

# Covid Impact Fund - Mental Health and Wellbeing 2021

## Prospectus

If you require this information in another language, please contact [omfunds@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:omfunds@manchester.gov.uk)

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## Introduction

The work carried out by the voluntary sector is vital to Manchester's residents and communities, and over the last year this could not have been truer. The way voluntary, community, faith, social enterprise organisations and mutual aid groups have responded to the Covid-19 crisis has and continues to be inspiring. We recognise that Covid has had a huge impact on people's mental health and that this is only exacerbated by the winter months.

Manchester City Council is therefore using £300,000 of its Tier 3 funding allocation from central government to deliver this fund.

## Aim of the fund

To fund support for resident's mental health and wellbeing and reducing social isolation between January – June 2021.

Funding aims to increase provision either through the development or refocussing of existing sources of support.

Based on the intelligence, developments and learning from the initial response to Covid-19, (such as the work of the Council and partners on the Central Hub, Food Response, Homelessness, Carers and Covid Health Equity Manchester – communication and engagement) the grant is focused on engaging and supporting VCSE organisations that prioritise support to the following communities impacted by Covid 19:

- Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities
- Disabled people
- LGBTQ+ communities
- North Manchester residents
- Older people (65 years and over)

The priority groups above are inclusive of the support to individuals and for those that provide care and support to those individuals e.g. family, friends and carers. In addition there is a need for providers and activity to take a strengths-based and person-centred approach - not doing to but working with people and recognising some of the multiple impact's individuals are dealing with.

Although we are particularly interested in funding work for the stated priority groups, applicants can apply to support any group(s) or communities in Manchester that would benefit from mental health and wellbeing support.

Applicants will be required to evidence their reasons for the people they will work with, demonstrating strong connections to people at high risk of multiple negative impacts from Covid-19. This could include evidence around health, social and

economic issues, and delivering activity targeted at young people or adults, in a particular geographical area or community of identity.

## Outcomes we are looking for

The outcomes are informed by the 5 ways of wellbeing. [Find out more on the NHS website.](#)

Through Voluntary sector organisations being able to refocus, sustain, expand or extend activity we would expect the following outcomes to be reported against:

1. Increased positive connectedness with others e.g. through deepened relationships or new connections made
2. Improved physical health and wellbeing
3. Improved mental health, confidence and/or self esteem
4. Improved attendance and participation in community and/or social activity. This could include volunteering.

## Funding amounts

You can apply at two different funding levels depending on your proposal:

**Up to £10,000.** Grants of up to £10k are available for individual organisation applications.

**Up to £30,000.** Grants of up to £30k are available for multiple VCSE organisations working in partnership.

## Funding limits

The minimum amount for any application is £2,000. Applications under this amount will not be considered.

Organisations can bid to the fund once individually and once in partnership. The same organisation can be the lead applicant in both an individual and a partnership application.

Funding will be awarded for activity up to and including 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Activity can continue beyond this date however it must be funded from outside of this grant fund.

## Examples of what we're expecting to fund

We are expecting this funding to support and build on what is already working well and would like to see funded activity taking place as soon as practically possible.

We would expect to see applications about:

- Repurposing of existing resources and services to alleviate winter pressures
- Extension / expansion of existing provision e.g. to reach more people, reach new people or extend its lifetime.

- Activities could include (but are not limited to):
  - a. Providing support, information and guidance
  - b. Peer support groups and access, virtual and/or in person
  - c. Signposting and connecting people
  - d. Projects that get people out of the house and start to re-introduce face to face contact in a safe way.
  - e. Creative projects that provide people with information and resources and/or safely bring people together and enable people to share their stories
  - f. Activities that enable people to gain new skills and experiences
  - g. Expanding counselling services
  - h. Telephone support e.g. Keeping safe and well checks
  - i. Support for the whole family
- We recognise that Covid-19 has exacerbated issues of digital exclusion. We are interested to know how groups plan to support the digital inclusion of residents to enable them to access support and activities that will improve their mental health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation.

## What we can fund

- People - Staffing and volunteer costs associated with delivering the work you are applying for;
- Support – supervision and support for your team, including wellbeing and specialist support that ensures the resilience of staff and volunteers;
- Equipment – any equipment you need to deliver this work that is not already in your budget;
- Resources – any new software or training needed for your team to do their work;
- Services – meeting the needs of the people you work for, including food and essentials, translation or interpreting services, or deep cleaning of accommodation;
- Overheads – direct additional costs (e.g. for home working), together with a proportionate contribution to your organisational costs (including your governance costs);
- Partnership – staff time, professional fees, or support needed to enable collaboration; and
- Development – contributions to capacity building, infrastructure and organisational development.

## What we can't fund

- Activity that promotes religious or political views, beliefs and affiliations.
- Costs not related to your project and activities
- Purchase of vehicles, land or property

- Building renovation/repair costs.
- Work that isn't charitable or doesn't benefit Manchester residents
- Direct payments to your beneficiaries
- Statutory service provision and costs that should be covered by public funding

## Who can apply

- All funding is for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations that are based in or predominantly serving Manchester communities and residents.
- Organisations must fall under any one of the following:
  - Registered, exempt or excepted charity
  - Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
  - CIC limited by guarantee
  - Charitable company (limited by guarantee)
  - Community benefit society (Bencom)
  - Faith group, where the activity is not promoting religion
  - Constituted community group
- Please note that for all types of organisation, your objectives must be charitable and you must have at least three Trustees or Directors.
- Applicants do not need to have an existing or previous funding relationship with MCC in order to apply.
- Applicants can apply as a partnership of voluntary organisations or independently.
- Partnerships will be expected to have an agreement in place that includes (but is not limited to) how they will work together to deliver activities, keep people safe (in terms of health and safety and safeguarding), monitor the work, and pass on funding. We will require evidence of this as part of the due diligence process.
- Lead organisations (the applicant) will be expected to have checked that any partner organisation they are working with is working towards and/or willing to adopt safeguarding, equality and diversity, risk practices, policies and procedures of the lead organisation.

## Can unconstituted groups apply?

Yes, unconstituted groups can access this funding, however if you are not a constituted group, (for example you are a mutual aid group), you should partner with an organisation that is eligible to apply and hold the grant on your behalf.

## How to apply

- Applications must be submitted online using Smart Survey. The form will be available from 10am Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January when you will be able to [click this link to start and submit an application](#).

- Application form and supporting documentation can be made available in other languages or formats if required. Please let us know your requirements.
- Due to Covid 19, we can't accept any application forms or correspondence by post.
- You can get help to complete the application form by contacting us.

## Deadlines

- There are three application deadlines throughout January, February and March 2021. If you miss a deadline you can submit it before the next deadline, but it won't be considered until then.
- The deadlines are Mondays by 3pm on the 18th January 2021, 8th February 2021 and 1st March 2021.
- Bids received after 3pm on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 won't be considered.

## Decision making

- Funding decisions will be made on a rolling basis throughout Jan – March 2021.
- Applications will be considered in the order they are received with funding awarded until the resource has been fully allocated.

## Process once decisions have been made

- We will let you know if your application was successful.
- Decisions made on applications will be final and groups will not be able to appeal.
- We may ask you for proof of things you have mentioned in your application, particularly if you are new to working with the Council.

## Appendix

Below is a list of areas and wards that applications can cover:

<b>North Manchester</b>	<b>Central Manchester</b>	<b>South Manchester</b>
Ancoats & Beswick	Ardwick	Burnage
Charlestown	Deansgate	Chorlton
Cheetham	Gorton and Abbey Hey	Chorlton Park
Clayton and Openshaw	Hulme	Didsbury East
Crumpsall	Levenshulme	Didsbury West
Harpurhey	Longsight	Fallowfield
Higher Blackley	Moss Side	Old Moat
Miles Platting and Newton	Piccadilly	Whalley Range
Heath	Rusholme	Withington
Moston		Baguley
		Brooklands

		Northenden Sharston Woodhouse Park
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