



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Community grant application form - part A

Please ensure you complete all of this form and Part B and send:

- forms A and B
- your organisation's last set of accounts
- the most recent bank statement

Also sending details of last three years' income in response to Section 5 to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk.

1. About your organisation

Name of the organisation requesting the grant

Abingdon DAMASCUS* Youth Project (**ADYP**)
*Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

We work with young people aged 10 to 18. The focus of our work has been with core target groups in the Town and South Abingdon and the larger DAMASCUS villages. Young people in our core groups manifest risky behaviours including self-harm and occasional low-level crime which, sometimes, can escalate. They tend to lead unhealthy lifestyles as a result of a low sense of self-worth and experience huge social anxiety and, in some cases, suicidal ideation. They are in and out of education, training, or employment.

We support them to grow their positive mental wellbeing; make positive life choices and live sociably within their community. Youth workers provide empathetic but empowering support, knowledge and make available opportunities for young people to develop and apply mature social-emotional skills, positive attitudes towards self, school and others and foster a sense of belonging in the wider community.

Our starting point is grassroots street work - it builds trusting relationships on young people's terms and space and informs early needs analyses to design bespoke preventative interventions.

Our **inter-generational work** is a key tool to increasing community cohesion which in turn builds strong supportive communities around young people and removes the fear of intimidation felt by other residents in spaces where young people hang out – particularly around shops and parks where large groups of young people gather.

We forge links with schools and multi-agency (including police) to ensure holistic support for young people.

As an AQA-accredited centre we can award certificates to young people, for their volunteering in social action and youth leadership, which are recognized by employers.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

Abingdon Integrated Youth Support Project (AIYSP) is an ongoing project. We are working in collaboration with Abingdon Town Council (ATC) and The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) to facilitate Abingdon Town Council meet one its priorities namely: *'To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity'*.

Our target group, for this ATC priority, is young people living in Abingdon and aged between 10 and 19. Although no young person, in that age group, is excluded from participating, our focus is on those who are at greater risk of experiencing physical or emotional harm and/or experiencing poor outcomes because of one or more adverse factors in their lives and they feel alienated from the community at large.

There are two main strands to our work:

(a) Building trusting relationships with young people and meeting their needs with the objective that they feel they have the agency to make positive life choices and feel engaged within the community;

The starting point for this, is street work where we meet young people in their spaces. We have also established open access and targeted youth provision to address needs and develop agency. Where needs are picked up targeted intervention is provided – this maybe for building positive mental health, accessing education, employment or training, or emotional support in dealing with relationship issues (family, friendship, bullying etc.). This work is ongoing and will continue into Year 3 of the project.

(b) Ensuring that the diverse voices of young people (particularly those most disadvantaged) are heard at all levels of policy making within Abingdon Town Council and other service providers.

Year 1 was focussed on enabling a small group of young people to design and carry out a survey of young people in Abingdon, on issues that were important to them; Year 2 has focussed on analysing the survey – highlighting the headline findings on safety and mental health; holding discussions with the Abingdon Town Councillors. These discussions will carry through in to Y3 as well as other focus groups of young people will debate the issues to feedback to Abingdon Town Councillors. We would work towards an outcome where both Town Council and hardly-reached young people have the confidence to engage with each other, on common community issues to promote a cohesive and enabling environment in Abingdon.

As we have now established the concept of young people engaging with Town Councillors, in Year 3 we plan to continue building on that initial engagement with town councillors (particularly as it is a new council) and also strengthen links with other organisations in Abingdon. We will support young people to plan and deliver a social action project that will involve other organisations in Abingdon. This will embed a sustainable Abingdon-wide multiservice collaboration to offer earlier, more coherent support, which is streamlined to meet the needs of all Abingdon young people (age 10 to 19). The specifics of the project will be worked on with the young people and the Town Council.

What is the total cost of the project

£15,725 for 2023/24

How much grant are you seeking

£12,500 for 2023/24

What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant

80%

How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project

ADYP does not employ a manager, the trustees do all the management including oversight of the work, managing staff, and raising funds. This ensures that all funds raised are targeted at work with young people. The annual in-kind value of this contribution is about £17,280 at £20/hour which has **not** been pro-rata included in the total cost of this project.

Additional funds are raised from Community Safety Partnership and our reserves.

Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down

2023/24

Staff costs – 2.5 man-days per week at £17/hour for 50 weeks.

Tasks undertaken:

- Planning and Coordination
- Street and gazebo work,
- Targeted 1-2-1 work (re-engaging with education, employment, training as well as support with anxiety and emotional needs generated from personal issues.
- Small Group work shops
- Building the Holistic Model (expanding the partnership)
- Community Events
- Enabling Youth Voices
- Evaluation and Reporting and liaison with ATC

Our safeguarding policy does not permit lone working by the staff and hence there are at least two staff present during face-to-face work. However, engagement in South Abingdon can be with groups of up to 35 young people at a time so we deploy at least three staff and sometimes four staff there. Where we provide 1-2-1 support, this is done with permission and in a public place.

What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years

Please see accompanying document 'ADYP income 2019 -2022' which gives the details of our income over the last three years.

3. Local benefit.

How many people take part in your organisation's activities? Give local branch numbers if you are a national organisation.

As members	Volunteers who support young people = 30
As recipients	Young people aged between 10 and 18 – approximately 250 / year and this does not include young people engaged through one-off school workshop deliveries.

Please fill in the table below relating to numbers of members and/or recipients falling into each category. Estimates are acceptable provided an “e” is put after the figure.

Age profile	0-16	16-65	over 65
- Members (volunteers)		25	5
- Recipients	175e	75e	

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members (volunteers)	2	18
- Recipients	125e	125e

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members (volunteers)			30
- Recipients	60e	125e	125

4. Vision and objectives

Please explain how your project will meet the town council’s vision and objectives, which are set out below. **You do not need to respond to each point** but it is important that your project addresses the town council’s vision and at least one objectives.

4a. Vision

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community, the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

Our project aligns with the vision in the following respects:

1. Our work with our core group of young people living in Abingdon, addresses the needs of extremely vulnerable young people who feel disconnected and disengaged from the wider community of Abingdon.
2. Our activities promote wellbeing through building young people’s sense of self-worth and confidence. Our intergenerational work promotes community cohesion and breaks down barriers and thus increasing the sense of safety for both young and old.
3. Through partnership working with organisations such as One Planet and Stonehill Gardens we encourage young people to appreciate their stewardship of their environment.

4b. Objectives

1. **To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency**
2. **To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future**
3. **To manage the Council’s assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future**
4. **To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity**

	<p>The bulk of our work focuses on delivering on this objective. To date we have been able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established trusting relationships • Better understanding of young people’s needs • Greater sense of belonging • Created safe places for young people in Abingdon • Young people feel heard and listened too • Stronger partnerships in Town (Police, Mind, Library, Poundland) • Increased communication with Abingdon Town Council

5. Other/previous grant awards

Please provide details of any grant awards you have received from the town council, other councils or large organisations that you have received in the past three years

We have received grants from the DAMASCUS Parish Councils and the parochial charities for our work in the villages; for our work in Abingdon, we have received grants from Abingdon Town Council. We also apply to other grant-giving bodies for work across Abingdon and the villages. The largest grant we have sought, in the last three years, and been awarded has been £31,160 in 2019/20 from the Logan Foundation. Please see accompanying document 'ADYP income 2019 -2022' which gives the details of our income over the last three years.

Please list any grant applications to other councils or bodies which are currently pending

None at present as all parish councils have confirmed their grants for 2023/24 for work in their parishes.

6. About your organisation

Please explain what structure your organisation has, i.e. is it a charity, a society, or another type of model

Registered Charity (Registered Charity Number 1098966)

What is the balance of your main account according to the most recent bank statement?

£42,441.99

Additional financial information

Does your organisation have any other finances held in other accounts?

Yes Caf Gold

If so, please provide full details of all your additional finances, including recent figures.

£100,340.11

If these funds are earmarked for any specific projects, please provide further information about this.

The trustees have a policy of maintaining a reserve to enable the recruitment and retention of proficient and credible youth workers in the event that no new income is received in the year. Thus, in setting a level of reserve trustees have regard to the stability of employment to staff over at least a one-year period as at the core of our work is building strong and trusting relationships with young people. The trustees are also aware of the elapsed time from applying for a long-term grant to the award of such a grant and the need to ensure that there are sufficient finances to keep the project going in the interim. Thus £80,000 are earmarked reserves as described above. The remainder is made up of grants carried over into the new financial year.

Also sent with this application (a) latest bank statement; (b) latest audited accounts 2021/22 (financial year runs from 5 May to 4 May the following year so 2022/23 account in preparation); (c) record of previous three years' income and (d) Form B