

Response to Fullhurst CC Ward Grant Application Supplementary Questions

Thank you for this application form. I am seeing the Ward Councillors tomorrow and will pass it onto them for consideration. May I ask if any other organisations have been approached to participate in the scheme. Whilst I acknowledge that schools have not been provided with ring-fenced budgets for this type of intervention, they do have discretionary budgets at their disposal. I would also like to enquire as regards how it will be administered i.e. means-tested. In addition, what needs to be included in the bid is the community benefits . . .

Responses:

1. Have other organisations been approached?

Not as yet. As stated in the bid, this application is to enable us to start up the fund in response to a recently identified need. However, the long term aim of this fund is to raise money on an ongoing basis and we will look to other funding bodies and local businesses for continuing support.

2. Availability of school discretionary budgets?

The discretionary budgets are already committed for other priorities and used to support other needs of students - this is additional funding for those students who are experiencing fairly extreme (albeit often temporary) hardship or disadvantage.

3. Administration of the fund (means testing etc)?

Although we won't means test we will check the FSM register and other data/info to make informed appropriate decisions about using the funding. The fund itself will be closely monitored and full records of spend will be kept.

4. Community benefits?

The benefits are twofold in that it will directly support the students and let them feel valued members of the school community and prevent potential disengagement which could lead to behavioural problems and it will support their families in the community who are suffering hardship. Secondly, it is a 'seed' fund to start a larger fund raising initiative, which, if successful, could include community fundraising activities and perhaps a wider community remit. We will be happy to report back to councillors on the progress and developments of this fund.