

Appendix 5 (supplementary information)

Saddleworth and Lees District Executive – Funding Application 2014/2015

Section A – Additional Information

Millgate Arts Centre was formed to succeed Saddleworth Players take a transfer of their assets and to take a whole lease of the building from OMBC. It is a charitable company consisting of members from Saddleworth Players, Saddleworth Civic Trust, Saddleworth Film Society, Delph Community Association and Saddleworth Chamber Concerts Society.

The Centre, set up after consultations with Oldham MBC and Saddleworth Parish Council provides community facilities and meeting needs for the area. The Directors are committed to an ongoing development project to provide a Community Hub in the Centre. The overall aims are to provide greater independence, security and sustainability for groups in the area; improve facilities for community use; provide facilities which can be used by educational, leisure, social and health organisations; increase opportunities locally for children and young people and older people. It is an ongoing long term project.

The building is 19thC in a conservation area and currently houses a 159 seater theatre; bar lounge; library and green room. The Centre is currently used by the organisations mentioned on a regular basis; various other local groups including schools; general public for parties and events; the library which is open 20.5 hours per week operates via 35 volunteers and provides a wide range of services and provides for class visits from Delph School and story time sessions for toddlers. Last year there were 3506 visits to the library and the computers were used for 325 hours during that period. The library provides a computer link to Oldham CAB and very recently a computerised system was provided in the library to enable theatre bookings to be done online.

All of the groups mentioned above are directly involved in this project.

It is estimated that around 13,000 persons visit/use the premises per annum.

End.