Community fund application – community assessment

June 2019

Grant requested: £2,500

Name of applicant	St. Mary's Chipping Norton Outreach
Web site address	www.stmaryscnorton.com

Name of your project	St.Mary's Outreach – Summer Engagement Project (Pandemonium in the Park/ Food & Fun)
Why are you applying for the grant? (in no more than 50 words)	To provide inclusive activities and support for the most vulnerable families in Chipping Norton over the summer period. To respond to the growing issue of food poverty which is exacerbated over the summer holidays when free school meals are not available.
How much will your total project cost?	£7,000
How much have you raised so far?	£4,500
How much are you applying for from Cottsway?	£2,500
Have you received a grant from the Cottsway in the past?	No we have not.

Please indicate the funding aims your project will meet:

Yes	Services and activities for young people and/or older people.
	Services and activities that address rural issues and tackle rural exclusion and social isolation.
	Services and activities that will benefit the environment.
	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

The drive for our project is enabling families to come together and enjoy a shared experience in a fun environment without the pressure of cost. We know that the summer months can be particularly hard for those families that cannot afford holidays and days out, and where prioritising money for daily meals is a struggle.

Both *Pandemonium in the Park* and *Food & Fun* will provide dynamic range of activities for young people and all ages. By replicating the areas of our Outreach Programme – under 5s, primary age, youth and family (three generations) – we have carefully considered what will appeal to each group. We have been particularly keen to provide opportunities that most vulnerable families in our community are unlikely to usually have access to: climbing wall and bubble football, storytelling and magician at *Pandemonium in the Park*, and the series of creative and active workshops (street dance, circus skills and drama) across the project. There will also be quieter activities (art & craft) and community areas (tea tent, music zone) aiming to cater for interaction between all generations.

Our aim as an Outreach Team is to support those with the most need who would otherwise not engage with Universal Services - many of whom are engaged with Cottsway Housing. Through our work in the Primary School, Youth Club, drop-in service and outreach store provision we have begun to build up good relationships and trust with these families. We see this project as a positive way to continue to build on this, and actively seek out their thoughts and opinions on what is going on in their town and how they would like to be supported. We will have a Graffiti Wall at the project for this purpose and would love to work with Cottsway on this for mutual benefit.

What activities will the project offer?

Pandemonium in the Park: A one-off event providing an afternoon of family fun and food for the whole community - all for free.

By personally inviting all the most vulnerable families that we work with via our Outreach Programme, we aim to concentrate on supporting those families who do not normally engage with Universal Services.

Last year this event drew a crowd of 800-1000 people from around the town, including many families supported by Cottsway Housing. This year we expect more!

The event will offer free lunch (hog roast/hot dogs), afternoon tea and cakes, refreshments and ice creams. There will be inclusive activities for all the family including art & crafts, storytelling, soft play and a bouncy castle, street dance and circus skills workshops, bubble football, a climbing wall and 'Gladiator Games'. Local bands will provide a backdrop of music and a magician will be on hand to entertain.

Food & Fun: A series of five days over the first and last weeks of the summer holidays providing a nutritious lunch and entertainment for all the family.

Each day will have an 'Around the World' theme, providing tasty meals with a global feel for a target of 80 people. We aim to not only support those who particularly struggle with food poverty over the summer holidays by offering a meal, but also encourage a sense of community and inclusion by all sitting together to eat. This will be

carried into the afternoon activities which will offer a valuable opportunity to further build relationships with these vulnerable families.

We will have a range of options available with a craft area, soft-play zone and a series of creative workshops (street dance, circus skills, drama). Each day we will provide families with a meal bag and accompanying recipe card to encourage family cooking.

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

Through our contact with the community in our work, including a range of Cottsway residents, we have directly involved their ideas and preferences for the project. For example, consulting children during sessions in the Nurture Room at the Primary School and the Youth Club, Remix, about meals they might like at *Food & Fun* or activities they would enjoy at *Pandemonium*. We have also talked with several Cottsway resident parents to get a sense of what support they would most value over the summer period.

The drive of the project has come from these conversations along with statistics about 'holiday hunger', and the recognition of increased numbers visiting the food bank in Chipping Norton. We have also reflected on feedback from last year's summer support activities and considered what worked well and what we can rethink in order to provide the most effective and impactful project.

We have liaised with other organisations working with the community, including many Cottsway residents, via the Under 5s Network and Outreach Support Networks that we facilitate as a church. This has given us an idea of what gaps in services and activities there will be over the summer and highlighted the need to focus on regular provision of family-based food and activities.

Hearing the voices of the community that we are working with, and acting on their real need and ideas, is central to the project. We will continue to represent the importance of giving space and opportunity to listen to them with the Graffiti Wall during the project. This information will heavily inform our forthcoming work and, we hope, provide the community with a sense of ownership and consequently encourage engagement. It would be great to work with Cottsway and the Youth Forum on this element of the project!

How will you ensure promotion to Cottsway residents?

Based on the proven success of promotion last year, we will once again give personal invitations to those families that we work with most closely. For example, all the children and parents who have access to the Nurture Room, Drop-in, Outreach project, Youth Club, intergenerational project (Full Circle) and CAP Lifeskills - a large percentage of which are Cottsway residents.

We found that this personal approach was incredibly effective ie. all 73 of the children from the Nurture Room attended with their families, allowing for great conversations and trust building. We shall also ensure that each family that use the Food Bank is invited and those that we engage via organisations that we collaborate with (OX7, CAB, Health Centre etc)

Each child at St. Mary's Primary and Youth Club will be given a flier to take home and all Cottsway residents will receive a flier via a letterbox drop. We will have posters around town and banners at key points targeting Cottsway residents. There will be an article and advertisement in the Chipping Norton news and verbal promotion at all groups and engagement points in the build up to the events.