) and that we can tap into this untapped resource to gain support for young people in the form of professional surgery time, mentoring and workshops.</p> <p>Key finding from <i>Generations Apart</i>, the Intergenerational Foundation's latest piece of research highlights that Young and old are growing apart. The report found that over the past 25 years profound changes have occurred in the patterns of where younger and older people are likely to live. The dominant trends have been that young people have moved in large numbers into gentrifying neighborhoods in the centres of big cities, while older people have become much more concentrated in suburbs and rural areas. The result has been a rapid increase in age</p>					

segregation, which has left the different generations living further apart. The activities within Communita will support an age-diverse neighborhoods.

We will develop placements for younger people through apprenticeships, youth schemes, partnerships with schools and work experience. We have secured the support of Birmingham YMCA for this project and will continue to develop relationships with other youth organisations and groups.

For a couple of years we have been working with the Challenge, they are the UK's leading charity for building a more integrated society, a society in which there is understanding and appreciation of each other's differences. They design and deliver programs that bring different people together to develop their confidence and skills in understanding and connecting with others. The Challenge have worked with us successfully on developing intergenerational relationships through activity sessions planned and delivered by young people to older people across our six wellbeing day care services, this is something that we would like to bring to this project and offer within a community resource.

All of Age Concern Birmingham services will be offered within the hub such as legal advice, welfare benefit advice, drop-in sessions for general advice and information, wellbeing and health care support and a range of quality vetting and approved products and services. We also work in partnership with many organisations and charities, so have a vast reach in bringing to communita our partner services and activities. We are committed in the development of new partnerships to support the project and the local community and services. Our aim would be to set up a community skill swap shop where local people could offer their time and skills, for example, an ex-school teacher supporting with additional tuition for a child in return for mowing the garden. This innovative approach supports our intergenerational work and the development of building community networks and safety.

The hub would be a dementia friendly project becoming a "dementia friend" with information and training sessions for people with dementia and their carers/families and the community in general. Dementia support activities and dementia cafes would also be offered within the hub through the coordination of the project coordinator, aiming to recruit young volunteers to break down the barriers, resulting in younger people having a better understanding and tolerance of those suffering. This could also extend to involving local schools in attending dementia awareness sessions within the hub. The hub would support the local area in becoming dementia friendly in response to the public health project, dementia challenge. Age Concern Birmingham is the lead agency in applying for funding to support the Sutton Coldfield Dementia Conference planned for 17th February 2017.

A local area interest "walk about" group will be developed with a team of younger and older people to engage local youths in activity changing the perceptions that groups of people walking around are up to no good and that positive things can be achieved for the local community as a group.

Free space within the hub will be offered to people and organisations wanting to hold social events and activities, this might include health and wellbeing events, social gatherings, music events or arts and craft sessions. This will encourage an asset based approach that we will support and nurture to engage a multitude of people in the community, helping to improve local recreation and community interaction. Ideas for this include intergenerational sessions like bake offs, dance classes, gaming and IT sessions. The hub will also be utilised for "planning for real" giving the local community a voice in projects such as the playground and the future of the adult education service. The project coordinator will be key in these activities and others going on locally for example the future of the library and supporting with the coordination of a volunteers rota to keep the library open with the use of volunteers, as an example.

Space will also be offered to support the application for community engagement and planning by Boldmere Futures in offering space and supporting in the recruiting of volunteers, with computer access points for hyper local website within the hub.

We have so far raised £33,000 towards the cost of communita which has allowed us to carry out the building refit, equip the kitchen and purchase the table and chairs under phase one, so we now have a fully functional accessible high street ground floor building ready to become a Communita Hub. We have also secured the donation of IT equipment so we can offer free access to the internet and computers and the offer of IT development support via young to older people.

To support the development of communita we are looking for short term, 12 months funding for two key roles to deliver training to and develop volunteers and coordinate the project; pulling together the relevant organisations, people and overall resources that can be access to bring to fruition and allow growth year on year:

A project coordinator to develop the community focused hub to function with paid staff and volunteers serving food and drinks (funded via Age Concern Birmingham), development volunteer roles and work placements within the hub and for the delivery of activities. The project coordinator will make links with the local untapped resources and development of networks, partnerships and relationships to target isolated, hard to reach groups and individuals in need of the support the hub can offer.

A youth outreach community worker to build relationships with the young local community, working with residents and services to identify hot spots for anti-social behaviour, working with schools and youth organisations to develop through the hub other meaningful and valuable activities for young people to engage in to develop their confidence, skills and self-worth.

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?

The following implementation will take place:

The building is ready to be used as a community hub and a café.

Recruitments of the Project Coordinator and Youth outreach worker in line with ACB's policies and procedures.

Promotion of the project / awareness raising

Development of key partnerships for the project

Development of the volunteer and work experience placements

Setting up of regular activities for younger and older people that will grow and develop over the 12 months and beyond through consultation with the community

Action planning for the development of asset based activities and services

Partnership working with other services and organisations to support the project and local community

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?

Outcomes:

- Communithea to be open to the community, selling low cost quality food and drink in a welcoming and supportive hub managed by both paid staff, student placements and volunteer roles, coordinated by a project coordinator.
- The development of student placements, work experience placements and volunteers roles. We aim to reach out to people with disabilities encouraging them to take up suitable placement opportunities and aim to have trained at least 5 people on placement / volunteers within 12 months in becoming a café assistant.
- ACB and their partners will offer a range of weekly activities/sessions offered within Communithea for all ages, especially focusing on young and older people to develop wellbeing and where identified independence. We aim to train 3 volunteers in offering support and information to the community within 12 months.
- Safeguarding concerns within the community that are identified within the project will be raised formally to the adults / children's safeguarding board.
- Development of local community asset based networks, groups and services that will be supported by ACB and Communithea by offering free space and long arm support within the café and promotion via social media. We aim to support the development of 10 asset based regular community activities / groups offered externally to Age Concern Birmingham within the hub over 12 months to continue long term.
- Development of support groups and utilising local skills on a volunteer basis, for example a young person offering IT support in the internet café that will be situated within communithea. We aim to offer supportive IT development sessions delivered by volunteers to increase IT skills to 20 people within 12 months.
- Development of groups and activities for younger people in response to the local youth concerns. Development of 5 regular groups to be ran on a monthly basis within the 12 months.

- Development of the out and about group.
- Awareness rising for Dementia and the offer of support through the dementia friendly hub. To develop a weekly support session for people with dementia and their carers.
- Development of youth groups in partnership with other organisations running from both Communita and other local venues. Development of 5 regular groups to be ran on a monthly basis within the 12 months.
- Development of a skills swap shop, for example - to promote and coordinate a peer support community swap shop swooping skills and support within the community (e.g. a retired school teaching giving tuition in exchange for their garden being mowed as they are now physically unable to do this).
- Development of job and skills club in partnership with job centre and training organisations.
- Regular health and wellbeing sessions in partnership with a number of health professional, fitness coordinators and other specialists offering, for example, Nordic Walking, where Communita would be a meeting point for Nordic walking sessions in Sutton park and after the walk a healthy lunch back at Communita. To develop regular weekly sessions to focus on wellbeing to run at least 50 sessions over the 12 months.
- Regular advice and information sessions offering support with welfare issues, finances, housing etc. To develop this to be offered on a weekly basis.

Successes:

- Data will be collected for those accessing the services
- Feedback will be requested in a number of formats on a regular basis regarding the benefits of the project for individuals, their family and the local community
- Young people will be given the opportunity to develop a support plan to identify their goals, aims and capture their journey towards these and in agreement these will be anonymised as case studies to show success.
- Case studies will be captured on a monthly basis
- Anti social behaviour hot spots will be reviewed after the 12 months to identify a decrease in anti-social behaviour within the local area
- To witness the attendance, activities and environment of Communita, including the promotion of events.

Legacy:

- The project through development will gain ongoing financial support through the income from sales within the café.
- Resource and identify additional funding
- Ongoing development and investment in training and support for volunteers so they support the project long-term
- Regular recruitment of volunteers to support the development of the project
- Ongoing promotion and marketing, including where relevant videos and short films to raise awareness

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 plan to look at further funding to support the development of the project through the lottery, Community Initiatives Fund, a range of trust funds, for example, Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust.

What resources will be required?

	£
- Capital	
- Running costs	x
- People power volunteers	

Amount required from LIF £ 35,113.73

Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind? **Income from the sales and donations within Communithea will be invested back into the project as a community resource.**

Contact person for proposal

NameBecky Smith.....

Telephone07884111761.....

E-mail ...b.smith@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk.....

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

A local consultation exercise on the development of Communithea was carried out in 2015 before work commenced on the building, the project was originally identified for older and

isolated adults. We have developed this proposal further to include younger people to support active citizenship and integration breaking down the barriers between younger and older people to support the area of concern within the local community both for young and older people.

Over the last week we have opened Communita on planned days as a market place for the sale of local traders selling crafts, gifts and offering therapies. We have also opened the café selling a small selection of hot / cold drinks and homemade cakes.

While being open we have talked to the community about our proposed development plans which has created enthusiasm and excitement in what could be achieved within the space to benefit the local community by working together with a number of activity providers expressing their interest in supporting and offering services within the hub.

This project is a unique approach to offering community support services in a modern practical way while reaching out to all ages and sections of the community.

Discussed at

Ward meeting Sutton Vesey

Date 15/02/17

Signatures of all 3 Ward Councillors

Name Al H Collin Signature Al H Collin Date 4/4/17
 Name CUNARDREW HARDIE Signature Andrew Hardie Date 4.4.17
 Name COUNCILLOR ROB PEARSON Signature Rob Pearson Date 04.04.17

Internal use only

Received: Date

Go to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership for decision: Date

Approved

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