

Supporting mental health - small grants scheme, September 2020

Information, guidance, and frequently asked questions

If you have a good idea and not sure your group qualifies or would like to discuss your ideas with someone, please give Helen Wyatt a call on 01709 302042 or email helen.wyatt6@nhs.net

The deadline for applications is Friday 2nd October, 12 noon

Aim of the programme

Over the last two years, NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and Rotherham Council have worked in partnership to fund local voluntary and community sector initiatives through our men's mental health small grants, which have been very successful and very well received.

However, over the last six months, society has changed completely for all of us, impacting on everyone's physical and mental wellbeing. We have seen unprecedented changes in society, the repercussions of which are not yet all apparent. Some of the potential impacts that we are likely to see, or already seeing, include:-

- Isolation, loss of contacts and social interaction
- Financial hardship, loss of employment, and debt
- Housing issues
- Impact on those who are digitally excluded
- Carers caring with little or no respite;
- Increased drinking
- Loss and bereavement through and during covid
- Living with abusive family member
- Living with family member with cognitive impairment and challenging behaviour
- Increased anxiety and worry
- Unhelpful ways of coping

Because of this, we are now running a small grants scheme open to all adults in Rotherham, this will be open to all community organisations who want to help support positive mental wellbeing at this time, and to help reduce the impact of covid. For example, you might have become aware of new issues and needs within your community or organisation. Or perhaps an informal zoom meeting has come up with some great ideas around how you could help people improve their emotional wellbeing.

This will be run as a one off application process during September 2020 only.

All activity MUST target adults who are experiencing poor mental health and who live in Rotherham; and should be 'covid proof'; you should be able to start quickly, and continue during any further 'lock-downs'

These are the type of activities we will fund

- Activity that addresses the impact the pandemic is having on people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Activities linked to Rotherham's Five Ways to Wellbeing campaign
www.rotherham.gov.uk/health
- Supporting engagement and empowerment – ideally the activity will be planned by the people involved

- Use of new technologies and innovative ways of connecting with socially isolated individuals

What the grants will not fund

- Applications from individuals, businesses, or statutory bodies such as schools and parish councils
- Activity targeting people under 18
- Contributions to general running costs.
- Activities that promote religious and/or political beliefs
- Currently commissioned services that may be making a loss or have an operational shortfall
- Organisations that make a profit
- Work and activity that has already taken place
- Continuation of any adapted ways of working that you have already adopted.

How to Apply

The form is attached to the email and is on Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Groups website.
<http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/small-grants-scheme.htm>

How much can we ask for, and when do we have to spend it?

Grants can range from £500 to £3,000. You should be able to start the activity immediately.

When are decisions made and when would we get our funding?

- The scheme will be promoted throughout September 2020
- All applications should be received by **midday, Friday 2nd October 2020**
- The grants panel will meet in early October 2020
- Arrangements will be made to release the funding as soon as possible after the panel has met and agreed on successful applications

Who decides?

The panel will be made up of the following

- Elected member from RMBC
- RMBC Public Health representative
- RCCG (NHS) Mental Health Commissioning Manager
- RCCG (NHS) Senior Contract and Improvement Officer
- Public representative
- RCCG Lay Member

The panel will follow a set process to assess and score the grant applications to ensure that the process is fair, open and transparent. Any conflicts of interest will be declared and will be managed by the panel.

Will you only fund registered charities?

No, community groups and not for profit organisations can apply

We will need to see that the group is active, and that its aims fit with those of the NHS.

We will need to see your latest terms of reference or constitution, and your group will need to have a bank account in the name of the organisation, needing at least two signatures. The TOR should also show your management or committee members, there should be at least three people involved in the organisation.

What about larger organisations?

Our aim in providing this funding is that the money goes to very small organisations, based in and working in their local community – whether this is a geographical community or a community of shared interests. If any larger organisations apply for a grant, we would want to see evidence that

they are working with and supporting a smaller, community based organisation; and we will prioritise this sort of application.

We would welcome applications from organisations that can meet the following essential criteria, you will have the opportunity to demonstrate this on the application form:

- Be a voluntary or community group (not a statutory organisation)
- Have your own constitution and/or governing document
- Have your own bank account in the name of the organisation/group with at least 2 signatories
- Be willing to keep accounts of how you spend the grant and provide a report
- Have relevant insurance in place (if this applies)
- Be able to start the activity or service immediately

And ideally.....

- Tell us how local people will be involved in planning and organising the project
- Tell us how the planned project will offer something new that hasn't been available before

What are the monitoring requirements?

All successful grant recipients will be asked to report back on their grant and stated outcomes. We will ask for the following:-

- A simple report by March 2021; this will check on the number of people your activity has reached, and what has changed
- We may ask for copies of receipts, invoices or other proof of expenditure – please keep accurate records during the project and for at least a year afterwards.
- We will send a link to the monitoring forms by email shortly once a grant has been awarded

You may also find other sources of funding useful – please see the small grants information on the VAR website for Building Stronger Communities:

<https://www.varotherham.org.uk/news/rmbc-building-stronger-communities-small-grants/>

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Five Ways to Wellbeing



RotherHive

Practical Mental Health and Wellbeing
Information, Support and Advice
for adults in Rotherham

www.rotherhive.co.uk

RotherHive is supported by NHS Rotherham ICB

