

GAMBLING HARMS PREVENTION GRANT PROSPECTUS



1. Introduction

Gambling harms are the adverse impacts from gambling on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, communities and society. Gambling-related harms are a significant public health issue that can impact individuals, families, communities and wider society. Harm can arise from a person's own gambling or from the gambling of someone close to them, including parents, partners, family members, friends or colleagues. Gambling harms include financial difficulties, poor mental health, relationship breakdown, social isolation, homelessness, criminal justice involvement and adverse impacts on children and young people.

Research indicates that some population groups are at greater risk of experiencing gambling-related harm, including people living in areas of deprivation, young adults, individuals with mental health conditions, people experiencing substance misuse, certain ethnic minority communities, veterans, people involved with the criminal justice system, and those experiencing financial vulnerability.

Kent County Council (KCC) recognises the importance of preventing gambling harms through early intervention, education, community support and improved awareness of available services. Utilising funding from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) [Gambling Harms Prevention Grant](#), this grant opportunity aims to support community and voluntary sector organisations to develop and deliver innovative prevention and early intervention activities that reduce gambling-related harms across Kent.

Under the Equality Act 2010, there are nine protected characteristics:

- Age.
- Disability.
- Gender reassignment.
- Marriage and civil partnership.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Race.
- Religion or belief.
- Sex.
- Sexual orientation.

Applications are encouraged from organisations that can effectively engage communities experiencing health inequalities and populations who may be disproportionately affected by gambling-related harms.

Both new and existing projects are eligible to apply.

Successful organisations will support awareness, prevention and early intervention activities and provide clear pathways into specialist advice, treatment and support services where appropriate.

Projects will commence from November/December 2026 and must be completed by 31st March 2027.

2. Aims of the Grant

The programme is expected to deliver activities that contribute to one or more of the following outcomes:

Participants will:

- Demonstrate improved awareness of gambling harms and associated risks.
- Better understand the links between gambling, mental health, debt, family relationships and wellbeing.
- Feel more confident identifying signs of gambling-related harm in themselves or others.
- Know where and how to access support services.
- Increase resilience to gambling-related harms.
- Develop skills to make informed decisions regarding gambling activities.
- Experience reduced stigma associated with seeking support.
- Improve financial wellbeing and awareness of debt support services.
- Strengthen peer and community support networks.

This funding is intended primarily for prevention and early intervention activities and is not intended to fund specialist treatment services.

3. Advertising and Registrations

Grant recipients will provide promotional material (flyers, posters) - content to be approved via KCC public health specialist (supported by communications and campaigns).

4. Funding available and how much can be applied for:

KCC has allocated up to £60,000 as a total grant fund for 2026/27. Applications for grants between £5,000 and £8,000 are invited. Based on these funding levels, the programme is expected to support approximately 7 to 12 projects, depending on the value of awards requested and approved. Should budget savings be realised elsewhere within the project, KCC reserves the right to use those funds to support additional applications from this grant round, including increasing the number of awards made, where applications meet the required standard.

Organisations should request the exact amount of funds that they will use and must ensure they note the timeframe in which to fully deliver the project.

Organisations with ideas that could contribute to our ambition, but cost less than £5,000 should contact integratedteam@kent.gov.uk

We reserve the right to request a copy of any funding agreement or application specifying the commitment and obligations made by the applicant to a third party in connection with the funding.

Funding may be awarded in full or in part, depending on the quality of applications received and available budget.

5. Grant Process

KCC will ensure the grant process is transparent, open and fair and operates in line with the KCC grants policy. Grants will be evaluated as set out in Section 8 of this document.

Proposed Timeline

Activity	Date
Grant window open	Thursday 27 th August 2026
Grant window close	Thursday 1 st October 2026
Evaluation and moderation of proposals	October 2026
Notification of outcomes	November 2026
Project start	November/December 2026
Project ends	Wednesday 31 st March 2027

The application window for grants will be Thursday 27th August 2026 to Thursday 1st October 2026.

Submissions must be received by 12am (Midnight) on Thursday 1st October 2026.

No late applications will be considered.

All projects delivered by successful applicants must be delivered by 31st March 2027.

80% of awarded funding will be paid to successful applicants within 30 days of a signed grant agreement being returned to KCC. The remaining 20% of funds will be released upon submission of the end of project report within 30 days.

As part of the grant process, there will be vital documents the applicant will need to read and/or complete as listed below:

- Grant Prospectus (read this document).
- Application Form (complete).

- Mid and End of Project Report Template (complete at set points see Appendix 1).
- Grant Agreement (complete if application is successful).

KCC reserves the right to reject applications that do not meet the requirements outlined within this prospectus.

6. Grant Requirements

Successful organisations will be expected to:

- Deliver gambling harms prevention, awareness and early intervention activities.
- Adopt an evidence-informed approach to gambling harm prevention.
- Demonstrate how the project addresses local need.
- Work with communities most at risk of gambling-related harms.
- Provide clear referral pathways into specialist support services, including debt advice providers and the National Gambling Support Network.
- Deliver safe, inclusive and accessible services.
- Use evidence-based approaches where possible.
- Collect demographic information to understand reach and equality impacts.
- Collect and report anonymised and aggregated outcome data.
- Develop sustainability plans beyond grant funding.
- Maintain participant confidentiality.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers are appropriately trained and supervised.
- Ensure that information and advice provided is up to date, accurate, shared in a confidential space, documented and consistent (in accordance with the UK's data protection legislation¹ and Information Governance legislation).
- Ensure that support provided is completely confidential.
- Take a Making Every Contact Count ([MECC](#)) approach (and attend any training that is available).
- Be delivered and supported by Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS²) checked staff and peer supporters.

Examples of activities that may be funded include:

- Training for frontline staff across health, social care, housing and voluntary sectors to support early recognition and onward referral to relevant services.
- Identification and support for people displaying early signs of gambling harm with appropriate screening tools.

¹ [Data protection: The UK's data protection legislation - GOV.UK](#)

² [Disclosure and Barring Service - GOV.UK](#)

- Target communities identified as being at higher risk of gambling-related harm.
- Contribute to reducing gambling-related inequalities.
- Gambling harms information and advice, screening tools, and referral pathways embedded into current services.
- Promotion of gambling transaction blocks available through banks.
- Work with young people in schools, colleges and youth settings to educate on gambling harms and raise awareness.
- Development of existing referral guidance and toolkits to include gambling related harms.
- Work with family and affected others via support and signposting.
- Peer to peer support.
- Financial wellbeing workshops.

KCC reserves the right to withhold, reduce or recover grant funding where a funded organisation fails to deliver the agreed project outcomes, breaches the terms and conditions of the grant, or uses funding for purposes other than those approved.

7. Policies and Procedures

Applicants must demonstrate appropriate governance arrangements and provide evidence of relevant policies or overarching policies covering:

- Safeguarding Adults.
- Safeguarding Children.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Information Governance.
- Data Protection.
- Health and Safety.
- Incident Reporting.
- Volunteer Management.
- Lone Working.
- Complaints and Feedback.
- Risk Management.
- Safer Recruitment.
- Whistleblowing.

Organisations must demonstrate compliance with:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- Care Act 2014.
- Data Protection legislation.
- Health and Safety legislation.
- Equality Act 2010.

All staff and volunteers should receive appropriate induction and training. The Service will provide assurance that all staff undertake basic level 1 Safeguarding training and that those who work directly with children and young people undertake level 2 Safeguarding training.

The organisation will rigorously apply safer recruitment and employment practices, this applies to all volunteers, agency, temporary and permanent staff.

As well as safeguarding training, organisations applying must ensure volunteers have also received Data Protection training.

8. Evaluation of Grant Bids

KCC will ensure the grant process is transparent, open and fair. Applications will be considered by a small panel from KCC, comprising of at least two officers. All funded projects and schemes must be delivered within the boundaries of KCC's administrative area.

The panel will be looking for:

- Value for money.
- Sustainability of project.
- Effectiveness of suggested projects.

The application form contains a series of questions. Applications will be assessed and scored as a whole against the scoring criteria set out below.

Descriptor Score		Descriptor	Scoring Descriptors Covering: - Ability to meet requirements - Degree of omissions - Confidence in delivery - Level of detail and evidence - Concerns and risks
Fail	0	Unacceptable	The response is extensively incoherent, fragmented, and weak. • It fundamentally fails to satisfy any of the Authority's requirements and falls far below expectations. • There are extensive omissions, and the response provides overwhelming doubt about the applicant's ability to deliver the requirements. • The response is unrealistic, unjustified, and lacks content with no supporting evidence. • There are extensive and serious concerns, representing an unacceptable level of risk.
	20	Poor	The response is incomplete, incoherent, and weak. • It fails to satisfy the majority of the Authority's requirements and is below expectations.

			- There are significant omissions, and the response creates substantial doubt about the applicant's ability to deliver the requirements. - The response is largely unrealistic, unjustified, and lacking content with minimal supporting evidence. - There are several serious concerns representing an unacceptable level of risk.
Pass	40	Adequate	The response is coherent and acceptable. - It satisfies the Authority's requirements in most respects, just meeting expectations. - There are several minor omissions, and the response provides limited confidence in the applicant's ability to deliver the requirements. The response is generally realistic and justified, with some supporting content and evidence. - There is one serious concern, or several minor concerns or risks which are considered acceptable but require significant action.
	60	Good	The response is coherent and strong. - It satisfies the Authority's requirements in almost all respects, meeting expectations comfortably. - There are limited minor omissions, and the response provides confidence in the applicant's ability to deliver almost all the requirements. - The response is largely realistic and justified, with supporting content and evidence. - There are no more than two minor concerns or risks which are considered acceptable but require action.
	80	Very Good	The response is full, coherent and robust. - It satisfies the Authority's requirements in every respect and meets expectations very well. - There are no omissions, and the response provides full confidence in the applicant's ability to deliver all requirements. - The response is realistic and well-justified, with comprehensive supporting content and evidence. - There are no concerns or risks raised.
	100	Excellent	The response meets the requirements of a "Very Good" response, then goes further to exceed requirements by providing added value, continuous improvement, potentially through innovative means.

KCC reserves the right to increase the value of the total grant available, should there be a sufficient amount of high scoring bids or to not award the full value of the round if the bids received are of poor quality, would risk duplication or do not provide value for money.

KCC is committed to achieving a balanced geographical distribution of grant funding across Kent. Whilst applications will be assessed as set out above the Council reserves the right to take into account the overall geographical spread of successful applications when making final funding decisions, to help ensure equitable access to funding opportunities and benefits for communities across the county.

The fund cannot be used to support any of the below activities. Any bids received which cover the below activities will be rejected:

- Activity organised for party political, religious or charity fundraising purposes, drinking activities or the promotion of gambling activities.
- Capital schemes. We define capital expenditure as that being used to meet the provision and improvement of permanent fixed assets, for example buildings, land and play parks.
- Anything that promotes unhealthy behaviours or illegal activity.
- Any activity that has already received funding from another source. Funding cannot be used to pay for the same activity twice or to replace existing funding commitments.
- Activities which conflict with KCC policies.

Applications from applicants who previously failed to comply with KCC grant conditions will be rejected without scoring.

If the application does not adhere to the above criteria, it will not be scored by the panel and it will be rejected by KCC. Furthermore, KCC reserves the right to reject applications where the application form has not been fully completed or where the request for funding exceeds £8,000 or is below the value of £5,000.

As part of Kent County Council's grant assessment process, all organisations recommended for funding will be subject to proportionate financial due diligence checks prior to any grant award being confirmed. This may include reviewing information available through Companies House and other relevant sources where applicable. These checks help to ensure that public funds are awarded responsibly, that organisations are financially viable, and that they have the capacity to deliver the proposed project and achieve the intended outcomes. KCC reserves the right to request additional financial information where required and to withhold or withdraw a grant offer where sufficient assurance cannot be obtained.

9. Who can apply?

Applications are welcomed from:

- Voluntary and community organisations.
- Registered charities.
- Social enterprises.
- Community Interest Companies (CICs).
- Not-for-profit organisations.
- Faith organisations delivering community-based support.

Applicants must:

- Be constituted organisations with appropriate governance arrangements.

- Be financially viable.
- Deliver projects within Kent.
- Hold appropriate insurance cover including public liability insurance and indemnity insurance.

10. Performance and Reporting

Funded services will act as the Data Controller for all participant information collected through delivery of the programme and will remain responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable data protection legislation. Services will only share anonymised and aggregated data with the Council as part of their reporting obligations, using information that is already routinely collected through their standard service delivery and monitoring processes. The Council requires this anonymised data solely for the purposes of monitoring the impact, outcomes, and reach of the grant-funded activity and to fulfil its reporting requirements to the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), providing assurance on the effective use of grant funding and the benefits achieved for local populations. The anonymised data will also be used by the Council to monitor compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and to provide assurance that services are being delivered equitably, are accessible to all eligible residents, and are achieving positive outcomes across different population groups. No personal identifiable information should be submitted to KCC as part of grant reporting.

Grant recipients are required to submit the information in Appendix 1 to KCC at two points; a mid-project point and an end-project point.

- Mid-project reports (using the template in Appendix 1) should be submitted to the Public Health Specialist by Wednesday 10th February 2027.
- End of project report should be submitted to the Public Health Specialist by Wednesday 7th April 2027.

Applicants will need to provide the End of Project Report (see Appendix 1) outlining the project outputs and outcomes.

Applicants will be expected to undertake programme evaluation, incorporating participant feedback, and produce a final report with recommendations for future delivery and development. The report will inform consideration of potential future funding.

For services receiving referrals through grant-funded activity, providers must monitor and record referral numbers monthly. Referral data must be included within both the mid-project and end-of-project reports. This information will enable KCC to monitor referral rates associated with funded campaigns and activities, and support reporting requirements to the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID).

Failure to comply with the grant conditions including submitting the required reports, will result in funding being withheld.

KCC reserves the right to undertake spot checks and quality assurance activity during the grant period.

11. Mobilisation

The activity must be mobilised to commence no later than December 2026.

12. Queries

Any questions regarding these grants should be emailed to: integratedteam@kent.gov.uk with the subject header of Gambling Harms Grant Opportunity. Deadline to submit queries is 12, noon on Thursday 24th September 2026.

13. Application

Applications can be made online via an online application form below by 1st October 2026:

[Gambling Harms Prevention Grant -Application Form – Fill in form](#)

Appendix 1 – Grant Reporting

Grant recipients are required to submit:

- A mid-project report to the Public Health Specialist by Wednesday 10th February 2027 (template below).
- An end of project report. To be submitted to the Public Health Specialist by Wednesday 7th April 2027 (template below). Failure to do so, will result in the final payment being withheld.

Grant Report Template (Mid and End Project Report Template)

Project Name	
Organisation	
Total Spend	
Approximate reach of individuals that have received support or training through the grant activity	

District(s) and postcode(s) of activity	
Summary of the project	
The number of attendees/participants	
The number of unique individuals	
The number of participants who accessed the project virtually or in-person	
Referrals received per month (if relevant)	
<u>Qualitative Information</u> Please provide any qualitative data or feedback you can provide demonstrating impact. This data and/or feedback can include one or more of the following: • A report or summary detailing observations or reflections on the project. • Case studies. • Direct quotations from participants. • Details of sustainability of the project. It is important that we have the informed consent of participants to use the data and/or feedback you do share. All qualitative data and/or feedback must be anonymised.	
<i>The following are key questions to consider as you reflect on your experience delivering the project:</i> • On a scale of 1 – 10, how well do you think the project went? Why? • What do you think went well? Why? • What do you think didn't go well? Why? • What impact has the project had? • Sustainability plans post 31 March 2027	

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Appendix 2 – Glossary

Term	Definition
MECC	<u>Making Every Contact Count</u>