



Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund East Renfrewshire Fund Guidance

Background

In February 2021, an additional £120 million was announced for a Recovery and Renewal Fund to ensure delivery of the commitments set out in the [Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan](#). This funding comes in response to the mental health need arising from the pandemic. It is also intended to benefit the full agenda for mental health and wellbeing in line with the four areas of key need set out within the Plan.

As part of the Recovery and Renewal Fund, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care announced a new Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (the Fund) for adults, on the 15th October 2021, with £15 million being made available in 2021- 22. This is the first year of a two-year fund to support mental health and wellbeing in communities across Scotland. This funding reflects the importance that is placed on community support as part of our overall mental health infrastructure and the commitments given by Scottish Ministers to increase direct mental health investment, in both the NHS Recovery Plan and this year's Programme for Government.

Building on the focus of wellbeing and prevention in the Transition and Recovery Plan, the Fund will provide significant investment into community support for adults. This investment complements the children and young people's community wellbeing supports currently being rolled out across Scotland.

This guidance provides more detail what the Fund is about, who can apply and how to apply.

National Fund outcomes

The intended outcome of the Fund is to develop a culture of positive mental wellbeing through early intervention and prevention supports within local communities and across Scotland. With an enhanced awareness of what we can do to stay well, and also to help ourselves and others.

The Fund seeks to contribute to the four key areas of focus from the Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan:

- Promoting and supporting the conditions for good mental health and wellbeing at population level.
- Providing accessible signposting to help, advice and support.
- Providing a rapid and easily accessible response to those in distress.
- Ensuring safe, effective treatment and care of people living with mental illness.

The Fund also seeks to contribute to the following national outcomes from the National Performance Framework:

- We are healthy and active.
- We will live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
- We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

Local Fund criteria

The National fund outcomes set out the broad parameters for how this funding should be allocated to community organisations. However, the fund has been separated into 32 separate funding pots, with the intention of providing flexibility for local priorities and funding criteria. Collaborating in partnership with East Renfrewshire Council and East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership, we have established the following local priorities.

East Renfrewshire Mental Health & Well-being funding criteria:

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant negative impact on the health and wellbeing of people in our communities. We already know community organisations: charities, social enterprises, volunteer groups and community

councils, are providing innovative and creative solutions on how mental health and wellbeing can be improved.

This is why we are welcoming any application from eligible groups that can demonstrate activities or services that seek to improve the mental health and wellbeing, particularly ones that are community led. Based on local needs in East Renfrewshire we are particularly interested in projects addressing the following needs:

- Recovery from addiction.
- Social isolation and loneliness.
- Suicide prevention.
- Dementia community supports.
- Access to physical activity, diet and nutrition.

The fund also aims to support the groups most affected by the pandemic, and for this reason we are particularly interested in project supporting the following groups:

- Care experienced adults (16yrs+)
- Older people
- People previously required to shield during lockdowns
- Carers
- Women and girls
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- People with learning disabilities/ neurodiversity
- Ethnic Minority communities

This fund has a specific focus on adults mental health and wellbeing, in this case adults are classed as anyone over the age of 16 years old. There is a separate fund available for supports directed at children and young people. For more information click this link: <https://www.gov.scot/news/children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

Who can apply

The ambition of this Fund is to support initiatives which promote mental health and wellbeing at a small scale, grassroots, community level.

Applications can be accepted from a wide range of voluntary, 'not for profit' organisations, associations, groups and clubs or collaboratives/partnerships

which have a strong community focus towards their activities. The types of organisations that can apply are:

- Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO)
- Unincorporated Associations
- Trusts
- Not-for-profit company or asset locked company or Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Community councils

The Fund will also consider funding unconstituted groups, either by supporting them to become constituted, or by supporting a partnership application with a constituted entity (that meets criteria above) holding a grant for the unconstituted group.

Types of projects we can support

The focus of the Fund is on the adult population, and on projects which focus on helping the community as a whole, and/or community groups, and in turn, making a difference to the lives of individuals. The adult population is considered to be those aged 16 and over, in that a wide range of community supports (such as an art club that focuses on mental wellbeing) will be eligible for this age group.

As outlined in the fund aims, it should fund community based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population. In addition, local partnerships should ensure that funding is allocated to initiatives which have a focus on:

- Tackling priority issues within the Transition and Recovery Plan such as suicide prevention, social isolation and loneliness, prevention and early intervention.
- Addressing the mental health inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic and the needs of one or more of the 'at risk' groups locally.

While the Fund can support the expansion of existing activities, it is intended to provide additionality, not replacement funding.

Projects should have a specific community focus rather than providing regional or national coverage.

These could include walking groups, community gardens and specific support groups. The Fund also seeks to fund activities that increase the ability for community-based organisations to provide a service to local people. Communities may be geographical or communities of interest. Collaborative applications that demonstrate multiple benefits will be welcomed but not essential.

We will fund	We cannot fund
Equipment	Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest
One-off events	Electricity generation and feed-in tariff payment
Hall hire for community spaces	Political or religious campaigning
Small capital spend up to £10,000	Profit-making/fundraising activities
Staff costs (noting this is a 2 year fund therefore one off or fixed term)	VAT you can reclaim
Training costs	Statutory activities
Transport	Overseas travel
Utilities/running costs	Alcohol
Volunteer expenses	
Helping people to stay safe (PPE for small gatherings/group activity)	

How much organisations can apply for

We have an overall funding pot of £238,704.67 and our ambition is to ensure that a broad reach across community organisations is met. The distribution of grants are as follows:

- Unconstituted groups can apply for up to £2000
 - Organisations/Groups can apply for up to £10,000
 - Larger grants of up to £50,000 will be considered if applications meet the fund criteria and have a robust evidence of need
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Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation process will be as light touch as possible while still capturing the impact/positive benefits of the funding received. We will be looking for the following evaluation information from all successful applicants:

- number of people who were supported
- the type of support that they received
- a brief description of the work that was carried out
- any feedback gathered from people who participated or received support
 - this can be informal

This information can be returned in the form of a short report, case study or short film. An information pack on 'Demonstrating Impact' will be made available to all grantees along with the offer of additional support/training from the VAER staff team.
