

The following grant programme is open to applications until the end of September 2020

Covid 19 has had a dramatic impact on our customers and the communities they live in. Alongside the crisis and hardship support LiveWest offers for its customers, LiveWest is offering funding for organisations or community groups to help communities following lockdown.

We are specifically seeking applications which target:

- **Holiday Hunger** – many groups or local responses helping access to food are continuing their work to ensure that those struggling will be supported over the Summer period.
 - We are keen to support projects or initiatives which can demonstrate how they will provide specific benefits or services for our customers and we are particularly keen to understand responses that particularly target and engage families who may be struggling with increased costs.
 - Applicants should demonstrate what work they have been undertaking responding to food needs as a result of Covid-19 or their track record in the area.
 - It is important applicants explain how they will engage and target those in need as we want to ensure that this supports projects which go beyond only responding to individual enquiries.
 - The funding aims to support and enhance existing activities through a grant of up to £1,000 but applicants should detail and evidence specific costs.
 - We are keen to support work that goes beyond a single response (i.e. a single food parcel) so would like to support projects which can demonstrate a longer term approach either through work with other partner organisations to ensure longer term support or that directly supports individuals or families to develop their resilience.
- **Young people** – we know that for many young people a lack of organised activities or local affordable opportunities can lead to boredom, frustration and could lead to increased neighbourhood disturbances and ASB. We want to make available funding of to support activities which will engage young people in constructive activities over the summer period.
 - Activities should specifically target or benefit LiveWest residents or customers (but don't have to exclusively benefit them).
 - funding of up to £2,500 per applicant is available, but all costs must be clearly detailed and justified and applications that can not justify the figure being requested will be refused
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 - It is important that demand for a service, the existing engagement of young people, or a clear engagement action plan is outlined as LiveWest will not be able to support any activity that does not demonstrate this.

- Applicants should show a proper understanding of the community or area that they are targeting
- **Community Pride** – over lockdown areas of estates that communities, individuals or groups may have historically used may have been unused or may have not got the attention they would normally have received, we want to support initiatives which help improve the look, feel or use of areas within LiveWest estates.
 - Initiatives should be resident led or demonstrate residents are involved in delivering and our funding will not normally support activities that are over £1,500 in cost.
 - We will support a range of community improvements that involve or are resident led, including works to take on community ownership or management of an area, allotments, community gardening or growing, estate clear-ups or to support the use of existing play spaces.
 - All activities should involve or have permissions from local LiveWest staff housing management staff (Neighbourhood Managers) and should include a statement of support from them.
 - It is a prerequisite that all permissions should already be in place.

General guidance applicable to all grant priorities identified above:

- Grants will not normally cover core running costs or existing staff unless it can be demonstrated these can not be covered by existing resources, reserves or other funding.
- We welcome the opportunity to be part of a jigsaw of funders and so applicants should explain any other funding they receive towards work or activities and the additionality this funding would bring.
- Activities and initiatives can have already started, but the difference this funding can make must be clearly explained.

Work outside of the above priorities will be considered under our small grants programme which limits awards to under £1,000.

Small Grants Programme

This funding will support activities across LiveWest’s geography but we expect grant applications to be resident led or demonstrate there is active buy-in and support from residents.

We will not normally award grants for speculative work from established organisations where there is not demonstrable need within communities from residents and it cannot be demonstrated that residents have been consulted or engaged in the co-design of projects/initiatives or activities.

Each community and neighbourhood has different needs and we want to respond to the unique needs of each but examples of our support might include:

- Work that improves the health and wellbeing (particularly mental health of residents)
- Work that increases financial inclusion or improves residents financial confidence
- Initiatives to reduce ASB
- Projects that support digital inclusion
- Projects that improve access to or engagement of LiveWest residents to existing services – i.e. benefit advice
- Supporting the improvement of play facilities or community buildings, including in response to changing needs of social distancing

Community social inclusion initiatives that demonstrate compliance with LiveWest and Government social distancing advice will be considered but at this stage we will not consider mass gatherings or events, or celebrations including fun days.

General Notes

All funding awards are made on a discretionary basis and an application does not guarantee funding will be given or that it will be given at the requested amount. All applications will be judged on a case by case basis.

All applicants will be expected to measure the impact of their work and report on how the grant has specifically benefited LiveWest residents.

Group applications can be made by a Residents Association, community group, organisation or partnership that can prove they benefit LiveWest residents. The project, activity or event should aim to improve the quality of residents' lives, help to build strong communities, or improve the health, skills or employment prospects of individuals.

We will normally respond to a grant request within 10 working days, but any further clarifications or questions may delay this process so please ensure you include as much information as possible.

Please include any additional information that will support your application including any maps, diagrams or other materials that helps us understand how the need was identified, the response and how it will benefit LiveWest residents.