



PAVO Grants Panel

**July 11th and 17th 2012
Wyeside Arts Centre**



Initial Contact

PAVO (Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations) approached the forum to see if they would make up a grant selection panel to look at applications sent in to PAVO by organisations that are young person focussed and ultimately help to allocate the funds to the successful organisations. In the discussions that followed, an agreement of responsibilities was drawn up and the process began.

Responsibilities arrangement

PAVO will be responsible for:	Powys Youth Forum will be responsible for:
	Inviting a minimum of 4 young people from the Youth Forum to join the Youth-led grants panel.
Advertising Youth-led grants scheme to the voluntary and community sector.	
In agreement with PCC, setting a timetable for the receipt of applications and panel training and panel meeting(s).	Agreeing a timetable for the Youth-led grants programme.
In agreement with PCC, organising a training session for panel members. PAVO will book a suitable venue, pay for catering, provide copies of all training materials and re-imburse PCC for panel members' travel costs.	Agreeing a suitable time and venue for training. Send invitations to panel members and arrange travel for them.
Designing and reproducing application forms and guidance notes.	
Receiving grant applications and making and raising any initial queries with applicants.	
Sending copies (either by mail or email) of all properly received applications to each panel member, in advance (two weeks?) of the meeting, with score sheets.	Providing contact details for panel members so that applications can be sent to them.
In agreement with PCC, organise a Panel Meeting(s). PAVO will book a suitable venue, pay for catering and re-imburse PCC for panel members' travel costs.	Agreeing Panel meeting date(s) and venue. Inviting panel members to the meeting and arrange travel for them. Encouraging panel members' attendance so that there is a group of four.

PAVO staff officer will keep a record of the Panel Meeting attendance and decisions.	
PAVO will process and distribute grant payments to applicants and all correspondence to grant applicants. PAVO reserves the right to alter grant payment decisions dependent on actual funding available.	
PAVO will meet all GwirVol funding requirements.	

A number of Forum members were interested and due to the geography of Powys it was decided that we would just use members from the south for this round of applications.

The Training

A venue in Builth Wells was decided and on the evening of July 11th 2012 Lucia, Caitlin, Sophie and Jack arrived at the Wyeseide Arts centre for their training. They had all come straight from school so cake and drinks were provided to get things started. Jean Garner from PAVO then took the group through the grant application process and looked at some dummy applications. They soon got into the flow of things and identified any good points as well as short comings in the applications. They learned that the funding has been provided to County Voluntary Council's (PAVO) by GwirVol. GwirVol is a Welsh Government initiative based on recommendations from the Russell Commission. The Russell Commission was established in 2005 to develop a new national framework for youth action and engagement. This award is called:

Youth Opportunities Bursary

The application must be submitted by a young person, aged 14-25 years old. Individuals and groups can apply for grants in the region of £250. The application form may be filled in or other methods of answering the questions will be accepted e.g. Video, DVD.

Criteria

Project proposals must demonstrate:

- How organisations will involve young people aged 14 - 25 in developing their voluntary activities. A minimum of 4 young people, aged 14 - 25 need to be involved when submitting a Youth Led Grant Scheme application but the project can involve anyone.
- How they will deliver new, high quality volunteering experiences
- How they will approach and attract young people, particularly those that are disadvantaged or excluded.

All applications will be considered but preference will be given to applications from:

- Communities First areas
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities
- People with physical or learning disabilities
- Youth led volunteering opportunities e.g. applications submitted by young people rather than a Youth Worker applying to involve young people
- Smaller organisations



The Panel Meeting

Since the training was completed, the group got together on the following Tuesday and looked at 6 applications from a broad variety of groups. A couple of organisations needed to send in further information as their application was not thorough enough. One organisation had to repeat their application with young people more directly involved and the others received some if not all of the funded they applied for. The whole evening was very successful and both Jean Garner from PAVO and myself thought that the panel were very professional and thorough in their process. The outcomes were very fair and as a result of that evenings work, the panel have allocated in the region of £3000 to a variety of youth led organisations.



Well done to all involved and PAVO look forward to meeting with the panel when the next round of applications are in in the coming few months. As long as the cake keeps flowing, the forum keeps producing excellent work.