

Decision taken by: **Ward Member for Cheriton – Councillor
Rebecca Shoob**

Subject: Living Words Arts

Executive/non-executive decision: Non-executive

Date decision taken: 21 February 2020

Name and address of applicant(s):

Artistic Director
Glassworks,
Mill Bay,
Folkestone
CT20 1JG

Name and description of project:

Words from the Lower East Side –

The grant will pay for the creation of 4 -6 podcasts and the launch of Words from the Lower East Side podcasts.

This a new podcast about the people of Folkestone, for the people of Folkestone. At a time when the town faces a new phase of regeneration –with increasing numbers of people who are comfortable with accessing the arts and making their voices heard moving in – we are creating this flagship podcast to keep **all** of our voices on the airwaves!

DECISION:

To provide funding of £300 to the above project.

Reason for decision:

In our project work around mental health and isolation we have found that we are constantly having to turn people away who would like to take part in one of our projects. People trust us as an organisation, and they know we have integrity in

helping people tell their story and be heard. We are trusted to co-create work of quality, and we are known to be part of the town.

With the town's highest deprivation area being cheek by jowl with the new development, the friction of the haves and the have nots needs to be given voice – so we can hear and then see each other behind the demographics/stereotype. We will engage people not bound by accessing a building but face to face. Our aim is that participants be positively affected through the validation and empowerment one experiences through quality arts engagement. And that listeners share, connect and are encouraged to reengage with the beautiful diversity in our town.

We have an increasing volunteer base who have joined us after involvement in our mental health work, and this project is one all of these volunteers would like to participate in either behind or in front of the mic. This project also enables us to invest in our young team, by training English Lit graduate Olivia Franklin, who has returned home to Folkestone following a degree at Kings in London.

Declarations or disclosable pecuniary interest/any other significant interest:

None

The decision set out above was made by me.



Signed:

21 February 2020

**Councillor Rebecca Shoob
Cheriton**

