

Woodcraft Folk runs 4 groups serving the Chorlton & Whalley Range area: Woodchips (age 3-5), Elfins (age 6-9), Pioneers (age 10-12) and Venturers (age 13-15). We are an educational movement for children and young people, rooted in co-operative values and principles.

Our groups develop children's self confidence and awareness of the wider world through games, arts and crafts activities, outdoor adventures and discussions about big ideas. Camping and residential trips provide an opportunity to put our values into practice and encourage young people to take greater responsibility for themselves and others.

All our groups across the UK are volunteer led. Due to our inclusive approach, around 20% of the young people we work with have some level of additional need.

Our groups transform young people's lives, build trust, critical thinking and confidence through outdoor play and co-operative activities.

Support from Co-op customers and members will help us grow our groups in the communities of Chorlton & Whalley Range, providing transformative experiences for more children and young people. We will:

- recruit, screen and train new volunteers
- deliver outreach activities to attract new children
- engage families who are unable to access other informal learning opportunities
- promote co-operative values and principles through our work

Young people from the area will benefit directly by joining our groups. Volunteers will gain valuable experience which will improve confidence, wellbeing and employability. The wider community will benefit through our social action activities (see www.iwill.org.uk).

Our existing volunteers, young members and community partners will deliver this project.

Recruitment activity to identify new volunteers - £1000

Outreach activity to engage new families - £1500

Training and screening for new volunteers - £1000

Mentoring for new volunteers - £1000

Additional equipment for groups (craft, games, etc.) - £500

Subsidies to enable low income families to participate in camps etc. - £500

Volunteer expenses - £500

Any funds donated as a result of this application will be spent directly to benefit the groups, and young people in Chorlton & Whalley Range.

We collect subscriptions from families participating in our groups on a weekly basis, where families can afford to contribute, to offset the costs of our activities. Our volunteers and young people undertake regular fundraising activity (bake sales, carol singing etc.)

We will apply to Awards for All and other relevant grant schemes to support our core costs and ongoing activities.

Woodcraft Folk runs over 350 groups across the UK under one charity number - the combined turnover of these groups and our national office was £1.4m in the 2014 financial year. Registering as one charity means less administration at a local level, enabling funds and volunteer time to be spent working directly with children and young people. The Chorlton & Whalley Range groups receive no direct funding from the national organisation, and our predicted turnover in 2016 is less than £10,000.

I've completed and submitted the form on behalf of Chorlton & Whalley Range Woodcraft Folk. Given that the info will be checked over by CAF, I have included the turnover for the organisation as a whole, so it will match what they see when they look up our charity number.

However, I have noted in the 'additional comments' section that this gives an unrealistic picture of our funding situation. As discussed I will outline some of the key issues below in case they are useful when discussing our application:

Woodcraft Folk (in contrast to the Scouts and other organisations) operates under one charity number, rather than registering groups and districts as separate charities.

This position was confirmed by our last constitutional review in 2012 - one of the chief reasons being that it reduces the burden of administration on local branches, ensuring that time and money can be spent on our charitable purposes, rather than compiling annual returns and appointing auditors.

The last financial year reported to the Charities Commission was the year ended 31.12.14, where Woodcraft Folk's turnover was £1.4m. Of this, only around £600k was turnover by groups and districts, the remainder being our head office expenses and some restricted project funds (such as the contract with the Cabinet Office to deliver the NCS programme in West Yorkshire).

Local groups and districts receive no financial support from the centre, although they obviously receive the benefits in kind of the head office function providing support, advice, training and membership administration

-

Turnover at a local level varies from year to year depending on the level of activity (e.g. if we run camps or residential) but is never more than about £10k. Income comes from donations and subscriptions from members and families who participate in our groups, a small amount of tax we reclaim through the Gift Aid scheme, and small scale fundraising at a local level.

The core costs of running our groups are in the region of £4k per annum.