

VCS Support Fund

Guidelines for Applicants January 2023

Summary

Calderdale Cares Partnership has created a £180,000 fund to **support the recovery of Voluntary and Community Sector groups** post-Covid. Community Foundation for Calderdale (CFFC) is administering the fund on behalf of Calderdale Cares Partnership.

This fund is to strengthen infrastructure, support core costs and/or facilitate organisational development. Calderdale residents will need the support of local voluntary and community sector groups as the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is felt. Calderdale Cares Partnership wants to increase the resilience of this vital sector.

Context

The *Calderdale Health and Wellbeing Strategy* outlines the key issues and priorities for the district between 2022 and 2027 across 4 areas: Starting Well; Developing Well; Living and Working Well; and Ageing Well.

- The goal: Children are ready for school and there is a narrowing of the gap in Calderdale children who have a good level of development at the end of reception, between those receiving the pupil premium and those not receiving the pupil premium (the gap was 25.1% in 2019)
- The goal: Every 15 year old has hope and aspiration and there is an increased percentage of Year 10 pupils in Calderdale who feel happy with what may happen to them in the future (60% in July 2021) and a smaller percentage of Year 10 pupils in Calderdale with low life satisfaction (28% in 2021).
- The goal: Working age people have good emotional health and wellbeing and fewer suicides and there is an improvement in the percentage of working age people with good mental wellbeing (57% in October 2021) and reduction in overall suicide rate (15.6/100,000 people 2018-20).
- The goal: Older people have strong social networks and live in vibrant communities and there is an increase in the percentage of older people who agreed or strongly agreed that they felt they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood (to be measured in February 2022).

[Please click here for the full document](#)

We do not yet know the full impact of COVID-19, but we have seen rises in incidences of domestic abuse, changes in employment impacting on deprivation and homelessness and

mental health being negatively affected for many people. Reducing health inequalities remains a challenge in Calderdale and is heightened by the current cost of living crisis.

Voluntary and Community Sector groups in Calderdale perform a central role in achieving the goals described above. These groups worked hard throughout lockdowns to support Calderdale residents. **Calderdale Cares Partnership wants to support the continued recovery and growth of VCS groups after a very challenging couple of years.**

Who can be supported by grants?

VCS organisations who support **residents in Calderdale** to improve their health and wellbeing, and help to meet the goals of the Calderdale Health and Well being Strategy.

There will be a focus will be on those groups and communities who have been particularly adversely affected by the Covid Pandemic and current social and economic conditions, either because of increased demand or because of funding gaps.

How much can you apply for?

- You can apply for grants either i) up to £5K or ii) up to £10K
- CFFC and Calderdale Cares Partnership would like funds to reach groups in need quickly and will encourage successful applicants to spend funds within one year of receipt

Fund Areas of Interest: What can you apply for?

Your project would need to be based around costs for one or both areas of interest below:

- **Core Costs** of organisations who help to meet the goals of the Calderdale Health and Well-being Strategy. Applicants will need to demonstrate increased demand and how this is putting pressure on core costs.
- **Capacity Building and/or organisational development support** for organisations that help to meet the goals of the Calderdale Health and Well-being Strategy. Applicants will need to show how the application will strengthen their organisation to meet increased demand and/or help them to develop and become more resilient.

Who can apply?

- Constituted voluntary, community and faith groups run for and by local people (individuals cannot apply)
- Registered charities and groups with charitable purposes working in Calderdale, (including Charitable Incorporated Organisations, IPS etc)
- Community Interest Companies (CICs) who do not, and cannot, pay dividends CFFC recognises that other kinds of organisation may also carry out activities which are charitable. This may include Social Enterprises, Community Interest Companies, and Companies limited by guarantee. Organisations that do not fully meet the not-for-profit criteria above but do carry out activities which are charitable and have a clear public benefit can be supported where:
 1. There is demonstrable public benefit and clear protection against private benefit
 2. The organisation has a minimum of three directors, the majority of whom are not paid employees
 3. The salaries and benefits of any paid directors must be approved by most non-executive directors and must be reasonable and proportionate to the work they do and the financial position of the organisation
 4. CICs must have an asset lock body with objectives which are both charitable and like the CIC

We are unlikely to award a grant of more than £5,000 to CICs or social enterprises which allow for payment to members of their governing body.

- Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) whose Governance documents include a clear community benefit clause, open membership and an asset lock
- Schools (except private, fee charging schools), whether part of the Local Authority or direct funded in some way, to apply for grants for activities which are clearly extra-curricular. CFFC welcomes applications from PTAs/Friends of School groups and Academies.
- Partnership projects are particularly welcomed.
- Applicants should supply all of the items listed below:
 1. constitution, terms of reference, or relevant governance document
 2. bank account details and a recent bank statement (within the last 3 months)
 3. annual accounts and evidence of the ability to track all financial transactions
 4. a written policy for safeguarding children, young people and/or vulnerable adults
 5. an equalities and diversity policy
 6. Committee Members Contact List
 7. Quotes/Estimates/Costs (where applicable) as outlined in Section 4 of your application
 8. Risk assessment for activity (if appropriate)
 9. Evidence of Food Safety Training and registration with Environmental Health, if your application involves handling fresh food

If you have applied to Community Foundation for Calderdale in the past few months you can contact us to check if we have the most up to date documents on our system. Please get in touch **before** submitting your application.

What cannot be funded

- General appeals
- Retrospective applications (i.e. the funding of activities that have already taken place or the repayment of money that has already been spent)
- Projects that would normally have been funded from statutory sources (e.g. Calderdale CMBC, the local Education Authority, Social Services or Central Government).
- Religious activities or projects that promote religion, although we may fund activities carried out by faith groups for wider community benefit.
- Political activities.
- Projects where the main beneficiaries are animals.

What will successful applications deliver?

Applications should show that they will have a lasting positive impact on individuals and families in Calderdale. **Successful applications will include:**

- **Holistic approach** - demonstrating partnership working or good working relationships with statutory health and welfare services
- **Targeted work** - focusing provision to where need is greatest; considering those disproportionately affected by health inequalities
- **Visibility** – being accessible to individuals and families is important. Your organisation needs to be visible, welcoming and linked-in to other supportive agencies e.g. children's centres
- **Health & Safety** – applications should describe how they are mindful of Covid 19 and keeping people safe

- **Eligibility** – please include all the required documentation and submit **with your application** before the deadline.

What should be included in an application?

1. How does your project contribute to the goals of the Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027?
 - Starting well (age 0-5) – The goal is children are ready for school
 - Developing well (age 6-25) – The goal is every 15 year old has hope and aspiration
 - Living and working well – The goal is working age people have good emotional health and wellbeing and fewer suicides
 - Ageing well (over 75) – The goal is older people have strong social networks and live in vibrant communities
2. If appropriate you will need to demonstrate **increased demand** for your project/services and how this is putting pressure on core costs.
3. You will need to show how the application will **strengthen your organisation** to meet increased demand and/or help to develop and become more resilient.
4. Please include an appropriate **timescale**
5. Please include what your **outcomes** will be for Calderdale residents if your application is successful

Scoring

Applications will be scored on:

- a) documentation supplied re: eligibility and fulfilment of criteria
- b) project budget – is it reasonable and based on worked out costs?
- c) project deliverables- see sections above – *What will successful applications deliver?* and *What should be included in an application?* Please address each point in your application form
- d) compliance with monitoring, marketing etc and other agreed requirements regarding previous grants awarded to applicants by CFFC
- e) the financial stability of the organisation

Monitoring and evaluation

- Groups will be asked to collect basic data to demonstrate the difference the grant has made
- Groups will be asked to complete online end-of-grant monitoring; a link will be sent to successful applicants
- Evidence of spend will be required as part of the monitoring process

How to apply

Please access the application form using this link: [Click here to apply to the VCS Support Fund](#)
 You'll click into a form to register your interest. Once you submit that a unique application link will be emailed to you (check your junk mail if not received). You can click on this link to complete your application. You can share the link with partners who you may want to contribute/proof read. You can take your time and save your application until you are ready to submit it by clicking the 'submit' button at the end of the document.

Deadlines

Please submit your application by **10am Thursday 23rd February 2023**.

If you have any questions, please contact the Grants Team on 01422 349700
grants@cffc.co.uk or email Rachel Burnett: rachelb@cffc.co.uk