**Positive Ageing Small Grants Programme 2023-24**

**Guidance Notes**

Positive Ageing Month is celebrated in October every year, and is a month-long campaign of events, activities and programmes that promote positive ageing as well as celebrating the contribution older people make to their communities. The Positive Ageing Small Grants Programme, aims to further support activities and programmes specifically for older people (aged 60+) commencing on/throughout Positive Ageing Month. The Programme is funded by the Public Health Agency and administered by the Western Health & Social Care Trust.

**Who Can Apply?**

* Constituted / non-constituted, non-profit making Community/Voluntary Sector Organisations / Groups supporting those aged 60+

All groups applying must have:

* A good level of governance in the running of the organisation / group
* Proper financial processes in place
* A bank or building society account in the name of your organisation / group.

**Funding Aim / What Can I Apply For?**

Grants are to be used for the delivery of activities / programmes for older people aged 60+, to improve physical activity, reduce social isolation and provide opportunities for older people to socially connect.

Eligible programmes or activities include: short courses / programmes, venue / room hire, facilitator / tutor costs. Please note, any facilitators/ tutors should have adequate and suitable qualifications/ experience.

**What the Grant will not cover**

Fundraising activities, retrospective applications, counselling, research, programmes which are partly political or organised by a political party, activities / programmes which are profit making or are the responsibility of another body, complementary therapies, capital costs, excessive facilitation costs, food / fuel provision, shopping trips, refreshments or gap funding for projects which are already in development. Please note this list is not exhaustive.

**How to Apply?**

Application forms are available from the South West Age Partnership by emailing aforbes@southwestagepartnership.co.uk

**Award?**

Grants of up to £500 are available.

**Assessment Criteria**

* One application submitted per organisation / group
* Extent to which the application meets the funding aim
* Realistic and achievable actions
* The activities / programmes must be complete by end of February 2024
* Value for money
* We want individuals and communities to be active in improving their own health, therefore applications must demonstrate programme participants and / or carer involvement in identifying the activity / programme
* Agreement to complete and return Section 75 forms and evaluation data (please note these documents will be provided)

**Further Information**

We encourage organisations/ groups to incorporate the ‘Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing’ message when planning and delivering their programmes and activities. We hope you may consider delivering programmes/ activities which allow older people to connect, be active, take notice of their surroundings and living environments, keep learning and give back to their communities. For more information on ‘Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing’ please see the leaflet at the end of this document.

We encourage all those who are eligible to apply, however please note depending on the number of applications received, there may be an enhanced criteria applied which may include:

* Priority given to those organisations / groups who have not received funding from the Positive Ageing Small Grants Programme funding in the past
* Priority given to those organisations / groups who have a lower annual income

Please note programmes / activities may be subject to audit during the course of programme delivery, organisations / groups will be contacted in advance. All invoices must be supplied on headed paper including bank details, for any costs incurred **PRIOR TO** payment being made. Payment will be made directly to the supplier by SWAP.

**Contact**

If you require any further information or guidance regarding any of the above information please contact the Health Improvement Equality and Involvement Department by emailing involve@westerntrust.hscni.net or call 028 7186 5127 or contact Allison Forbes on aforbes@southwestagepartnership.co.uk or call 028 8225 1824.

**Closing Date**

Completed applications should be emailed to aforbes@southwestagepartnership.co.uk by Friday 22nd September 2023.



