

Community Investment Board

Observations from Round 1 of Southend Education Trust Funding

(Autumn 2021)

The Community Investment Board were delighted to be awarded funds from the Southend Education Trust to distribute across Southend. Proposals were sought in November 2021 from across Southend to support activities that would improve the mental health of young people.

The Community Investment Board received 22 proposals from organisations (including schools) across Southend seeking a total of over £140,000 funding. The board are grateful to all those who sent in their ideas and has shared feedback with them. They were delighted to support;

1. Southend YMCA – £1,600 to support young people with 1:1 mentoring.
2. Experience Project @ Whittingham Mission – £1,000 to provide a 10 week music therapy course for young people.
3. Hamstel Junior School – £2,197 to enhance their mental health support for young people in school.
4. Blenheim School – £2,000 for resources to support young people facing mental health challenges.
5. SOSRC – £3,203 to provide resources needed to deliver the activities of a girls' group.

The board would like to share their observations from the proposals received; these are from the board and not necessarily reflective of the situation across the whole of Southend.

- Many of proposals were seeking support for younger young people, from age 4 upwards, but primarily for junior school age and teenage young people.
- There is a great need for increased funding to support projects such as those proposed; many requested the full £10,000 available and would likely deliver strong impact.
- Whilst many of the proposals worked with specific groups of young people who had faced challenging situations or circumstances, a number of the proposals were seeking support for young people which was needed even more as a result of COVID and the associated lockdowns.
- Isolation faced by young people was a key theme shared by proposers to the fund.
- Proposals varied in the number of people they were seeking to support; some were seeking to work with hundreds less intensively whilst others were planning to deliver one to one and smaller group activity.
- The need expressed seemed far greater than what statutory services could provide, long waiting lists for support and there not being capacity to support young people in education settings or through NHS services was mentioned consistently.
- Many applications were seeking to use creative and other non-clinical techniques to develop the skills of young people and their families to build their resilience.

The Board will review progress on the grants given later in 2022 and plan to reopen the next £10,000 for use in 2023 in Autumn 2022. Information on how to apply will be placed [here](#) and sent out through the SAVS weekly email and social media channels. If you have any questions in the meantime please email cib@savs-southend.co.uk or call 01702 356008 to speak with our Community Investment Fund Coordinator.