

PRESS RELEASE

Mid- Devon's Radio Youth Crew Takes to the Air

Young people in mid-Devon will soon be getting their voice heard on the air-waves, thanks to a grant of £5,175 from the Local Network Fund for Children and Young People awarded by Tiverton based charity, Devon Community Foundation.

Youth Crew, co-ordinated by Tiverton's Involve volunteer centre, is giving young people across the Culme Valley a chance to create its own radio programmes which will include their news and views on local issues and music from local bands.

The project follows a successful pilot programme last year which saw young people from Willand, Cullumpton and Bradninch prepare a 30 minute Newsround style piece with local music which was broadcast on Culm Valley FM. Now the group of about 35 want to broadcast on a regular basis via the internet and downloadable podcasts – or even a spot on local radio.

Adrian Bull who is co-ordinating the project explains, "This is a great way to give young people a voice. They get to plan the content of the broadcast, learn the journalistic and technical skills they need to put it together and air their views on issues that are affecting young people in Mid-Devon today.

"It's a great way of reaching out to and bonding with young people in isolated rural areas and giving them a focus for positive activity. We're delighted with the grant which has helped us to transform the young peoples' idea into a reality."

The group is just one of 668 groups across Devon which has shared in £3.1 million from the Local Network Fund for Children & Young People over the last four years.

In Mid-Devon itself, Devon Community Foundation (which administers the Fund) has made over 86 grants totalling £376,420, supporting everything from play equipment and youth clubs to drama and arts groups and from mediation and counselling to sports activities.

Now it is calling for voluntary and community groups helping children and young people in Mid-Devon to come forward to share in the final £1 million available from the Fund.

Melanie McLoughlin, Director of Devon Community Foundation explains, "This is the last year that money from the Local Network Fund will be available so

we're urging groups to come forward to make an application as soon as possible.

“Young people and children in Mid-Devon often have difficulty in getting access to facilities and support due to the isolated nature of many of the communities.

“For young people, the lack of opportunities available can lead to a reliance on drink, drugs or turning to anti-social behaviour, so the work of voluntary and community groups in providing a positive alternative and support is vital.

“Local, grass-roots groups tend to have the most in-sight into what's needed to tackle specific problems in their areas, which why we are keen to hear from small groups working in their local communities who need funds to support their work with disadvantaged and disabled children and young people.”

The application process is much simpler and quicker than lengthy lottery or other funding applications and help is on hand from our outreach workers to fill in the forms and turn ideas into reality.

Grants of between £250 and £7,000 are available and money can come through in as little as 10 weeks.

Those community and voluntary groups who want to run summer playschemes or activities need to get their applications in by the end of April to receive confirmation of grants by the beginning of June, or by the end of May to find out by the beginning of July.

A free workshop for those wanting to make an application will be held in Tiverton on May 22nd.

Any groups interested in applying for a grant need to call 0845 113 0161 for an application form or get in touch with Devon Community Foundation on 01884 235887 or email vicky@devoncf.com for help with the application or if they want to attend the workshop.

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- Press enquiries to Sarah Gunn on 01752 509581

Editors Notes:

What Is Devon Community Foundation?

Devon Community Foundation is one of 60 Foundations which exist across the UK and which act as a way of matching up donors with local causes which really matter to them. Between them they have built up an endowment fund of over £100 million and they make almost £50 million in grants each year.

Donors can be the public sector (as with the Local Network Fund), individual philanthropists, businesses or existing charities. Using its expert knowledge of local issues and groups, the Foundation helps donors to have more impact and give effectively – without having to deal with lots of paperwork.

Devon Community Foundation recently became one of only five in the UK to receive the new quality accreditation standard from the UK Community Foundation Network, recognising it as an expert in getting money right into the heart of local communities and providing an excellent service to donors.

Last year it distributed £1 million in grants to over 250 smaller community and voluntary groups, helping to provide services and support to the homeless, young carers, the disabled and the elderly and to keep playgroups, youth clubs and social clubs going throughout Devon.

For more information about becoming a donor call Jim Morrison on 0770 331 7759.

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