



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Large community grant application recipients annual budget report

As your organisation has in recent years received a regular grant from the town council, we would be grateful if you could provide information on how the grant is used. This information will be shared with the Community Committee to inform the forthcoming work on the budget for 2026-27.

Please complete the information below and return the form to andy.crick@abingdon.gov.uk by **Monday 27 October 2025**.

Please note that this information may be placed in the public domain.

Organisation details

Organisation name	Abingdon Damascus Youth Project (“ADYP”)
Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation with specific reference to your activities in Abingdon-on-Thames	<p>Our vision and mission is simple, we empower and give opportunities to young people to be the drivers behind positive change in order to increase their life chances through development of skills which improve their wellbeing and life chances and to transform their community through positive engagement that promotes a shared sense of belonging.</p> <p>We work in Abingdon, as a partner in the Abingdon Integrated Youth Support Project (AIYSP) which was set up by Abingdon Town Council as part of its vision to ‘develop an inclusive community’ through working ‘with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need, and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity’.</p> <p>Specifically, we are working with young people aged from 11 to 18 (and where applicable with their families) in detached locations, with a focus on the Caldecott ward in South Abingdon.</p> <p>Although the project is accessible to all young people, our core target group is young people adversely challenged by their</p>

	<p>socio-economic circumstances. They are variously disengaged from the community, succumb to negative peer pressure, lack resilience and life skills, to positively navigate personal challenges and setbacks, and engage in multiple risky behaviour. There is also a vulnerability to grooming around getting involved in drugs.</p> <p>Needs picked up through our detached street work feed into the design of our prevention and early intervention activities either with groups of young people or on an individual basis be it on youth-specific issues or personal setbacks.</p> <p>Our overall purpose is twofold (a) to work within our community, to enable young people to build their confidence and agency to lead healthy, purposeful and safe lives and make positive life choices. Through our community activities with young people, we aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give them opportunities to acquire and practise life skills; • promote social action and enthuse them to be stakeholders in their community; • ensure responsible use of communal spaces and the environment; • train young community leaders to be role models to the younger generation; • complement messages on personal education delivered within the school gates, through interactive workshops in the community. <p>This also forms a springboard for young people’s engagement with Abingdon Town Council so councillors can capture Abingdon’s diverse youth voices to inform policy making.</p> <p>In February we said goodbye to our founding trustee, Rita Atkinson, and have appointed five new trustees including, Roxy Elford, who is a former beneficiary and ADYP youth worker, ensuring continuity in our work with young people and the community.</p> <p>(b) Our intergenerational activities build understanding across the generations and helps to build community connections. This is increasingly important with the expansion of housing on the outskirts of the town, resulting in a need to promote integration of new residents into the community and minimise the risk of fear of unfamiliarity.</p>
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Financial information

Organisation budget for 2025-26 (If your financial	Our financial year runs from 5th May to 4th May.
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<p>year runs for a different period, please provide details for the relevant year which accords with the grant awarded)</p>	<p>Budget for 2025/26 is set at 60K for staffing based on a Full-time Senior Youth Worker, Part-time Senior Youth Worker and Trainee Youth Worker. This forms part of our total running costs of £100,000 per year.</p> <p>This budget has helped maintained continuity and consistency of engagement by ensuring we have skilled and trained staff which is crucial to building trusting relationships with vulnerable young people. This also indicates the level of commitment and investment we have in ensuring the welfare of vulnerable young people and their community in South Abingdon.</p> <p>Except for the Abingdon Fair and Christmas weeks, we have never missed a single session in South Abingdon.</p> <p>Trustees undertake the management of the charity and hence our overheads are minimal and less than 10% of the total budget.</p>
<p>Amount of grant received from Abingdon Town Council for 2025-26</p>	<p>£12,500</p>

Please provide your latest annual accounts with this form.

Please outline how the grant from the town council has been allocated within your organisation’s budget for the current financial year, including financial information. Please feel free to provide any relevant documents to support this report but it would be helpful if the essential information requested could be set out below to help the committee in its work.

(The box below will expand when typed into. If you are completing this form by hand, please add information on a separate sheet of paper.)

The Abingdon Town Council grant for 2024/25 is allocated to staffing costs. It supports an average of 2.5 person-days per week time spent on our South Abingdon work. We deliver weekly face to face sessions in term time and more over the holidays. Tasks include:

- 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 workshops
- Building the Holistic Model (expanding the partnership)
- Community Events
- Enabling Youth Voices
- Evaluation and Reporting and liaison with Abingdon Town Council

Engagement in South Abingdon can be with groups of up to 40 young people at a time, so we deploy at least three staff and sometimes four staff are needed. Our work is embedded in the community in South Abingdon and mostly delivered in public open spaces come rain, shine or cold. This is a strength as we are engaging with young people many of whom have unmet needs and also helps build bridges with others in the community. However, it also means being vigilant of other activities around that maybe to the detriment of young people.

Risk Assessment and deploying 'streetwise' senior experienced staff are integral to our work.

If you would like to request a grant for 2026-27, please provide details of the amount and purpose for this.

Grant requested	£12,500
Purpose of grant (please outline briefly your organisation's purpose)	<p>We will build on the links we have established with local charities and organisations to widen the offering to young people. In particular, this year we have built on our engagement with the Abingdon Arts Society, The Abingdon Bridge, Make Space, Abingdon Town Council, and the South and Vale Arts Officer to deliver a youth-led arts project in South Abingdon. This, together with workshops we have bought in covering media and podcasts, has proved successful in empowering the young people to express themselves whilst gaining creative skills.</p> <p>Through our weekly gazebo drop-ins and on the ground detached street presence across the Caldecott Recreation Ground, Reynolds Way shops and Southern Town Park, we are able to identify and build relationships with new cohorts of vulnerable young people as they come into our age range (11+ to 18). This means our experienced youth workers are accessible to those who are at risk of disengagement in their community including school and therefore at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or at risk of being vulnerable to drugs, criminal influences or sexual exploitation, to ensure early intervention activities, safeguarding and signposting where necessary to offer young people holistic, wrap-around support. Our grass roots and consistent approach mean we are truly embedded within the community and able to identify issues and put the appropriate support in place.</p> <p>For those young people who have been engaging with us for some time we develop more tailored (age appropriate) Interventions, including one-to-one support around substance misuse, healthy relationships and consent.</p> <p>Over the years we have established a culture of support in South Abingdon so that young people feel comfortable to approach staff to ask for help with a variety of issues. We even get occasional visits from those who engaged with us a few years ago and are now in need of particular help or guidance.</p> <p>Challenging oppressive attitudes and behaviours by offering alternative narratives to young people, and the community, still remains a priority for us as part of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusive ethos and policy. Issues we have noted through our</p>

	<p>current work are incidents of homophobia, antisemitism, sexism and racism which we have identified are increasing and will need targeted interventions, education, and community support to address effectively.</p> <p>The Caldecott ward in which we operate was ranked in the top 20% most deprived in England in the 2021 census results. The findings, updated with data as of 2024, highlighted a prevalence of obesity linked to poor/unhealthy diet and low activity levels of disadvantaged young people. As part of our plan for the year ahead, we will include workshops and sporting activities to help educate young people to help address issues around nutrition and exercise levels, informing the most socio-economically disadvantaged on ways to achieve good diet and exercise in the most affordable way.</p> <p>We have become aware of Community Catalysts (https://www.communitycatalysts.co.uk/) who has recently been awarded a contract by OCC to work in the area. It provides bespoke support to people aged 18+ in developing their ideas that can help local people and also be a micro business for them. Although many of our young people are under 18, it is a useful link to the older (16 – 18 age range) group to understand the support out there from them to set up a business on their own and understand (among other things) the rules and regulations that are involved. We will be developing this link further.</p>
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Signed	Roxy Elford
Date	25/10/25
Name	Roxy Elford
Position in organisation	Trustee

Please remember to provide your latest annual accounts with this form.