

Guide for Applicants: Community Wellbeing & Health Fund for Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)

Please take the time to read and understand the following information before submitting an application. This document explains the priorities for the fund, eligibility requirements and how to apply.

We strongly encourage you to attend one of the online Information and Engagement Sessions about this Grant Programme which are taking place in November. The dates of these are in Section 10 of this document.

1. About the Community Wellbeing & Health Fund for Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)

The Community Wellbeing & Health Fund is a partnership grants programme bringing together public and private funding* to support Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations across Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG). It is being administered by Quartet Community Foundation. The fund aims to improve wellbeing and health outcomes by investing in community-based support that helps people stay well, remain independent and access the help they need closer to home.

* Please see Appendix 2 for a list of the investors

The fund recognises that people are experts in their own lives. By investing in voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, we aim to strengthen community-based support that enables people to have greater choice, control and connection to the services, activities, personalised care and opportunities that matter most to them. We believe local communities are best placed to understand their own needs. We aim to support neighbourhood and community-led approaches that improve wellbeing and health outcomes.

The fund supports community-based health interventions that:

- Improve wellbeing and health outcomes.
- Reduce health inequalities.
- Help people access support within their local communities, including employability support.
- Support prevention and early intervention.
- Enable people to have greater choice and control over their health and wellbeing.
- Strengthen connections between community organisations, health services and wider support networks, including support with remaining or getting back into work.
- Support strengths-based, personalised and community-led approaches that build on the assets, skills and connections within and between local people and communities.

Priority populations (of all ages)

Applications should primarily benefit **one or more** of the following groups*:

- People experiencing mental health challenges and their carers.
- People living with chronic pain and their carers.
- People living in communities within the lowest 10% on the Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- People whose health is affecting their ability to find, remain in or return to work, particularly mental health or Musculo skeletal conditions.
- Children and young people with risk factors or poor outcomes, including experience of child poverty.
- People who have lower levels of physical activity and need some support with nutrition and achieving healthier weight.

No priority population is considered more important than another.

*Please see Appendix 1 for more information about the priority populations and some examples of work that could be funded.

We will prioritise applications where we are confident that:

- There is a clear need for the proposed activity.
 - The proposed activity aligns with at least one of the priority populations.
 - There are clear referral routes and pathways into the service.
 - The organisation can demonstrate relevant experience and a track record of delivery, or community knowledge and/or access to the skills and partnerships required to deliver the proposed activity.
 - The proposed activity has been informed by the people and communities it intends to support.
 - The proposed activity complements existing local provision and works collaboratively with other organisations.
 - The proposed costs represent good value for money.
 - The activity will contribute to reducing inequalities and improving social, economic and wellbeing outcomes. This includes supporting those groups with protected characteristics set out in law and other groups known to be vulnerable to inequalities and their impacts.
 - The proposed activity demonstrates a personalised, strengths-based approach that gives people greater choice, control and involvement in improving their health and wellbeing.
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2. Who can apply?

You can apply for a grant if you are a:

- constituted voluntary or community organisation
- registered charity
- not-for-profit company, including Community Interest Companies
- community benefit society

Please see our eligibility criteria for further information. This can be found on our website in 'Am I eligible for support?' See <https://quartetcf.org.uk/apply-for-funding/am-i-eligible-for-grant-support/>

You must be based in and/or have a track record of delivering services in Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire.

Applications from organisations who have either been accepted onto the VCSE Brokerage Framework, or who are working to be in a position to apply to Brokerage, are encouraged to apply to this grants programme.

Applicants are encouraged to consider signing up to the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Information Sharing Charter if they would like to be considered for the use of Elemental Digital Clinical System, Community Provider module. The system may be offered to Voluntary, Community and Social Organisations to support the collation of data, such as attendance and outcome measures pre and post intervention. For more information about the Information Sharing Charter visit: [New Information Sharing Charter now live – BNSSG Healthier Together](#)

Please note signing up to the Information Sharing Charter is not a requirement for the fund but it is advised for organisations that plan to work with NHS bodies and neighbourhood health.

Partnerships

We encourage applications from partnerships, particularly where organisations are working together on complementary delivery. We are also keen for organisations to demonstrate where they have relationships with others to receive or take referrals.

Applications may include partnership arrangements with public sector, private sector or other community organisations. This could include local authority teams or parts of the NHS such as GP practices, hospitals or other NHS providers. However, the lead applicant must be a VCSE organisation, and private and public sector organisations cannot be awarded the funding.

Organisations can be involved in more than one application where this is appropriate and clearly explained. Typically, we would not expect an organisation to be the lead partner on more than one application.

3. What you can apply for

Funding is available for community-based health and wellbeing interventions that improve outcomes for priority populations.

Applications can support:

- New activities and services.
- Existing activities that are being continued or expanded.
- One-to-one support.
- Group-based activities.

- Community wellbeing programmes.
- Social prescribing and referral-based interventions.
- Activities that support prevention, self-management and improved wellbeing.

Funding may contribute towards:

- Staff and volunteer costs.
- Session/activity delivery costs.
- Training.
- Technology and equipment required for delivery.
- Travel and participation costs.
- Monitoring and reporting.
- Appropriate organisational overheads through a full cost recovery approach.

4. How much can you apply for?

Organisations can apply for a grant of either:

£2,000–£10,000 (small grants) per year

£10,001–£50,000 (large grants) per year

There is one application form for the programme, but it will ask you to select whether you are applying for a small or large grant. The questions for both grants are the same, but the suggested word count is different depending on the size of the grant. When you are completing your answers, please be proportionate in how much you write. For example, we would not expect the same length of answer for a £20,000 request as for a £40,000 request.

Funding can be awarded for up to **two years**, meaning the maximum award available is **£100,000** across the grant period. Year two funding will be subject to satisfactory interim completed reporting by the last quarter of year one.

We expect you to apply for a grant which is proportionate to the size of your organisation. We will only be awarding grants of £50,000 per year to exceptional pieces of work scoring top marks for all elements of the panel assessment. Larger grant applications are more likely to be successful if they

demonstrate strong partnership working. If you are considering applying for a grant of this size, please get in touch beforehand to get some feedback before starting an application. Our contact details are in Section 11 of this document.

We expect grants to be spent within 12 months for one-year grants and 24 months for two-year grants.

Approximately 30% of the overall fund will be allocated to grants of £10,000 or less, to support smaller organisations and grassroots activity.

The total amount available for grant making is £1.2 million.

Geographic allocations

Funding will be available across:

- Bristol
- North Somerset
- South Gloucestershire
- BNSSG-wide activity supporting links between acute (hospital) and community-based services. We expect organisations funded through this theme to have existing relationships with hospital trusts.

Please note there are also some ring-fenced allocations for specific work which are set out in the application form and these will be discussed in more detail at the information and engagement sessions.

5. What we don't fund

- Large capital projects or major building developments.
- Activities that do not directly support the priority populations and outcomes set out in this guidance.
- General organisational development unrelated to the proposed activity.
- Costs incurred before a grant is awarded
- Activities delivered outside Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire.
- Activities that cannot demonstrate a clear wellbeing or health benefit.

There is more information on what Quartet won't fund here <https://quartetcf.org.uk/apply-for-funding/am-i-eligible-for-grant-support/>

6. How to apply

If you satisfy the eligibility criteria and want to apply for a grant, please complete an application form. You can apply online at <https://quartetcf.org.uk/grants/community-wellbeing-and-health-fund/> or alternatively you can request an application by post using the contact details below.

As well as the completed application form you will need to provide the following:

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| ▪ A constitution/governing document/set of rules that sets out the purpose of your organisation and how it is managed. |
| ▪ The contact details of at least 3 members of your management committee/board of trustees/board of directors. We cannot fund organisations with fewer than 3 committee members/ trustees/directors. |
| ▪ A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records that show your organisation's balance of funds, income, and expenditure. If you do not have financial records that cover a full year, you will need to provide the records you currently have. |
| ▪ A safeguarding policy that is up-to-date and relevant to your work. |
| ▪ The contact details of a referee . The referee should know the work of the applicant organisation in a professional capacity but not be directly involved in this work. You only need to provide a referee if you are new to applying to Quartet. |

* Please **do not** provide the above documents if you have sent them to Quartet within the past six months unless they have been amended during that time.

You will also be required to indicate on the application form (by ticking a box) whether you have the following, or are working towards having these in place:

- An Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.
- Public liability insurance.

- Appropriate information governance arrangements, including consent and secure management of personal information.
- Appropriate risk management processes.

Additional information or documentation may be requested as part of the due diligence process for those organisations recommended for a grant. A grant can only be offered on the condition that you have all the necessary documents in place by the end of January 2027. If you need help around providing these supporting documents, advice is available from local VCSE infrastructure organisations. You can find their contact details on our website here:

<https://quartetcf.org.uk/apply-for-funding/other-support/>

7. What makes a good application

The decision panel will expect you to do the following in your application:

- Clearly describe the need for your activity.
- Explain how the activity will improve outcomes for priority populations.
- Describe any referral pathways and partnerships.
- Provide a realistic and detailed budget. This will form an important part of the assessment of your application.
- Clearly explain the role of any delivery partners, who they are and how you work with them. Applications that demonstrate effective links with community organisations, health services and referral partners are more likely to achieve the aims of the programme. We also encourage where possible collaboration between VCSE organisation who serve the same communities.

In addition, the decision panel will be assessing questions against the following evaluation themes which have been given weightings. These are highlighted by the relevant questions on the application form.

Evaluation themes	Weighting
1. Ability to deliver wellbeing and health impact for the community including past track record, focus and breadth of programmes and evidence of impact	20%
2. Improving access and reducing health inequalities outlining engagement with priority	20%

populations, evidence of need and anticipated impact of this work	
3. Integration, collaboration and connections outlining key partners and stakeholders, their respective roles and any added value they bring including any match funding	15%
4. Implementation plan including key milestones and processes including readiness to deliver	15%
5. Removing barriers to access and referral process for health and care interventions	15%
6. Realistic costing and value for money and budget	15%

8. What will happen next?

- Once submitted, applications will be checked to ensure all required information has been provided, and due diligence checks will be carried out to ensure each organisation meets the criteria set out in this document and has the necessary policies and documents in place.
- Applications will then be assessed against the priorities and criteria set out in this guidance.
- Decision panels will meet to look at the applications. These will be made up of representatives from the different partners and community representatives.
- You will be notified of the decision about your application in mid-March 2027.

9. Reporting on the use of your grant

All funded organisations will be expected to provide complete monitoring information demonstrating the difference their activities have made.

This will include:

- Submission of an agreed common outcomes dataset.
- Basic participation and demographic information.
- Evidence of outcomes achieved.
- At least one case study a year demonstrating the impact of the funded activity.
- Confirmation that a 'what matters to you' personalised approach and basic care plan conversation was part of the support.

Support will be available to help organisations collect and report information proportionately.

Community of Practice

Funded organisations will be expected to participate in two 90-minute post-award learning and networking events to support shared learning, partnership working and service development. Applicants should include the costs of attending these within their budget: you should include £90 of staff/volunteer time for this (3 hours at £30 per hour).

10. Key Dates

Date	Activity
2 November 2026	Applications open
2 November to 7 December 2026	Information and engagement sessions and questions period
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 2nd November 2pmTuesday 3rd November 10amWednesday 4th November 9am (Bristol focus)Wednesday 4th November 11am (South Gloucestershire focus)Thursday 5th November 1pm (North Somerset focus)Monday 9th November 6pm	Dates of information and engagement sessions. These are all 1-hour events and you don't need to attend more than one. Please book on to an event through the links on our website here: https://quartetcf.org.uk/grants/community-wellbeing-and-health-fund/
7 December 2026 (midday)	Deadline for clarification questions.
14 December 2026 (11am)	Application deadline. Late applications will not be accepted
January – February 2027	Assessment period
March 2027	Decision panels
Mid-March 2027	Notification of decisions

11. Further Guidance and Contact Details

We encourage organisations to attend an engagement event, read this guide carefully and ask questions if you have them before submitting an application.

If you have questions about the fund and your fit with the criteria, please contact the Community Wellbeing & Health Fund team.

Email: sirona.bnssgsocialprescribing@nhs.net

If you need more information about the application process, please contact the Philanthropy Team at Quartet Community Foundation applications@quartetcf.org.uk or by phone 0117 989 7700.

How we collect and hold your data

The personal information collected via the application form is collected to solicit and process applications for grants from Quartet. All information is collected in accordance with the *Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA)*, and the *General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR)*. For further information, see our Privacy Policy at <http://quartetcf.org.uk/privacy-policy/>

Your organisation's information will also be stored by Sirona, as host of the Community Wellbeing and Health Fund for Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire, in accordance with its [Policies - Sirona care & health](#). It will also be shared with relevant members of the Integrated Care System (ICS) and/or the decision panel for this grants programme for the purpose of assessing applications.

Appendix 1

Priority populations (BNSSG only) include:

1. People experiencing mental health challenges and their carers

This includes people with a formal diagnosis of mental illness through to those who are experiencing anxiety and/or are socially isolated or lonely. Anxiety can relate to a range of risk factors such as trauma or abuse. This could also include dementia.

Possible interventions could include: Peer support groups, one to one support, positive activities such as physical activity, nature connection and creative activities.

2. People living with chronic pain and their carers

This includes people with long term health conditions causing chronic pain including Musculo skeletal conditions, arthritis and also people with a dependency on pain management drugs. Possible interventions could include: Peer support and advice sessions in a range of settings, including community pain cafes.

3. People living in communities within the lowest 10% on the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

People living in the wards as defined by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 1) as being the top 10% most deprived.

Possible interventions could include: positive activities, drop-in peer support sessions, support to address poverty and hardship including access to healthy and inexpensive food.

4. People whose health is affecting their ability to find, remain in or return to work, particularly mental health or Musculo skeletal conditions.

People who are in work and struggling to sustain employment, those that have recently left work (typically in the last 6 months) and young people at risk of being NEET.

Possible interventions could include: Volunteering opportunities and access to pre-employment support including work placements, interview skill and prep courses, positive activities and confidence building.

5. Children and young people with risk factors or poor outcomes, including experience of child poverty.

Children and young people with known risk factors including SEND, offending, school exclusion, child poverty and young carers.

Possible interventions could include: Group or 1 to 1 positive activities, support that addresses risk factors such as poor mental health and substance misuse.

6. People who have lower levels of physical activity and need some support with nutrition and achieving healthier weight

This can include programmes linked to areas such as weight management, diabetes and falls prevention.

Possible interventions could include: Access to weight management or healthy eating programmes, physical activity and sports provision, access to creative activities such as dance/circus skills, access to green spaces, strength/conditioning programmes that support falls prevention and the ability to continue with daily functioning.

Appendix 2

Investors in the Fund:

- Alliance Homes
- Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
- BrisDoc
- Bristol Temple Quarter
- Bristol & Weston Hospital Charity
- Natural England
- NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
- North Somerset Council
- Quartet Community Foundation
- Sirona
- South Gloucestershire Council
- Sovereign Foundation
- Susie Hewson MBE
- The Integrated Neighbourhood Teams Provider Collaborative
- University of Bristol
- Wesport
- West of England Combined Authority