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| Forum Area or Division: | Carlisle - Carlisle Wide |
| Reference: | CGA/1179-22 |
| Group Name: | Carlisle Samaritans |
| Community Development Officer: | Jamie Hendry |
| Community Development Assistant: | Joanne McKenna |
| Amount Requested: | £11,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost: | £22,000.00 |

APPLICATION REPORT

Application Summary

Carlisle Samaritans is the local branch of the national charity which aims to reduce the number of people who take their own lives each year. The Carlisle branch is an independent charity in it's own right with 90 members. They carry out a range of jobs including the well known listening service and operating our charity shop.

Carlisle Samaritans has occupied its current building since 2002. After 20 years the building is in need of updating and refurbishing to create a safe and welcoming environment for our volunteers. In addition we need to update our communications infrastructure to reflect the changing technology on which we depend to maintain efficient contact with our callers.

If successful we intend to use the funding to make modifications inside the building, install better communications networks, improve the storage space for our shop and redecorate the shop frontage.

The immediate beneficiaries to our project will be our volunteers and shop customers but ultimately the benefits will be felt by the many people who call our confidential support line 24 hours a day 365 days a year. With demand for our telephone service growing we need to attract more volunteers to keep up. By making our operational building more professional and attractive we will increase our ability to retain current volunteers and attract new ones.

Key Themes Met

Health & Well Being -

Mental Health faces a huge challenge in 2022 and beyond as our frontline services struggle to keep up with demand on their resources. Samaritans fills a large gap in provision, especially during night time hours when Crisis Teams, Community Psychiatric Nurses and other professional providers are not available.

Samaritans nationally answers about 1.5 million calls per year. In Carlisle we took about 16,000 calls last year.

Our service is inclusive for everyone and our callers come from all sections of the community without prejudice. However we do know that the number of the highest suicide rates are found within demographics typical of the Carlisle and Cumbrian population. For example middle ages men from rural areas, young people and people from deprived communities.

Number of People Benefiting

100 +

Breakdown of Project Costs

Building work: £5400

Decoration: £3330

Plumbing: £360

Furniture: £246

Electrical Work: £3544.64

Flooring £3140

Glazed Screen £1800

Total: £17,820

Contingency at 20% gives a total of £21,517

*Full breakdown attached via email

Previous CCC Funding

Grant Amount Recommended

£7000.00

Officer comments

Samaritans provide an excellent service and it is to be recommended the building should be upgraded to help retain their fantastic volunteers and recruit new ones.

The project cost of this is £21,517 The most recent financial accounts show £199,208 of tangible fixed assets and net current assets at £85,342. The Samaritans to intend to use some of their own refurbishment towards the building. It would also be good to see some funding from other sources. I think contributing towards a third of the costs is fair. We also need to consider the Area Wide fund and make sure there is enough for other applicants to access funding later in the financial year.

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

Member Signature:

Date: