

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	11 March 2010
Title:	Request for Financial Support to the Step By Step Project in Aldershot
Reference:	1369
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to consider a request received for financial support from Step by Step (formerly known as Emmaus projects) in Aldershot.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Step by Step (SBS) delivers a range of services to vulnerable young people aged between 16 and 25 including; IT drop-in/internet café; informal education, employment and life skills, anger management, support in accessing work experience/employment, counselling and a drug and alcohol service.
- 2.2. A request for financial support has been received from the Chief Executive of the Step By Step towards building new accommodation.
- 2.3. SBS has grown considerably over the past 17 years, with the result that much of its accommodation and offices are spread across five separate buildings, none of which were purpose built. Over the past year, it has been working with Sentinel Housing Association on plans to build a new, fit-for-purpose building in Aldershot. The proposed four-storey premises will contain accommodation for up to 30 young people to replace that at Emmaus House and Victoria Road, offering single bedrooms for all its clients as well as facilities for Youth Development and other services, interview rooms and offices for staff.
- 2.4. The new, energy efficient building will provide modern, secure facilities in one location, enabling staff to work more effectively with clients and with each other and promoting a more efficient use of resources.

3. Financial Details

- 3.1. The scheme is to cost £3.725m and the tables shown below indicate the costs involved with the project and the finance already received/being sought from other local authorities and organisations:

Item	Cost (£)
Site, Fees & Financing	1,125,000
Construction*	2,325,000
Furnishings & Equipment	230,000
Fees & Decant	45,000
Total	3,725,000

* assuming building is zero rated for VAT. Extra £175k if not.

4. Fundraising

Own funds committed	£275,000 – in process of raising this amount £530,000 - loaned by Sentinel to be repaid as rent over 25 years
Other local authorities	£100,000 - Rushmoor Borough Council £100,000 - Waverley Borough Council £10,000 - East Hampshire District Council £15,000 - Surrey Heath Borough Council £5,000 - Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council £50,000 - Hart District Council (awaiting confirmation)
Other Grants	£2,340,000 - Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) £50,000 - Places of Change Programme part of HCA (awaiting approval)
Total	£3,475,000
Shortfall	£250,000

5. Other considerations

- 5.1. The Executive Lead Member for Children's Services is to consider a request for grant aid at his Decision Day on 11 March 2010 to support the organisation's core costs, in particular NEET to EET intervention during 2010/11.

6. Comments of Chief Officers:

- 6.1. **Director of Children's Services:** Financial support of £250,000 by Hampshire County Council would contribute to the development of accommodation for young people in the area, particularly 16 and 17 year olds.

We would anticipate that a large investment in the project would enable Children's Services to have a significant role in the decision making regarding the allocation of a number of beds within the new building. We would want parity with other contributors that have donated to the project and had negotiated "nomination rights" for beds.

Children's Services support this development as an opportunity to further develop and consolidate provision with Step by Step and to enhance the services on offer to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the north of Hampshire.

- 6.2. **Director of Adult Services:** This group is a key provider to a vulnerable group of young people and this department is supportive of their intent to develop more modern and suitable accommodation. Several contracts are in place with SBS to provide services in the north-east of the County.

7. Comments of the local Members

- 7.1. Councillors Roger Kimber and Eric Neal are the local members for the Aldershot area and have been consulted on this application.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1. That one-off capital contributions of £200,000 for building costs and £50,000 for furnishing costs be made from the Corporate Policy Fund in 2010/11 to Step By Step in Aldershot towards the new one-stop accommodation. These monies are subject to the Director of Children's Services liaising with the organisation to obtain nomination rights for the County Council for three places at the new facility.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Executive Member for Children's Services	1181	11 March 2010
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Application form	Chief Executive's Department

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. The application procedure includes equalities monitoring information as agreed as part of the corporate review of grants programmes and procedures.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. The County Council has an obligation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all decisions it makes on the prevention of crime. The proposal in this report aims to improve the wellbeing of Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring.