**Community Partnership Grants in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes funded by NHS Charities Together through the BLMK NHS Charities Group**

# Application Guidance

## Background:

NHS Charities Together (NHS CT) are the national membership organisations for NHS Charities. The organisation represents and supports the work of more than 240 charities.

COVID-19 has witnessed a surge in support for the NHS. As such, NHS Charities Together have raised over £130 million for their COVID-19 emergency appeal. The ‘Stage 2 Funding – Community Partnership Grants’ has an allocation of £30 million, of which **£445,533** in Community Partnership Grants funding are available to support projects across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK).

**Funding Available: £445,533**

Funding is available to support projects delivered by the voluntary sector, working in partnership with the NHS, to support the health and wellbeing of communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding round is being managed by Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Charity, working on behalf of 5 other NHS Charities in BLMK.

The document sets out the guidance, criteria and exclusions for this funding stage.

If you any have questions, please email: BLMKNHSCharities@ldh.nhs.uk

## Introduction:

£445,533 in funding has been allocated to the BLMK footprint to support projects within the voluntary, care and hospice sector working in partnership with the NHS. The fund’s aims are:

“*Supporting the wider NHS and voluntary community in dealing with COVID-19, working in partnership with the voluntary, care and hospice sector so that NHS patients can leave hospital more quickly and safely, stay or remain out of hospital thereby reducing the stress on the NHS and providing the wrap around provisions for patients which is vitally needed.*”

## Who are the BLMK NHS Charities Group?

* Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Charity
* East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
* South Central Ambulance Charity
* Cambridge Community Services NHS Trust
* Central and North West London Foundation Trust Charitable Fund
* Milton Keynes Hospital Charity

The Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Charity is directing this funding for the BLMK distribution, and has overall responsibility for distributing the funding. The final decision on how the funds are to be spent will rest with the BLMK NHS Charities Group and NHS Charities Together.

The funding is available to ONLY support the **Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Footprint.**

## Funding Focus Areas:

1. **Supporting Discharge into the Community**
2. **Supporting Health Inequalities via Digital Access**
3. **Preventing Admission to NHS Facilities, for example by early intervention partnerships**
4. **Supporting Discharge into the Community**

We expect proposed projects to assist NHS partners in supporting the discharge model. The application must demonstrate, one or more of the following:

* Supporting patients to leave hospitals
* Providing support within the community post-discharge:
* Providing one-on-one care in the home
* Establishment of wellbeing service to support vulnerable individuals once they are home
* Providing a telephone befriending service
* Ensuring/widening BAME communities are accessing relevant support resources available
* Assisting patients to re-settle into the community following discharge from hospital.

1. **Supporting Health Inequalities via Digital Access**

Proposed projects will be expected to demonstrate that they are addressing at least one or more of the below:

* Facilitating access to IT/Wifi resources for those in the community without access.
* Addressing loneliness and mental health concerns, exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19
* Establishing opportunities for people with learning difficulties to access additional support, who may have suffered as a result of COVID-19.
* Delivering digital tools to support NHS partners in accessing provisions for hard to access groups. i.e. people with learning disabilities, BAME communities, those with mental health problems.

The projects in this category must have a digital focus and support NHS partners.

Examples of projects may include, organising community donations of old Ipads for patients to access face-to-face doctor consultation via an internet platform.

1. **Preventing Admission to NHS Facilities, for example by early intervention partnerships**

Proposed projects will be expected to demonstrate that they are reaching those disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. They will also need to address at least one of the key priority areas below:

* Homelessness
* Mental health and isolation
* Domestic Violence
* Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

To note, projects MUST be in partnership with NHS organisations. However, the named lead applicant cannot be a NHS partner.

We will support projects that address more than one category.

## Eligibility:

The funding is only available for organisations from the Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE), but in collaboration with NHS partners.

We will accept applications for organisations working with others. However the application must be completed by the organisation leading the project delivery, with the lead organisation’s contact details. It will be expected that the lead organisation has previous experience and expertise to deliver the project, working alongside other organisations.

**Lead organisations must**:

* Work in Bedfordshire, Luton or Milton Keynes.
* Have charitable status (registered with the Charity Commission) or
* Be a social enterprise, CIC or Company Limited by Guarantee carrying out activities which are charitable.
* These organisations must have:
* Demonstrable public benefit and clear protection against private benefit
* A minimum of three unrelated directors, the majority of whom are not paid either as directors or for delivering the activities of the organisation
* Have its own bank account
* Have a constitution or set of governing rules, with a minimum of three trustees/committee members
* Not apply for grant funding amount of more than 20% of their current annual turnover, as demonstrated by your audited or independently examined accounts
* Have an equal opportunities, health and safety and safeguarding policy
* Be able to provide 3 years’ worth of accounts or records of expenditure, **please include copies with application and links to the website where these will be available.**

## Joint Applications:

Joint applications will be welcomed. Collaborations between VCSE partner organisations are encouraged, and there are no limits to partnership. However, the lead organisation must take responsibility for ensuring delivery of project. The lead applicant MUST meet the eligibility criteria and we will contract with them and expect management of the grant.

## What will we fund?

* Direct project costs
* Will fund innovative/new projects
* We will also fund the scale up of existing projects that are experiencing increased demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Projects that are based in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes only.

## Funding Requests:

* Minimum amount that may be applied for is £20,000
* There will be no maximum funding that we will consider
* Funded projects will need to have completed

## Exclusions:

* Organisations that fall outside Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes
* NHS provider organisations or other statutory agencies
* Individuals
* Organisations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, age or sexual orientation
* Political organisations
* Organisations that promote hate speech
* Retrospective funding for activities or projects that have already taken place
* Capital expenditure
* Activities that are the responsibility of statutory bodies and funders
* Core NHS and social care funding
* Activities and costs that are unrelated to delivery costs of the project

## Supporting documents required (lead organisation):

* Copy at latest bank statement (must not be more than 3 months old)
* Copy of constitution or set of governing rules
* Copy of annual report/accounts for the last 3 years
* Safeguarding, Equal Opportunities and Health & Safety policies.

## Reporting Requirements:

It will be expected that successful applicants will work with us on a subsequent reporting and monitoring schedule. This will be provide project updates, successes and help us remain informed.

Quarterly, interim and a final report will be required.

## Timeline:

Deadline for submission: 1pm on Friday 15th January 2021

Successful projects should be ready to commence in the financial year of 2020/21.

## Selection Process:

On receipt of your Expression of Interest, we will check your eligibility and supporting documents.

Eligible EOIs will be reviewed by the BLMK NHS Charities.

On success of your EOI, applicants will be expected to work with us from 1st February to develop your EOI as part of the overall application to NHS Charities Together.

## How to apply:

* **You must complete your EOI form and sent to BLMKNHSCharities@ldh.nhs.uk by 1pm Friday 15th January with all the supporting documents with links to financial reports/accounts.**
* **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**