

Decision taken by: **Ward Member for Folkestone East –
Councillor Connor McConville**

Subject: Folkestone Women's Forum

Executive/non-executive decision: Non-executive

Date decision taken: 28 February 2020

Name and address of applicant(s):

Katy Lockey
210 Dover Road
Folkestone
Kent
CT19 6NJ

Name and description of project:

Take Up Space Festival – Community Project

To help fund 3 local projects as part of the wider work of the Take Up Space Festival

- 1) Radio Show project for Teenage Girls
- 2) Writing for Wellbeing project for women impacted by domestic violence
- 3) Creative expression project for women identified at risk of post-natal depression

DECISION:

To provide funding of £250 to the above project.

Reason for decision:

In our evaluations of previous years we identified where the work for the Forum and the Festival could do better to engage with diverse audiences.

The Radio project addresses engaging local teenage girls in the festival and ongoing events , in a way that will give them not just the inspiration and empowerment that experiencing the IWD festival programme will provide , but in a way that is sensitive to their needs and co-produced with the girls with their own ideas and points of view at the centre. It will foster a relationship between the school

and the curatorial team. It will give opportunity for girls to receive mentorship to develop them beyond the demands of their curriculum, and to open up opportunities for them to be involved in speaking about issues, local and political that concern them.

The Writing for Wellness project addresses engaging with women using the specific domestic violence services we have running in Shepway. Domestic violence affects women across all social demographics, so the target of this project is engaging with women who have lost confidence due to abuse they have suffered as direct result of their sex. There is no pressure on this project to produce an outcome for public showing or sharing, but the opportunity to be part of a publication, to be part of the wider festival (with festival passes for all other events) and to either share, or have their work shared on their behalf at the Women's Open Mic event as part of the festival is there. The cohort who attend these sessions will not be pressured to participate any more than they feel comfortable with.

The Maternal Arts project addresses ways to engage women with very young children with the local arts. Many mothers find that when their babies are young they are left out of women's programming, the assumption is made that they can leave their children behind, or make use of a creche. In previous years at the WOW festival and Women Rising, we have endeavoured to include sessions that welcome children. We would like to build on this work and make opportunities for local mothers with young children to be part of the fabric of the festival, by leading their own project.


The Maternal Arts project also hopes to make a tangible difference for the Folkestone women who participate. Giving creative tools for self expression and communication the project addresses pre and postnatal isolation, changes of identity and circumstances. It plans to build a cohort of women who will not just benefit from the creative sessions, but who will also benefit from the ongoing peer support that will grow as they work together.

Declarations or disclosable pecuniary interest/any other significant interest:

None

The decision set out above was made by me.

Signed:



**Councillor Connor McConville
Folkestone East**

28 February 2020