

Applicant 16 Green Volunteers / Thenue Communities – response to questions

Can you provide more information about how the proposal reduces child poverty?

Low access to safe green spaces can have detrimental effects on the health and well-being of children, particularly those living in low income communities where access to parks and green spaces is limited. Calton is in close proximity to Glasgow Green however many parents would not be comfortable allowing children to go to the park for a number of reasons including safety (main road to cross), too far from home, too many people. Calton has a playpark that local parents have said they do not feel is safe for use due to anti social behaviour and drug use. Our green volunteers look after Elcho Gardens and we have been slowly developing this space over the past three years to build it into a safe, accessible space for local families and groups to use. Our volunteers ensure that the space is maintained; the equipment is safe and maintained and train local people to use it. They also work closely with local agencies who have a responsibility for the wider environment by carrying out community clean ups, gardening work for residents and reporting fly tipping so it is removed. By having our Green team on site we are able to ensure that local people have access to high quality green space. Not only do we train people to look after this space, but we also deliver a range of workshops from the space. For example, in 2018 we worked with Calton Community Association who delivered a summer programme from the space. Our volunteers set up the space each morning, CHLC delivered packed lunches as part of the Holiday Hunger programme and our gardener delivered a range of gardening and educational workshops directly to parents and children. We also worked with Calton Community association and delivered similar workshops for elderly residents.

Ultimately, we wish to improve the health of children and their families by giving them a space to play, to exercise, to enjoy fresh air, to learn new skills, to socialise with others in their community and to demonstrate the value of working with others. By working with their parents and families, we will set a good example of how people can work together to create a sense of community. Calton has been badly affected by the negative perceptions of the community. It has a reputation for gang culture and drugs and reports state that people from Calton die much younger than elsewhere. These negative perceptions are often internalised by local people who begin to feel less worthy, less valued by society and it can lower aspirations. We believe the Green Volunteers project challenges those perceptions and helps local people to celebrate their community, gives them a feeling of pride and shows those outside that Calton is a place full of resilient people who are more than what Calton's reputation would leave people to believe.

The green volunteers have been in Calton for almost three years but this has only been sustained by a series of small grants that have limited what could be achieved. Now that we have a three year funded programme, we can expand this project to include children and families from both Calton and Bridgeton.

Part of our plan is to build raised beds in local people's gardens and teach them how to grow their own food. We will work with local families to install them, paint them (to personalise them) and fill Calton and Bridgeton with colour and fresh food. These skills will last a lifetime.

Now that we have three years of funding, we can confidently recruit new volunteers to expand the project. Our volunteers will learn a range of new skills and gain new confidence that will support them should they wish to get a job, change jobs or go into further training. By improving the employability skills of adults, we may improve the lives of children. We work closely with Glasgow

Kelvin College who can assist with the delivery of certificated courses such as Health & Safety, First Aid, Elementary Food Hygiene and Community Achievement Awards

Please provide more information about how children and young people would be involved, or benefit.

We would involve children and young people in the following ways

- Community Clean ups with local nurseries, schools and community groups
- Gardening workshops at Elcho Gardens
- Working with local groups to develop/support community activities held at Elcho Gardens. For example, supporting Calton Community Association to deliver their activities from the space
- Craft Workshops at Elcho Gardens and Community Flat (specifically around seasonal activities such as Valentines, Easter, Halloween, Christmas, summer programmes (working with local groups)
- Installation of raised beds in gardens with painting work carried out with families
- Food growing workshops in Elcho Gardens and in residents Gardens
- Harvesting food
- Volunteering placements for young people (over 16 years)
- Working with partners who can bring additional resources using Elcho Gardens as a base. For example, local youth providers who can deliver activities for children.
- Supporting local ideas, energy and motivations to develop new activities for children and families.

Please explain more about the role - how many hours, what salary, is this a new or additional post?

- This is not a new post. Our community gardener has already been working in Calton for three days per week up until December 2018. The Green Volunteers could not work in Calton between January – March 2019 due to a lack of funding. However, we are bringing the team back in April 2019 for a minimum of three years. The Community Gardener will work four days per week in Calton and Bridgeton.
- The Community Gardeners role is to work with local residents to increase access to Elcho Gardens, support and train volunteers, work with local groups, families, schools and nurseries to encourage involvement in the project and to work with local agencies to secure additional resource where possible. The gardener works closely with the manager of Calton Heritage and Learning Centre to compliment the programme of activities at the centre.

