



Overton Playcentre CIO

Patron – Margaret Evison

Overton Playcentre CIO Grant Application to Overton Community Council Community Chest.

To give some background to what we have achieved over the last few months during this current crisis.

We had to close the Playcentre Building and furloughed many staff during lockdown but are proud to have provided Keyworker wrap around care - breakfast club and after school club in the school - supporting the school staff and critical worker families throughout the lockdown period from March to July. After which we were able to open Holiday Club providing care for children of Critical workers and other families too including vulnerable children under the Rainbow Scheme.

Financially: we are currently in the position of trying to keep our staff and children and families safe during the Covid Pandemic which means that at times we need to increase the staffing levels to keep both settings open where we would have put them together to save costs. We have lower numbers of children for a number of reasons including; bubbles of children in line with school; self isolation due to Covid; parents changing their work patterns and working from home so that temporarily they do not need wrap around care; People not sending their young children in due to Covid worries, amongst other reasons. We also have higher costs due to extra cleaning needs; concerns of heating during winter but still keeping high levels of ventilation for example. We are changing over our payment system so that parents have to pay in advance so that we have the money in before the children attend to be able to pay the staff wages. And we have had to buy new software system to be able to do this. We have had many of our staff on furlough and some will have to use the new scheme as well. We have not replaced two staff who have left to other jobs/ careers; another of our staff has decided to take unpaid leave of absence until things change. We are doing all we can to keep costs down, increase numbers attending (including working with other businesses in the village) and look for finance through grants as our usual fundraising streams of social events are not going ahead currently so changing our fundraising type is also on our agenda.

Therefore, in the current Covid crisis that we are all facing, Overton Playcentre is applying for a Community chest grant to provide an outside waiting area for parents dropping off and collecting their child and outdoor warm winter clothing for our staff.



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We are applying for Warm winter clothing for staff to support our staff wellbeing. Warm waterproof coats, hats and gloves. To minimise cross contaminations as part of our Covid Risk assessment, Staff need to change into their uniform when coming to work and out of it again when going home so that the virus does not come from home to work or from work to home. But as the weather has been getting colder we have realised that staff need to have two coats as well, one for work that stays at work and one that comes and goes home. Overton Playcentre originally bought each staff member a 'starter pack' of uniform – a top and a hoodie when the uniform was introduced a couple of years ago. Staff then need to buy more uniform to cope with their needs. However, we are not currently in the position to provide warm winter outer layers without grant funding.

The advice is for children to play outside as much as possible and is on our risk assessment – for instance for the whole of the summer and September the children were only allowed into the building to play 5 times during persistent rain. Staff can be actively encouraged to remain outside longer during the colder weather for their safety and the children's safety if they are provided with the right clothing for the conditions. If OCC could provide a grant for coats, hats and gloves for all members of staff this would be of huge benefit in keeping our risk to Covid lower as well as supporting our staff wellbeing.

Total Cost = £543.71 from Sarah's in Penley who deal with our uniform needs including the logo. Please see attached quote.

As part of our Covid Risk Assessment parents are no longer able to enter the Playcentre but drop their child off at the entrance gate to the playing area, standing 2 metres away from the gate. The staff ask each parent if everyone is well and are there are any Covid symptoms in the household, they take the child's temperature and then anti bac their hands. If everything is ok, then the child is allowed into the Playcentre grounds. This all takes place in the open. At the end of the day the parents wait for their child to be brought to them having pressed the bell which is housed in a bird box to stop it getting wet. The parent waits outside with no cover while the child collects their coat lunch box bottle bags etc then whichever staff member takes their child out stands, and tells the parent about the child's day – nappies, how much they ate what they did and any other information that the parent needs to know before saying goodbye and waving the little family home. This is all outside in the open by the gate. We did have a large outdoor umbrella which made the entrance more welcoming and gave the staff and parents respite from the sun or rain in the summer. However, after a couple of windy days in September attempting to turn the umbrella into a kite (Luckily no-one was hurt) we adjusted the risk assessment and removed the umbrella. As winter approaches we would like to apply to the Community Chest Grant for funding to put up a shelter to give cover during inclement Weather to waiting parents, staff and children.



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We have three options below due to finance

1, Pergola - Whilst this will really help during the pandemic we do not see this as a temporary measure as from a safeguarding aspect it has distinct long term advantages and also from an aesthetic entrance way to Playgroup as a whole with children being able to grow plants up the sides and flower pots in front. Please see attached Wildbanks quote for the work. Due to the large sum involved for this Overton Playcentre are looking for a contribution for this part of the grant application as we realise that asking for the whole sum is not realistic. We would have to be looking for other grants to also support this part of our project as we do not have the finances to cover this.

Total Cost

Wildbanks quote = £2,450.00 +VAT

Rob Lawrenson Quote = £1474.68 (no VAT mentioned)

(please see attached quotes)

We also have two other options available to us.

2. A functional shed with two doors one at either end that is long enough to have parents and staff 2m apart so again 4m long but as we would need to ensure that the shed will fit with sides then 2.5 metre wide. I thought this would be a cheaper option but the 4m length pushed up the price.

Total = £1613 From Regency Timber Buildings in Penley please see attached quote

3. Buying a cloth and metal gazebo structure tying it down somehow and replacing regularly throughout the winter as it gets destroyed by the elements.

Cost each time

Argos pop up £170 for a 3mx3m weather resistant (not to be used in high winds)

Amazon pop up £149.12 for a 3m x 4m. (As accessed on Thursday 29th October 2020)

When looking for quotes we have gone as local as we can to try to support other business in Overton. We phoned Timber Direct Ltd who advised us. But also having looked on the internet for instance for sheds where we found that sheds the length we need are of a similar basic price to the one quoted but would need levelling and putting up and currently we are having difficulty finding volunteers that can work together within the regulations and that actually have the skills to put up things like this.

We really hope that Overton Community Council will be able to support us to continue to deliver a much needed childcare service within Overton for those children and families that



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need us including critical workers in what is an increasingly difficult situation to predict and manage for the next 6 months plus.