

Grant Advisory Panel

Annual Report 2011/2012

Chair's Report

This is the first Annual Report from the Grant Advisory Panel of the Foreshore Trust. The Grant Advisory Panel which was appointed in March 2011 and currently has 5 members, was established to advise on and administer the grant programme.

The Scheme for the Foreshore Trust states that after the costs of administering the Charity and of managing its assets, including repair, have been met then the Trustee can distribute the surplus income in the furtherance of the objects of the Charity and for no other purpose. It was determined that "appropriate objects for surplus income would be for such wide charitable purposes within the area of the Borough of Hastings which would benefit the inhabitants and visitors to Hastings and St Leonards as the Trustee of the Charity thinks fit." The Trustee has decided that generally the focus of grant making will be on the following areas of charitable purpose:-

The prevention or relief of poverty.

The advancement of health or the saving of lives

The advancement of citizenship or community development

The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

The advancement of amateur sport

The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity

The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage .

Any other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purposes which are similar to another charitable purpose.

Grant Making Round 1

The Grants Advisory Panel discussed and agreed the proposed criteria for awarding grants, the nature and frequency of a rolling programme, the scope of the charitable purposes that would be considered as eligible for grant applications, the intervention rates that would be considered to be applicable, the scope of the outcomes that the Panel would want to see achieved by the grant funding, and the outline timetable.

The available budget for Round 1 2011 - 2012 was agreed at £50,000 with a maximum of £5,000 per grant award. A total of 52 applications were received, the total requested amount being £199,185.24. The Panel approved 17 applications totalling £49,997. A good spread of projects were funded including different age groups, arts activities, community and community cohesion, disadvantaged groups and equal opportunities. This report contains details of some of the projects supported by the Foreshore Trust in Round 1. We have recently awarded grants in Round 2 and I look forward to reporting on these next year.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Panel members, Dick Edwards, Steve Manwaring, Judith Monk and Karen Rigby- Faux, for their contribution and support throughout the year. I should also like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance provided to the Panel by a number of officers of Hastings Borough Council.

Sandra Garner

Chair Grant Advisory Panel

September 2012

Some of the projects supported in 2011

1. Association of Carers

FT2 - Computer Help at Home

The idea with this service is to offer Carers and their Cared for help learning how to use their PCs and the internet. The grant that you were generous enough to donate has enabled us to keep our service running.

Uptake of the service has continued to increase as has the number of volunteers applying to deliver it.

At present we have 9 Computer Help at Home volunteers, 7 men and 2 women and there is a further male volunteer in the process of being recruited.

So far this year we have provided Computer Help at Home for 23 Carers.

Volunteers are matched with Carers according to location, type of help required, versus volunteer skills and availability.

The volunteer spends a minimum of six weeks with each Carer, with the option for the help to continue for longer when necessary.

The kinds of computer help that the Carers need ranges from setting up Skype, learning how to use Facebook to keep in touch with family and friends, learning how to upload and organise their photographs and learning how to shop and bank online or find out information that benefits them in their caring role. The following case study illustrates how the service benefits people:

Mr and Mrs X are both Carers for each other. When our staff member carried out the initial meeting, neither our Respite and Befriending Service, or Talk and Support was appropriate for them, however, they both jumped at the opportunity for Computer Help at Home. It was felt that it was important to respect their individuality and therefore two different volunteers were allocated. Mrs X wanted help with learning to use her computer to download music and use Facebook, Mr X wanted to learn more about how to fix his computer when it goes wrong.

Feedback from the Carers was that the volunteers were patient, very knowledgeable and the service was excellent. The time spent with the two carers was 16 hours in total over several weeks.

2. XTRAX Young Peoples Access Hub

FT17 - Young Peoples Community Voice

The aim of the project is to promote the young people offer at Xtrax, improve accessibility to the service, improve the accessibility of provision, raise awareness to other groups and agencies and raise awareness to all townspeople of the service. The accessibility project at Xtrax Young Peoples Centre is really making a difference. New 'young people friendly' promotional materials are ensuring that young people in our area know about the service we offer. Our 2 open days welcomed over 100 new young people, who enjoyed healthy food, fitness activities and a conspiracy cinema and quiz. Young people really enjoyed the days and we have seen many new faces returning during service hours.

Our centre is feeling the benefit of this funding as well; with fabulous new signs to let new users know exactly what facilities are on offer. Our new map of services is great too; we commissioned a young artist to produce the 'collage style' map, which pictures all the services young people may need, we will make great use of this in our daily work. In particular one young girl has become a regular user of the service, when she came to the open day she was so timid and quiet. Now she is doing our opt-in+ course, has sorted out college for September and a part time job- "I just needed a bit of confidence to push me on, I was no good at school and didn't really know what was next. Xtrax is good because it is open when I need it and I have met so many new people"

3. Hastings Street Pastors

FT11 - Hastings Street Pastors

Six month support for the Street Pastors service. The grant has enabled us to offer our services on weekend nights, from 10pm to 3am, in the Hastings Town Centre & Old Town to the night time economy needy & vulnerable people, and support special one off events such as the Euro12 Football games and the 2 day Alexander Park Beer & Music Festival.

The grant allowed us to give away over 500 bottles of water, 400 flip flops as well as numerous space blankets, sleeping bags, clothes, first aid support, hot & cold food, signposting literature, and hot drinks.

We have upgraded 5 mobile phones essential to providing our service and paid our coordinator.

We are also updating our Information Leaflet having gained Charity Status in August.

We were also able to offer regular training over 8 Saturdays to 12 new Street Pastors commissioned earlier this year on May 25th.

Thank you to Foreshore Trust for your financial support in helping to maintain the presence of Street Pastors on the late night streets of Hastings. There are many grateful recipients of our support. Every duty at least a dozen folk come up to us to thank us for "being there" & at least that number are helped in many different ways.

"Thank you for last night when I had my 'mini melt-down.... I haven't cried in a while until last night. I know it's what I needed. I needed to let it all go... Today I contacted my support worker to try & get some more help with everything... I was afraid of asking for help but after yesterday I know I need it... I can't do it on my own anymore... Thank you so much for being there x"

"The other night I was out and I was so glad to see you. I had some massive high heels on, that by the way were only a fiver, BARGAIN, and they killed my feet so to be given Flip Flops by two women from your association was lovely. ... I felt they were lovely. I just wanted to send you an email saying how good I thought they were. Also I wanted to know how you are funded too.

Thank you ever so much.

Many thanks again for the flip flops. Thank you.....

.....two small words, but I have to say them."

4. HARC

FT8 - Volunteer Training for Disadvantaged People

Funding will provide additional staff hours, two days a week for 6 months to train and support volunteers working in Hastings and St Leonards to help and advise disadvantaged people with all areas of welfare support. The grant from the Foreshore Trust has enabled HARC to pay for additional staff hours amounting to two days per week. Two part time members of staff have increased their hours enabling them to train and support three volunteers to help local residents to maximise their benefit entitlement thus improving their mental well being, social inclusion and quality of life. To date 118 people have accessed the project, the main beneficiaries being those with disabilities, mental health issues, carers and the elderly. The increased benefit currently stands at £75,874.26, with many still waiting for the outcome of their claims. The volunteers have all learnt new skills which are transferable, a broad knowledge of welfare benefits and improved self esteem. One of the original volunteers has moved into paid work, one had to give up due to her own ill health and the other one is still volunteering. Two new volunteers are set to join us in mid September. B. is a 66 year old disabled lady living with her husband in Ore. HARC visited her to help her complete application forms for a Blue Badge and a Social Fund Community Care Grant. Whilst there, the volunteer asked her if she would like HARC to check that her benefit entitlements were correct.

B. was in receipt of Higher Rate Attendance Allowance and, although her husband was her full-time carer, he was not receiving any Carers Allowance. By HARC putting in a claim for Carers Allowance for him, B's Pension Credit was consequently increased by £32.60 a week to allow for a Carer Premium to be added to their benefit and they received just over £500.00 in backdated money.