

Kent and Medway Hope Fund 2025/26

The Baton of Hope is coming to Kent and Medway on Monday 22nd September 2025 and will be visiting Medway, Maidstone, Canterbury and Thanet, as part of its tour.

To ensure we include as many areas across Kent & Medway as possible, we are launching the 2025 Hope Fund, with the aim of promoting the theme of Hope in relation to suicide prevention and mental health. The successful projects or events will be used as warm up events for the main day.

These projects or events have the potential to create a legacy within your local community and successful projects will link in closely with BoH activity and have involvement on the 22nd September main event.

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 a variety of projects or events that promote the concept of Hope in relation to suicide prevention and mental health within your communities and we're keen to hear innovative ideas such as, but not limited to:

- Community arts projects**
- Local schools or community groups designing messages around hope and promoting these in the community**
- Sports or physical activity events**
- Events / activities within nature**

Applicants can apply for grants ranging from £500 - £1,000

(we reserve the right to award above the £1,000 limit to exceptional projects).

Any charity, organisation, or institution can apply.

Successful applicants will be encouraged to attend Suicide Prevention training that will be funded by The Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Programme and delivered by Mid-Kent MIND.

Applications close Wednesday 16th April 2025 6pm.

Funded projects need to be delivered by Monday 22nd September 2025.

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

You can apply via the Kent County Council website, and applications must be received by 16th April 6pm - we are unable to accept applications after this date

All applicants will need to answer following questions:

- **Please describe your project / event**
- **How will your project / event promote the concept of Hope in relation to suicide prevention and mental health?**
- **How will it be delivered (including what the funding will be spent on)?**
- **What outcomes are you expecting from your project / event?**
- **How will your project / event create a legacy within the community?**

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, Baton of Hope, and people living with experience.

The panel will consider

- what impact the project will have,
- how it will be delivered,
- how it will involve the community,
- what legacy it will leave

We anticipate demand will far outweigh the available funds.

Any questions please email suicideprevention@kent.gov.uk

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