**Provision of Community-Led Support   
Grant Funding**

**(Jan – March 2022)**

**Background**

Since the start of the pandemic the contribution of the third sector in Leeds to supporting communities most affected by Covid-19 has been outstanding. The sector mobilised quickly and collaborated with public and private sector partners to offer support to vulnerable communities and those most at risk of health inequalities. VAL and Leeds City Council have coordinated a ‘ward based’ approach where lead ‘hubs’ in each ward support their local community by providing emergency food provision, befriending, practical support and a wide range of other activities. The approach has been collaborative, and many new partnerships have formed, we hope the launch of this new fund will enable us to widen those partnerships.

With this funding, Voluntary Action Leeds alongside Leeds City Council are looking to assist those voluntary and community groups who are continuing to support the most vulnerable communities with the impact of the pandemic.

**Funding Remit**  
The funding can only be used to underpin unfunded existing and established activity that meets immediate needs of communities impacted by the pandemic through providing practical support and helping increase community resilience by linking people up to wider support networks (e.g., community pantries/welfare support/local activity groups/advocacy services). Successful applicants are also expected to link up and complement the work of the existing Community Care Hubs (and their networks) in their area and engage in established fortnightly 1hr collaborative meetings.

**The funding will enable the following activity:**

* **Practical Support** - e.g., providing food, prescription pick-up and dog walking for people in need particularly those who are self-isolating.
* **Health and Wellbeing -** Supporting the wider impacts of Covid on people’s health and wellbeing (e.g., providing welfare calls.)
* **Linking with long term support** – As this funding is short term it is key that the people receiving support are linked in with other providers that can continue to help them once this funding has ceased (e.g., linking up with a local food pantry or Food bank)

**Local Tailored Approaches**  
We recognise that local approaches are important and that you are best placed to know what the needs of your communities are, and this differs between communities of interest and locations across the city. The following activities are required to be fulfilled by the successful applicants, but how you deliver will depend on the needs of your community.

* **Community Led** - What you will do; how local communities will benefit and how community-led approaches are put in place to address different needs for different people.
* **Volunteering** - Engaging and maximising the involvement of volunteers is a key activity.
* **Identify Community Needs** - Report back to VAL and LCC what the themes or areas of concern that are identified in communities; what is working well and where there are barriers that we can feed into future strategy.

**Reporting**  
Monthly monitoring returns is the mechanism in place to account for how this funding is used, it is an expectation that monitoring forms are completed by stated deadlines (See appendix 2 and appendix 3).

*As part of the monitoring we would also like to hear about any observed trends in your area which can be communicated back to strategic leads at LCC and across the third sector.*

**Funding Structure**

The funding has been broken down into two sections to give successful applicants flexibility and control over the delivery that is most suitable for your community and your organisation.

**Element 1** – Provide practical support to people impacted by Covid-19.

**Element 2** – Link people impacted by Covid-19 to alternative pathways of support.

**Applications from partnerships are welcome and encouraged, we ask for one lead organisation to be named who will be responsible for receipt of the money, compiling and returning monthly reporting and the final report. You can distribute funds to partners.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Deliverables** | **Example Activity** |
| **Element 1 - Practical Support**  Providing Covid related support to vulnerable people most at risk of health inequalities and those who have been impacted most from Covid. | This support is specifically for those for whom Covid has exacerbated their difficulties. We are particularly interested to hear about support that offered to people who experience barriers to accessing services including people who are marginalized or suffer worst health outcomes. |
| **Element 2 – Connecting your community**  Link people and communities to support that reduces the negative impacts of Covid | Activity can include shaping local referral pathways, collaborating with partners to make services more accessible or creating opportunities for people who have been shielding to reengage with the community and alternative befriending services.  It should also include supporting, referring, and signposting people to longer term support e.g., Money Buddies, debt support, local food pantries, Universal Credit applications etc...) |

**The support that strategic partners will offer organisations during this period includes:**

* Ongoing support to engage volunteers (VAL)
* Ongoing support around delivery including linking into the current hub network and ongoing information (e.g., weekly updates) (VAL/LCC)
* Provide information and advice on funding opportunities (VAL)
* Support access to existing relevant VCSE networks for information and advice (VAL)

**Application Process**

Applicants should complete the Application for funding in Appendix 1. And return it to Richard Jackson at Voluntary Action Leeds no later than 5pm on 17th December 2021.  
  
Reply via email to: [richard.jackson@val.org.uk](mailto:richard.jackson@val.org.uk)

Reply via mail to: Richard Jackson  
 Chief Officer  
 Stringer House  
 34 Lupton Street  
 Leeds  
 LS10 2QW

**Application for Funding Appendix 1**(NOTE: please respond in a maximum of 100 words per box)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Lead | Name: | |
| Contact Number: | |
| Organisation or Partnership applying (please list all partners involved) | Organisation Name: | |
| Address: | |
| Location or \*community of interest you will be covering | Ward:  Community of Interest: | |
| What community support have you delivered during the pandemic?  For how long?  What difference has then work made? | Element 1 | Element 2 |
| What activity will you undertake with this funding? |  |  |
| How do you know that this activity is needed by the community? |  | |
| What extra will this funding bring to your delivery? |  | |
| How many people do you expect to help? |  | |
| How do you involve the local community and volunteers in your activity? |  | |
| How will you link people you help with other long-term support? |  | |
| How much funding do you require? NOTE: the max you can apply for is £10,000 |  | |

**\*‘Community of Interest’: groups of people with shared characteristics or experiences (e.g., disabled people)**

**Required Monthly Reporting Form Appendix 2**

**COVID-19 Provision of Community Support   
Monthly Report**

**Organisation Name:**

**Reporting Month:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Impacts to share and celebrate** | **Number carried out this month** | |
| **LWSS Referrals** | **Direct, self &**  **ongoing referrals** |
| Food parcels/hot meals/food vouchers |  |  |
| Welfare/befriending calls |  |  |
| Prescription Collection and Other Essentials |  |  |
| Other support provided – please state:  ……………………………………………………... |  |  |
| Number of people signposted to alternative provision / services |  |  |
| Total number of people supported |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Numbers of Volunteers deployed |  |

**COVID-19 Provision of Community Support Final Report (to be completed by 8th April 2022) Appendix 3**

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| **Outcomes:**  Please use this space to tell us about the difference your service had made against your anticipated outcomes:    Element 1  Element 2 |
| **Challenges:**  Have there been any specific challenges you have faced around delivery, and can you foresee any specific challenges that are upcoming? |
| **Best practice and good news stories**: |
| **Other info:**  Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your work over the past month?  Please try and include information about if you can:  Challenges or opportunities you feel the city should be prioritising:  Ways you’ve involved local people in delivery:  Emerging trends (e.g., people accessing your support who seem to have the same challenges). |
| **Partners you have worked with (highlighting any new ones):** |