

Silverton Evangelical Church CIO (SEC)

Youth work grant application

To: Silverton Parish Council

1 Introduction

Please find below a grant application from Silverton Evangelical Church (SEC), for £3,500 for the calendar year 2026. This application seeks funding for a part-time youth worker to continue supporting and expanding the youth programmes based at SEC.

Background

You will recall that in September 2023, we appointed Kayleigh Duke as our part time Youth Worker, on a 16 hours a week contract. SEC committed to paying half the cost of this role and we sought the other 50% from various Trusts and the Parish Council. Your significant contributions from 2023 to 2025 have in large measure enabled us to place this role of youth worker on a secure financial footing

Summary of highlights in 2025

In our submission in December 2024 we outlined how the role continued to pay dividends within the community of Silverton. We are delighted with the way this activity has developed during 2025. It's clear that these initiatives have had a positive impact on the community and the young people involved. Here's a brief summary of the highlights:

a) Youth Groups

The fortnightly Friday evening youth groups have grown substantially, so much so that this autumn term the groups were increased to 3 to support a wider age range. Nearly 50 children now attend, 80% of whom do not attend the church, demonstrating a wide appeal and engagement from the community.

b) Hot Chocolate Club

The alternate Friday evenings are equally important with the Hot Chocolate Club, led by Kayleigh and supported by church member Sophie Gower. This safe and fun space allows young people to navigate the pressures of growing up with the support of peers and mentors. It's encouraging that this initiative has increased again this term to 12 members from diverse backgrounds including non-church families.

c) Spree SW 2025

The participation of 23 young people at Spree SW 2025 run by South West Youth Ministries at the Devon Show Ground was encouraging. It's wonderful that the event provided opportunities for spiritual growth, community, and fun. The dedication of Kayleigh Duke, Andy Mathers and three other church members ensured the group had a meaningful and enjoyable experience. We are looking into options for a youth weekend away in 2026, or possibly two weekends for younger and older young people.

d) Other activities

It is also pleasing to report that our Baby & Toddler Club which meets weekly during school term time is also very popular. Around 30 families often attend which is more than 30 children! We also run a monthly Messy Church aimed at families with young children (who are too young to attend the Youth Groups). We provide a meal and activities for parents and carers to share with their children. Around 40 adults and children join us.

2 Funding

We anticipate that the direct annual running cost for 2026 will be as follows

Purpose	£
Youth worker salary and pension	11,000
Training	900
Sundry running costs (phone, travel and sundries etc)	600
Total	12,500

The reason the total has increased from 2025 is due to the uplift in the Living Wage which has just been announced from April 2026. The training cost includes year 2 of a 3

year course for Kayleigh which is already proving very beneficial.

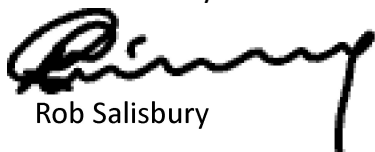
Regarding 2026, in our recent appeal, we have raised £9,000 (and also a further £9,000 for 2027), from our membership. This is immensely encouraging and it demonstrates the commitment of SEC to this vital youth work in the village.

We therefore have a shortfall of just £3,500 for 2026 and it is this sum we seek from the Parish Council. We recognise that you cannot commit to any funding for 2027 but on current estimates, allowing for inflation, we will experience a slightly larger shortfall for that year as well.

In summary

As well as supporting the individual needs of the young people, these activities are also fostering a sense of community and belonging in Silverton. Continuation and expansion of these services will undoubtedly strengthen the positive outcomes already achieved and we hope it may also prove possible to apply again for 2027.

Your faithfully



Rob Salisbury

Trustee of the CIO

(on behalf of the SEC leadership)

December 2025