

# North Yorkshire Council

## Corporate Director Community Development

24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### Library service - Slipper Socials - Grant application request

#### Report of the Corporate Director Community Development

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek approval for the submission of an application for funding of £8,500 from the Director of Community Development in consultation with the Assistant Director Resources for Community Development.

#### **2.0 SUMMARY**

2.1 North Yorkshire Library Service is proposing to bid for funding to deliver a series of ten 'Slipper Socials' aimed at supporting older people to live in their own homes for longer.

#### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 North Yorkshire Library Service would like to bid for funding to deliver a series of ten 'Slipper Socials' aimed at supporting older people to live in their own homes for longer. For many older people, who may be mentally fit but physically frail, having a fall may result in a loss of independence. Research has shown that one of the most common causes of falls by older people are loose, worn, or backless slippers.

The funding would be used to purchase anti-slip slippers to help prevent falls and to deliver a series of 'events, bringing together partners offering advice and guidance to older people.

This project will deliver against the national Health and Wellbeing Universal Offer for libraries, promoting healthy living by providing self-management support and engagement opportunities.

#### **4.0 GRANT APPLICATION FOR SLIPPER SOCIALS**

4.1 North Yorkshire Libraries first ran Slipper Social events in the Spring 2022 with many customers commenting on how wonderful they were. The social aspect was as well received as the free slippers with many people staying on, drinking tea and coffee and chatting with each other and the partners present. We have had requests to put on more events.

As well as gifting anti-slip slippers to attendees, local library staff and volunteers will promote regular library activities, and clubs and societies in the area, to help combat loneliness and isolation. Events will be delivered in partnership with a number of organisations that provide support and advice to older residents.

We will deliver these events, in libraries, with other organisations including North Yorkshire Sport and with directorate colleagues in Leisure and in Culture. This will give attendees an opportunity to learn about the benefits of keeping physically active and to participate in creative activities that can benefit wider wellbeing. Other partners will be invited to the socials to provide advice on how to stay well and safe. These may include Age Concern, the NY Living Well team, Trading Standards, NY

Police, NY Fire and Rescue Service, Warm and Well North Yorkshire, Reach and Respond, Carers Plus and other local organisations providing support and advice to older residents.

This project will deliver against the national Health and Wellbeing Universal Offer for libraries, promoting healthy living by providing self-management support and engagement opportunities.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES**

5.1 Publicity from previous events has resulted in requests to roll out activities across other libraries. At a recent meeting of the Age Friendly Network a request was received from the Northallerton Age Friendly Forum for a slipper social event in their community.

## **6.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

6.1 Health and wellbeing: People are supported to have a good quality of life and enjoy active and healthy lifestyles.

## **7.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

7.1 The model has been successfully delivered previously. No alternatives have been considered.

## **8.0 IMPACT ON OTHER SERVICES/ORGANISATIONS**

8.1 Other services will be invited to participate as partners.

## **9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no ongoing financial implications for the service beyond the period covered by the grant.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None

**11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS** 11.1 The events will be targeted at older people and aimed at supporting independent living and promoting healthy lifestyles.

## **12.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 None

## **13.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 The events will include partners providing advice and guidance in community safety.

## **14.0 CONCLUSIONS**

14.1 There is an opportunity to apply to Arts Council England and benefit from funding ring-fenced to Library Universal Offers projects. The Slipper Social model is tried and tested and has delivered positive outcomes for participants and partner organisations.

## **15.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

15.1 If successful, the application for funding will enable the continued delivery of a series of slipper social events aimed at falls prevention, and other health and wellbeing interventions aimed at older people. It will also create opportunities for partnership working with external organisations and other Council services.

**16.0 RECOMMENDATION(S) (MANDATORY)**

- i) That the Corporate Director of Community Development in consultation with the Assistant Director Resources for Community Development as sub delegated by the Corporate Director of Resources, approve the submission of the grant of £8,500 to Arts Council England.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

*None*

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24 July 2024*

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Presenter of Report – Hazel Smith, Head of Libraries*

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.