

## Community fund application – community assessment

June 2019

Grant requested: £2,500



**Cottsway**  
Community Fund

<b>Name of applicant</b>	Oxfordshire Youth
<b>Web site address</b>	<a href="http://www.oxfordshireyouth.org">www.oxfordshireyouth.org</a>

<b>Name of your project</b>	Young Leaders Programme
<b>Why are you applying for the grant?</b> (in no more than 50 words)	To fund four 'Young Leaders' courses to 14+y/o, Cottsway residents, (or those in their geographic areas), aimed at providing young people with a level 2 qualification. Designed to develop leadership skills, confidence, and self-management, beneficial to their futures, improving both work and life opportunities, and increasing community engagement.
<b>How much will your total project cost?</b>	£2,600 for four courses
<b>How much have you raised so far?</b>	We run the programmes already so they (other courses) are already funded, so the shortfall is only £100 (which would be funded from our previous courses) so in theory the cost will be covered.
<b>How much are you applying for from Cottsway?</b>	£2,500
<b>Have you received a grant from the Cottsway in the past?</b>	No (although we had applied in 2015)

Please indicate the funding aims your project will meet:

Yes	Services and activities for young people and/or older people.
Yes	Services and activities that address rural issues and tackle rural exclusion and social isolation.
	Services and activities that will benefit the environment.
Yes	Services and activities that help prevent debt, provide financial advice and reduce poverty.
	Services and activities that contribute towards getting people online and reduce digital exclusion.
Yes	Services and activities that contribute to an inclusive and active community.

**Please tell us how your project meets the funding aims**

We are seeking funding to provide four Young Leaders Programmes to either, Cottsway Residents, residents of areas where Cottsway are active, or as a progression path for young people already engaged with the work of Cottsway residents (possibly the existing, or for potential, Youth Forum members).

The Young Leaders Programme is a bespoke leadership programme (the first of its kind) catering for young people aged 14+. Offering an alternative or additional learning and skills development path, the Young Leaders Programme aims to not only increase the participants employability but also to increase their engagement, and value, within their own communities.

The programme is not only for the highly academic, in fact one of its main advantages is that it is often an ideal opportunity for young people who haven't prospered in mainstream education to gain a recognised qualification.

Due to its unique combination of experimental learning and accessible assessment tools, young people of all abilities and backgrounds can achieve a qualification which gives them a real positive in their lives, and as the qualification is an accredited Level-2

award accredited by the Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) it is nationally recognised and therefore held in high regard by employers colleges and universities.

### **What activities will the project offer?**

The programme takes place over a 2-day 2-night residential, where young people mix fun activities and Leadership Workshops, whilst completing a log-book of their work. After the weekend away, the delegates are asked to go back to their youth groups, organisations, committees, or communities and run an activity or take responsibility for something new, which they can gain feedback on.

Delegates will also receive training on how to understand this feedback (how to seek it, respond to it, and provide it) and create an action plan on how to improve themselves, and their projects, using it.

Other areas addressed include development as a team leader (roles and responsibilities, leadership styles, motivation of others), self-management (time management, SMART objectives, stress, awareness of own skills and abilities), and effective team working (barriers to team working, developing an effective team, dealing with conflict, and individual roles).

Other activities included in course include (but are not limited to) problem solving, high ropes, climbing walls, raft building, crate stacking and 'Jacobs Ladder' (activities designed to invoke, and manage stress, and invoke teamwork)

### **How has the community and/or Cottsway residents been consulted in this proposal?**

The Young Leaders Programme has been developed in response to requirements of young people as they enter both adulthood and the workplace. Opportunities for young people are limited due to a lack of autonomy, skills and confidence.

These responses have been gained through conversation with our member organisations and our 'Voice' youth committee which feeds into the board of Oxfordshire Youth and is made up of young people - 13-19 years.

It has also been designed in response to feedback from business leaders who have noted that many of the young people experienced at interview level, and at

employment access level, lack the necessary softer skills, required by businesses in the current climate.

We have carried out market research and written a 5-year Young Leaders Business Plan, which shows primary and secondary areas of focus for offering the programme to schools and businesses (with a view to support apprenticeships and future employment) and, in doing so, making the programme self-reliant.

**How will you ensure promotion to Cottsway residents?**

By offering the programme in the first instance to either existing or potential members of Cottsway's Youth Forum, we will be enabling the organisation to choose their delegates who they feel will either gain most from it or have most to offer after completing the course, whether that be from the Forum or opened up to applications from residents.