

Kent & Medway Better Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Fund - 2022/23

Suicide Prevention Team - suicideprevention@kent.gov.uk



Introduction

We know that in the right hands, a little can go a long way, so we want your ideas about how to improve the mental health and wellbeing of residents across Kent & Medway.

Through our Saving Lives Suicide Prevention Innovation Fund and Kent & Medway Listens Community Chest we have supported over 90 community projects over the last 5 years, and we now look forward to investing at least £100,000 into new projects in 2022/23.

The two objectives for this fund are:

- test innovative ideas and develop evidence of what works**
- support grassroots projects to continue to support their communities**

Fund details

The fund will be overseen by members from the Kent & Medway Suicide Prevention Steering Group and Better Mental Health Network.

At least £100,000 is available, of which a minimum of £50,000 must go to projects supporting children and young people.

We are looking to fund projects which either address the needs of the high risk groups identified in our 2021 – 2025 Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Strategies or address the themes identified by the recent Kent and Medway Listens engagement project.

[Click here for the 2021 – 2025 Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Strategies](#)

[Click here for information about the Kent & Medway Listens Project](#)

Fund details cont....

We will be particularly keen to assess bids which support people (including CYP)

- **who self harm or who have made a previous suicide attempt**
- **from seldom heard communities**
- **who are struggling with the cost of living increases**
- **who are affected by domestic abuse**
- **living with long covid**
- **who struggle with substance misuse as well as mental ill health**

Fund details cont....

Applicants can apply for grants ranging from £500 - £15,000.

Any formally constituted community group, charity or organisation can apply. The majority of the funding is expected to be awarded to local groups from the voluntary or charity sectors

Projects must either be innovative, or demonstrate how they will support communities at a grassroots level.

Funded projects need to be delivered by March 31st 2023

Due to the anticipated high number of applications, detailed feedback to unsuccessful applicants will not be available.

Fund details cont....

Applications for general mental wellbeing training will not be funded, however we will welcome applications for training to address specific issues (for instance young people's use of social media or in depth training exploring the links between domestic abuse and suicide).

Applications for traditional 1:1 counselling will also not be funded.

Application process

Stage 1

Applications need to be submitted via [this link](#)

All applicants will need to answer following questions

1. Please describe your project and explain either a) how it is innovative? Or b) how it supports seldom heard communities.
2. How will it be delivered? (Including what the funding will be spent on)
3. What outcomes are you expecting from your project

If you are applying for a grant over £5,000 you will also need to answer the following

1. How will/have you engage with people with lived experience in the design and delivery of your project?
2. What method will you use to demonstrate the achieved outcomes?

Applications must be received by Monday 1st August 2022 at 9am

Stage 2

Bids will be considered by a small panel from the multi-agency Suicide Prevention Network and Better Mental Health Network. The panel will include representation from Public Health, CCGs and where possible people living with experience.

The panel will consider

- what impact the project will have,
- how it will be delivered
- how it will involve the people it is trying to support,
- whether it is sustainable when the money runs out

We anticipate demand will far outweigh the available funds.

Application process cont...

All successful applicants will be required to

- be available to give updates by phone/email
- produce a final report (of approx. two pages in a template designed by KCC)
- produce at least one qualitative case study demonstrating the project's impact

Projects over £5,000 will also be required to

- provide a 3 month update on progress
- monitor the outcomes they expect to deliver
- provide evidence that outcomes have been delivered

Successful projects will be supported by a Project Support Officer who will be able to give guidance and advice, but will not get involved with the direct delivery of the project.

Please note that grants under £5,000 will be paid upfront in full and those over £5,000 will receive half the grant at the start of the project and the remaining amount after a 3 month progress evaluation has been completed.

Any questions please email suicideprevention@kent.gov.uk