

Middlesbrough Council

Carers Community Fund

Criteria

This scheme is available to community based groups who want to support informal carers in their locality in Middlesbrough.

Definition of a carer

'A **carer** is anyone who cares, **unpaid**, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support.'

Background

The theme for 2022 Carers Week is 'Making Carers Visible, Valued and Supported' and we would like to see some of this reflected in the support you are offering as a way of engaging with hidden carers.

Aim of your project

We want you to think about how we can continue to build on one of the main recommendations from last year's programme:

Continue to ensure that there are creative ways of supporting carers, through technology, through local communities and with the continuation of key support.

During the pandemic services have tried to continue support for disabled and older people and carers in creative ways with the introduction of online wellbeing chats with carers, people being given technology to communicate, care home residents have used online communication for the first time, fitness sessions and walking groups are being run by local carers organisations, carers services have increased befriending support and telephone contact, new online activities have been developed. Whilst there are services that cannot be delivered through technology, many services have found new ways of delivering support. The continuation of this creative approach should be encouraged and supported financially whilst also investing in longstanding and valued support services.' This funding is aimed at those grass root organisations and resident groups that have been coming up with creative ways of supporting carers as a way of helping them to continue to offer this support, as well as those helping people to understand that they are actually carers. We want the funding to provide some support and time out for those carers, to make their lives easier.

Outcomes for your project should help with one or more of the following:

1. Reduce carers' social isolation and develop social networks
2. Help carers, families and communities to achieve and maintain wellbeing
3. Reach, connect and support disadvantaged carers
4. Build on available community assets and resources to support carers

5. Raise awareness of carers and caring

Successful projects will have high involvement and ownership by the carers within their community and be driven by them. Your application needs to reflect this.

Grants are not available for duties that are the statutory responsibility of the local authorities and we cannot accept applications direct from carers. The application must be through a group that is providing support and can vouch for the need.

There are 2 programmes available:

Small grants

- Funding is available to local people working together or smaller Voluntary, Community & Faith organisations. Not aimed at larger organisations, these larger VCS can support residents and smaller resident groups to make applications and bank the money for them if they wish to as an in-kind contribution.
- Funding is to make a difference to local areas and people, so can fund anything you feel can do that, from equipment to activity.
- Funding cannot be used to fund:
 - Trips outside of Middlesbrough
 - Money to keep things running (that can use one of our other grant programmes)
 - Food
- You can apply for grants from £20 to £5,000

Larger grants

- Aimed at larger VCS organisations which have appropriate policies, procedures and group bank accounts. These will need submitting along with your application form, if you have not provided these to the grants team previously.
- Funding is to make a difference to local areas and people, so can fund anything you feel can do that, from equipment to activity.
- Funding cannot be used to fund:
 - Trips outside of Middlesbrough
 - Money to keep things running (that can use one of our other grant programmes)
 - Food

You can apply for grants from £5,000 to £20,000

- Projects working with vulnerable adults or children must have the appropriate safeguarding policy in place.
- Projects may be involved in a big publicity campaign run by the Council communications team. Please note you must inform any members of your group/participants in publicity of the council's privacy notice, see below. Public tasks power to promote activity of interest to the community. Privacy notice given to participants, and parents/carers of children or people with learning disability.
- Privacy notice - <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/mayor-council-and-councillors/about-council/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-community-grant>
- Marketing: Middlesbrough Council may contact you in the future about other grant programmes, training, events or other information of interest.
- Once your project is finished you can apply for more money to run a different project if funding is still available.
- You will have to show the council how you have spent the money and tell us what you have done.

If you need any help please either ring Sharon on 01642 729309 or email communitygrants@middlesbrough.gov.uk