Mental Health Community Grants in Sussex, bringing the NHS and voluntary sector together

**Call for Applications: Supporting the growth and development of the Mental Health Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector in Sussex**

***Funded by the Mental Health Collaborative of Sussex Health and Care***

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**Application Guidance - updated November 2022**

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# What is available at this funding round?

Up to £255,000 of Grants for projects delivered in the voluntary sector that support the transformation of NHS community mental health services for adults in Sussex, across two funding programmes:

* £75,000 for Innovate - grants that support the testing of new work
* £180,000 for Build - grants that support the growth and scaling up of existing work

This is the second round of funding. During the first round a total of 46 applications were received, worth £1,596,585 against a total grants budget of £288,000. From this first round we funded nine organisations who were informed in October.

As part of the first funding round we included suicide prevention as a funding focus, alongside transformation of community adult mental health services. Due to the high volume of proposals that related to suicide prevention, we have now allocated all funding available for suicide prevention projects. This second funding round will focus solely on transformation of community adult mental health services.

# Introduction

The Sussex Health and Care (SHC) Mental Health Collaborative have made available a total of £600,000 to fund projects, delivered by VCSE organisations, that address the recommendations of the national Suicide Prevention strategy and support the transformation of community mental health services for adults in Sussex.

The funding is split between three funding programmes: Innovate, Build, and Grow.

**This call for applications is only for projects that support the transformation of adult community mental health services**. All funding to support suicide prevention was allocated at the fund's first round.

The grants programme is being managed by Heads On, the charity for Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, working on behalf of the SHC Mental Health Collaborative.

This guidance document sets out the funding available, eligibility criteria and assessment process. Please read them carefully before applying.

If you have any questions please email [GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)

# Background

Sussex Health and Care is an Integrated Care System (ICS) which serves a population of more than 1.7 million people and works in partnership across Sussex, as well as within and across the populations of Brighton and Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex.

Heads On is Sussex Partnership's official NHS charity, working to enhance NHS services across Sussex. The charity's strategy for 2021-25 is focused on addressing health inequalities across the region with a particular focus on the inequalities faced by people with mental health problems, learning disabilities or neurodivergent conditions.

As an NHS charity, Heads On fundraises for and delivers projects that will enhance NHS services and runs a range of grant making programmes within the NHS and voluntary sector.

# Context

**National Context**

The NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) highlights the need for closer partnership working between the voluntary sector, local government and the NHS to address the wider determinants of health and improve care for people and communities. It recognises the expertise of the voluntary sector in addressing health inequalities for their local populations and the key role the sector will play in moving this work forwards.

NHS England and NHS Improvement's [ICS implementation guidance on partnerships with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/B0905-vcse-and-ics-partnerships.pdf) recognises that the sector is key to the creation of successful integrated care systems. It states that "The VCSE sector is a key strategic partner with an important contribution to make in shaping, improving and delivering services, and developing and implementing plans to tackle the wider determinants of health."

“With its focus on early action, preventative services and wider social value, the sector provides good value for money. It brings insights, voice and assets into partnerships to support health and wellbeing, including expertise in service redesign and delivery, insight into inequalities, and access to volunteers and premises.”

The NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan (MHIP) 2019/20 – 2023/24 recognises that leadership within the VCSE is key to ensuring that the design and delivery of services is genuinely co-produced. It highlights that the VCSE plays a vital role in the delivery of the LTP. The MHIP urges ICS leads/commissioners to consider the role that grant making can play in engaging VCSE providers in delivery, the scope for innovation and how the VCSE sector can be supported to grow and develop.

**Local Need**

SHC Mental Health Collaborative recognises that to achieve the ambitions for an enhanced role in the delivery of mental health services for VSCE partners in Sussex, barriers between the NHS and VCSE need to be broken down and solutions found to enable effective and efficient commissioning of the sector whilst at the same time enabling its growth and development.

# Call for applications

In response to national recognition of the need to further invest in and develop the VCSE sector in support of healthcare, and specific local recommendations the SHC Mental Health Collaborative have agreed to invest £600,000 in a grant making programme to support both mental health service delivery and growth, and development of the sector itself, during the period 2022-2025, with a particular focus on prevention, developing resilience with people and communities and reducing health inequalities.

This call for applications provides funding opportunities for the VCSE to deliver both pilot work and build on existing successes, and also see unique infrastructure development support for organisations including focus on those led by minority ethnic communities.

# Funding programmes

**INNOVATE -** this funding stream will provide pilot funding for innovative projects to explore and test new projects and approaches

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TOTAL**  **Grants Budget** | **Total: £75,000** |
| **Minimum Grant Available** | £5,000 |
| **Maximum Grant Available** | £15,000 |
| **Funding Deadlines**  Total grants budget split over two deadlines | Noon, Tuesday 31st January 2023 |
| **Delivery period** | Projects must complete, including evaluation, within 18 months of a funding decision.  Final projects to complete Summer 2024 |

**BUILD -** this funding stream will provide scale-up funding to build on existing work and previous successes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TOTAL**  **Grants Budget** | **Total: £180,000** |
| **Minimum Grant Available** | £15,000 |
| **Maximum Grant Available** | £50,000 |
| **Funding Deadlines**  Total grants budget split over two deadlines | Noon, Tuesday 31st January 2023 |
| **Delivery period** | Projects must complete, including evaluation, within 18 months of a funding decision.  Final projects to complete Summer 2024 |

**GROW -** Infrastructure development funding for VCSE organisations to grow and develop e.g. investing in new software, testing new roles, improving websites.

***Please note - the Grow funding stream will be open imminently. Please see our website for Grow funding guidelines.***

# Funding Priorities

Funding priorities respond directly to the need to improve health outcomes for people with mental health problems, increase personal and community resilience, increase preventative approaches and at the same time contribute to reducing pressure on secondary care NHS mental health services. All projects must add value to existing work and have robust evaluation processes in place:

**TRANSFORMATION OF ADULT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Applications are welcomed that support the transformation of adult community mental health services in Sussex. We are particularly keen to receive applications for projects delivered in East and West Sussex.

Given the demand in funding, applications that align most closely with the community transformation funding programme in Sussex will be prioritised, particularly those projects that support people experiencing severe and enduring mental illness.

The transformation of community mental health services for adults in Sussex is a partnership between the NHS (mental health services and General Practice), Social Care and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.

We are developing and implementing new and integrated models of healthcare that connect different parts of mental health care services & support, to better support people with mental illness and improve people's life expectancy. This new way of delivering care will be developed across East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and West Sussex and aims to:

* Support people to live well in their local communities, accessing mental health care where and when they need it.
* Manage their condition or move towards recovery on their own terms, surrounded by their families, carers and social networks, and supported in their local community.
* Contribute to and be participants in the communities that sustain them, to whatever extent is comfortable to them.

The work in Sussex addresses, on a local level, the recommendations of the NHS Long Term Plan to transform the provision of community-based adults (including older adults) mental healthcare across England.

This video explains more about the transformation of community mental health services across England <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruGb6r8jnIA>

You can apply for grants to deliver projects within the following priority areas that will contribute towards the aims of the Sussex transformation of adult community mental health services:

* Improving access to mental health care particularly for groups who face additional barriers to accessing healthcare
* Building mental health resilience in local communities
* Addressing the social determinants of health and health inequalities\*

\* **Social Determinants of health and health inequalities**

The World Health Organisation defines the *social determinants of health* (SDH) as the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems.

The following list provides examples of the social determinants of health, which can influence health equity in positive and negative ways:

* Income and social protection
* Education
* Unemployment and job insecurity
* Working life conditions
* Food insecurity
* Housing, basic amenities and the environment
* Early childhood development
* Social inclusion and non-discrimination
* Structural conflict
* Access to affordable health services of decent quality.

Research shows that the social determinants can be more important than health care or lifestyle choices in influencing health. For example, numerous studies suggest that SDH account for between 30-55% of health outcomes. In addition, estimates show that the contribution of sectors outside health to population health outcomes exceeds the contribution from the health sector.

Addressing SDH appropriately is fundamental for improving health and reducing longstanding inequalities in health, which requires action by all sectors and civil society.

The SDH have an important influence on *health inequalities* - the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries. In countries at all levels of income, health and illness follow a social gradient: the lower the socioeconomic position, the worse the health. An example of a health inequality is that people living with severe mental illness have a life expectancy of 15-20 years lower than the general population.

The NHS Long Term Plan commits the NHS to a greater focus on prevention and on health inequalities.

Differences in health status and the things that determine it can be experienced by people grouped by a range of factors. In England, health inequalities are often analysed and addressed by policy across four types of factors:

* socio-economic factors, for example, income
* specific characteristics including those protected in law, such as sex, ethnicity or disability
* socially excluded groups, for example, people experiencing homelessness, refugees / asylum seekers.
* geography, for example, region or whether urban or rural - under social determinants of health and health inequalities, we will only fund projects that support communities in areas of deprivation within:
* Hastings and Rother
* Bognor Regis and Littlehampton
* Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford
* Crawley
* Brighton and Hove

# Weighting & assessment criteria

To give yourself the best chance of understanding what we are looking for in applications, read the below criteria carefully. Each section of the application form is weighted differently, please use the below breakdown to understand how each section is weighted and what we are looking for when we assess.

**Reach (15%)**

Who will benefit from your proposed project?

How many people will you work with directly?

What is your track record of working with this group of people?

How will you undertake co-design with people who will benefit from the project?

What signposting or referral pathways will you put in place to reach the right people? How will you engage people in this project?

We would expect to see clear evidence of co-design/user led design and delivery of service as part of this answer.

**Innovation/Build (20%)**

Please describe the innovation within your project? Are you testing a new approach? Or testing an existing approach in a new area?

Or

What existing work / successes is this project building on? What evidence is there of the success, and therefore the need to scale-up?

**Impact (40%)**

What difference will your project make to its intended beneficiaries? What evidence is there to support this need? How will you measure and evidence the difference it makes? How will the project provide a lasting benefit?

We need to know what the short term and long-term impact of the project will be for the people that will take part in it. How will you know the project has made a difference and crucially how will the beneficiaries know? What does impact look like to them?

**Collaboration or partnership (15%)**

Are any other organisations or partners involved in delivering this project? Please tell us who will oversee the delivery of your project, including details of any specific skills, experience or expertise they bring.

An aim of community mental health transformation is to enable greater connectivity and collaboration across local VCSE mental health services. Please describe your current local VCSE partnerships and how you will look to further develop them in the delivery of your proposed project.

Here we would expect to see illustrated how organisations work with other VCSE organisations, who do you work with, who do you signpost to, who signposts to you, who are your collaborators, where do you fit within this?

**Sustainability and Learning (5%)**

Will this project continue in the future without funding from **Sussex Health and Care Partnership Mental Health Collaborative**? What might be learnt from this project (for example, piloting new models or service delivery, developing new technology etc), how could this benefit others, and how could it be shared with others?

Here we would want to see how the project will continue after the grant ends, and specifically who do you think could fund it afterwards? We understand that pilots may be assessed to determine their success, but if the project is a success what will you do to make sure it continues? How will you disseminate learnings from the project both internally and within your wider networks to strengthen best practice? Could this project fit into the wider context of future funding from government, fundraised income, commissioned or grant funding or would it be developed into a core service?

**Funding (5%)**

Clear budget with value for money and social impact made clear

# Eligibility

**Who will we fund?**

We will only fund organisations from the voluntary, community or social enterprise sector (VCSE).

We recognise the important work being undertaken by organisations that might not meet all eligibility criteria e.g. newly established organisations, and would therefore still fund such organisations if they are part of a joint application. The lead applicant would need to meet all eligibility criteria.

Lead Applicant organisations must:

* Be not for profit - meaning organisations:
* Who have charitable status (registered with the charity commission)
* Who are social enterprises, CICs and Companies Limited by Guarantee carrying out activities which are charitable. However, these organisations must have:
* Demonstrable public benefit and clear protection against private benefit
* A minimum of three unrelated directors, the majority of whom are not paid either as directors or for delivering the activities of the organization (if some are related there must be at least three who are not)
* A majority of non-executive directors approving the salaries and benefits of any paid directors, which should be reasonable and proportionate to the work they do and the financial position of the organisation
* An asset lock body (in the case of CICs) with objectives which are charitable and similar to the CIC
* Have its own bank account, with at least two cheque signatories (who are not related to each other).
* Have a constitution or set of governing rules, with a minimum of three trustees/committee members, as above
* Not apply for grant funding amount of more than 20% of their current annual turnover, as demonstrated by your audited or independently examined accounts
* Have an equal opportunities, health and safety and safeguarding policy
* Be able to provide 3 years' worth of accounts or records of expenditure, for example via a link to the audited accounts on the Charity Commission website, or copies of your accounts if published on Companies House.
* Have a track record of delivering community mental health services.
* Be engaged in or willing to engage in one of the VCSE mental health networks in West Sussex, East Sussex or B&H

Lead applicants may only apply once as a lead applicant for either the Innovate or Build funding programmes.

Projects must be co-produced with those with lived experience, and delivered in partnership by voluntary and community sector organisations working with the NHS.

Funded projects must be ready to start delivery by March 2023 and will need to have completed activities and been evaluated by June 2024.

**Joint applications**

We welcome joint applications – e.g. collaborations between VCSE organisations. There is no limit to the number of partners. However, we require one delivery partner to take the lead. The lead applicant must meet the eligibility criteria outlined and we will contract with them and expect them to manage the grant.

**What will we fund?**

* Direct projects costs
* Project management costs up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget

**Where will we fund?**

* We will only fund projects which benefit communities in Sussex.
* Projects addressing Health Inequalities can only be delivered in areas of deprivation within Hastings and Rother; Brighton and Hove; Bognor Regis and Littlehampton; Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford, and Crawley.

**What won't we fund?**

* Organisations or activities which don’t benefit communities in Sussex
* NHS provider organisations or other statutory agencies
* Individuals
* Organisations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, age, or sexual orientation
* Activities which are predominantly research based - we expect our funding to support direct project delivery
* Political activities
* Retrospective funding for activities or projects that have already taken place
* Capital expenditure
* Activities that are the responsibility of statutory bodies and funders, including work which is considered core NHS activity
* Core costs
* Applications for anything which isn't direct delivery costs. For example, we will not fund organisations who wish to use the funding to then make grants to others.

We expect a high volume of applications and recommend applicants review the scoring criteria to ensure their project best addresses the priorities of the fund. Due to expected demand for our funding, we may not be able to fund successful projects at the level requested.

In the summer funding round for this programme the largest awards made for projects under Transformation of Community Mental Health Services were £25,000.

# How to apply and funding timelines

To apply you need to:

* Submit an application form via email to [GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk) using the form available to download **on the Heads On website** [**https://www.headsoncharity.org/news/sussex-health-and-care-mental-health-collaborative-updated-funding-opportunity/index.html**](https://www.headsoncharity.org/news/sussex-health-and-care-mental-health-collaborative-updated-funding-opportunity/index.html).
* Include the links to your financial accounts with your application form
* If you applied to the first Mental Health Community Grants funding round and were unsuccessful you must contact [GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk) prior to reapplying if you intend to submit the same project. We will need to check if your project is eligible as our guidance has been updated. Please note we will not accept applications for suicide prevention projects at this Winter 2022 funding round.

You must complete all of the steps above for us to consider your application. We are sorry but incomplete applications will not be considered.

Deadline for submission of your application is: **Noon, Tuesday 31st January 2022**

All applicants can expect to be notified of the outcome of their application within six - eight weeks of submission.

Successful projects will commence March 2022.

# Reporting requirements

Successful applicants will need to work with us to develop a grant reporting schedule providing updates on key milestones for your project. Payment of your grant will be linked to meeting the key milestones that we agree together.

All projects will be required to submit a minimum mind-point monitoring report and evaluation report at project close; quarterly reports may also be required dependent on the project length.

Successful applicants will also be required to participate in the overall evaluation of the programme.

# Selection Process

Once we receive your application, we will check that you are eligible and have supplied the information we need.

There will be an assessment panel to evaluate the applications and each application will be scored, recognising innovation, intended demonstrable outcome/impact, collaboration/partnership working, utilising the voice of lived experience and value for money. The panel will consist of Mental Health NHS Commissioners, experts by experience, VCSE and Local Authority.

Once the application is received, the applicant will be notified within approximately eight weeks if they have been successful.

**Due diligence assessments** of all shortlisted organisations will be undertaken. The process at this stage will complete the assessment of whether the applicant organisation and any project implementation partners have the necessary policies, processes, governance systems and resources to deliver the project successfully. This includes human resources - ensuring the organisation has the right skills and experience to manage charitable funds accountably and for the purpose they were awarded.

**For more information**

Please send any enquiries to [GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)