



## Crawley County Local Committee Community Initiative Fund application



**CLC Reference:** 295/C

**Local Councillor:** Brenda Smith

**Status:** Fundraising Stage

**Project Cost:** £5,341.00 (as found under crowdfunding total)

**Project Title:** Keep Us Hiking

### About:

We deliver the D of E Award scheme to children from Crawley, Horsham and East Grinstead and with many schools not being to deliver the award we have had a lot of interest and need new equipment.

Last time we updated our equipment was about 10 years ago and during this time we have had 100's of Young people taking part of in the award scheme. As you can appreciate the wear and tear that has taken place and also in some cases damage to the equipment. Until now we have also done our best to repair/fix what we can but now we have reached a stage we need to buy new equipment In order to continue to delivering the award efficiently and safely, hence we need new equipment such as Tents, Trangiers, Safety equipment and much more. This year we have had a lot of interest by children as number of school such as Hazelwick, Holy Trinity, Ifiled and St Wilfrid's are not running the award this year or have very limited spaces and hence the children want

to sign up or been referred to us by WSCC D of E Team. Therefore your help would be really appreciated.

**Project Delivery Manager:** Crawley Open Duke Of Edinburgh Centre

### **About me:**

We are a non-profit-making organisation delivering the Duke of Edinburgh Award to young people in Crawley and surrounding area.

We started this project over fourteen years ago, based at Crawley Youth Club, however following WSCC cuts and changes to the Youth Service support, we were required to leave this organisation. We continued the project under WSCC YS and moved to West Green Community Centre and continued to offer the Award with a fully volunteer based group of adult staff under the management of WSCC YS and with their support. This came to an end three years ago. However, the dedication of the staff is such and with the needs of young people still evident, we were able, following discussions and long negotiations around "open access to young people" to move to Holy Trinity School and we now operate under their auspices whilst maintaining our independence.

As you will be aware the DofE award offers Young People the challenge and the support to develop skills, physical ability, volunteering in the community and an expedition experience at several levels, the Award is known as the most successful and recognisable achievement for young people and our team of volunteers have been extremely successful in delivering this for over fourteen years.

Our main problem is that our current minibus which is fitted with a tow bar for using our trailers is getting old and despite being maintained, and repairs being done by willing supporters for subsidised rates, we need to replace it now.

We do not require a brand-new minibus as the amount of traveling is not excessive and we would be able to purchase a good quality second hand low mileage vehicle for a much-reduced cost which would be sufficient for our needs.

We have raised over £5,000 from well-wishers and via young people's membership and evening subscriptions, however the time taken to raise the estimated cost of the minibus (£14,000) will leave us without the ability to carry out expeditions and training hikes later this year.

We are sure you will agree that our project is worthwhile and that it is deserving of support.

<http://www.codec.com>

### **Why we're pitching for a pledge:**

Participants have and will continue to develop social education and prepare them for whatever path they take in the future.

### **What we'll deliver:**

- Opportunity to Youth of Crawley to take part in the award D of E award scheme
- Keep children off the streets
- Development of Social Education and have Fun at the same time

**Why it's a great idea:**

As a voluntary organisation and the only Open award Centre in Crawley, we get interest from many children from Crawley and surrounding areas wanting to take part. As i said our equipment is old about and by your support we will be able continue deliver the award scheme and help develop the social education side to these youngsters and let them experience new things which many may not have the opportunity otherwise. The D of E Scheme in inclusive helps the children to build confidence, make new friends, social Development, learn/experience new things. We have already had an open evening for 2019 and we have taken on 36 new bronze and 28 silvers as well as our gold participants and have a waiting list for the bronze, so you can see how popular the award is. With this as an inclusive centre we have children who are on pupil premium, children in care, learning difficulties, ADHD as well as others, so you can see the benefit the award will bring to them.

**Steps to get it done:**

- Increase participation for 14+ children in the community