



Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services

Grants and support for youth work in Worcestershire

For many years WCVYS has received a grant from Worcestershire County Council Youth Support. We have used this grant in a number of ways – to provide ‘start up’ grants for new groups; to support the purchase of equipment for use by youth groups; for training of senior members and youth workers in voluntary and community groups and to help large organisations with their communication costs.

In the last few years other funding streams have become available including FLOSS (Youth Opportunity Fund) and Positive Activities Grants for each County Council electoral division in Worcestershire. We have noticed a reduction in the number of applications for our funds.

In 2007-2008 Cathy Clement's secondment from the County Council ended and the Executive Committee agreed to use around half of the grant to cover some of the salary costs of Jo Chester, our Youth Officer, as we felt it was important to maintain the level of practical support for all groups and organisations around the county.

Over the last couple of years the County Council has carried out a major review of its funding arrangements for the voluntary and community sector and now operates under the ‘Shopping, Investing and Giving’ scheme. It was clear that under this new arrangement we would not receive funding to distribute grants to clubs and organisations.

In the current financial year 2008-2009 we received half of the grant funding of previous years in respect of the period April to September 2008.

At its April meeting the Executive Committee approved an application for a three year County Council Strategic Grant to employ a worker to provide that practical infrastructure support. We also deferred a decision on how to use the half year grant funding until the outcome of the strategic grant application had been announced. Unfortunately, despite much support within the application evaluation process, our application was not successful.

The Executive Committee spent some time discussing the options and came to the decision that the best way to support clubs and organisations was through the work of the Youth Officer. The Executive Committee decided to use the existing funding to cover the costs of employing the Youth Officer, and also to pursue other avenues to secure the funding to continue the post beyond the end of this year.

Therefore we will not be distributing grants to clubs and organisations in the foreseeable future.

The Executive Committee appreciates that this will place a strain on some organisations and we will continue to provide support to help identify possible replacement sources of funding.

Please contact me if you would like further clarification.

Michael Hunter
Chairman

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