

Birmingham Municipal Charity Grant Application Form

Name of Applicant: Liz Downes

Name of Organisation: The Sequal Trust

Project Name: For Bridget

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Charity No (If applicable): 260119

Details of Applicant

Please provide brief background details of your organisation (if there is insufficient space available details then can be provided on a separate sheet of paper)

Sequal is a national charity which fund raises to provide communication aids to disabled people with speech, movement or severe learning difficulties; this with the positive outcome of providing the individual with the means with which to interact socially and to lead a more independent life. Liaison is conducted with the person's healthcare professional to ensure that the recommended equipment fully meets that individual's needs. Once issued, Sequal retains ownership so that we can carry out all necessary maintenance and repairs without cost to the recipient.

1. Project Details

Provide Details of request for funding including costs and confirmation and details of other contributions to support the project (If insufficient space please provide details on a separate sheet of paper)

61 year old **Bridget lives in Northfield, Birmingham** and has a diagnosis of **Friedreich's Ataxia** which is a slow progressive degeneration of the nerve tissue in the spinal cord affecting the limbs, head and neck but not mental capacity.

As a result of this dreadful disorder Bridget has lost the use of her legs and is now a full time wheelchair user, her arms are also affected, but her main concern is the loss of her voice. It's deterioration is becoming increasingly noticeable in the mornings and evenings when she is tired and as it gets worse she will become more and more isolated. She desperately needs a speech aid to help give her back the social interaction that has so cruelly been taken away.

Bridget's husband is her main carer, but due to his own health problems and not being able to take her out as he used to, she's now virtually housebound. A communication aid would help her regain social contact, self esteem and the independence she so desperately misses but unfortunately they cannot afford this system themselves and have turned to us for help. Her husband describes her as a caring, down to earth person who loves animals, children, reading and watching TV, especially gardening programmes but her greatest wish of all would be able to Skype her son in Australia while she still can.

Bridget's Occupational Therapist conducted trials with her on various devices and decided that a Grid Pad Pro would suit her particular needs best as she will be able to use the text to speech facility when her voice is weak. It also has environmental controls built in enabling her to control devices in the home such as televisions and lights. The cost of this system with a wheelchair mount is £3,623.00 and we would be extremely grateful if a donation, no matter how small, could be made or pledged towards this cost

2. Public Benefit

How will the funds provided benefit the citizens of Birmingham. (If insufficient space please provide details on a separate sheet of paper).

It is to be hoped that Bridget will be able to interact socially with those around her and so share her life experiences with others, no matter how small the audience.

3. Please provide a copy of your organisations latest audited accounts.

PLEASE ENSURE EVERY SECTION OF THIS FORM IS COMPLETED ACCURATELY AS ANY OMISSIONS MAY DELAY THE APPLICATION PROCESS BY THE FORM BEING RETURNED.

Please Return Completed Form to:
Grants Secretary
Birmingham Municipal Charity

Funding Criteria

The trusts objectives are of a general charitable nature for the benefit of the citizens of Birmingham.

- 1. Grants to be awarded to recipients or beneficiaries who reside within the boundary of the City of Birmingham up to the value of £500.**
- 2. Evidence of tangible “public benefit” to be demonstrated in the Application Form.**
- 3. Grant Applications will be presented to Trusts and Charities Committee for Approval.**
- 4. Funding letter to be forwarded to successful applicants.**
- 5. Applicants to sign offer of funding agreement.**
- 6. A narrative report to be submitted once the grant provided has been defrayed, confirming the use of funds and public benefit.**
- 7. Grants awarded to be defrayed in the financial year or within 6 months of approval of funding, unless agreed otherwise.**
- 8. Spend is for the benefit of the citizens of Birmingham.**
- 9. Documentary evidence of spend must be provided.**

NOTES (Internal Purposes Only)