

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH 2025

Item 13. Application from a charity for a Council grant.

Introduction

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to “incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.....”. Section 137 was amended by the **Local Government and Housing Act 1989 s 36** so that any expenditure must be commensurate with the benefit to the community. The amount for 2025/26 is £11.10 per elector on April 1st 2025. The Parish of Copythorne has circa 2250 electors. Any expenditure under section 137 must be recorded in the minutes and identified as such in the accounts.

Included within the 2025/26 budget was a sum of £500 in respect of small grants to be awarded by the Parish Council to support the work of local organisations. So far in 2025/26, the Parish Council has awarded a £500 grant leaving none of the original £500 budget remaining.

I have recently received one application. Details of the application to be considered are set out below:-

Life Education Wessex

The charity is seeking an unspecified grant amount towards the cost of providing three days of subsidised health and wellbeing workshops to the 300+ children attending Bartley Junior School. Whilst the charity is based outside of the parish it operates within Hampshire and the workshops it is subsidising benefits the residents of the parish.

Recent Grant History

The charity has never received a grant from the Parish Council.

Summary

Councillors are invited to consider the merits of the above application, decide whether or not they wish to support it and if so to agree on the level of grant awarded.

£500 of section 137 grants has been awarded so far in 2025/26. No section 137 grants were awarded in 2024/25. Whilst section 137 funding cannot be carried over from previous years, members could choose to increase the 2025/26 budget by transferring funds from the £500 Contingency line of the 2025/26 budget or from the Council's General Reserve to provide a grant.

David Rigby

Clerk/R F O to Copythorne Parish Council

August 29th 2025

Date... August 19th 2025



Life Education

Wessex & Thames Valley

Helping children make healthy choices

2 Barnes Croft
Coles Lane
Milborne St Andrew
Blandford Forum
DT11 0LG
01258 837417
enquiries@lifeeducationwessex.org.uk
www.lifeeducationwessex.org.uk

Patrons:
Susan Hampshire CBE
Tracy Edwards MBE
Martin Baker QPM
Erin Kennedy OBE

President:
Sir John Evans QPM DL

Vice Presidents:
David Foot
Diana Sale

Chairman:
Gary Hepburn

Vice Chairman:
Andrew Lovell

Company Secretary:
Paul Petrides

19/08/25

Copythorne PC

Dear Councillors

We are writing to request that you kindly consider Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley (LEW&TV) for a grant towards our work of providing health and wellbeing workshops to approximately 337 children at Bartley CofE Junior School on the 13/10/25 for 3 day(s).

Background

LEW&TV is a local not for profit children's charity delivering vital workshops in primary schools for children aged 3 to 11. We are linked to the national charity Coram, the leading children's charity for Health & Drug education in the UK.

Our mission is to empower children and young people to make safe, healthy, and informed life choices. We focus on the development of the whole person, promoting physical, emotional, and social well-being.

Costs and funding

The cost to deliver our project into schools is £540 per day; schools contribute approximately 70% of the cost, so we need to fundraise for the shortfall. We will be delivering workshops to the school for 3 days, which equates to a shortfall of **£830**. We do not expect your Council to contribute the whole of the difference, but obviously that would be fantastic if you were able. Nevertheless, any contribution you could make would make a real difference to outcomes for local children and families.

Subsidising the cost to the school means that we can reach more children with our message of healthy living.

We receive no direct government funding so we hope that you will be able to help us change these outcomes for our children. With your donation, we can give more children the opportunity to benefit from our 'skills for life' programme, helping to keep them safe, healthy, happy and achieving their very best.

100% of staff agreed that the workshops were well delivered
100% of staff agreed that the workshops met children's needs
100% of staff would recommend Coram Life Education & SCARF to another school

We believe that early intervention education lays the foundations to key life skills for lifelong learning, behaviour, and social & emotional health thus reducing gaps in inequality.

The need

- 41% of boys and 35% of girls aged 10-11 were either overweight or obese (5)
- 31% of pupils reported that they had been offered drugs (2)
- 9% of children aged 8-15 have ever used e-cigarettes or vaping devices (1)
- 20% of children aged 8-16 were identified as having a probable mental disorder (4)
- 28% of 8-11 year olds who go online say they have seen something worrying or nasty (3)

1. Health Survey for England 2021
2. Smoking, drinking and drug use amount young people in England 2022
3. OFCOM Media use and attitude report 2024
4. Mental Health of children and young people in England 2023
5. Office of health improvement and disparities 2021/2022

Reg. Charity No. 1071094. A company limited by Guarantee.
Registered in England No. 3585850
Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley is a trading name of Life Education Wessex

coram 
Life Education | Delivery Partner

Our work

We deliver workshops with highly trained educators in schools around these current topics:

1. **Physical Health and Wellbeing:** drug education, nutrition, exercise, personal health choices
2. **Mental Wellbeing:** '5 ways to wellbeing', resilience, self-worth and positive mental attitude
3. **Online Behaviours:** online safety, digital literacy and managing on and offline behaviours
4. **Relationship Education:** bullying, tolerance, diversity, personal boundaries and healthy relationships with their peers and the wider community.

Research shows that **children who have better health and emotional well-being do better in life.**

Quotes from children

- "I cannot choose a favourite part. I liked it all so much".
- "We all have different talents, and everyone is special".
- "I think it is really important to learn about not having too much screen time".
- "Happiness is good".
- "I listened to some of the suggestions for mental health."
- "I know I can make my own decisions and to stand up for what I think."
- "It will help me to say no; make my own decisions; be more resilient; be more assertive and have more confidence in myself."
- "We learnt how to look after our body, stay healthy and help people."



"I know firsthand how important this work is from the little ones in Reception who are figuring out what makes them who they are, helping them with their emotions and self-regulating, all the way up to year 6 where they are learning about health and drug education. In this ever-changing world this work is so important to help educate these young minds. Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley make a huge difference in the community, and it wouldn't be possible without their fundraising efforts." **Erin Kennedy OBE, Trustee for Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley, Para Olympian & World Champion**

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that ***you will be able to help your local children make healthy choices.***

Yours sincerely,

John Clements
Administrative Assistant
john@lifeeducationwessex.org.uk

For further details visit:

www.lifeeducationwessex.org.uk

or click

[Our latest accounts 2023-24](#)

[Annual overview 2023-24](#)

[Outcomes Evaluation 2023-24.](#)