

# Kent & Medway Better Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Fund - 2024/25

Suicide Prevention Team - [suicideprevention@kent.gov.uk](mailto: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 6 years, and we now look forward to investing into a wide variety of new projects in 2024/25.**

**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 Oversight Board and Better Mental Health Network.

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 Kent and Medway Listens engagement project.

We are also interested in projects which support the new priority groups identified in the National Suicide Prevention Strategy - [click here for the strategy](#).

[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 Children and Young People)**

- **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**
- **who struggle with substance misuse as well as mental ill health**
- **autistic people \***
- **expectant/new parents \***

**\*new priority groups identified by national suicide strategy**

## **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 2025.**

**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, particularly those groups highlighted in the new national suicide prevention strategy.

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

We will not be funding projects which we have supported in the past, however organisations we have supported in the past are welcome to apply with a new project.

# Application process

## Submitting your application

Applications need to be submitted via the Kent County Council website

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 29th April at noon - we are unable to accept applications after this date

## Application review and funding decisions

All bids will be reviewed by the Project Support Officer and Public Health Specialist prior to the review panel. Any they feel don't meet the criteria will not be reviewed by the shortlisting panel.

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, ICB 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 two qualitative case studies demonstrating the project's impact

Projects over £5,000 will also be required to

- provide a 5 month update on progress
- monitor the outcomes they expect to deliver
- provide evidence that outcomes have been delivered

All successful applicants will be required to attend a launch meeting and share a short presentation about their project on Thursday 6th June with other grantees. Projects will also be expected to attend an end of fund learning session on Thursday 29th May 2025.

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.

During the grant funding period there will be opportunities to promote activities via network meetings, newsletters and annual conference

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 5 month progress evaluation has been completed.



**Any questions please email [suicideprevention@kent.gov.uk](mailto:suicideprevention@kent.gov.uk)**