

Tameside Community Wellbeing Alliance

Microgrants - Guidance Notes

Introduction & Background

The Tameside Community Wellbeing Alliance arose from the wider development of the 'Self-Care Programme' which is creating and making the most of a shift in thinking in the health and care system (NHS and Social Care) across Tameside.

People often access the NHS, to get help that isn't medical in nature, e.g. the underlying reason for a GP visit may be loneliness, or the reason a person is suffering from depression and anxiety might be because they can't pay their bills. These non-medical needs can't always be met by NHS services.

By tackling the underlying issues, the 'causes of the causes' we can help improve people's wellbeing and make sure that when people access the NHS or social care, it's able to offer a solution.

Action Together is supporting the development of the 'non-medical offer' for people in Tameside through; a Social Prescribing service, Asset Based Approaches (Community Development work) supported by investment (into local Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise groups that can support this work). While in Glossop The Bureau are delivering a similar programme.

The Community Wellbeing Alliance

In addition, Action Together is facilitating the delivery of the Tameside Community Wellbeing Alliance, in recognition that there needs to be a conversation with local people to shift public thinking and encourage people to take an active role in their own health and wellbeing, to 'self-care', if the wider work is to succeed.

Part of the recent work undertaken by the Alliance recognised that engaging with people at a community level about their wellbeing is required to initiate and grow a community-based conversation (sometimes called a 'Social Movement').

Our Aim

The Community Wellbeing Alliance aims to bring together people who live in Tameside with people who deliver services here. It will act as a central point for people to learn from each other. We will develop and share a simple message to champion the role people have in their own health and wellbeing.

Our Vision

Our overarching vision is that Tameside put people at the heart of their own health and wellbeing.

This means:

- Services are working in partnership with each other
 - We are all using our relationships with people to support them to take control of their health and wellbeing
 - We encourage people to increase their knowledge and understanding of how to improve wellbeing for themselves, their families and their friends
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Tameside Community Wellbeing Alliance Micro-grants

Grants of up to £1000 are available to support Tameside based Voluntary, Community*, Faith and Social Enterprise groups that can:

- 1) Engage local people in ‘Community Conversations’ about their wellbeing through activities, using creative and safe ways to engage with people so we can share what we know is out there to support their wellbeing with people that may not have seen it.

This can include, but is not limited to:

- Projects that bring local partners together to engage creatively with residents and each other
 - Use existing relationships with people to support them to take control of their health and wellbeing
 - Encourage people to increase their knowledge and understanding of how to improve wellbeing for themselves, their families, and their friends
- 2) Help vulnerable people and communities through the Covid-19 pandemic, supporting people affected by the crisis and using approaches which tackle the new and emerging barriers arising from the impact of coronavirus.

**You do not have to be a ‘constituted’ (have a set of rules that govern what you do) group to apply. If you do not have a set of rules, or a group bank account, just let us know on the form and we will see what we can do to accommodate if you are successful.*

Covid-19.

We are aware that the COVID-19 crisis is having an extreme and significant effect on the VCFSE sector, so we want to support groups and organisations to overcome funding challenges caused by it. The microgrants are available for non-profit groups and organisations that are delivering provisions that are creating positive wellbeing outcomes during the coronavirus pandemic. This may include new provision or revised ways of working due to Covid-19 and learnings during lockdown. We can only

support projects that are complying to government safety guidance, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> for the latest government advice.

Who can be funded?

To be eligible to apply, an organisation must be:

- VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise) organisation/ groups who have completed a recent Action Together Membership Form (membership is free).
- Based or working in Tameside.
- Working in compliance with the most up to date Covid-19 secure government safety guidance.

What can't be funded?

Groups/organisations that:

- Are trading for profit or are statutory services or are intending to redistribute grant awards
- Are aimed at increasing the membership of a particular Political party
- Are aimed at the promotion of one religious belief

You cannot apply for:

- Activities or travel abroad
- Seed funding for business start-ups
- Retrospective costs (i.e. money that's already been spent or project already taken place)
- Sponsorship/fundraising events or contributions to larger/major appeals
- Any activity that does not contribute to the grant themes (identified in the guidance), unlawfully discriminates against people, or is illegal
- Presents/gifts
- Major capital requests i.e. building and construction work. The funding can be used to pay for "small capital projects" i.e. buying equipment, but you must demonstrate how it links to the wider project and it should not cost more than 50% of the grant you are requesting
- Attendance at conferences and mandatory training which groups are required by law to provide
- Academic or medical research and equipment

Expectations of successful groups

We ask that successful groups:

- Spend the money on what it was awarded for.
- Let us know well in advance if there are any issues.
- Provide us with a Case study, take pictures or videos, and quotes from participants of projects so that these can be shared on social media via #CommunityWellbeingTG (if you do not have the skills to do this, we can do it for you, or show you how).

My group has an idea - how do we apply?

This isn't a traditional grant scheme, we want VCFSE groups to come to us with good ideas and work with us to develop projects that maximise benefit.

We know that groups struggle to work out what to do with their ideas and what support is available to help. We also know that it can be difficult to find a grant that will pay for it, and often we end up changing our original idea to fit a funders requirement.

With this in mind, we have tried to create a process that makes it as easy as possible for groups.

If you have a good idea give us a call and discuss it? You can talk to Roma Hashim by ringing our main number 0161 339 4985.

Application Process

Groups can apply for funding at any time by filling in the application form below and sending it to investments@actiontogether.org.uk

Please note, if you need support to fill in the forms, it is available - just give us a call on 0161 339 2345 and ask to speak to Roma.

Who makes grant decisions?

The investments we make will be overseen by our existing Community Wellbeing Investment Board¹. The board already oversees the investments from our wider

¹ Made up of a range of stakeholders, our Community Wellbeing Programme delivery partners (Active Tameside and Jigsaw), VCFSE representatives from Tameside's Voluntary Sector Influencing Group (VSIG), Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust (ICFT - the commissioners of the whole programme), Tameside MBC, and Tameside and Glossop Strategic Commission.

Community Wellbeing Programme. Micro-grants will be agreed by a subset of the board, and The Bureau/additional Glossop representation as required.

What do we do if we don't agree with an investment decision?

If your group has not been awarded funding and wish to appeal the decision you can follow the **Appeals Process** outlined below:

- Email/write to the Chair of the Investment Board (details below) outlining the nature of your appeal and the details of your group so that we can find your application and feedback.
- The Chair will acknowledge receipt of your appeal within 5 working days, and will notify you of the following steps, and key dates.
- The Chair will present your appeal to members of the Investment Board at the next available Investment Board meeting where a decision will be made.
- You will receive a written decision made by the Investment Board on your appeal, via the Chair, within 5 working days after the Board has met.

The decision of the investment Board regarding an appeal is final.

Community Wellbeing Investment Board Chair:

Liz Windsor-Welsh, Action Together CEO.

0161 339 2345 | liz.WW@actiontogether.org.uk | 12 Manchester Chambers, Oldham, OL1 1LF.