

THE OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE

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Dear Brendan,

Thank you for your email of the 11th November 2020 regarding requests for grant funding in 2021-22. We continue to be very grateful to Tichborne for its support over the years, and for the invitation to apply for further grants.

The Olive Branch is a local charity of over 20 years standing, which offers counselling to adults who live or work in Winchester or the surrounding area. Our service is open to anyone, regardless of race, creed, age, physical ability or financial position. We pride ourselves in being able to support people who are facing mental health difficulties by offering the opportunity to talk, in confidence, with a properly trained and supervised counsellor.

Uniquely for the area, we offer counselling support for up to one year, which ensures that no client ever feels that they are hurried, or that they are just another person on the treadmill of available mental health services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on people's mental health and the effect of this is only just becoming understood. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is also devastating. Hundreds of local people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty as a result of the loss of their occupations and their housing.

In line with all good practice models, counsellors need regular supervision to support and enhance their work. It has become apparent to us that finding trained supervisors to support our volunteers is increasingly difficult, and it is possible that we will now have to start offering formal payment to encourage suitable supervisors to work with us.

We believe that our service is invaluable, and have many testimonials and statistics to support this. However we are aware that, if we are to continue to thrive, we need to invest more into our infrastructure.

To this end, we are respectfully requesting any grant that you feel you may be able to make, and will be grateful for donations of any sum to help us get closer to our target. I enclose, for your information, our latest set of formal accounts. If you would like any further information, please do contact us at any time.

Thank you for considering The Olive Branch Christian Counselling Service for some funds to support our work in the local community; this is much appreciated.

Kind Regards

Helen McMahon

Director and Chairman of the Executive Committee
The Olive Branch Christian Counselling Service