

Project Name	Empower (the Next Generation of Armley)
Amount applied for	£23,618.56
Lead Organisation	New Wortley Community Association
Ward/Neighbourhood	Armley

Community Plan Objective	<p>Best City for Business –</p> <p>Provide opportunities for people to get jobs, volunteer or learn new skills – local volunteers will be recruited for the project and one volunteer will complete a level 3 youth work qualification. The purpose of this is to create a strong youth team who will contribute to seeking further funding and the sustainability of the New Wortley Community Association youth programme going forward.</p> <p>Best City for Communities –</p> <p>Increase community activity and local residents’ involvement in decision making – the young people involved in the project will be empowered with decision making throughout the project in relation to activities, trips and school-based sessions. This is a really important part of the programme, enabling young people to help us identify what activities, social action, projects and activities they would like to do to develop and enhance their lives.</p> <p>Work with our partners to improve services in our local neighbourhoods – this multi-agency project will enhance the offer to local young people at risk of child criminal exploitation within schools.</p> <p>Enhance the quality of our parks and public spaces - some of the community connection days will be focused on the local environment and enhancing local green spaces as well as promoting the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of the young people. This will support the young people to interact with the wider community in a positive manner, whilst out and about.</p> <p>Develop and make better use of community assets – we will maximise areas that are sometimes used in a negative manner to promote positive activity. Young people will be introduced to other positive community facilities where activity is available throughout the Armley area, for example, the youth café, New Wortley Community Centre and the Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Best City for Children and Young People –</p> <p>Support activities that make people and places feel safer – through the community connection days we will work with young people to build connections with the wider community which will hopefully reduce sometimes fearful perceptions people have of young people. We also</p>
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aim to reduce the risk of young people engaging in ASB and/or criminal activity which would make the area feel safer. The project centres around providing a safe space and trusted and recognisable staff who the young people can approach if they are worried about something.

Support children and young people to be engaged, active and inspired – the project will consistently work with young people to engage them in positive ways, via targeted discussions, group work, trips, and activities. The project will also support young people through the school transition period which will encourage their engagement. The summer trips will be focused on inspiring young people to consider a variety of positive futures.

Project Summary

This grant will be used for a project focused in the Armley ward which will aim to provide early intervention to prevent and reduce the risk of child criminal exploitation. Over the last year we have worked in collaboration with the Safer Stronger Communities Team, Youth Services, Armley Cluster, Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT) and St Giles Trust. This partnership was formed due to concerns that were raised about a group of local young people who were getting involved in anti-social behaviour. We learnt as a partnership that this group of young people were being exploited and groomed by organised crime groups and were being exposed to violent crime. As such, we built a project to work with these young people and their wider connections with the aim of supporting them to make more positive choices and have access to positive opportunities. The project was successful in getting funding from the Violence Reduction Unit and work with St Giles Trust whose staff have lived experience of the challenges the young people were facing themselves took place over a seven-month period. The project has included outreach work in the locality, day trips, centre-based work in the community, home visits and school-based work. The project has been challenging and has made us aware of gaps in provision for young people in the area but there have also been successes. Whilst we were not able to engage with all of the identified young people, we have built positive relationships with some of them and have also worked with other young people who were identified by Dixons Unity Academy as needing targeted support. Overall, the NPT have reported a reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area and they have been very positive about the impacts of the partnership work. Whilst many factors may have impacted on the crime and anti-social behaviour rates, as a partnership we feel the focus and commitment that has gone into this project has had a positive impact. The funding for this project is now coming to an end, and we have carefully considered our next steps. This project has resulted in key pieces of learning, including the very definite need for early intervention and the benefits that school-based support can offer to young people at risk of child criminal exploitation. There is currently a gap within support, as regularly to qualify for support a young person has to already be experiencing an issue, rather than being at risk. We have learnt that teachers can recognise as early as year two which young people are at risk, and early intervention is therefore key to prevention of child criminal exploitation. We have applied this learning to build the project outlined below, which this grant would fund.

This new school-based project would work with young people who are identified as being at risk of child criminal exploitation. Young people from Armley who will be involved in this project will be referred by relevant services and agencies such as the NPT, LASBT, schools and Armley Cluster. A youth engagement coordinator who will be recruited for this project will work in primary schools with up to 8 year five and year six children. The youth engagement coordinator will also work with young people during the summer holiday period and then continue working with them in year seven. This will ensure the young people are supported through the transition to secondary school and will help them to settle into school and have a positive start. We know

that the transition period can be extremely difficult for some young people and learning from the Cluster shows that this is particularly the case for those at risk of exploitation.

The project will start in May 2022 and the youth engagement coordinator will start by working with year fives and sixes in Castleton Primary, St Bartholomew's Primary and Armley Park Primary. We have worked alongside the Cluster Lead to identify schools within the Armley ward with the greatest need for this provision. The criteria for this project will be that the young people are identified as being at risk of child criminal exploitation, live within the Armley ward and are highly likely to attend Dixons Unity Academy. Should young people not fit this criterion but need support we will work with the Cluster to identify other avenues of support. The project will include 1.5 hours of support per school per week for one year.

Over the summer holiday period the youth engagement coordinator will work with the young people providing a series of connection days in both the community and on trips (such as team building activities and aspiration building activities like university visits or trips to the coast). The trips will be guided by the interests of the young people, and they will have some choice in the programme. All 24 young people (8 from each primary) will be invited to four trips (weekly over a four-week period) and 4 community days. This will enable the youth engagement coordinator to continue building relationships, to check wellbeing and support with social, emotional and mental health, raise any safeguarding concerns and facilitate friendships amongst the 24 young people. The young people will additionally be connected into Healthy Holidays provision.

After the summer holiday period the youth engagement coordinator will work in Dixons Unity Academy with up to three/four groups of young people for a total of 1 hour per group per week. This will mean all the young people who have transitioned into Dixons Unity Academy will continue to benefit from targeted support. If any of the young people transition to a different secondary school the youth engagement coordinator will work with the school and relevant Cluster to organise support where available. There will also be capacity for the youth engagement coordinator to work with additional young people from year seven in Dixons identified as being at risk of child criminal exploitation. Up to 40 young people would be involved from Dixons in total. The criteria for referrals will state that young people must live within the Armley ward, if they don't the Cluster will connect the young person to other available support. As well as working in Dixons, the youth engagement coordinator will continue working in the identified primary schools with a new cohort of children, or the existing year fives who will have transitioned to year 6.

Following the completion of year 7 the young people will be connected into other services available if needed, and the universal offer of youth provision within the ward, including activities provided by ourselves and LCC Youth Services. One of the key aims of this project is to be able to connect young people at risk of child criminal exploitation into universal youth activities and provisions. This grant would fund the project for one year, and if successful we will seek further funding to continue working in this way each year, from other available funders.

The sessions within the schools will consist of a wide variety of activities, workshops and targeted conversations and we will work with a variety of partner agencies, such as St Giles Trust and National Youth Association. The grant will enable us to bring in expertise when needed. The sessions will focus on transitional support, relationship building, resilience building, social emotional and mental health, wellbeing, positive friendships, raising aspirations and building positive futures. The sessions will also open channels of communication and provide young people with a safe and trusted adult, and safe space. The sessions will all be targeted around the needs of the young people. In addition to the group sessions there will also be the opportunity for 1-1 support if and when this is needed.

We aim to recruit a local volunteer to work alongside the youth engagement coordinator. We would like the volunteer opportunity to be ringfenced for Armley residents and this grant would

fund them to complete a youth work qualification. This means we are upskilling the local community and providing opportunities. This will help us to reach our goal of supporting local people to work with local young people and will enhance our youth offer.

Based on our learning and the knowledge of our partners we are confident this project will have a positive impact, not only on the young people and their families and peers but also on the wider Armley community. The project aims to reduce the risk of child criminal exploitation and ultimately this will prevent the young people engaging in anti-social behaviour and criminal activity which we know can be detrimental to the wider community. We also aim to prevent younger siblings and connections of the young people getting engaged in ASB or criminal activity by supporting the young people to demonstrate that positive pathways exist. We hope the young people engaging directly in the project will become positive role models. We therefore hope the benefits of this project will be seen by many residents within the Armley ward.

When will the project run?

May 2022 – April 2023

Targets for the project and how success will be measured

The targets for this project are inclusive of the below –

- Reduction in the risk of child criminal exploitation amongst young people in year 5, 6 and 7 who are identified as being at risk
- Supporting transition between primary and secondary school for young people at risk of child criminal exploitation ensuring the best start possible in secondary school
- Connecting young people who are at risk of child criminal exploitation into universal youth activities and provisions in the ward
- Building a trusted relationship with young people at risk of child criminal exploitation and providing a safe space for communication
- Benefit the wider community by focusing on early intervention and prevention of child criminal exploitation which can result in ASB and crime within the area
- Upskill a local resident to become a qualified youth worker and continue positive youth work projects within the ward

We will measure our targets by –

- Seeking regular feedback from the young people, their families and the schools. We will take this feedback seriously and will use this to ensure the project is consistently meeting their needs
- Attendance to the sessions and attendance rates at school. We will be able to compare this in primary school and then in secondary school as we know that without support attendance rates can decrease after the school transition.
- Regularly holding partnership meetings to assess the impact of the project and review progress, including reports from LASBT and the NPT about localised ASB and crime rates involving young people of this age and engaged within the project
- Attendance at universal youth provisions across the ward
- Completion of youth work qualification by a local Armley volunteer

How the project will be promoted and/or participation encouraged

This project will be targeted for young people from Armley who are identified as being at risk of experiencing child criminal exploitation. Young people will be referred into the project by any of the host schools, the Armley cluster team, the NPT, LASBT or Youth Services.

Exit strategy/How the project will continue after the funding

Throughout the duration of this project, we will monitor success in meeting our outcomes. Before the end of the project, if it has been successful, we will work to seek further funding to continue. We hope to seek funds from national funders such as Children in Need, or local funds such as the Police and Crime Commissioner funding or Violence Reduction Unit funding. This will sustain the project and develop the wider youth programme that we offer throughout the ward. We will also focus on connecting young people into universal services throughout the project and will encourage young people and their families to access appropriate support and facilities. Should any young people continue to need targeted support following the project they will be connected into the Armley cluster who have knowledge of support available to young people.

Other organisations involved

Armley Cluster – will provide safeguarding supervision of the youth engagement coordinator and will regularly connect with the project.

Castleton Primary School – primary school involved in project.

St Bartholomew's Primary School - primary school involved in project.

Armley Park Primary School - primary school involved in project.

Dixon's Unity Academy – secondary school involved in project.

Outside agencies will be brought in for expert led sessions such as St Giles Trust, Youth Mental Health Support, National Youth Association.

Neighbourhood Policing Team, LASBT, Youth Services – referral partners for project.

Financial Information

Revenue funding requested	£23,618.56
Total cost of project	£24,738.56
Match funding/Other funding sources	

Name of funding body	Amount requested	Amount approved or expected decision date
We will consider smaller funding pots for specific activities for example Community Chest Pot from Active Leeds for outdoor physical activity, British Triathlon for cycling related activity, Leeds Community Foundation for community-based activity	TBC – will be guided by the needs of the young people on the project.	TBC – will be guided by the needs of the young people on the project.

and Housing Advisory Panel for activity benefitting the wider community.		
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Available Funds in Group Bank Account	
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Funding received since 2010	
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Full Breakdown of Costs			
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Item	Wellbeing	Other (with funding body)	Date of Decision
<p>Youth Engagement Coordinator with level 3 youth work qualification or equivalent – 21 hours per week at £14 per hour for one year (includes oncosts).</p> <p>The hours cover planning and delivery of all school-based sessions, trips and community connection days, as well as time for 1-1 sessions. The hours will also enable some time to link in with partner agencies and manage safeguarding issues and concerns.</p>	£15,288		
Volunteer level 3 youth work qualification – ringfenced for local Armley resident to upskill local community and enhance youth offer.	£1000		
Volunteer expenses and training	£200	In Kind Contribution - £200	
<p>Exploring Trips – four trips over 4 weeks in summer holidays</p> <p>£400 per trip to include –</p> <p>Transport – minibus, coach, train (most cost-effective option)</p>	£1600		

Lunch and snacks Tickets			
Community Connection Days – four days over 4 weeks in summer holidays looking at social action, physical activity, the environment and a summer event. £200 per day to include - Room Hire Refreshments		In Kind Contribution - £800	
Session Enhancement – flexible pot of funding to bring in expertise to enhance sessions, for example, St Giles Trust or Mental Health support. This will be guided by the needs of the young people.	£3000		
Management Cost at 12%	£2530.56	In Kind Contribution (12% of total) – £120	

Details of volunteers

Volunteer Role	No of volunteers	No of hours	Cost
<i>Example - organising and serving refreshments (2 volunteers for 1 hour a session over 10 sessions) £11.06 x 2 x 10 = £221.20</i>	2	10	£221.20
Project Volunteer for school sessions and activities to support the youth engagement co-ordinator (approximately 1 volunteer for 12 hours a week over 52 weeks) £11.06 x 12 x 52 = £6901.44	1	624	£6901.44

Project Volunteer commitment to youth work qualification (approximately 1 volunteer for 27 hours a month over 12 months) $\text{£}11.06 \times 27 \times 12 = \text{£}3583.44$	1	324	£3583.44
Activity Volunteers for trips, connection days and activity sessions (approximately 3 volunteers for 16 hours per week over 4 weeks in summer holiday) $\text{£}11.06 \times 16 \times 4 = \text{£}707.84$ (per volunteer)	3	192	£2123.52
TOTAL			£12,608.40

Volunteer role	
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Communities Team Comments