Healthier Together
Improving health and care in Bristol,
North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

BNSSG Community Wellbeing & Health Fund





November 2026

Today’s session

- Background to the fund
- Key information about the fund
- What and who is eligible for funding
- Key milestones and how to apply
- Long term vision for the fund
- Please network or ask questions in the chat
- Time for questions

Background to the fund

- The issue of fragmented and short-term funding of the VCSE sector
- Multiple funders wanting to invest in the same communities to broadly similar or overlapping outcomes
- A shared investment fund is seen as the vehicle to better use existing funding but also bring in new funding
- Small shared investment funds successfully tested over the past 3 years
- National work looking at the same issue
- 12-month process to develop our local shared investment fund

The Fund in numbers

£1.2million

18 investors

Grants up to £50,000

30% ring fenced for small grants of up to £10,000

50-100 groups to be funded

3,000 + people to gain support

Year 1 Process opens late 2026

Key partners in the fund

- VCSE Alliance
- Quartet
- South Gloucestershire Council
- North Somerset Council
- BNSSG ICB
- AWP
- University of Bristol
- Alliance Homes
- Sirona Care & Health
- Workwell West
- WECA
- Bristol Temple Quarter
- Provider Collaborative
- Wesport
- B&W Hospitals Charity
- Corporate and philanthropic partners

The Fund supports high-quality personalised care

- Supporting ‘What matters to me’ conversations
- Increasing the number of high-quality community programmes for professional and self referrals
- Part of the social prescribing pathway
- Part of supported self management
- Supporting the shift from sickness to prevention
- Working to reduce health inequalities

Key information about the Fund

- Applications through Quartet
- Small grants £2,000-£10,000 per year
- Large grants £10,001-£50,000 per year
- Up to 2 years
- Same questions but different word count for small and large grants
- Funding is for interventions that can be referred to (including self referrals)

Priority populations

- 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.

What our communities want



- Free or low-cost provision
- Provision led by local people
- A focus on positive activities, such as art, nature connection & physical activity
- A focus on practical skills - cooking, employability, finance
- Simple information offers (including non digital)

Fund timeline

2nd November 2026	Invitations for proposals opens
2nd November – 9th November 2026	Engagement Events
2nd November– 7th December	Clarification questions
14th December – 11am	Deadline for proposal submissions
Friday 22th January 2027	Pre assessment before panels completed
Friday 25th January-Friday 26th February 2027	Panel assessment period
w/c 1st March 2027	Evaluation panel meetings
March 2027	Recommendations and awards
From March 2027	Mobilisation and comms
March 2027	Post Award Event
From March 2027	Anticipated commencement of delivery

Who can apply?

- VCSE organisations delivering programmes in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
- Organisations with a minimum set of governance and quality assurance documents
- Organisations that deliver against the priority outcomes for the fund

Eligibility criteria

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/

VCSE Brokerage

Although VCSE Brokerage is currently stood down we are working to the same ethos in terms of due diligence and key documentation.

Anyone applying for this fund does not need to be signed up to the Brokerage framework but by meeting all our documentation requirements successful organisations will have a smoother process to join the framework as and when it is back in operation.

Key documents/assurances

On application

- A constitution/governing document/set of rules
- A safeguarding policy
- Contact details for 3 members of your board or management committee
- Recent annual accounts of financial records
- A referee

By end January 2027

- 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.

Types of programmes we will fund

- New activities or 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 and self-management

What can be funded

Funding may contribute towards:

- Staff and volunteer costs.
- Session/activity delivery costs including venues.
- Training that supports delivery.
- Equipment required for delivery (small capital spends).
- Travel and participation costs related to support
- Appropriate organisational overheads through a full cost recovery approach.

What can’t be funded

- Large capital projects or major building developments.
- Activities that do not directly support the priority populations and outcomes set out in 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/

Only apply if….

- You are sure there is a genuine need for your intervention and you can back this up with evidence
- You have an intervention with a track record of positive impact
- You have a strong process for getting engagement from your priority population(s)
- You have an intervention that people can refer into
- You are able to collect pre and post outcome data from those taking part (one off engagements will not work for this)

Partnership or consortia bids

Bids where there is clear evidence of wider connections and added value through partnership are welcomed including:

- Referrer and provider partnerships (including health system referrers)
- Complementary local offers including progression pathways
- Larger organisations supporting smaller local VCSE partners
- Partnerships that bring in additional funding or in-kind resources

There must be a lead VCSE partner for all applications who receive the award

Scoring matrix

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. Reducing health inequalities outlining engagement with priority populations, evidence of need and anticipated impact of this work	20%
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%

BNSSG wide work

We have three place-based allocations but understand that some providers work across more than one local authority area.

If you wish to work across more than one area you can tick a box for any combination. Please make clear in your application the specific areas you intend to deliver in with as much detail of volume of participants and local contacts as possible.

Four allocations and panels (indicative amounts)

Area	Total	Large Grants	Small Grants
Bristol	£685K	£480k (12)	£205K (20)
North Somerset	£325K	£228K (6)	£97K (10)
South Gloucestershire	£315K	£221K (5.5)	£94K (9)
Acute to community	£100K	£100K (4) Over 12 months @ £25K	
Total Fund	£1425K	£1045K (27.5)	£405K (39)

Based on average large grant of £40K and average small grant of £10K over 1 or 2 years

Ring fenced allocations
(all sitting within one of the 4 allocations)

There are a number of ring-fenced allocations as required by some of our investors

- Dementia related work in Bristol £150,000
- Physical Activity work in South Gloucestershire £30,000
- Pre Neet work across BNSSG £60,000
- Bristol Temple Quarter and surrounds £50,000
- Navigation support for people identified by general practice (INTs) £100,000
- North Somerset Mental Health (adults and CYP) £140,000
- Hospital and VCSE partnerships £100,000

One year or two, large or small

- We ask applying organisations to only ask for what they actually need to deliver a set programme
- Consider where you pitch the level of investment you need to give your organisation the best chance of success
- The largest awards will only be made to exceptional applications
- Consider if you need to bid for two years funding to make your programme viable

Reporting expectations

Submission of an agreed common outcomes dataset including:

- Basic participation and demographic information.
- Evidence of outcomes achieved using set pre and post measures
- 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.

Information Governance

The safe gathering and sharing of data is key to the success of the Fund to identify gaps in provision and engagement but also evidence impact and make the case for funding.

- Applicants will need to have robust processes in place for receiving, storing and sharing data linked to the people they support.
- Signing up to the Information Charter will support strong information governance
- Use of the Information Charter is not mandatory

Information Sharing Charter

- The Charter sets out a clear, shared commitment to handle information safely, securely and responsibly.
- By signing up to the Charter, the ICB is actively contributing to enabling the flow of information that will help to improve care, planning and patient outcomes.
- A consistent approach to data sharing between our local organisations
- Needs completion of new member assurance form

bnssg.data.protection@nhs.net

CORNDEL

DATA-DRIVEN PROFESSIONAL
LEVEL 3 APPRENTICESHIP

Data skills. Stronger communities.

Designed for VCSE professionals who want to build **confidence** in using data to make informed decisions, demonstrate outcomes and strengthen commissioning bids.

Develop practical skills in tools such as Excel and Power BI, identify trends, share compelling insights and collaborate more effectively.

Harness the power of data to evidence community need, showcase your organisation's value and support successful commissioning and contract delivery.

You'll work towards a nationally recognised Level 3 qualification, and the programme is **FREE** for you and **your employer.**



INVEST IN YOUR SKILLS MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

THE ESSENTIALS

- **12 month programme**
  + 2 month end-point assessment
- **Monthly 1:1 support**
  from your dedicated Corndel coach
- **Monthly online workshops**
  including an AI focus, led by leading data-driven professionals
- **AI skills woven throughout**
  Practical use of AI tools to enhance your data skills and ways of working
- **Exclusive access** to Imperial masterclasses and Executive Associate Alumni status
- **£13,000 funded**
  by the Growth & Skills Levy

WHY APPLY?

- **Strengthen commissioning bids** – by using robust data to evidence community need, impact and value for money.
- **Demonstrate outcomes clearly** – to commissioners, funders, partners and local communities.
- **Build in-house data capability** – and reduce reliance on external technical support.
- **Improve service planning** – by identifying trends, gaps, inequalities and emerging needs.
- **Make confident decisions** – using accurate, relevant and timely information.
- **Increase efficiency** – through better data collection, analysis, reporting and use of digital tools.
- **Develop practical skills** – in tools such as Excel and Power BI.
- **Support contract delivery** – by monitoring performance and reporting against agreed outcomes.
- **Strengthen partnership working** – by sharing credible insights with health, care and community organisations.
- **Invest in workforce development** – through a recognised Level 3 apprenticechip qualification.

ELIGIBILITY

You must be employed more than 16 hours a week and you can be on a fixed term contract but this must exceed the length of the apprenticeship duration (ie more than 14 months at commencement of the apprenticechip).

TO REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING WEBINAR
please scan the QR code

LAUNCHING IN FEBRUARY 2027

CORNDEL | IMPERIAL Executive Education | VCSE Alliance BNSSG | Gloucestershire VCSE ALLIANCE | NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board | NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board

Post award community of practice

- We will require all successful programmes to attend two post award community of practice meetings
- Each meeting will last 90 minutes and we will fund attendance at £30 an hour
- Please write £90 into your bid to cover this time
- Meetings will cover data, comms, links to referring partners and an be an opportunity to network

If you need more information

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.

Year 2 and beyond

- Our aim is to make The Community Wellbeing & Health Fund an annual programme
- We already have commitments for Year 2 and many live conversations to grow this Y2 allocation
- Groups that have bid in Year 1 can bid again in Year 2 (in particular, groups awarded one year funding)
- Year 2 and beyond is dependent on the success of Year 1

A vision for the next 5-10 years

A £5 Million plus a year fund to sustain and support high quality community provision across BNSSG

To apply

You can find details for how to apply for the Fund on the Quartet website here:

Apply for a charity grant | Quartet CF

Any questions?