

Appendix N.

Background or 'Project Specifics' – Application MF023/T2

To establish a Forest School Club for vulnerable children at Crynallt Primary school.

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services' and to build upon an earlier pilot study.

The funding will be used to appoint Forest School Practitioners, train staff members as Leaders, establish outdoor Forest school amenities and resources and provide waterproof suits. The intention would be to run Forest school during the Easter holidays and school holidays on an 8 week block for identified children from the Crynallt, Gnoll and St. Joseph's Primary schools. Parents will be invited to join their child for a ½ day session at the end of the holiday Club.

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of the local Ward Members. The school has carried out extensive consultation work with parents of 50 identified pupils to establish the need for family support outside of school. Many of the children experience poverty or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Of the parents surveyed 100% said that they would like to see a Forest School Club established.

The benefits of the Forest school are many as being outdoors not only increases physical activity levels and emotional well-being but allows a connection with the environment and nature. Research has shown that the social skills associated with developing a lifelong love of the great outdoors helps to enhance self- esteem and self – confidence and the building of a stronger family unit at home.

The scheme has no further financial implications for NPTCBC as the Club will continue running through the trained volunteer staff members. The resources purchased from the Members Fund will be available for future Club sessions. Long term (from September 2022) the Club will be funded from the Pupil Deprivation Grant.

Recommendations

The project is valued at £4,977, which is the full cost of the two practitioners, staff training and materials. The Applicants, Councillor John Warman and Councillor Adam Mc Grath would wish to fund this project equally (£2,488.50) from their Members Fund allocation.

The project proposal is recommended for approval and financial support under the Members Community Fund.