



Round 15 Connecting People

Allocation: £75,000
Small Grants

Period: 9 months – all projects to be
completed by the end of May 2022

Programme Guidelines

Background

The last eighteen months have been incredibly challenging for many people in Bolton. Now, as we move into the Summer months and social distancing restrictions are due to ease, Round 15 of Bolton's Fund aims to support projects which re-connect with individuals and communities, celebrate being together and support groups as you start your activities in person again.

Bolton's Fund recognises the important role that Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise groups and organisations can play in facilitating people to build up trust and relationships, as well as getting people back out talking, meeting and connecting.

The panel will prioritise activities that are about connecting people first, who may then go on to getting involved with regular community activities.

This funding is open to projects working with all ages. It is also open to applications from groups who can't physically be back together yet, but whose activities are still open and available to the community.

Funding Priorities

Successful projects must achieve one or both of the following:

1. Bring people together in a relaxed and informal setting.
2. People feel more confident about engaging or re-engaging with community activities.

All projects must support people to do this safely using current guidelines about Covid messages. See [what we can all do to help](#)

Some examples of activities that may help achieve the funding priority could include:

- Some very informal get togethers allowing people to meet for a chat and a brew.
- An online quiz or other online activity for people who are still not able to get out for whatever reason.

- Volunteers getting in touch with members who are anxious about re-engaging with your group to encourage them to come out.
- A briefing/training event for staff and volunteers around Covid safety and being ready for when you re-open.
- A refresh training or social event for your volunteers to build their confidence to re-engage.
- A community celebration event or welcome back party.
- Re-launching a gardening club with a “make your own hanging basket” session.
- Re-launching a regular walking group with a special walk and picnic.

How much money can you apply for?

Small Grants Level 1 & Level 2	Up to £1,500 Up to £5,000	Total amount available in this funding round: £75,000
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How to apply and timescales

Fund Opens:	Thursday 8 th July 2021
Deadline:	5.00pm Wednesday 4 th August 2021
Go to Bolton’s Fund web page for application form links:	Click here: Bolton’s Fund
Notification of outcome:	31 st August

What can you spend the money on?

This funding priority is focusing on short term events to bring people together or re-launch your activities. The kind of costs we expect to see in your application may include volunteer expenses, refreshments, costs for activities or entertainment. We will not be looking to fund regular overheads in this funding round. We could however cover associated overheads, such as room hire or sessional worker costs for one-off events or a short series of engagement events. Please note this funding is to the end of May 2022.

All other Bolton’s fund exclusions apply (for example we cannot fund alcohol or the promotion of religion). Click [here](#) for our “*Minimum Requirements for Applicants and what we can fund*” document.

Who is eligible to apply?

There are minimum standards you must meet to be eligible to apply for funding. Click [here](#) for our “*Minimum requirements for applicants and what we can fund*” document.

Resources

Bolton’s priorities are driven by Bolton’s Vision 2030 and the priority areas of focus are informed through Bolton’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). For more information, follow these links.

[Bolton JSNA: Home](#)

What do assessors consider when looking at your application?

- How well your proposed project outcomes address the fund priorities
- How clear, well planned and realistic your planned activities are (*section 1 of the application form*).
- How well you have identified the need for your proposed work in the geographic area or with the individuals, you plan to work with (*section 3 of the application form*).
- How you’ve worked with individuals to identify what will work best so you can justify why you plan to work in a certain location, with certain people or work in a certain kind of way (*section 3 of the application form*).
- How well you’ve identified other groups doing similar work in the area and how you demonstrate you will join up with or complement that work or address any gaps.
- Activities where members of the community concerned are leading and where the people most affected have a sense of ownership and control of the activity or project.
- Activities that demonstrate connectivity with other organisations to maximise their benefit to communities.
- Funding decisions will have consideration for the reach of funds to ensure that funding reaches all corners of our communities and benefits everyone.

Multiple applications across different rounds of funding

There may be times when groups or organisations wish to apply to different 'rounds' of the Bolton's Fund to carry out their activities. The points below aim to highlight what individual groups or organisations need to consider in such circumstances:

- Eligible voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector groups and organisations are welcome to apply for all levels of investment through the Bolton's Fund.
- Groups and organisations are ordinarily restricted to 1 application per funding round.
- In all instances, groups and organisations that make an application in another round of funding where they already hold a 'live investment' from the Bolton's Fund will be further assessed to ensure that it is for different activities or a different project.
- Individual groups or organisations already in receipt of any amount less than £5k, are eligible to make multiple applications across different rounds to the Bolton's Fund for appropriate projects and activities within any 12-month period without the need to check with Bolton CVS.
- Any group or organisation that already has a current total investment value in excess of £10,000 (from either 1 or multiple investments) from the Bolton's Fund should contact Bolton CVS before making an application in a different round.
- Where a group or organisation is involved in a formal partnership, alliance or similar approach that is funded through the Bolton's Fund, holding an existing investment does not exclude that organisation applying for other opportunities or partnerships through the Bolton's Fund. Groups or organisations already receiving more than £10k through the Bolton's Fund for their individual organisation in this way should contact Bolton CVS before making an application if they wish to apply for further '**medium**' or '**larger**' investments within any 12-month period.
- Bolton CVS will provide the decision making panel with details of all applicants that have 1 or more live-funded projects, in order to support transparent decision making around the allocation of funds.

If you're unclear, please don't hesitate to contact the Bolton CVS team for further information.

Social Value

What is Social Value? Social value is about the wider benefits your project could bring. This could be to the environment, our local economy as well as promoting inclusion, empowerment and happiness. For example:

- If your project involves local volunteers, it could bring new skills and expertise to Bolton.
- If your project builds in environmental benefits by reducing car use, reducing, re-using or recycling materials. Or, by encouraging people to understand, enjoy and protect our wildlife, local nature reserves and green spaces.
- You could decide to purchase materials for your project from an independent retailer in Bolton, resulting in increasing the amount of money circulating within Bolton.
- Your project could require a new paid post. If you employed a Bolton resident, the resulting social value would be that you have contributed to the local economy.
- Your project could be working in partnership with a local business to harness additional skills and resources for the benefit of our community.
- You could decide to use apples grown in people's gardens, collected by volunteers, to make apple pies for a community event. As a result, your wider social value may be empowered individuals and increased connections.

What happens once you submit your application?

Once we have received your application we will complete initial checks to ensure:

- That you meet our minimum standards for eligibility.
- Your application is eligible to apply for the fund.
- That you have completed all outstanding monitoring for any other applications you have that are managed by Bolton CVS.
- That you have answered all the questions.

If you meet all the above your application is then passed for assessment. Each application will be assessed separately by a minimum of 3 grant assessors who will score your application according to the set criteria. The total scores are then collated and presented at a panel meeting where the assessors meet together to make the decision. Other factors, such as the

total number of eligible applications and the total amount available for investment are considered by the panel.

Information about the Bolton's Fund Grant assessors

- Assessors represent individuals from Bolton's Fund partners, community volunteers and representatives of Bolton-based voluntary and community groups and organisations.
- Assessors regularly change – we don't have the same assessors each year or for each funding decision.
- All community assessors are volunteers and volunteer their time.
- All assessors are provided with training and support from Bolton CVS.
- We do not invite members of Bolton Council or those standing for election to assess funding applications.
- No Bolton CVS staff, volunteers or trustees are involved in assessments panel decision making.
- Conflict of interest is managed through an open and transparent 'declaration of interest process'. Conflicts of interest are recorded when appointed as an assessor and at each panel meeting.

Support and Further Information from Bolton CVS

If you would like to chat about a potential application or you need help with the application form, please contact us on:

01204 546 010 or email funding@boltoncvs.org.uk.

About Bolton's Fund

Bolton's Fund has been established to test new and innovative ways of investing and valuing our communities. The Fund is a new investment programme for the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in Bolton, bringing together funding from Bolton Council, NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group, Bolton at Home and Bolton CVS.

Bolton's Fund investments reflect Bolton's Vision 2030 priorities and evidence based principles from the Marmot Review Report, which outlines the principle causes of health inequality.

The six fund priorities are driven by Bolton's Vision 2030 and the priority areas of focus are informed through Bolton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), co-design with communities and community intelligence:

1. Children getting the best start in life.
2. Promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing ill health.
3. Empowering everyone in Bolton to reach their potential and take control of their lives.
4. Fair employment and good work for all.
5. Protecting and improving our environment to ensure a healthy standard of living for all.
6. Stronger, cohesive, more confident communities, in which people feel safe, welcome and connected.

The priorities for this each funding round are co-designed through reviewing the key priorities from the JSNA and current issues facing Bolton residents and the place.

Bolton Community and Voluntary Services (CVS)

Registered Charity No: 1003123

Registered Company No: 2615057

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