

Agenda item: SC 14/21



Communities and Environment Fund – Application Overview

Name of Applicant	Friends of Moorlands
Date of application	July 1 st 2021
Name of project	Coach trip to Yarmouth
Amount Requested	£1700

<p>Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)</p> <p>Applicants comments: 4 coaches to Great Yarmouth on the 14th August 2021. This is the first coach trip organised in the area since Covid 19 hit and many people have not left Milton Keynes in a long time. We hope this trip will provide respite and fun after what has been a very challenging time both mentally and financially. We will also provide a small lunch for everyone which will ensure that those people who would not be able to attend due to financial difficulties will still be able to take part.</p> <p><i>Officers Comments:</i></p>
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<p>How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)</p> <p>Applicants comments: The trip will provide some low cost fun in the sun which is felt to be extremely important after the recent turbulent times. The lockdowns have affected everyone but children in particular have been affected.</p> <p>The trip will aim to build bridges and reduce social isolation for people who have had to shield for long periods of time. It will be offered to those that use the family centre, which means that people from a wider area than just Beanhill will be able to attend.</p> <p>If the trip doesn't go ahead it will be difficult for those people with low incomes or without transport to visit the seaside, or just get out of Milton Keynes for the day. This could have a negative impact on wellbeing.</p> <p><i>Officers Comments:</i> Agreed that the trip will provide a much needed opportunity for the community to come together after a long period where no social events have been possible. An away day will be a welcome change of scenery for people who have been unable to leave Milton Keynes during lockdown.</p>
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<p>Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?</p> <p>Applicants comments: Seats for the trip are priced at £8 each, and 20 free seats will be available for families identified as vulnerable.</p> <p>In this instance it was no possible to get 3 quotes as only one coach company could provide the required number of coaches on the proposed date.</p>

Officers Comments:

Similar day trips to Great Yarmouth are priced anywhere between £20 and £35, so this trip represents good value, especially when the provided lunch is factored in. Having 20 free seats available for vulnerable families ensures that the trip will be inclusive.

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents

Applicants comments:

Officers Comments:

Officer Assessment

- Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes No
- Have we received all governance documents? Yes No
- Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes No

Officer Recommendation and overview

The proposed trip will provide an opportunity for people local to Moorlands to get away to the seaside at a reasonable cost (something that many people may not be able to do otherwise). This will be of great value to people that have not been able to attend any social events or even to leave Milton Keynes since the start of the pandemic. A great opportunity to bring the community back together.

Which fund would this application come from? Communities and Environment

How much is currently in that fund?

Agenda item: SC 15/21



Communities and Environment Fund – Application Overview

Name of Applicant	Q Alliance
Date of application	14 th July 2021
Name of project	Milton Keynes Pride
Amount Requested	£2,100

Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)

Applicants comments:
 This year there will be a youth and safeguarding hub at PRIDE. Q Alliance are providing youth staff to be present all day. We will be offering advise and guidance, 1;1 support sessions, signposting and relevant literature to offer advice and support for where those young people, children and parents are at and what they are managing. This project is specifically about empowering and equipping young people from Q Alliance, the Chaffron Way college LGBTQ+ group and woughton LGBTQ+ young people to devise and develop those pieces of literature and information to be shared. So that it is their voice being shared with their peers and their families. We believe this will be more powerful and ultimately more helpful to those who have questions and are struggling to understand issue of Identity and Sexuality. We also want to create a piece of art, a film written and performed by these young people to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ young people's experiences and struggles. The piece has been started and already is quite wonderful and very powerful. It is a sequence of dance and movement pieces and there is not real cost involved in devising this piece. However, the filmmaker is costly. We are speaking to www.jojobossman.com and another artist previously used for Pride and WCC Nothing is Final project, but we cannot commission them or even get quotations without some funding to get them to look at our project and create a brief. As such we are asking for an amount that is taken from the national and local information available about day rates for cinematographers and videographers (between £200-£600 p/day) It is possible that what we ask for her will not cover the project in full but would give us a budget to go back to the film makers and set our own budget- as a valued piece, Jojo is open to this amount. As such we are setting our day rate offer at £300-£350 /day. We have hopefully secured funding from Community Foundation, through MK Pride festival for all printing costs, including having these information booklets printed in Braille options, But are committed to fund the printing from our own budget is necessary. These booklets can be published both in hard copy for the day and for later, shared electronically through our website and Q Alliances youth group and website. So the reach is potentially extensive- reaching up to 2/3,000 on the day and many more long term afterwards.

We would also like the film to be made available for the Arts and Heritage trail that the WCC Community & Community teams are looking to create for the parish of Woughton. It is hoped that a QR code can be placed on the trail on Coffee Hall at the Youth Centre that will enable anyone to follow a link that plays the film and potentially recordings of the process of creating the piece, as well as the literature developed as part of Woughtons history and their commitment to Diversity and Inclusion.

Officers Comments:
 The project will feed into the Arts and Heritage Trail that is currently at an early planning stage. Securing this funding will be a springboard in future funding for the Arts and Heritage Trail.

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)

<p>Applicants comments:</p> <p>It is estimated that 1 in 16 people are LGBTQ+, that's over 20,000 in MK alone that are 'out' and identifying themselves as part of the community. Q:Alliance, schools and the college on Parish and WCC youth team, together suspect this is a very conservative estimate based on those we work with. Woughton has many projects weekly and each project, barring one has a representatives of the LGBTQ+ community attending. These young people, feel safe in Woughton at Q Alliance, in the schools we work in and at WCC youth projects because WCC is an openly inclusive and supportive council. Every young person that comes to Q Alliance looking for a place to feel safe or belong, comes to know very quickly that they are accepted and can access support. Their parents are able to seek support and as such every family we engage with accesses services which make their lives healthier, safer and a happier experience. People visiting WCC know it to be inclusive because of these kinds of projects and every project undertaken underpins that knowledge, which is filtering out across the city. Young people and their families who are exploring their gender or sexuality already know they have a safe space on parish they can approach without fear - this is not to be undervalued, in the world of an LGBTQ+ person it is lifechanging. Q Alliance does not have figures to report but qualitatively but due to the safeguarding and early intervention work carried out in Q projects, we know that we have prevented further harm and vast physical, mental and emotional risk for those who participate in our projects.</p> <p>We want this project to further promote the inclusivity of the council and the services of Q Alliance, we want to offer a real offer of something wonderful representing the LGBTQ+ community and its place in the history of Woughton. We want to create a brilliant piece of literature that can help thousands of families for years to come and a beautiful, positive social action piece of art but ultimately we want to see young LGBTQ+ people living, working and visiting Woughton parish to be empowered, feel valued and celebrated.</p> <p>Without funding we cannot make the film or create the literature: Families and individuals struggling to put words to or understand their sexuality or gender will continue to be unable to find accurate and appropriate literature when seeking it. Literature at PRIDE, on Q's website and in our groups will remain generic, adult led and less informative. Young people will lose an opportunity for new skill building, participatin, agency, empowerment and positive social action. We will need to work with WCC again in the future to find and source another arts project which can fit into the ideology for the Arts Heritage trail.</p> <p>The impact of not doing this project cannot be measured in what will be worse on a particular day in the future for any particular individual, we can only speculate based on experience, need and demand. However, we can based on history, experience and knowledge of similar projects country wide that the positive impact on individuals, communities and wider society is potentially huge.</p> <p>Officers Comments:</p> <p>Q Alliance & Pride offer an environment where young LGBTQ+ people can come together safely. WCC is widely known as an inclusive Council, so to be associated with this project will show our continuing support.</p> <p>There is a wealth of evidence on the positive aspects of Pride, in terms of supporting the LGBTQ+ community. I am also aware of the potential of not supporting the movement, having grown up in an era before Pride, and witnessing the negative effects of a lack of safe environment on family, friends and colleagues within the LGBTQ+ community.</p>
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<p align="center">Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?</p> <p>Applicants comments:</p> <p>We will not go ahead without this funding as it simply wont be possible and whilst valued by PRIDE and Q Alliance it is not within our agreed annual objectives to deliver this specific project, it is very much a valuable and brilliant addition. With zero funding during the pandemic we have utilised our reserves to keep support services going so are not in a position to fund anything extra at this time. We are not seeking specific funding in the normal sense, we are asking WCC to partner and sponsor this project for the benefit of the LGBTQ+ community but also to enable the creation of something that represents the LGBTQ+ community in Woughton specifically as part of its history in the making.</p>

PRIDE's Community Foundation funding bid included printing costs for these booklets. PRIDE committee have committed to cover the costs if they were unsuccessful with Community Foundation so the publication will go ahead through these different partners all contributing.

MK College are providing space and staff in Kind, as are Q Alliance.

Q Alliance staff will be paid within their hours to facilitate the sessions and refreshments and resources for these sessions will be provided by Q alliance if the project goes ahead.

Due to our existing partnership work we felt it ethical to state although these are the costs we are expecting (we are expecting them to be higher but that the artist would accept this offer) we tentatively suspect that they may still agree if we pushed them a little lower on the day rate as they are incredibly excited and keen to work with us on this, believing it to be a vitally important piece. We would be happier to try to get them lower rather than miss out completely .

Officers Comments:

Having been involved in many media projects in the past, the costs quoted represent a fair pay rate for the large amount of work involved in putting together a project on this scale.

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents

Applicants comments:

Officers Comments:

Officer Assessment

Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes No

Have we received all governance documents? Yes No

Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes No

Officer Recommendation and overview

Based on the application and supporting documentation, I would recommend funding this project. In my opinion it is something that WCC should be proud to be involved in.

Which fund would this application come from?

How much is currently in that fund?

Agenda item: SC 16/21



Communities and Environment Fund – Application Overview

Name of Applicant	Tinkers Bridge Residents Association
Date of application	7 th July 2021
Name of project	Coach trip to Bournemouth
Amount Requested	£467

<p>Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)</p> <p>Applicants comments: We are planning a trip to the seaside in the school summer holidays. Through consultation on our action plan, which shows that residents value activities which promote good relationships in the community. Families tell us they find long summer holidays difficult, especially when they cannot afford expensive holidays and day trips. At our AGM in February, this was one of the activities that residents identified as something they would like to see happen if circumstances allow. As a further test of likely support for the trip in this difficult year, we have organised a poll on Facebook, with added conversations for those not on social media to gauge interest and to get ideas on the most popular destination for the trip.</p> <p>Officers Comments: As above - residents have requested this activity through consultation with the residents association, and via a Facebook survey.</p>
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<p>How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)</p> <p>Applicants comments: Families will have an enjoyable activity to break up the long summer holidays. It will provide a fun experience; it will help people to get to know each other in a relaxing environment. It will also engage residents with the action plan.</p> <p>If the project doesn't go ahead we would miss an opportunity to achieve the previously mentioned benefits of the project.</p> <p>Officers Comments: There have been very few (if any) opportunities for local residents to come together since March 2020. There have also been very few opportunities to leave Milton Keynes for a day trip during this period. A day trip to the seaside will provide an opportunity for residents to socialise and have a change of scenery.</p>

<p>Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?</p> <p>Applicants comments: No other funding has been applied for. Residents will be charged £6 per seat for the trip.</p> <p>Officers Comments: Similar day trips by coach are priced anywhere between £20 and £35, so the ticket price of £6 represents good value for money.</p>
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How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents
<p>Applicants comments: A scheduled activity in the middle of the school holidays breaks up the duration of those holidays. It gives residents a point of common interest, helping relationships to be built. It allows some who otherwise would tend to stay at home to become more active and involved.</p> <p>This could be the only opportunity in the last 2 years that many of the children and young people on the estate have to visit the seaside or even to travel outside Milton Keynes. It will broaden horizons. It is hoped there will be a reduction in antisocial activities on the estate.</p> <p><i>Officers Comments:</i></p>

Officer Assessment

- Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes No
- Have we received all governance documents? Yes No
- Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes No

Officer Recommendation and overview
<p>As with the Moorlands trip, the proposed trip will provide an opportunity for people local to Tinkers Bridge to get away to the seaside at a reasonable cost (something that many people may not be able to do otherwise). This will be of great value to people that have not been able to attend any social events or even to leave Milton Keynes since the start of the pandemic. A great opportunity to bring the community back together.</p>

Which fund would this application come from? Communities and Environment

Agenda item: SC 17/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Wednesday 21st July 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

That the committee considers whether Woughton Community Council should expand the provision of litter bins.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the committee notes this report.
2. That the committee considers whether WCC should expand the provision of litter bins.
3. That if felt appropriate, the committee considers where these additional bins might be needed and, once a list is collated, agrees to six-month pilot schemes to assess value in 2 places.
4. If all above are agreed and pilot scheme happens, a review of these is provided to council prior to any additional provision.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The Council Manager was asked to consider the costs of providing waste bins across the parish, either in addition to or instead of, dog waste bins. There are a number of practical issues to consider here (e.g. do people feel comfortable with general waste and dog poo being mixed? Does this make it more dangerous for children to put rubbish into bins? Is the smell going to be too much?) and also awareness that any bins that are placed **MUST** be permitted by MKC, but in terms of simple costs, the following gives an idea of what these might cost over the course of both installation and ongoing.



£660 – dual bin (waste/ recycling)



£360 – single bin

This doesn't include installation or any permissions. This will add a further amount – around £200 per bin for installation costs.

There is then an ongoing cost commitment in terms of emptying and removal / disposal of rubbish. The cost of this is currently around £4 per bin per week (assuming that these can be managed within a weekly collection regime – if there are additional collections needed because the bins are full, there will be an additional cost associated with this. Assuming weekly, this equates to £200 per bin per year.

The other issue is simply one of value – will providing bins make a difference in terms of levels of rubbish? Around the Hub in Coffee Hall, there are 5 bins within 40 metres of the office and yet rubbish and waste continues to be simply dropped / dumped with no consideration of whether there is a bin or not. Whilst the provision of bins in key places may make a difference, the Council Manager would recommend that a trial is undertaken in some key areas to see if and what difference any additional bins might make.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Detailed in the early part of this report – between £600 - £900 per bin (installed) with running costs of between £4 – 8 per week (£200 - £400 per year) per bin.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

Likely to be covered by the existing contract with Warners of Bedford as an 'add on', so limited impact on staffing.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None perceived.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 18/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Wednesday 21st July 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the committee on the Early Years and Children provision position paper.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes this report and attached paper.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to the additions / alternations highlighted in yellow.**
- 3. That the committee ratifies this position paper with changes noted and any other agreed changes that are felt appropriate.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Whilst not a policy, this paper does state the council's position on early years and children's provision, alongside lifelong learning – a focus more on the educational aspects, as opposed to play, development, social care or otherwise.

There are some changes, but minimal. They highlight some positives (new provider in EAC) and some additional info highlighting the support offered by WCC.

Otherwise, much as before with commitments as previously.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None noted.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None noted.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Early Years and Children Provision in Woughton.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Early Years, Children and Education Provision in Woughton – July 2021

Introduction

Woughton comprises of seven residential estates (plus two industrial estates) in South Central Milton Keynes. It is an area of deprivation, if measured by government indices, but also has numerous strengths. With around 8,000 properties and a population of approximately 14,000, Woughton is home to a diverse community with differing and changing needs.

Woughton has the highest number of children of any ward in Milton Keynes. It also has the highest number of older people and members of BAME communities.

Contained within the parish are a number of schools, including primary (Langlands, New Chapter, Moorland and Falconhurst), secondary (MK Academy and St Pauls), MK College and a number of 'early years' providers, including Coffee Tots (charity) and nurseries based within Family Centres and schools. There are also specialist providers, such as Bridge Academy and Redway School. Local children also attend neighbouring parishes, in particular Charles Warren School on Groveway.

The parish is currently well represented for formal education providers but there have been concerns expressed about the lack of affordable, local early years provision. Whilst there are other providers based with large local employers (e.g. MK College, MK Hospital), this provision is mainly used by employees, rather than local people. There is also a significant lack of after school provision, with the exception of that provided via the Play Ranger service, which is more suitable for families and older children (mainly accessed by families and children over 7).

Since the first iteration of this paper, a new pre-school provision has opened at the Eaglestone Activity Centre and another was planned for Tinkers Bridge which, due to issues relating to the pandemic, has yet to start.

Woughton Community Council is committed to support the provision of local early years provision, high quality schools and colleges and the provision of 'lifelong' learning opportunities.

Primary Schools

As mentioned above, there are four primary schools within the parish boundaries, with a further school just outside the parish that is well used by Woughton residents. At time of writing (December 2018), two of the schools within the parish have been assessed by OFSTED as 'inadequate', meaning that there is a significant risk that one or both schools have action taken. These schools are Moorland on Beanhill and Langlands on Netherfield. Potential action could include:

- 'Academising' the schools, passing them to an academy trust to manage and, as a consequence, passing the buildings and land to a private organisation with the loss of that land to the local authority / local community
- Merger with another local school (may or may not be an academy trust)
- 'Break up' of the schools to maintain the early years / nursery provision (currently both assessed as 'good')
- Closure of one or both schools, with the long term loss of places for local people, at a time where there is significant potential for an increase in population, with Regeneration in the offing.

Woughton Community Council is committed to making representations to the local authority and education board to maintain local provision and improve performance to ensure high quality, locally based primary education across the parish.

The remaining schools (Falconhurst and New Chapter) are performing to a satisfactory level, but in the event that local schools face closure, are likely to face significant increases in demand for places, placing significant additional resource needs within those schools.

Since the first report was written, Falconhurst has undertaken significant redundancies, with key positions being reduced and a view that there has been a loss of expertise within the setting, alongside additional pressures on the remaining team.

Woughton Community Council is committed to working with ALL local schools to support their aims and objectives, ensure sufficient local places are available and maintain locally accessible primary education for all local people.

Secondary Schools

Woughton is home to MK Academy (the local secondary school for the catchments area) and St Pauls Catholic School, who offer a faith based education to both local and city wide (and beyond) children. Woughton Community Council has a good relationship with both these schools, but there is always more that can be done to improve these further.

Our Youth service works closely with secondary providers locally and, as a council, we offer opportunities for students of both schools to take part in community activities, bringing additional learning opportunities outside the formal educational settings. This includes the annual 'St Paul's Day' community events, involvement in our festival, music groups, access to our youth sessions, etc.

Both secondary schools are currently assessed as 'Good' by OFSTED, with the Academy in particular showing improvement.

Woughton Community Council is committed to continue to develop the relationships between the council and local secondary schools and will focus on this within the annual service plans each year. This will include development of a 'youth council', providing opportunities for local young people within the secondary provision to have direct influence on the activities, spending and priorities for the council.

Woughton Community Council is committed to support governing bodies, where appropriate, by providing a representative to sit as part of a governing body for any local school.

In addition to the secondary providers, MK College is also a significant player locally. The relationship with the college is excellent, with mutually beneficial activities happening, including placements for students within the services we deliver (e.g. community fridge) and delivery of specialist services by our youth team within the college setting (e.g. sexual health, LGBTQ+ peer support, music club).

Specialist Education

There are two specific providers of specialist education with the parish; The Bridge Academy and Redway School.

The Bridge Academy, based adjacent to our offices and youth building, provides education for young people who don't find mainstream secondary education suitable. Labelled as an 'Alternative Education Provider', the school works with young people who have, or are at risk of permanent exclusion from other schools. Working with smaller classes and focusing on a more personalised approach, the aims are to reduce the number of young people classes as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Assessed as 'Good' by OFSTED, Woughton Community Council works very closely with the school, offering a number of additional sessions (including street art, music and film making). **Our Youth Manager sits on the board of governors.**

The Redway School offers education to young people who have learning disabilities, including those on the autistic spectrum. Students at the school often have profound and multiple difficulties and the school provides a personalised approach to supporting students. Assessed by OFSTED as 'Good', the school works with students from across the city.

Our links to the Redway School are limited, but we are able to offer support when asked.

Woughton Community Council is committed to work with ALL educational providers within the parish, through provision of services, financial support (where appropriate) and by working to include all students within our services and activities. We will continue to build upon these strong relationships and

develop collective approaches to continue the valuable work undertaken by the specialist providers.

Early Years Providers

As mentioned in the introduction, there are a number of early years providers within the parish, including nurseries attached to schools and family centres, providers based within local employers and independent providers, including both private companies and charities.

Busy Bees, a private nursery company, have provision on Eaglestone, near the Saxon Clinic. This provision offers places for children aged 3 months to 5 years, with weekly costs of around £280 (10 hours per day, 5 days per week) or sessional costs (minimum 2 per week) of around £35.

Coffee Tots, a local charity, have provision next door to our Youth building on Coffee Hall. They open fewer hours (between 8.30am – 3.15pm, term time only, with a break at lunchtime) but are considerably cheaper (at £12 per session). They cater for 2 – 4 year olds.

The Early Years Nursery at MK College offers spaces for children aged 0 – 5 years. They offer sessional places or weekly 'school hours' options, with charges ranging from £25.20 per session through to £205 per week (for 5 days 'school hours' provision).

Milton Keynes Council offer nursery provision at both Hedgerows and Moorlands Family Centres, with provision being offered for children aged 0 – 5. The costs are around £1000 per month for full time provision, with costs of around £25 per session for part time needs.

All providers can offer some subsidised places through government funding, with the college also supporting people who are studying. Despite this, costs for many of our local residents are prohibitively expensive, meaning access to quality childcare, at the hours that are needed, is limited at best.

Woughton Community Council are pleased that there is now a provider in Eaglestone and will continue to look at ways of supporting other providers locally including one at Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place who was negatively impacted by the pandemic. Our aim is to provide other options for early years provision, encouraging providers to offer affordable sessions and times that support people to be able to maintain / take employment. This may include working to support existing providers or new providers coming into the parish.

Woughton Community Council are committed to supporting the delivery of early years provision through enabling access to our community buildings, supporting the publicising and marketing of said provision and, where appropriate, by working with providers to source additional funding and grants

to improve both the fabric of the buildings (where necessary) and the delivery of services.

Other Children's Provision

Woughton Community Council provides a wide range of activities that are aimed at children and young people, including those sessions noted above where we work in partnership with local providers.

Our services include open access sessions on a number of estates, which compliment sessions run by the MKC Youth Team (**currently on hold or unclear about the future**), Play Ranger sessions throughout the year, specialist sessions for young people with specific needs and focused work around music, dance and the creative arts. Woughton Community Council provides significant funding towards this provision each year and continues to build upon what is an exceptional service locally. This includes investment in our Youth building (known as Number 95), continuing development of the Play Ranger service and a flexible approach to working in partnership with other agencies to bring much needed support to the parish. **This includes the provision of some services that are 'whole city' support, enabling local young people easier access to these sessions (e.g. the Q Alliance youth group is supported and provided within the No 95 provision).**

In addition to Woughton Community Council, there are also sessions provided by other organisations, such as the Milton Keynes Council Youth Team, Service Six, Children in Care Team, Children's Centres, Sports Network, Faith Groups and via the college and local secondary schools. Where possible, Woughton Community Council works alongside other agencies to reduce duplication, maximise resources and provide an integrated, targeted and focused approach to meet the wide and varied needs of local young people.

Woughton Community Council is committed to working in partnership with other local providers, bringing additional resources onto the parish and working in a collaborative and positive way to maintain and increase opportunities for young people across the area.

Lifelong Learning

Whilst slightly outside the remit of 'children', lifelong learning opportunities should be considered when looking at education in its widest sense.

Previously, the Woughton Skills Ladder provided good local access to adult learning opportunities, focusing on basic skills, ESOL and similar. In addition, Adult Continuing Education, MK College and other organisations provided a range of both vocational and leisure education options. Whilst some of these remain in place, costs can be prohibitively high.

Woughton Community Council provides some opportunities, but these are mainly focused on local groups and individuals developing skills around their communities – managing meetings, food hygiene, first aid, etc. as opposed to ‘open access’ learning, focusing on personal development.

Woughton Community Council is committed to developing opportunities for local residents to be involved in life long learning, through direct provision, funding and support to other organisations and working to bring existing provision within the city to the parish, making access as easy as possible.

Conclusion

Woughton Community Council understands the importance and value of high quality, local and accessible education and early years provision. Additionally, offering opportunities for people to continue to learn and develop skills, employability skills and knowledge throughout their lives has clear social value. As such, Woughton Community Council is committed to supporting the provision of educational opportunities for all residents of the parish.

Early Years

As a local council, we will use all applicable powers to promote positive interventions within the parish, but feel that directly providing early years provision (which we could provide using the General Power of Competency) is NOT an appropriate route for the council to take. However, we will work with other providers to enable access to our community venues for the provision of this type of service and support providers, where appropriate, through use of council communications and similar.

Primary, secondary and specialist education

As a local council, we have no powers around provision of schools as this sits with the principle authority, Milton Keynes Council. However, we are, as a council, committed to the provision of high quality, local schools for our residents. As such, we will work in partnership with local schools, campaign and support others to campaign for improvements to local schools, funding and other elements that benefit local residents. We will also, where appropriate, support local schools in providing resources (both financial and in terms of officer / member support) to increase opportunities and activities for students.

Lifelong Learning

As a local council, we are able to provide funding and support to enable access to education in its widest sense to our residents. To this end, we are committed to both supporting other agencies to provide opportunities and to provide direct provision, where appropriate, to increase the range and scope of options for local residents. This will include options for personal and professional development, provide additional support for people with specific needs (e.g. English as a second language,

disabilities, etc) and include 'add on' support to assist people into employment, to improve their employment opportunities and to access further training, apprenticeships and similar.

Overarching Policy Statement

Woughton Community Council is committed to supporting the provision of early years, primary, secondary and lifelong educational opportunities across the parish. We will support this through campaigning and lobbying, through partnership and collaborative approaches and through direct support, either financial or through use of our other resources, to appropriate organisations and agencies.

Please note that this paper does not include information about youth services, but any approaches should work alongside and in collaboration with the Youth Service aims, making use of the skills and knowledge of that team where appropriate.