

ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION

1. What is your organisation's name, address and contact details?

Organisation Name

Ability Dogs 4 Young People IoW

Organisation Address

3 Howard Close

Niton

Isle of Wight

PO38 2EB

Telephone Number

01983 216246

Email Address

carolc@abilitydogs4yp.org.uk

2. What is the type and purpose of your organisation?

Our Charity supports people and children with physical and/or mental disabilities living on the Isle of Wight. We provide highly trained Ability Dogs (assistance dogs) and we aim to improve quality of life, health and wellbeing for those with physical and/or mental disabilities, and enable fuller and more independent living. Ability Dogs help with complex mental health disabilities including crippling anxiety and depression (often suicidal), enabling Recipients to turn their lives around and to develop life skills, employment skills and return to education.

Ability Dogs help with conditions like autism, cerebral palsy, anxiety, and depression. The Charity's impact extends far beyond placing an Ability Dog with a Recipient. By building confidence and independence, having an Ability Dog can unlock educational and career opportunities for Recipients, empowering them to achieve things they never thought possible. These accomplishments vary from having confidence to leave the house, attend school, apply for a college course, make friends and reduce anxiety.

Ability Dogs 4 Young People has a profound impact on individuals with disabilities and the wider Island community. Since 2012, the Charity has over 80 working Ability Dogs, with a total of 120 dogs and puppies currently working, in training, or part of the own-trained and school therapy programs.

3. Names of Principal Officers and their posts

Carol Court: Founder, Trustee & CEO

Other Trustees: Steve Davis, Caroline Jennings, Pam Clements, Julie Loosemore, Simon Attrill, Kim Bennet

4. Provide a summary from your most recent accounts.

Are the figures below?

Y

Information from the latest accounts approved by your organisation

A projection because your organisation has been running less than 15 months

Budget costs for a non-recurring one-off event

Account Year Ending: Day / Month / Year Or Date of Event:	31 st December 2025
Total Income for the Year / Event	£481,379
Total Expenditure for the Year / Event	£470,465
Surplus or Deficit at the Year End / Event (Total Income – Total Expenditure)	£10,914
Total Savings or Reserves at the Year End / after Event	£98,567

5. Has your organisation applied to Cowes Town Council for a grant before?

Y

Yes

No

If yes, give the date and the amount awarded to you below.

March 2014 £500

October 2023 £500

6. Who is the main contact for this application?

Name

Carol Court

Position in the organisation

Founder & CEO

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT / EVENT / ACTIVITIES

7. What project, activity, item(s) or event do you want us to fund?

Every Ability Dog (including those in Training and those working with their Recipients) is financially supported by the Charity. We cover the costs for health and veterinary care, food and equipment. The Charity is committed to removing any financial barriers that may prevent a Recipient receiving the help they need from an Ability Dog. As such, as the Charity has grown, so have the financial commitments to each and every one of the Ability Dogs and Recipients.

Summary of costs for each Ability Dog: The cost for each of the first three years is about £6,000. From year four onwards the costs are between £1,000 and £2,000 per year which includes monthly aftercare and on-going training as well as equipment, consumables and health care. An Ability Dog usually retires between ten and twelve years of age. This means the full cost for an Ability Dog from purchase to retirement is about £30,000. A detailed breakdown of costs is available by request.

An important part of the process is the year of Advanced Training, when the young Ability Dog is matched and trained with the Recipient. Starting at 18 months of age the Trainer works with the Recipient and their family, and training continues as the Ability Dogs moves in with the Recipient. This stage costs about £4,000 for each Ability Dog. The Advanced Training for twelve Ability Dogs costs £48,000.

We would be very grateful for support from Cowes Town Council to help fund some of the Advanced Training for our Ability Dogs. This will considerably help towards our financial demands.

8. When will your project / event / activity take place?

Our work is ongoing

9. Tell us how this grant will benefit the people and community of Cowes?

20% of our Recipients, many volunteers and one of our trainers live in Cowes so Ability Dogs 4 Young People is certainly providing services to Cowes and enhancing the quality of life of Cowes residents. Our services are on-going year on year.

The working Ability Dogs that we have placed, continue to make immense lifelong changes for the Recipients they support. They are able to access the community with more confidence and their independence is greatly improved with their Ability Dog by their side.

Some of our volunteers living in Cowes actively help the Charity and we are regularly invited to various talks and groups within the Cowes town and surrounding area ranging from Residential Homes to Brownie Packs. As well as providing a community service, much needed funds are raised at these talks and demos. Their volunteering time is invaluable and they show great dedication and commitment: their way of giving to the community.

We have a number of Cowes residents on our waiting list and we would like to be able to place Ability Dogs to benefit them and their families.

Any donation to help with the Advance Training of these amazing, life changing dogs would be very much appreciated.

10. How much will your project / event / activity cost and how much do you want from Cowes Town Council?

Item or Activity	Total (Projected) Cost	Amount Requested from Cowes Town Council
		£

11. If the total cost is higher than the amount requested, where do you expect the rest of the funding to come from?

The Charity actively engages with schools, community groups, and local events to raise awareness, educate, and foster support. As well as attending events organised by other groups, we organise fundraising events ourselves, including our Annual Open Day at the Training Centre. Throughout the year, we run raffles, fundraising games and sell merchandise at the fetes and fairs we attend.

We have three charity shops on the Island where we sell donated items. We have also raised much needed funds by recycling textiles, books, plastic milk bottle tops, stamps and foreign coins. Fundraising activities are ongoing and take place throughout the year to help towards the running costs of the charity. These include: fundraising campaigns, attending local events, talks and educational visits:

Every year we host our own annual Gala Weekend, showcasing our work through demonstrations. These events are well attended and the increasing interest is enhancing community support. We attend a variety of events where the charity is the designated beneficiary. These include choir concerts, barn dances, quiz nights, and more. Such partnerships help raise both funds and the charity's visibility within the community.

We also receive other voluntary income from donations and gifts, legacies and grants.

FINISHING YOUR APPLICATION

You must tick all the boxes to confirm that:

- ☐ Y You have answered all the questions in the application form.
- ☐ Y You have enclosed your organisations **latest and previous two years' independently signed annual accounts (i.e. three consecutive years' accounts)**, 12 month financial projection (if your organisation has been running less than 15 months) or full event budget (if for a non-recurring one-off event).
- ☐ Y You understand that if you make any seriously misleading statements (whether deliberate or accidental) at any stage during the application process, or knowingly withhold any information, this could make your application invalid and you could be liable to repay any funds to us.

Please sign and date your application in the box below.

Carol Court

For Office Use:

- ☐ Declined (date):
- ☐ Accepted (date, grant amount, confirmation of receipt of grant):