

NHS Charities Together Community Partnership Fund

Background

NHS Charities Together (NHSCT) began 2020 as a membership organisation supporting NHS charities through advice, guidance, conferences and training. As March unfolded and the coronavirus hit, the NHS was under more strain than ever before. NHSCT worked quickly with its member charities, health bodies and other national organisations to launch an appeal to acknowledge and support NHS staff, volunteers and patients as they tackled this unprecedented emergency.

A summary of the funds raised, and how they have been utilised is shown below – you can read the full Impact Report from the NHS Charities Together Covid-19 Appeal at <https://www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NHSCT-Impact-Report-011220.pdf>



Stage 1 – Emergency grants

Money raised is being used right now by NHS charities to support staff, volunteers and patients as they combat the virus. The initial wave of funding has been used to meet the immediate and urgent needs of staff, volunteers and patients – providing somewhere comfortable so they can take a break, nutritious food and drink, use of electronic tablets so patients, staff and volunteers can stay in contact with loved ones and counselling support to help staff and volunteers process what they are dealing with.

As we face a second wave, the virus continues to have a profound impact on every aspect of our communities. In response, NHS charities are widening the scope of the support they are providing, to help vital partnerships outside hospitals, such as hospices, community healthcare and social care, making sure patients returning home have access to the care they need to recover.

Stage 2 – Community Partnership grants

Healthcare doesn't begin and end in hospital, which is why working in partnership to deliver support in the community is one of the three central pillars of NHSCT's funding approach to support NHS staff, volunteers and patients affected by the Covid-19 crisis.

£33 million from this appeal is going towards helping the vital care partnerships outside hospitals, such as voluntary sector, community healthcare and social care, making sure patients impacted by Covid have access to the care required to help them, and that NHS staff and volunteers have support in dealing with the impact of the crisis on them. A lot of that support is delivered by other charities as part of the community of organisations who support both the NHS and social care.

£445,500 over two years is available to support mutually beneficial partnerships between the NHS and the communities impacted by Covid-19 in Norfolk and Waveney, led by the VCSE.

Programme aims

To fund a portfolio of community sector-led programmes to address the following priority outcomes:

- Protect the most vulnerable from Covid-19
- Accelerate preventative programmes which proactively engage those at risk of poor health outcomes from Covid-19
- Support people of all ages who suffer mental ill-health as a result of Covid-19
For example, services that help to improve access, experience and health outcomes to ensure better access to timely support for those most vulnerable?

Proposals should demonstrate a strong link to health services, and have direct engagement with the NHS.

There is no upper or lower limit for grants, but it is expected that most grants will be awarded in the range £10,000 to £25,000 per year, with potential for two year funding.

Charity sector engagement

Norfolk Community Foundation (NCF) is the community partner to support and deliver this programme, leading sector engagement and grant management activities. NCF has led the local VCSE response to the Covid crisis, both raising and delivering £4 million of support to local communities in 2020. NCF has been a trusted VCSE partner for over 15 years, and has an experienced team able to deliver a supportive and accessible programme of funding to local charities and voluntary groups.

The involvement and insight of NCF will also help to broaden and sustain the impact of the NHS Charities Together Community Partnership Fund by connecting projects to potential alternative and/ or continuation funding.

NCF will work closely with the local health system and NHS charities throughout the process to ensure that the projects recommended for progression are a 'good fit' with local priorities, plans and services. Relevant members of the system will be involved in a peer review process that seeks to gain an expert view point on the relevance and potential benefits of each proposed project, and ensure every opportunity to work in partnership is maximised.

Programme priorities

Through the shortlisting process, the Fund aims to achieve:

- A geographical spread of funded activity across Norfolk and Waveney
- New/ enhanced partnerships between NHS and the VCSE
- Effective reach into the range of target beneficiaries that are highlighted as particularly vulnerable under the Fund criteria
- A spread of health outcomes directly relating to Covid-19 support, recovery and/ or prevention
- Measureable health outcomes.

Successful applicants will:

- Demonstrate direct engagement with the NHS
- Demonstrate a proven track record in relevant activities, and the capacity to deliver proposed work
- Demonstrate a strong understanding of the challenges facing the people you aim to help, and ability to reach and engage them with tailored approaches
- Present proposals that are designed in response to Covid-19 and the show the additionality that funding will enable
- Evidence a willingness to share learning and take a partnership/ collaborative approach to achieve sustainable health outcomes.

Timescales

It is expected that all applicants will be notified of their outcome by September 2021.

Detailed funding criteria and guidance will be published at www.norfolkfoundation.com

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Registered Charity No: 1110817

Company Registration No: 05234236