**Community Chest FAQs 2023/2024**

**Q: Where did the funding come from?**

A: North-East London ICS and LBBD. The funding awarded from NEL NHS has come from the NHS England Health Inequalities Fund.

**Q: How much is it in total?**

A: £90,000. Of this total, £45,000 comes from the Health Inequalities Fund from NHS North East London ICS and £45,000 from LBBD as match funding.

**Q: Who can apply?**

A: Voluntary and community sector groups working in Barking & Dagenham who will deliver social prescribing to residents.

**Q: How much money is there likely to be for my individual proposal?**

A: Whilst there is no automatic guarantee of funding, the range is expected to be from a few hundred pounds to a maximum of £5,000 per project.

**Q: Are there restrictions on who can apply?**

A: Sole traders cannot apply but can link in with other organisations or have a sponsor organisation to support them on the project.

**Q: When can we apply?**

A: An Expression of Interest / Proposal form will need to be submitted by 5pm on Monday 8 January.  It will be available from Monday 11 December

**Q: How will we apply?**

A: Applications will be done in person on 8 February 2024 between 10am and 4pm at Barking Learning Centre as part of a group session along with other organisations. This is the only way organisations can apply.

**Q: What is a participatory budgeting process?**

 A: Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which voluntary and community groups decide directly how to spend part of a public budget.

**Q: Who decides which projects are funded?**

The funded projects will be chosen through an in person voting process (participatory budgeting) by the organisations who have applied to be part of this initiative. This will include VCSE’s, NHS and Local Authority participants.

**Q: Why are you doing it this way?**

A: Because we need a community-led approach to funding where are open and collaborative rather than closed and competitive.  We need to change how funding and partnerships work and this is an opportunity to try a new approach.

**Q: How will I find out the criteria and more specific details?**

A: Information is included in Guidance notes available at the Information event or online at: <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/adult-health-and-social-care/health-and-wellbeing/social-prescribing/community-chest-fund>

**Q: What is the criteria likely to be?**

We are proposing that applications are assessed against the following criteria:

* **Equality, diversity and inclusion** – supporting those who are left behind or not well provided for by the current offer
* **Capacity building** – strengthening your organisation’s capability to deliver projects
* **Existing Health Priorities** – how your proposal supports and compliments the local health priorities in Barking & Dagenham. Activities can include befriending and social sessions, peer support whilst waiting for specialist help, affordable help, support for residents with no recourse to public funds, support for social isolation and building networks, green social prescribing (using the power of nature to improve health & well-being), supporting residents to access health and wellbeing services in the most efficient way
* **Evidence** – showing the impact of your work and sharing your good work with others

**Q: When should projects take place?**

Projects and activities should start on or after 1 March 2023 and be completed no later than 31 July 2023.

**Q: What support do you offer successful projects?**

We will be able to offer funded projects some support with data, monitoring and evaluation capture.

**Q: What if I feel vulnerable or not confident to participate?**

A: We want to create a space that is as safe and supportive as possible. If you have any concerns please be in touch with the organisers so that we can find a way to support you and improve our process.

**Q: Will I be paid for attending Information session and application day?**

A: Organisations will be remunerated for attending both sessions.  If you have more than one person attending the sessions you will only receive funding for one person.  The amount will £17.94 per hour

The work local groups are doing is already an inspiration and rarely given the recognition and resources it deserves, this is an opportunity to change that and – we want this to be a positive experience for all.