

Kent & Medway Better Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Fund 2025/26

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.

Over the last 7 years, we have supported over 100 projects with our various innovation and community funds, and we now look forward to investing into a wide variety of new projects in 2025/26.

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 the new priority groups identified in the 2023 National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

[This link will take you to the 2021 - 2025 Kent & Medway Suicide Prevention Strategies.](#)

[This link will take you to the National Suicide Prevention Strategy on the Gov.UK website](#)

We will be particularly keen to assess bids which support:

- Children and young people
- Those who self-harm or have made a previous suicide attempt
- People from underrepresented communities / minority groups

- People who are struggling with the cost of living / financial difficulties
- People who are affected by domestic abuse
- People who struggle with substance misuse, as well as mental ill health
- People who are homeless
- Neurodivergent individuals
- Expectant/new parents

Applicants can apply for grants ranging from £500 - £10,000.

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 2026.

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

Please note that 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

All applicants will need to answer following questions

- Please describe your project and explain either a) how it is innovative? Or b) how it supports seldom heard communities.
- How will it be delivered? (Including what the funding will be spent on)
- 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

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

Applications must be received by Monday 9th June at 12 midday - 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.

Successful applicants

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 5th June with other grantees. Projects will also be expected to attend an end of fund learning session on Thursday 28th May 2026.

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

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