

UKSPF Training Grant Case Study:

Winsford Youth & Community Forum



This small charity has grown over the last 4 years. They deliver a range of targeted support to the local community. They have recently worked hard with Cheshire West and Chester Council to secure a 35-year lease on their community centre set in the heart of Winsford. New Images Youth & Community Centre is an old building and therefore needs some ‘tlc’ to bring some vitality and to also show the community that there is an invested interested in providing this local community hub.

Due to the growth of the organisation, it has become a consistent challenge to find the capacity to identify potential funders and write and submit numerous bids due to our expansion of the business. Help and support was required to support the Senior Management Team and Trustee’s to co-ordinate and support the submittal of identified funding sources to support WYCF with applications for larger funding.

How has the training grant benefited you?

“We have been working with West Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, and they shared the opportunity of applying for funding through the UKSPF. This funding if successful would support an independent grant funding expert to support us to apply for funding in a co-ordinated that would support our medium and long term sustainability.

We found the whole process of the application process to be streamline, co-ordinated and user friendly with both clear instructions and the opportunity to discuss with designated staff members from the Chamber of Commerce who support the application. The application form was not onerous but asked concise questions, the submittal and grant decision making was a flawless and quick process.

We were over the moon when we received notification that we were successful with our application. The funding of £2000 has enabled us to work with a local consultancy, Grant Funding Skills Ltd to write 3 funding applications that will support our organisation in its sustainable growth. We are still awaiting on the outcomes of 2 of these applications and these should be with us by the beginning of spring”.

However, an early Christmas present for the Forum was notification just before the Christmas break that we had been successful in an application to WREN (FCC).

WYCF have been awarded a sum of £100,000 that will contribute to a new roof for the community centre. This is not only very much needed for the centre but gives a clear message to the community of Winsford to foster a sense of belonging, provides many opportunities that promote recreational activities, promotes health and wellness and support economic developments and works towards building a stronger and more vibrant community.

“Securing this generous funding has been a game-changer for our small charity. With these resources, we will be able to expand our community programs, provide essential services to those in need, and create a lasting positive impact in our local area. This support has truly empowered us to make a difference and strengthen our community's resilience.

We are most grateful and thankful to Cheshire West & Chester Council and Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce of providing us with this opportunity to apply for funding and the support that it has given our organisation”.

- **Debbie Cragg, Executive Director**