# 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**

**GROW grants programme - infrastructure development funding for VCSE organisations in Sussex**

**Application Guidance**

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

**What is available?**

This call for applications is for the Grow grants programme and has a total budget of £125,000 across two funding priorities:

* £75,000 in VCSE development grants for organisations who can evidence a track record of delivering activities that support the mental health and wellbeing of their communities.
* £50,000 to support infrastructure development for minority ethnic led organisations in Sussex by established minority ethnic led development organisations to build capacity in healthcare delivery.

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; and
* invest in the infrastructure and growth of the sector itself.

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

**Introduction**

**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 level of support would see 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 a focus on those led by minority ethnic communities.

**Funding programmes**

The total investment of £600,000 is split across three funding programmes: Innovate, Build and Grow. Innovate and Build are now closed to applications. You can read about projects funded through Innovate and Build [here](https://www.headsoncharity.org/news/heads-on-invests-220-000-into-voluntary-sector-to-fund-community-mental-health-support/index.html).

This call for applications is for the **Grow** funding programme, as follows:

**GROW -** Infrastructure development funding for VCSE organisations to grow and develop.

**Priority 1: VCSE development grants for organisations who can evidence a track record of delivering activities that support the mental health and wellbeing of their communities and whose core business is mental health.**

Please note we anticipate making up to 2 grants at the maximum grant available and a range of smaller awards.

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| **TOTAL**  **Grants Budget** | **Total: £75,000** |
| **Minimum Grant Available** | £5,000 |
| **Maximum Grant Available** | £20,000 |
| **Funding Deadlines** | Noon, Thursday 25 May |
| **Delivery period** | Projects must complete, including evaluation, within 18 months of a funding decision.  Final projects to complete Autumn 2024 |

**Priority 2: Capacity building minority ethnic led organisations in Sussex by an established minority ethnic led infrastructure body**

Please note we anticipate making 1 award under this funding priority.

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| **TOTAL**  **Grants Budget** | **Total: £50,000** |
| **Funding Deadlines** | Noon, Thursday 25 May |
| **Delivery period** | Projects must complete, including evaluation, within 18 months of a funding decision.  Final projects to complete Autumn 2024 |

**Funding Priorities**

**Priority 1**

**VCSE development grants for** **organisations who can evidence a track record of delivering activities that support the mental health and wellbeing of their communities and whose core business is mental health.**

Grow grants will be awarded to VCSE sector organisations which have identified clear development needs, and provide funding to strengthen those organisations to deliver more effectively.

Grow grants can fund organisational improvements, development of areas such as leadership and governance, improved systems, and demonstrating outcomes. These developments put organisations in a stronger position to better deliver services and attract funding.

Grants are awarded to organisations that meet the eligibility criteria and have also identified clear development areas which will support their growth.

Grants can fund a range of activity related to the development and improvement of the capability of the organisation, for example:

* Business and service developments and plans
* Development of monitoring systems
* Consultancy support or testing new roles
* Quality standards
* Development of new income streams and enterprise
* Investing in new software
* Improving websites.

**Outcomes**

Grant applicants must identify specific organisational development, have a clear plan of activities and an idea of what they hope to achieve. As a result of their grant funding, they should meet one or more of following outcomes:

* Improved activities and services - including assessment of needs, user satisfaction, service reviews, project planning, collaboration with others
* Improved leadership/governance - including review of board/committee policy and practice, Trustee training, involving users, change management, social entrepreneurship
* Improved strategic planning/policy - including business planning, fundraising strategies, income generation, policy and procedure reviews
* Improved structures/systems - including financial controls, human resources, management of volunteers, risk management, monitoring frameworks, impact assessment
* Improved communications - including marketing and communications, website development, reaching new audiences, recruiting volunteers

Organisations can apply for Grow grants of between £5,000 - £20,000. Due to expected demand for our funding, we expect to make up to two awards at the maximum grant of £20,000 and a range of smaller awards.

We welcome applications from organisations of varying sizes who can demonstrate the need for our funding and that they would be unable to invest in this infrastructure development themselves.

**Priority 2**

**Capacity building minority ethnic led organisations in Sussex by an established minority ethnic led infrastructure body**

We will make a single grant of £50,000 under this funding priority.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities: We recognise that not everyone likes the term BAME. It covers a wide range of people with diverse needs, and it can be problematic to put all those people into a single group. We use it here to show that people who aren’t White British can face specific issues and challenges because of their ethnicity. We use BAME here as a shorthand term but acknowledge people can find it unsatisfying or prefer to use a different term to describe themselves.

A growing body of data, including from [ONS](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/coronavirusrelateddeathsbyethnicgroupenglandandwales/2march2020to10april2020) and [Public Health England](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf) shows that people who are Black, Asian and from minority ethnic (BAME) groups have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This has further compounded existing health inequalities faced by people from minority ethnic backgrounds, including in relation to mental health.

The Mental Health Foundation found that rates of mental health problems can be higher for some BAME groups than for White people. For example:

* Black men are more likely to have experienced a psychotic disorder in the last year than White men
* Black people are four times more likely to be detained under the Mental Health Act than White people
* older South Asian women are an at-risk group for suicide
* refugees and asylum seekers are more likely to experience mental health problems than the general population, including higher rates of depression, anxiety and PTSD

This experience is further compounded by experience of racism which can increase your likelihood of experiencing mental health problems such as psychosis and depression.

**What barriers can BAME people face when getting support?**

People from BAME backgrounds have the same right as everyone else to access mental health treatment and services. But research shows BAME people can face barriers to getting help, including:

* Not recognising they have a mental illness because mental health was stigmatised or never talked about in their community
* Not knowing that help is available or where to go to get it
* Language barriers
* Turning to family or friends rather than professional support, especially for people who don’t trust formal healthcare services
* Financial barriers, such as paying for private counselling
* Not feeling listened to or understood by healthcare professionals
* White professionals who do not understand their experiences of racism or discrimination.

The Sussex Health & Care Partnership's Sussex Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Population Needs Review - 2020 found that:

* There are many areas where inequalities for BAME communities were significant around access to health and care interventions both preventative and for disease management.
* People living in very deprived geographical areas across Sussex especially where this intersects with high BAME communities face significantly more disadvantages that result in poor health and life outcomes.
* Inconsistent access to linguistic/ translating services across Primary, Community and Acute services.
* Lack of consistent and culturally aware messaging and service delivery at Place and system.

Our communities in Sussex are rich and diverse, and the cultural differences surrounding health and care means that each community has its own needs and challenges when it comes to being heard and understood.

Small organisations tackling inequalities are unrecognised assets in our community. They are innovative and already working to sustain and strengthen their communities of interest. Often portrayed as passive groups waiting to be rescued or told what to do, they are in fact groups with capabilities, agency and knowledge.

Grassroots organisations have unique strengths. Many have long been involved in struggles over structural inequality and the promotion of human rights. They can bring a distinct awareness of inequities that are, from other perspectives, either normalised or invisible. By providing details of their experience of inadequate services and by calling for accountability, they can challenge the marginalisation that their communities experience.

At the same time, minority ethnic led organisations can face many challenges in effecting change in the development and delivery of healthcare. "Charity So White" has done much to document and raise awareness of the flow of charitable funding into predominantly White led organisations.

Under this funding priority we will invest up to £50,000 in a single award to build capacity within minority ethnic led organisations in Sussex, supporting growth and development within the sector including the ability to successfully apply for and manage health funding.

**Eligibility**

**Who will we fund?**

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

**Priority 1:** we will only fund organisations who can evidence a track record of delivering activities that support the mental health and wellbeing of their communities and whose core business is mental health. By core business we mean at least 50% of your organisation's activities must respond directly to the need to improve health outcomes for people with mental health problems.

You must be able to evidence that your organisation is unable to fund your proposed infrastructure development itself, for example through the use of free reserves or generated income.

**Priority 2:** we will only fund organisations who are minority ethnic (BAME) led infrastructure organisations.

BAME-led organisations are defined under the following terms issued by the Race Equalities Funders Alliance:

* The organisation’s mission and purpose is to benefit BAME communities.
* The majority of the leadership (i.e. at least half of the senior team and the Trustee board) are from the BAME community(ies) that it serves

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 organisation (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.

Funded projects must be ready to start delivery by September 2023 and will need to have completed activities and been evaluated within 18 months of starting.

**Joint applications**

We will only accept joint applications under Priority 2 – 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?**

**Priority 1**

* Organisational improvements, development of areas such as leadership and governance, improved systems, and demonstrating outcomes.
* At least 50% of eligible applicants' core activity must respond directly to the need to improve health outcomes for people with mental health problems.
* Project management costs up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget.
* We will not award grants that make up more than 20% of your annual turnover.

**Priority 2**

* Capacity Building within minority ethnic led organisations in Sussex delivered by a minority ethnic led established infrastructure organisation.
* Beneficiary organisations supported through the grant must be able to demonstrate either a track record of work focused on the mental health and wellbeing of their communities of interest or their intention to broaden their reach into health building on existing work in their communities.
* We anticipate a maximum of 5 beneficiary organisations will be supported through the lifetime of the grant.
* Project management costs up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget may be supported for the funded Infrastructure organisation.

**Where will we fund?**

* We will only fund organisations which benefit communities in Sussex.
* For Priority 2 we will fund organisations whose remit may be broader than Sussex to specifically deliver work in Sussex with our funding.

**What won't we fund?**

* Organisations or activities which don’t benefit communities in Sussex
* NHS provider organisations or other statutory agencies
* Individuals
* Whilst we will fund organisations that support specific ethnic groups as part of priority two funding, we are unable to fund organisations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, age, or sexual orientation
* Political activities
* Retrospective funding for activities or projects that have already taken place
* Activities that are the responsibility of statutory bodies and funders, including work which is considered core NHS activity
* Core costs

**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 relevant form available to download [**here**.](https://www.headsoncharity.org/news/sussex-health-and-care-mental-health-collaborative-vcse-fund-grow/index.html)
* Include the links to your financial accounts with your application form

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, Thursday 25 May 2023.**

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

Successful projects will commence by September 2023.

**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 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 funding.

**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 score and evaluate the applications. We will assess:

**Priority 1**

* Your track record supporting people with mental health needs.
* The impact of your proposed project.
* How your project will achieve the outcomes we have stated we want to achieve with our funding.
* The sustainability of the work you propose within your organisation and how it will continue beyond our investment.
* How the work will contribute towards building a more sustainable VCSE supporting people with mental health needs.

**Priority 2**

* Your track record working with minority ethnic led organisations.
* The impact of your proposed project.
* How your project will achieve the outcomes we have stated we want to achieve with our funding.
* The sustainability of the work you propose within beneficiary organisations and how it will continue beyond our investment.
* How the work will contribute towards building a more sustainable VCSE supporting people with mental health needs in Sussex.

Once your application is received, you will be notified within approximately eight weeks after the deadline if you 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 and financial resources - ensuring the organisation has the right skills and experience to manage charitable funds accountably and for the purpose they were awarded, and are financially sustainable.

**For more information**

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