CVC Hub - Repair Café

Action plan:

Timeline:

We aim to commence this project after Easter, with a series of volunteer engagement and training events, leading to our first Repair Café provisionally on Saturday 29 April.

Budget:

Whilst this is taking place in a premises that we lease (only since July 2022), we are in the process of developing activity in the space so we anticipate using some of the funding to cover the cost of Light & Heat. This will account for £400 of the initial £1,400.

The remaining £1,000 will be used to purchase tools, storage and safety equipment according to need. This will include a metal fire proof and lockable Storage Cupboard and appropriate PPE for volunteers. With the help of the Share and Repair Network – part of Circular Communities Scotland – we are engaging with the Repair Café in Glasgow that has been established for some time, to ascertain the actual tools we'll need, however we anticipate at least requiring a Soldering Kit and PAT Machine, plus screwdriver sets. It is worth noting that two lead volunteers are already PAT qualified, and through the Share and Repair Network, we can train 2 further volunteers for free. Depending on what funding remains, we will explore purchasing some consumable small parts eg plugs and fuses.

Impact:

We want the CVC Hub to be a space that can be used both as a church centre and a community hub, and it's this hybrid space at the heart of the community that we want to focus on and grow. We aim to do this through building on the relationships developed over the last 3 years with families, communities and organisations, to bring a range of self-managed or collaborative activities and support programmes to the CVC Hub that meet the needs of local families and fill gaps in local provision or that can be delivered with a different perspective.

Ultimately, we want the CVC Hub to be a place that people of all ages can freely come, feel safe, and receive support – practically and pastorally – according to their needs. The Repair Café is just one part of the jigsaw of activities required to achieve this aim.

We have developed a range of relationships with other churches and community focused projects, none of whom carry out this kind of activity but those we have initially spoken with are very supportive of it. We will collaborate as appropriate with them on sourcing volunteers, and on advertising the availability of the provision. We also have a strong social media presence and will share about the Repair Café on there.

Ultimately, the Repair Café will be for all ages and genders without prejudice. As it develops, we will explore the training potential for all people including those furthest from the job market, but especially for teenagers, many of whom hang around within the Shopping centre that the CVC Hub is based during an evening. Providing something meaningful for them to do, with appropriate safeguarding in place, will be hugely beneficial for the whole community.

We aim to involve up to 12 volunteers and support up to 50 people with repaired items in year 1.

Location:

The Repair Café will take place within the CVC Hub which is located in The Centre, Cumbernauld. This is our own leased unit so usage is not an issue. We are just ensuring that our insurance cover is adequate for this activity and is annotated appropriately.