



### **Washington Area Committee Funding Opportunity**

#### **Call for Projects - Reducing Loneliness and Social Isolation for Local People and Vulnerable Adults**

##### **Introduction and background**

Washington Area Committee would like to invite interested local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups to submit proposals to deliver projects in the local community which provide support for local people and vulnerable adults. Wards covered are Washington Central, Washington East, Washington North, Washington South, and Washington West

Only VCS groups who have a management committee, constitution and bank account with dual signatories can be involved. There is an opportunity for local VCS groups with a proven track record in delivering grant funded projects to deliver projects on behalf of the Coalfield Area Committee. Applications demonstrating strong partnership working are encouraged.

##### **Project**

As part of the area priority '**Social Care**', Washington Area Committee has identified reducing social isolation and loneliness as a priority for 2019/20. Recent Loneliness and Isolation community research in Sunderland, along with the Government's strategy for tackling loneliness, provides information and evidence to support the need for additional services in the community. Area Committee would like to invite project proposals which complement and work in partnership with existing support in the Washington area and provide activities or initiatives to reduce social isolation and promote social contact/interaction to improve mental and physical health. Nationally it is recognised that addressing social isolation can improve the health outcomes for people with long term conditions. Funding has been provided by Washington Area Committee who wish to support social activities and services in all wards for specific target groups including carers (young and adult), older people and vulnerable adults.

The project(s) must:

- Engage more people and vulnerable adults, including those suffering with dementia, in activities and services to improve their wellbeing
- Develop community-based networks of activities and opportunities that help to prevent or alleviate isolation and loneliness
- Make every contact with people a potential opportunity to share information, assist with re-engagement with the community and to support access to help
- Address mental as well as physical health and support 'breaking the mental health taboo' and removing the stigma of mental health issues
- Reduce isolation and increase social interaction
- Ensure relevant health promotion messages are included in initiatives to prevent or alleviate isolation and loneliness
- Increase awareness of other support available
- Work in partnership with other initiatives and projects
- Undertake monitoring to show the number of people benefiting, and the impact the project has made
- Identify how the proposed activity can be sustained post grant funding
- Contribute to an evaluation to demonstrate success, and lessons learned

Project proposals can be targeted to part wards, full wards, multi wards or the whole area, depending on the nature and capacity of a project and the need identified. Smaller, more localised, projects will also be considered. Applicants are requested to refer to the key findings of 'Loneliness and Isolation – Sunderland Community Research' (Will be provided with the application form).

All successful projects are expected to share information and work in a co-ordinated way with relevant partners, particularly those with support already in place with regards to vulnerable adults.

**Budget: £50,000 in Total (Individual projects of up to £5,000)**

This is a Small Grants scheme. There is a total of £50,000 available. Please Note – this is the total budget available for all projects which are successful - **NOT** per project application. **Therefore, we expect to fund individual projects of up to £5,000 (1 application per organisation).**

**Proposed Timescale**

Call for Projects	<b>7<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b>
Deadline for completed application	<b>25<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b>
Assessment and consultation	<b>1<sup>st</sup> November 2019</b>
Recommendation approval	<b>14<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b>

**Next Steps**

Any interested VCS Group should request an application form. These are available by contacting Karon Purvis, Washington Area Community Development Lead Email: [karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk) or telephone 0191 5612449, who will also be happy to answer any questions groups may have about the project.