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## **CONNECTED COMMUNITIES: LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION FUND 2021-2024**

## **Guidance Notes and Application Form**

**Before planning and submitting a bid, please ensure you have:**

* **Fully read these guidance notes (pages 1-4) and any additional question specific guidance provided in the relevant sections of the application form.**
* **Completed the Declaration in Section 7 of the application form.**

**Background**

Loneliness and social isolation can be experienced by anyone of any age and any background. Increasingly we understand the impact they can have on our physical and mental well-being, and therefore the importance of the relationships we have with family, friends, colleagues and neighbours in giving us our sense of belonging and well-being.

In February 2020, the Welsh Government published its first strategy for tackling loneliness and social isolation and building stronger social connections

[Loneliness and social isolation (connected communities) | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/loneliness-and-social-isolation-connected-communities).

It set out our vision of a Wales where everybody has the opportunity to develop meaningful social relationships and where people are supported at those times in their lives when they are most vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation, by friends, family, communities and institutions and organisations within wider society.

The strategy committed the Welsh Government to establishing a three year Loneliness and Isolation Fund to help support this vision. £500,000 is available in each of the three years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

**About the Fund**

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of community based support and the role of communities in tackling loneliness and social isolation. The fund will be used to build the capability and sustainability of front line grass roots voluntary and community organisations that bring people of all ages together and help them build social connections.

We know that groups within communities will have different needs and will require different levels of support. However, very small amounts of money can make a big difference to small scale community based support providing locally tailored responses, unlocking previously untapped or under-utilised potential. The investment can be used, for example, to help these small organisations scale up existing activities, re-establish themselves after the pandemic, promote themselves more widely and help fund the use of suitable venues.

Whilst we want to support activities which bring people together face-to face in a safe and secure way, funding can also be used to support online activities where this is the most appropriate or only way to build social connections e.g. where access to a venue is difficult or for those not quite ready to meet people face-to-face.

The funding can be used for revenue costs only associated with these types of activities. It cannot be used for capital costs and cannot duplicate any existing funding.

**Who can apply?**

We recognise the excellent partnership working that has taken place between public and third sector organisations during the pandemic to support and protect citizens and communities. Proposals for how the funding will be utilised will therefore be submitted in partnership by local authorities and County Voluntary Councils (CVCs).

Regional proposals will also be accepted as long as there is clear evidence of partnership working between the local authorities and CVC(s) within the region.

Applicants will need to describe in broad terms the need in their area in terms of loneliness and isolation, including any impact from the pandemic, the scope of the proposal, how it will be managed and delivered and the outcomes that will be achieved.

They will also need to demonstrate how their proposal fits with one or more of the loneliness and social isolation strategy’s four priority areas:

* increasing opportunities for people to connect
* a community infrastructure that supports connected communities
* cohesive and supportive communities
* building awareness and promoting positive attitudes.

**How will funding be allocated and distributed?**

£500,000 is available in each of the three years (2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24). This will be allocated equally across the 22 local authority areas in Wales for the duration of the fund. This equates to £22,727 per local authority per annum and gives a total of £68,181 over the three years.

Funding will be given to local authorities who will then, working with their CVC partner(s), distribute it to grass roots organisations within their communities in line with the proposals set out in this application.

Please note – whilst there will be one application which covers the three year funding period, the expectation is that the funding will be used to support a range of different activities/organisations over the three years rather than just a single activity or organisation.

Partners may also choose to fund different activities/organisations in each of the three years if that is felt to be appropriate to meet need.

**How to apply**

**1. Establish a partnership and nominate a grant manager.** Your partnership must include at least one local authority and one CVC. The grant manager must be from a local authority.

**2. Complete the application form in this document**. Supporting information can also be submitted with your application form e.g. project plans, communication plans, organisational and relationship diagrams, and anything else you consider useful in support of your application.

**3. Email your application and supporting information to:**

[LonelinessAndIsolation@gov.wales](mailto:LonelinessAndIsolation@gov.wales)

We aim to run this process electronically as far as possible. If you need the application pack in an alternative format or to submit your completed application in hard copy, please call a member of the loneliness and social isolation team on **03000 253095** so that we can agree a suitable arrangement.

**4.** **The Welsh Government will assess bids, along with representatives from the Welsh Local Government Association and Wales Council for Voluntary Action.** Each proposal will be assessed against the requirements set out in the application form and accompanying guidance. Where necessary, partners will be asked to provide further information or clarification on their proposal before funding is approved.

Officials will write to the grant manager of each partnership regarding the outcome.

**Key dates**

* **29 September 2021** - Grant application window opens
* **27 October 2021** - Grant application window closes
* **[ ] November 2021** - Outcome letters issued to bidders
* **[ ] December 2021** – Grant award letters issued
* **31 March 2022** – Grant award for 2021/22 must be spent in full

**Privacy Notice**

The ‘Privacy notice: Welsh Government grants’ sets out how we will handle any personal data you provide in relation to a grant application or request for grant funding. <https://gov.wales/privacy-notice-welsh-government-grants>

The Welsh Government will not require applicants to collect or provide personal information as part of the grant application process or as part of the activities the grant will fund.

The grant manager will be the data controller for any personal information it collects or processes in the delivery of the grant funded activity and will need to undertake its own Data Protection Impact Assessment.

**Contact details and further information:** We arehappy to work with public and third sector partners to enable national take up of this funding. If you need any further support please do not hesitate to contact a member of the loneliness and social isolation team by email at [LonelinessAndIsolation@gov.wales](mailto:LonelinessAndIsolation@gov.wales) or by calling us on **03000 253095**.

**Application Form**

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| **Section 1 – Your Partnership** |
| **1.1 Please indicate if the partnership for this proposal is working on a local or regional basis:** Local  Regional |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **1.2 Please list each organisation in the partnership and their key contact details:** | | | | **Organisation Name** | **Organisation Address** | **Contact name & position,  email address / telephone no.** | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |
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| **Section 2 – Funding & Payment Details** |
| **2.1 Which organisation in the partnership will provide the grant manager?**    *The grant manager for this bid must be a local authority. The grant manager will receive the payments, and in conjunction with CVC partners, will be responsible for financial reporting as well as reporting on project delivery, outcomes, monitoring and evaluation.*  **2.2 Do you wish to request funding be paid in advance?** No  Yes  *If “Yes”, please briefly explain your rationale:*  *Lead public bodies may be paid in advance so that they can make onward advance payments to third sector organisations who have demonstrated the need for advance pavements but not in respect of their own costs.* |

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| **Section 3 – Summary Project Proposal** |
| **Please provide a summary of your proposal, including the main activities the funding will be used for, how these will help to meet local need in terms of loneliness and social isolation, how these fit with one or more of the loneliness and social isolation strategy’s four priority areas (page 2), your intended outcomes and what impact you consider the proposal will have.**  *It would be also helpful to demonstrate how your proposal will support the Well-being Goals and Principles that underpin the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*  *If the funding is contributing to an existing post, you must include a job description.*  *You may include any other supporting documents you feel may be helpful.*    *(suggested maximum of 500 words)* |

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| **Section 4 – Managing the proposal** |
| **Please use this section to summarise how you will manage the implementation of the proposal, covering key areas such as a project plan, risk management, distribution routes for funding, governance and communications.**      *(suggested maximum of 500 words)* |

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| **Section 5 – Monitoring, Evaluation and Sharing the Learning** |
| **Please explain what activities you have planned at appropriate scale for:**  **5.1 Monitoring & Evaluation**    **5.2 Sharing the Learning**  *Due to the nature of the grant and the relatively small amounts of funding involved, we recognise that a light-touch evaluation is all that will be possible. Things to consider capturing include what difference the activities have made, experiences of service users, staff and communities, cost benefits.* |

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| **Section 6 – Additional Information** |
| **Please use this box to provide any additional information not already covered by the previous sections and your supporting documents which you think should be considered in support of your bid.** |

**Please continue to the following page   
to complete the declaration in Section 7**

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| **Section 7 – Declaration** |
| **This must be signed by two authorised signatories from the Local Authority**:   * I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given within this application and supporting documentation is correct. * I confirm that I am not aware of any reasons why the proposal may not proceed, and the commitments and actions can be achieved within the timescales of the funding period. * I also confirm that there is no-one involved in the management of the activity that has been bankrupt, disqualified from being a company director or been a director, partner or proprietor of a business subject to financial insolvency.  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Signatory 1** | |  | **Signatory 2** | | | **Name** |  |  | **Name** |  | | **Organisation** |  |  | **Organisation** |  | | **Job Title** |  |  | **Job Title** |  | | **Work Address** |  |  | **Work Address** |  | | **Telephone No** |  |  | **Telephone No** |  | | **Email Address** |  |  | **Email Address** |  | | **Date** |  |  | **Date** |  |  * I understand that the Welsh Government may request further information in support of this application.   Please ensure this declaration is completed when you submit your application form and supporting information. As we aim to run this process electronically as far as possible, we will accept an email trail clearly that show relevant signatories are content to authorise this application, in lieu of a hard copy or electronic signature. Please send relevant documents and emails to: **LonelinessAndIsolation@gov.wales** |