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**CWTSH Community Wellbeing Connections Fund 2022-23
Application Guidance**

**INTRODUCTION AND AIMS OF THE FUNDING**

The Cwtsh Community Connections fund has been created by the Integrated Wellbeing Network Programme (led by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board) in conjunction with GAVO through support from the Welsh Government Connected Communities Fund.

Applications will be reviewed by the grant panel up until March 2024. In the case that all funding is allocated before this date, the applications process closes.

The Cwtsh Community Connections fund aims to directly fund projects that encourage and enable local people to participate in activities that support and enhance their wellbeing. For example, it can help groups and organisations to scale up existing work, re-establish themselves, start new ventures in response to appropriate need and opportunity, promote themselves more widely and help fund the use of community-based venues.

It is anticipated that projects will start upon award of the grant. If you would like a deferred start date, please contact us ahead of submission.

Grants will support not for profit organisations working at a local ‘grass roots’ community level in IWN focus areas[[1]](#footnote-1). Organisations or groups outside these areas *may* be eligible if they are delivering activities that support to people within the focus area

This fund is primarily focused on revenue funding; however, your funding request can contain costs for purchases of smaller ‘capital’ equipment including consumables.

Whilst we want to encourage projects 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 venues is difficult or for those not quite ready to meet people face-to-face.

Groups or organisations eligible for funding can apply for up to £5,000 with a minimum application level of £500. *We may consider requests outside this range, but please contact us first to discuss. Normally, organisations or groups cannot submit more than one application in any funding window.*

If you have any queries, please contact Officer Heather Manson by email (Heather.R.Manson@wales.nhs.uk) or on 07581 019 410, or Kevin Dawson by email (kevin.dawson@gavo.org areas.uk) or on 07373 023 540

**FOCUSES FOR THE FUNDING**

* Establishment, development and delivery of connection events and support activities such as talking cafes at community hubs and venues.
* Support for specific activities that support men’s or women’s mental health – this could include men’s sheds, menopause support etc.
* Support development of activities for older members of our communities along with a specific focus on dementia to the Dementia Friendly Bargoed (plus upper Rhymney valley) and Dementia Friendly Risca and the Caerphilly Age Friendly Communities initiative.
* Development of appropriate community outdoor activities that support wellbeing.
* Activities that support the mental wellbeing of young people who have been unduly affected by the effects of the pandemic.
* Opportunities to develop community volunteering to support wellbeing activities and initiatives.

The above areas are not exclusive, and we welcome ideas in keeping with the overall aims of the fund.

**ELIGIBILITY**

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| **Your Organisation Can Apply If:** | **The Fund Will Not Support:** |
| * It is a voluntary sector (not-for-profit) organisation and is independent of government, private and public sectors:
	+ Registered Charity
	+ Constituted Group
	+ Community Interest Company
	+ Charitable Incorporated Organisation
	+ Company Limited by Guarantee
* The proposed project will contribute to one or more of the fund’s aims and priority areas and solely for activity in the IWN areas in Caerphilly (see above – footnote 1.)
* Your organisation has at least 2 authorised unrelated signatories
* Your organisation has its own bank account or an account in the name of the ‘Trustees of [name of organisation]’
* You will engage with the CWTSH project.
* The project must be initiated within 3 months of the grant award date (unless a deferred date is agreed).
 | * A political organisation
* A statutory organisation\*
* A private organisation
* An individual

***\*****Please note, the funding panel will be happy to see bids submitted by partnerships which include statutory organisations, provided the lead partner is a not-for-profit organisation** Grants will not be awarded retrospectively i.e., for costs already incurred prior to the receipt of the grant offer letter and signed terms and conditions.
* Activity that is currently being funded through another funding stream.
* Where there are other Welsh Government grants available for specific activities, it is expected that they will be accessed where possible, rather than the CWTSH Community Grant.
* Proselytising activities.
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| **What Can Be Funded** |
| We are open to requests for anything that you think will enable you to provide opportunities for people to connect including, but not limited to, the following examples: |
| * Delivery of activities
* Equipment for the delivery of activities
* Sessional workers
 | * Promotion and marketing activities
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| **We Expect to See in Your Application** |
| * A clear reason for why the funding is required
* What does your project seek to achieve and who will benefit locally?
* An overview of any current activity you are undertaking
* Budget Planning - Evidence of intended spend e.g., quotes, allocation of cost breakdown
* A Plan for Sustainability – how you will continue after the funding finishes
* Partner / Organisation Involvement – who you will work with
* How your project fits with the Cwtsh initiative
* How you will measure success
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**APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Through the specific application form sent via email to:**

* Kevin Dawson (GAVO Development Officer) **–** kevin.dawson@gavo.org.uk
* Gina Jones (GAVO Regional Strategic Lead) – gina.jones@gavo.org.uk
1. 1 These areas are the Neighbourhood Care Network North (Upper Rhymney valleys and Darran Valley), Risca area and the Aber Valley. Others may be included that provide activities for residents in those focus areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)