



REVISED GUIDANCE – Effective 4 May 2020

Council Funding for Community Groups - COVID-19

Brief Description

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council announced a substantial funding package to support community led responses to assist the most vulnerable as the Coronavirus pandemic continues to affect local communities.

To date, funding has been made available to a large number of groups providing community and social support to vulnerable and isolated persons in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area during this pandemic.

The original guidance notes had advised the priorities and timeline may be subject to change as emerging issues arise out of the crisis. As a result of the volume of funding allocated to date, the other sources of funding available to groups from different organisations and feedback from other agencies involved in support services for people affected by the pandemic, the Council is now changing the focus of the criteria for groups applying the funding. Please see Programme Specific Criteria below.

The Council will continue to ensure a quick turnaround of applications to ensure the swift delivery of support which will allow local providers to deliver services in a way that best serves local communities.

Applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis and, where there is clear evidence that a project is meeting identified needs, additional funding may be made available to the group.

Funding will be made available in each of the District Electoral Areas to support local responses; the Council is monitoring spend in each of the District Electoral Areas and may prioritise funding in areas where there has been a low number of applications to date. The funding package for COVID-19 will be kept under review. In the event that other funding does become available, funding decisions will be made taking account of other support on offer.

It is important to note that the priorities and timeline for the funding may change again as more emerging issues arise out of the crisis.

Programme Specific Criteria

To be eligible for grant aid, groups must clearly demonstrate that their project will be delivered within the council area and to its residents. The need for the project within the target community should be identified and support should be delivered on an equitable basis across the relevant geographical area.



Applications must focus on the following:

- Social contact promoting emotional well-being

Applications will not be considered for the normal activities of a group (including core costs).

Eligible groups must be:

- Non-party political and
- Non-profit distributing.

Membership organisations must demonstrate that their beneficiaries do not pay in excess of £1,000 per year.

New groups formed in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Coronavirus or groups that are not formally constituted should seek to work with a local constituted group (which has previously submitted an application to the Council for funding) on a partnership basis and should identify that the constituted group will be the lead applicant in the project. This will facilitate payment of the grant funding to a nominated bank account. Applications will also be accepted from established groups in receipt of funding with a strong record of delivery in the district.

The lead group must demonstrate that it has an appropriate governance framework and structures in place including:

- A 'Governing Document' for example a Constitution or a Governing body registration;
- A list of committee members;
- An equal opportunities policy/statement.

Application Process

A short form Application will be required under this Scheme. Applicants should log onto the Grant Manager system to access an application form at <https://fermanaghomagh.eformz.info/> or log onto the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council website where a link will also be available.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate the following in completing the relevant application form:

- The need for the project;
- The geographical area it will cover;
- Details of any partnership working;
- An outline of the work to be completed; and
- Details of the anticipated costs.



In order to maximise the funding available groups will be encouraged to work together to submit joint applications for a local geographical area.

Successful applicants will be issued with a letter of offer (through the Grant Manager system) outlining the terms and conditions of the grant. The letter of offer will be issued to the email address supplied in the application form. The group can accept the letter of offer by logging onto the Grant Manager.

In light of the current crisis, an advance payment will be forwarded to the nominated bank account once the letter of offer is accepted.

Organisations are required to keep appropriate records relating to expenditure and the Council will retain the right to retrospectively audit all aspects of your claim.

As part of any funding award, groups will be required to submit information detailing the number of people supported and how this was achieved (frequency to be determined). A template will be issued to all successful groups outlining the information which needs to be recorded.

Subsequent funding applications may be made where a need has been identified and where funding awarded towards the previous project(s) has been satisfactorily committed.