**Liverpool VCFSE Health and Wellbeing Fund**

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# Background

The NHS in Liverpool is committed to playing its part in improving the health and wellbeing of the local population. Many people come to the NHS with a range of needs that health services are ill-equipped to meet. Some people are reluctant to approach NHS services. The effects of social deprivation, the interrelatedness of mental and physical health, the demographic and changing epidemiology, all demand an alert, joined up and person-centred delivery model with capacity to work preventatively.

With this challenge in mind, improving the way health services routinely respond to non-clinical need was made a central plank of the One Liverpool Health Strategy. Conversations about wellbeing, asset-based approaches, independence, self-care, support networks and so on, are seen as a vital part of the solution. This is culture-changing work, and social prescribing is increasingly being seen as a principal mechanism for helping achieve this change. It cannot be done without working collaboratively with VCFSE partners. What is the best way for the NHS to work with VCFSE partners to release the potential benefits of social prescribing and strengthen skills for health and wellbeing within communities? These are some of the issues we hope to explore and develop with our Health and Wellbeing fund for Liverpool.

# Introduction to Health and Wellbeing Fund

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Liverpool Place team, have created a Health and Wellbeing Fund with the purpose of encouraging greater collaboration between the NHS and VCFSE organisations to help tackle health inequalities. The fund is part of the city’s heath strategy, One Liverpool and contributes to its core objectives\*:-



\*being revised for Spring 2024, will be broadly as above.

Health inequalities are the unjust and avoidable differences in people's health across the population and between specific population groups. This fund is to support work with communities who experience significant health inequalities. It is a small fund which can’t solve inequalities, but through it we hope to understand how the NHS and VCFSEs can work together better to support individuals and communities who face additional barriers to good health and wellbeing and invest in some community led approaches and solutions.

We have used evidence about health inequalities in targeting the investment. This fund is only open to applications from projects working with the communities set out in the guidance below.

**The VCFSE Health and Wellbeing Grant scheme aims to :-**

1. Provide prevention and early intervention support for individuals in Liverpool communities who experience health inequalities.
2. Provide empowerment and wellbeing support for individuals in Liverpool communities who experience health inequalities.
3. Provide funding to VCFSE organisations who offer health and wellbeing support to communities experiencing health inequalities and patients referred by the NHS, linked to social prescribing schemes.
4. Provide funding to VCFSE organisations for health and wellbeing support offered to people not using NHS services but who are experiencing or at risk of physical illness and/or mental distress and facing health inequalities.
5. Develop and test approaches for improved dialogue and joint working between NHS, PCNs and VCSE organisations.

LCVS are administering the scheme on behalf of the Liverpool area of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), you can find out more about the ICB [here](https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/).

Applications will be for spend between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2027 for sums of between £3,000 each year up to a maximum of £30,000 each year. £236,000\*1 is available in 2024/5 and £244, 949 is available in each year for 2025/6 and 2026/7and will be paid in instalments (on receipt of signed offer letter, satisfactory progress, and evaluation reports).

Applications open 4th January 2024 and a briefing about the fund will be held 11th January 2024. Applications will close 5th February 2024 and decisions notified end of February/early March 2024.

\*1Final grant award amounts are subject to ICB approval March 2024

VCFSE organisations and the communities they serve are best placed to determine which activities and interventions are most needed and will work best. Consequently, the VCFSE Health and Wellbeing Grant programme is not being prescriptive in the work to fund but is seeking proposals to work within the priority communities described and to meet the outcomes set out in the guidance below. We will fund projects which have been successfully tried before or new approaches, providing you can explain effectively in your application why you think it will meet the desired outcomes.

# GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

## Participants

We have established priority groups for this fund to support action with communities where health inequalities[[1]](#footnote-1) [[2]](#footnote-2)exist and where there is scope/evidence for the biggest potential impact. All funding will be focused on supporting people in areas facing the highest levels of multiple deprivation in Liverpool, who also face the additional inequalities described below and are identified by VCSE own activity and/or GP referrals.

Applications are sought for proposals which will support health and wellbeing in the following communities:-

A) People in Liverpool who live in the 10% most deprived communities in the IMD nationally (see red and purple areas on the map below). For the purposes of this grant, at least 75% of participants will need to live in one or more of the wards marked red or purple in the map, or listed below:-

Fazakerly East, Fazakerly West, Croxteth, Norris Green, Clubmoor East, Clubmoor West, Walton, County, Kirkdale East, Kirkdale West, Waterfront North, Vauxhall, Everton West, Everton North, Anfield, Everton East, Kensington and Fairfield, Tuebrook Larkhill, Stoneycroft, Old Swan West, Old Swan East, Broadgreen, Edge Hill, Yew Tree, Knotty Ash and Dovecot Park, Smithdown, Arundel, Princess Park, Toxteth, Dingle, Belle Vale, Garston, Speke.

**AND** WHO ARE **ALSO**

1. Part of one or more of the following groups:-
2. Ethnic minority / traveller communities
3. People who have a disability – physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and their families/carers
4. Pregnant women and / or children aged 0-5 and their families
5. Participants who are involved through community organisations’ own work and maybe though referrals from Liverpool GP practices.

It is recognised some organisations may already take referrals. Applicants should decide if they wish to take referrals as part of this project or not (it is not a requirement) and if this will support/overlap existing arrangements or be separate. Applications can describe where referrals are to be welcomed from if appropriate or if this is to be generated through the project or unknown.

## Outcomes

To be successful in your application you will also need to address and ultimately provide evidence of achieving **a minimum of 3** of the following outcomes:-

1. Improved wellbeing / mental health of participants using agreed scales **eg** (SWEMWBS)
2. Improved physical health of participants – eg physical activity / healthy eating / self-care / contact with health professionals / improved living conditions / improved working conditions
3. Improved/increased social contact of participants
4. Increased knowledge, skills &/or confidence for living healthier lives – eg for prevention of ill health/ care of a long-term health condition/ where to seek support / parenting skills / peer support / volunteering / training
5. Improved links between VCFSE and relevant health professionals

The application asks organisations to outline how you will evaluate the project and we envisage these plans can be discussed and refined with successful organisations at award. A draft evaluation template is available on the LCVS web page for guidance. It is envisaged before and after questionnaires will be needed with at least some participants to demonstrate most of the outcomes. Applications should set out how you will approach this. It may be appropriate to adapt the process to suit your project/participants. Applications should describe this, including what proportion of participants will be completing such feedback and a mix of qualitative and quantitative responses. A final template will be agreed with the successful projects.

## Eligible Organisations

Eligible organisations must :-

1. Be able to deliver on **at least 3** of the outcomes listed above and provide evidence of this.
2. Be actively supporting people in groups experiencing health inequalities as set out in 3A, map below **and** 3B above.
3. Be constituted voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations, operating on a not-for-profit basis and established for at least 12 months from January 2023.
4. Have an income of between £3,000 - £550,000 in 2022/23.
5. Have the registered address in Liverpool and/or business address (main place of operation) to be in Liverpool. Liverpool defined as the Local Authority area.
6. Have a bank account which requires at least two unrelated people to sign cheques and make withdrawals.
7. Have at least three people on board/directors
8. Provide appropriate Safeguarding and Equality policies and insurance provision for the activities proposed.
9. Be willing to participate in quarterly meetings with scheme partners to further the aims of the programme (for which time costs can be built into applications).
10. Provide progress reports during delivery, mid-way and end of project evaluation using templates agreed at the start of the project.

Partnership bids are welcome and are to be made in the name of the lead organisation. Each partner will be required to meet the eligibility criteria and appropriate documentation for each will need to be submitted.

Recipients of grants in the previous scheme are welcome to apply and applications will be judged according to the above criteria.

Activity proposed in the grants does not have to be ‘new’ and can be to continue/extend existing approaches providing they meet the criteria set out in this guidance.

Staff costs – organisations may build staff costs into their application, as long as the purpose of the role aligns with the overall aims of the project priorities.

Translations/alternative formats – separate budget is available to support this for projects and evaluations. Please make a note in application if you think this will be required.

The following are **not** eligible for funding via this programme:

* Individuals, or organisations applying on behalf of individuals.
* Organisations established for less than 12 months as of January 2024
* Statutory bodies, companies limited by shares, NHS organisations/GP practices.
* Universities, colleges or schools, medical or academic research, scholarships or bursaries
* Organisations set up to support animals.
* The promotion of religion or political views
* Purchasing or promotion of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs
* Large capital costs including large scale renovations and the purchase of vehicles.
* The promotion of philanthropy and endowment appeals.
* Retrospective funding: costs that have already been incurred.

## Ward Map

The map below, shows the areas of multiple deprivation and this fund is to support people in the areas shaded red and purple.

Information on Liverpool wards and data is available at

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/council/key-statistics-and-data/ward-information/ward-profiles/>

including a postcode look up facility.

Further information on Indices of Deprivation [here](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiOTdjYzIyNTMtMTcxNi00YmQ2LWI1YzgtMTUyYzMxOWQ3NzQ2IiwidCI6ImJmMzQ2ODEwLTljN2QtNDNkZS1hODcyLTI0YTJlZjM5OTVhOCJ9)



# TIMELINE

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| **TASK** | **Date** |
| 1. Briefing event
 | 11th January 2024 |
| 1. Closing date for applications
 | 5th February 2024 |
| 1. Award offers sent by email
 | End Feb/Early March 24 |
| 1. Signed offers exchanged
 | March 2024 |
| 1. Programme begins
 | April 2024 |

1. https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report-pdf.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.cheshireandmerseysidepartnership.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Cheshire-and-Merseyside\_Executive-Summary-FINAL.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)