

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

**SOCIAL WELFARE GRANTS PAYMENT TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
2009/10****1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report details the recommendations for the award of Social Welfare grants under Section 10 of the Social Work Scotland Act. All organisations have been contacted and assessed in line with the Council's criteria.
- 1.2 The total Social Welfare Grant budget made available by the Council for allocation to Voluntary Organisations in Bute and Cowal is £11,269.

2 RECOMMENDATION

A total of 10 organisations applied for assistance from this budget. This is an increase from last year when only 7 applications were received. It is recommended that the total budget be allocated to the organisations outlined in the Detail section of this report.

	Organisation	Grant Awarded 2008/09	Amount Requested 2009/10	Total Running Costs	Recommendation
2.1	Argyll & Bute Rape Crisis	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£1,700
2.2	Bute Advice Centre	£5,231	£7,000	£75,463	£4,000
2.3	Cowal Community Care Forum	£1,000	£1,000	£36,452	£750
2.4	Crossroads (Cowal & Bute)	Nil	£3,508.50	£7,017	£2,000
2.5	Dunoon & Cowal Elderly Forum	£438	£460	£1,329	£300
2.6	Dunoon Senior Citizens	Nil	£1,000	£2,000	Nil
2.7	Homestart Majik Cowal	Nil	£1,750	£	Nil
2.8	People and Agencies of Cowal Coming Together	Nil	£2,054	£4,484	£1,000
2.9	Relationship Argyll (Argyll Couple Counselling)	Nil (from Cowal area)	£1,581	£1,831	£750
2.10	Sandbank Senior Citizens Club	£1,600	£1,665	£4,165	£769
Total					£11,269

3. DETAIL

	Organisation	Rationale for grant allocation
3.1	Argyll & Bute Rape Crisis	<p>The organisation provides free and confidential support to women and girls who have been raped, sexually assaulted or abused. It provides immediate and long term support, to victims and to partners and family members. The organisation is increasingly involved in awareness training, not only about sexual abuse but about harassment, sexual bullying, trafficking and other forms of exploitation – this includes work in schools and youth groups.</p> <p>Office is based in Dunoon, with service active in Bute and Cowal, Helensburgh, Oban. Grant applied for in all 4 areas, as there is no service level agreement in place – minimum of £1,500 required from each area. A grant is recommended.</p>
3.2	Bute Advice Centre	<p>This Grant is important as match funding for the Centre's general and money advice programmes. The growth areas are advice and disability benefit entitlements. Beneficiaries of the services include the elderly and infirm who have disability problems, low wage earners, unemployed and single parents.</p> <p>The centre represents people at Tribunals, and during Eviction Procedures. It assists with form filling, submitting claims for benefit entitlement. The Centre assists people with Housing, Utilities, Consumer Advice, Employment, Tax, Social, and Legal issues. All advice given is free of charge.</p> <p>A grant is recommended.</p>
3.3	Cowal Community Care Forum	<p>CCCF ensures the voices of service users and carer are heard in planning health and social care services. Activities including local access points, planning groups, consultation events and training are free to all service users and carers in Cowal. The grant is to help fund the "Now we're Talking!" project which will provide participation resources, person centred planning and support for young people, and support service users to participate in planning groups.</p> <p>A grant is recommended.</p>
3.4	Crossroads (Cowal & Bute)	<p>Crossroads provide Carers' support and respite. This funding is requested for a project to up-date and have re-printed the "Now I Know" carers' directory. Previous demand for this resource has been well demonstrated, which is why a re-printing is required. This will help carers and agencies (including Social Work and Health) to have information they require about local resources. The leaflet will also help launch the new carer's centre.</p> <p>A grant is recommended.</p>
3.5	Dunoon & Cowal Elderly Forum	<p>The Elderly Forum promotes the general welfare of elderly people by providing information and campaigning on issues affecting older people. The group also provides information about facilities and services available. The grant is for hall and meeting costs to enable the forum to continue while passing on the minimum of costs to members to aid the participation of those on a low income.</p> <p>A grant is recommended.</p>
3.6	Dunoon Senior Citizen's Club	<p>Please note – no grant has been recommended this year.</p> <p>Dunoon Senior Citizens have over £20,000 in their bank accounts as uncommitted reserves. Their running costs are relatively low, so it is recommended no payment is made from the Social Welfare Grant fund this year.</p>

3.7	Homestart Majik Cowal	Please note – no grant has been recommended this year. Homestart have a Service Level Agreement with the Council and receives funding from a central source. On that basis it is recommended no payment is made from the Social Welfare Grant fund this year.
3.8	People and Agencies of Cowal Coming Together (PACCT)	PACCT brings together a range of local provider agencies and people affected by disability or mental ill health, for shared social activities. The organisation provides important services to allow for the networking of groups in the community, providing support to socially excluded individuals and groups. The current grant application is for office costs for administration of the group, for wages for the part-time admin worker, and costs of a community information day. The office base will help the running of the group, which already provides a range of regular events and activities for people with disabilities, such as an Arts & crafts club, Ceilidh club and Theatre group. A grant is recommended.
3.9	Relationship Argyll (formerly Argyll Couple Counselling)	To maintain telephone counselling service for clients who do not live close to counselling venues – nearest one being Inveraray. To maintain the training and support of their three accredited counsellors and two trainees, and to recruit counsellors in the Bute and Cowal areas. As the organisation has recently joined “Relationship Scotland” their training costs are increasing, but they hope to increase publicity for their work. A grant is recommended.
3.10	Sandbank Senior Citizens Club	The Organisation supports older people and gives them safe social opportunities. Activities include fortnightly meetings with entertainment and outings. They have a Soup/sandwich afternoon and a lunch club. The grant will help with the total running costs, including subsidy for the food and transport costs to members who would have difficulty affording these. A grant is recommended.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 All the grant applications have been checked by the Finance section of Community Services.
- 4.2 All applicants have been interviewed and assessment sheets completed. This report deals with the full allocation of the Social Welfare budget.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: Nil
- 5.2 Financial: The report details the distribution of the budget for promotion of social welfare grants for Bute and Cowal.
- 5.3 Legal: Community Services has to demonstrate that it is meeting its obligations under Section 10 of the Social Work Scotland Act.
The grant allocation is consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of Argyll and Bute Council.

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