



North East London



East End  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## Social Prescribing Community Chest Pilot Fund – Tower Hamlets

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The Tower Hamlets Place Based Partnership (a partnership of health, care and community and voluntary sector organisations) working closely with the Tower Hamlets Local Authority is committed to supporting the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE) to deliver services and activities that engage residents and support their health & wellbeing.

This pilot funding is to support VCFSEs to deliver services and activities linked to health inequalities and gaps in community provision, particularly gaps (or unmet needs) in services and activities that the Tower Hamlets Social Prescribing Service and other key community connector services refer to. If your organisation has not previously received a referral from a social prescriber, do not worry as this is not a requirement for applying to the fund, so please apply even if you have never heard of, worked with or associated with the social prescribing service.

Many things that affect people's health and wellbeing can't be treated by doctors or medicine alone, such as loneliness, stress, financial hardship and poor physical health. Social Prescribing Link Workers, based within GP practices, work with people, to understand their needs and have a conversation based around asking, "what matters to you?" Social Prescribers offer information and advice, and refer people to access support in the community: this could be signposting people to financial advice services, a community exercise group or referring people to join an art class or other service, based on what works for the individual – in order to meet people's practical, social and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing.

### What Funding is Available?

The total amount of funding available is £60,000.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to a single organisation; and grants of up to £10,000 for organisations applying as a partnership.

### Who Can Apply?

The fund is open to all eligible organisations; however, the fund will prioritise:

- Small-medium Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprises (VCFSE) with an annual income of under £300,000 per year.
- Partnerships between larger providers and smaller groups where there is opportunity to share expertise, build capacity and support evaluation
- VCFSEs that are delivering in Tower Hamlets and prioritising Tower Hamlets residents
- Organisations led by or working with under-served communities

Eligible organisations are defined as:

- Registered charities
- Community groups
- Co-operatives, community interest companies and social enterprises
- Faith organisations
- Housing associations

We cannot accept applications from:

- For-profit organisations
- Individuals seeking funding for personal benefit, or sole traders
- Organisations based outside the UK

## What We Will Fund

This pilot funding is to support VCFSEs to deliver services and activities linked to health inequalities and gaps in community provision, particularly gaps (or unmet needs) in services and activities that the Tower Hamlets Social Prescribing Service and other key community connector services refer to. If your organisation has not previously received a referral from a social prescriber, do not worry as this is not a requirement for applying to the fund, so please apply even if you have never heard of, worked with or associated with the social prescribing service.

We are particularly keen to receive applications from small to medium-sized VCFSEs and to encourage joint partnership bids, particularly collaborations between organisations supporting priority community groups. VCFSEs will be funded to pilot and test their project interventions; this could include a new project idea or the replication/expansion of an existing project that aims to support one of the key priority areas set out below.

Some of the projects that are funded will be asked to prioritise receiving referrals from Social Prescribers. We will work with you to set up the referral pathways to ensure it works for you and takes some of the pressure off you having to identify service users to attend your activities; however, VCFSE projects are still encouraged to actively promote their service/activity and be able to accept residents who want to self-refer to their activities. We will be holding a Teams session for the successful VCFSE projects to meet virtually with the social prescribers, to build connections and understand the referral routes: this session will be held on **Tuesday 20th June, 2 – 3.30pm** and we ask that all project leads keep this date in their diaries.

Projects will run for a period of approximately 11 weeks (including project set up) and be expected to undertake effective monitoring and to gain feedback from participants. This is to assess the impact of each project in meeting the needs of the community.

The priority areas for funding are:

- 1) **Social isolation/loneliness:** Face to face befriending in people's homes. Traditionally befriending services target older residents or only provide befriending over the phone/online but we would like this service to be available to all adult groups with a focus on face-to-face befriending in people's homes, with a particular focus on those who may be housebound or who face additional challenges (e.g. dementia, disability, limited English).
- 2) **Social isolation/connecting to your community:** Befriending services to physically escort/support residents to engage in the community. There is a particular need for those who face additional challenges (e.g. disability, people with anxiety, limited English) that may be a barrier to enabling them to engage in and feel connected to their community, to attend activities/appointments on their own and they would like to be accompanied by a befriender.

- 3) **Mental health/social isolation:** Befriending/support groups for men, with a focus on those who may feel lonely/isolated/need mental health support and/or middle-aged/older men and Bangladeshi men. This can include bringing men together for activities, arts and crafts, peer support and opportunities for men to talk about their emotions and how to improve their wellbeing and build connections
- 4) **Culturally targeted health and wellbeing activities for Black Caribbean and African community** with long term health conditions. This may include bringing groups together for physical activity sessions, food/healthy eating advice and culturally appropriate cooking classes; peer support and talking about the impact of health conditions on people's wellbeing and how to improve physical/mental wellbeing and build connections.
- 5) **Cost of living advice/support:** Outreach into the community, particularly linking in with Food Banks to provide residents with advice/information on support available to them in the borough around increased cost of living (e.g. energy bills, housing bills, cost of food etc.) The service will be open to all residents but with a particular focus on people with long term health conditions & disabilities; people with negative budgets/in debt; people on pre-payment metre and families with children.

## What We Won't Fund

- Expenditure or activities that have already taken place
- Religious or political activity (we are able to fund religious organisations if they are providing benefit for the wider community)
- Activities where a profit will be distributed for private gain or projects that have no charitable or community element
- Activity that replaces government funding or is a statutory responsibility, for example, we can only fund school activities that are additional to the curriculum
- Activities that benefit individuals, rather than a wider community
- Retrospective costs and loan repayments
- Foreign travel

## What We Look for in the Projects We Support

Projects must be delivering in Tower Hamlets and be accessible to local residents.

We're particularly interested in:

- Supporting smaller/medium VCFSE organisations and would encourage partnership bids where more established VCFSEs work with smaller, less established organisations.
- VCFSEs with demonstrable track record of working with the identified priority groups.
- Projects that centre the lived experience of residents in the work they are doing and can demonstrate that they are designed and/or delivered directly with/by community groups they are looking to support.

## How to Apply

To apply for a grant please [click here for the online application form](#)

Please submit your application by **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May by 12 noon**

If you would like a paper application form or have any questions or concerns, please contact the EECF Grants Team on 020 7345 4444 or email [grants@eastendcf.org](mailto:grants@eastendcf.org)

## Supporting Documents

To enable East End Community Foundation to consider your application you must attach the relevant supporting documents to your online application. Alternatively, you can send these by email to [grants@eastendcf.org](mailto:grants@eastendcf.org).

All supporting documents must be submitted by the application deadline.

Please ensure you have the following documents ready to submit:

- Constitution or articles of association
- Approved accounts or a record of income and expenditure for the organisation
- One bank statement dated within the last 3 months
- Equality & Diversity Policy\*
- Safeguarding Policy
- Insurance Certificates – Employer and Public Liability

\* North East London NHS and East End Community Foundation are committed to equal opportunities for all, and we expect groups and organisations applying for grants to show that they are aware of equal opportunities and can demonstrate commitment to them. Accordingly, organisations applying for grants are required to submit their Equality and Diversity Policy with their application.

## Project Delivery and Monitoring

If your application is successful funded projects must:

- take place over a period of 11 weeks, which can include a 2 week 'set-up' period, and **must be completed by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**
- have demonstrable outputs and outcomes related to the Social Prescribing Community Chest Pilot Fund. All funded organisations will be asked to monitor and report on their funded activities by completing a very simple template which will be used for monitoring and evaluation purposes. We would also like applicants to gather quotes and case studies as to further illustrate the success and impact of their activities to tell a rich story of the exciting work they have done. All this information needs to be recorded on the template that will be provided to the funded organisations.

Some of the projects that are funded will be asked to prioritise receiving referrals from Social Prescribers. We will work with you to set up the referral pathways to ensure it works for you and takes some of the pressure off you having to identify service users to attend your activities; however, VCFSE projects are still encouraged to actively promote their service/activity and be able to accept residents who want to self-refer to their activities. We will be holding a Teams session for the successful VCFSE projects to meet virtually with the social prescribers, to build connections and understand the referral routes: this session will be held on **Tuesday 20th June, 2 – 3.30pm** and we ask that all project leads keep this date in their diaries.

You will need to keep financial records of how the grant is spent including receipts and invoices for expenditure. You will also be required to keep records how many people benefit, and the difference the project has made to them. This information must be submitted in an end of grant report.

You will need to keep and provide the following:

- Financial records of how the grant is spent, including receipts and invoices
- Records and evidence of the identified outputs e.g. number of people benefiting, number of sessions, audience numbers, records of attendance etc.
- Records of the identified outcomes – see framework below
- Anything that your organisation has learned from delivering the activities
- Photographs and videos of the project activities (if appropriate)
- A case story from at least one participant

The contribution of North East London NHS must be acknowledged in any promotional literature or annual report issued on your behalf within twelve months of receiving the grant or any instalment of the grant. We reserve the right to use any photographs or details of the project in any future literature and/or promotion.

East End Community Foundation will be calling funded projects the week of 17th July 2023 to check on project set-up and that delivery is on target

An end of grant report will be required for all funded projects by Monday 18th September 2023.

## Outcomes

The monitoring and evaluation template (mentioned above) includes a number of questions/statements that capture the outcomes achieved by each project, so please ensure you complete all relevant sections. East End Community Foundation will be holding a Question and Answer session to give VCFSE organisations an opportunity to ask questions, go through the monitoring and evaluation template as well as to talk through the funding priorities and the application form. ***The Question and Answer session will be held week commencing 1st May 2023. The reporting template is available to download alongside the application guidance at <https://eastendcf.org/tower-hamlets/> and you are strongly advised to review and check you are able to complete this if awarded funding.***