

Area Committee Well-being Fund – Project Proposal

Expand sections as required

Project Name: The Feel Good Furniture Shop

Organisation	South Leeds Alternative Trading Enterprise Ltd (SLATE)
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Project Summary (including a brief description of what your project is and the main activities and why this project is needed):

We collect residents' pre-loved furniture, clean it and do minor repairs if necessary and sell it at very reasonable prices to local people in need. Our shop is in part of the Adult Social Care Moor End Fulfilling Lives building.

We provide a free collection service and a delivery service at a cost of £5, enabling residents without transport to access our service.

We provide work opportunities for people with learning difficulties - one person on supported permitted earnings and 12 volunteers with learning difficulties. This includes training and support.

The project is needed to provide work opportunities for people with learning difficulties, to help them build confidence in dealing with the public and make a contribution to society. It is also needed to help reduce landfill and to provide affordable quality furniture in a deprived area of the city (our records show that over 90% of our donors and customers live in LS10 and LS11).

Project Delivery - How the project will be delivered (inc how any partners are involved in the project, timescale etc):

The Feel Good Furniture Shop is an ongoing project, providing a valued service to local people. Our income from sales is increasing steadily - £30,600 for the 11 months to the end of November 08 - but we still rely on LCC support and grant income to some extent. Grant income for the same period was £8,700.

Our volunteer Board of Directors come from Mencap Pathway, Health For All, Leeds Voice, Business Link and the private sector (banking).

LCC Adult Social Care provide us with rent and rate free retail space. We are also helped by LCC Waste Management, who give us free tipping rights (which we use very sparingly - almost everything we pick up is re-used). We are part of a network of furniture stores in the city and we work with Waste Management to contribute to their re-use/recycling targets. We receive £47.86 in re-use credits for every tonne which we divert from landfill.

We are supported by Mencap Pathway and Joseph Priestley College in our work with people with learning difficulties.

We are well supported by agencies from all sectors across the south wedge of the city who put out publicity on our behalf and whose service users appreciate our collection and delivery service and our shop.

Please demonstrate how your project links with key priorities/action with Area Delivery Plans:

Learning: an increased proportion of a vulnerable group engaged in education, training or employment.

Environment: increased re-use and recycling, reduced landfill.

Health & well-being: increased self-esteem and confidence for people with learning difficulties, enabling them to live more independently.

Thriving communities: reduced fear of crime, by helping people with and without learning difficulties to communicate and feel less wary of each other.

Enterprise and economy: increased entrepreneurial activity.

Outcomes (a summary the main outcome, outputs and benefits the project will achieve):

- **Increased re-use of furniture**
- **Reduced landfill and tipping**
- **Quality affordable furniture for households in need in inner city south Leeds**
- **The opportunity for people in this area to dispose of their unwanted furniture responsibly**
- **Work and training opportunities for people with learning difficulties**
- **Increased interaction between people with and without learning difficulties**

Project Cost (an indication of how much the project will cost, how much Well-being funding is sought and the breakdown between capital and revenue):

Please see attached budget.

We are seeking £1,000 from the Well-being budget to fund the following:-

£425 for 20,000 cards and 500 posters from Footprint Co-operative: they will be printed on recycled card with the LCC logo and an acknowledgement of your funding - we find this an invaluable recommendation to potential customers. The cards will be black on yellow for the benefit of people with visual impairment. Footprint already have our artwork and will therefore be the cheapest as well as the most environmentally friendly option.

£371 for 2 signs on the exterior of the building (we have planning permission) and new signs on the door. Yorkshire Signs did our original signs which still look as good as new. Unfortunately, the wording is misleading: "SLATE Furniture Store" brings in customers expecting to buy garden furniture made from slate! This feedback also came from residents at a meeting of Middleton Forum, among others. The attached quote from Fastsigns shows that Yorkshire Signs are value for money.

£204 towards meeting a bill of £509 from LCC for work to re-route the electricity supply to the shop, work to be carried out at their request

Which geographic areas will benefit (ie particular neighbourhoods, wards etc) and which Area Committee this project is relevant to:

**We serve LS9, LS10, LS11, Morley and Rothwell. The bulk of our business comes from LS10 and LS11.
The project is relevant to Inner Area South Committee.**

Other key information not covered by the above: