

Closing the Gaps for Communities Fund

Guidance Sheet - 2010/11

The Closing the Gaps for Communities Fund comprises of a £100,000 funding commitment made by Staffordshire County Council. This funding is to be made available to third sector organisations within Staffordshire, that are looking to deliver community-led projects that address local needs and improve the quality of life of local people. The fund aims to support activities that will benefit Staffordshire residents and contribute to the work we, and our partners are already doing towards delivering our Local Area Agreement (LAA) priorities, namely:

- A vibrant, prosperous and sustainable economy
- Safe, strong and cohesive communities
- Improved health and sense of wellbeing
- Protected, enhanced and respected environment

Each of the above priorities have a set of low level sub indicators that projects should aim to address. **These are detailed on the following pages.** In order to assist applicants, examples have been given to highlight the kinds of activities that contribute to the priorities stated above.

In addition, the organisation must be able to say **'YES'** to all of the following criteria before requesting an application form:

- The applicant organisation operates on a not-for-profit basis and falls within one or more of the following categories:
 - ▶ Voluntary/community group
 - ▶ Registered charity
 - ▶ Social enterprise
 - ▶ Religious organisation
 - ▶ Housing association
 - ▶ Co-operative or mutual

and has a formal constitution, set of rules or terms of reference and **a bank account in the name of the organisation.**

- The project clearly links to at least one of the priorities and sub indicators highlighted in the attached sheet.
- The total project cost does **NOT exceed £20,000** of which Capital expenditure must **NOT exceed £2,000**. The grant requested must be a minimum of **£2,000** and up to a **maximum of £10,000**.
- A minimum of 20% of the total project cost is being provided by another source as match funding. This has been secured at the time of applying.
- The project has **NOT** already started and/or involves the payment of retrospective costs.
- The project will be completed within **10 months** of receiving a grant offer letter.
- The organisation has not received a grant payment from the Closing the Gaps for Communities Fund in the last **12 months**.

WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

Revenue - Room hire, training costs, publicity materials, volunteer expenses, refreshments, salary contribution for project delivery/sessional staff only (**not core existing staff**), insurance and overhead costs (these need to be apportioned to only reflect the cost of delivering the activity contained within the application)

Capital - Capital expenditure must **NOT exceed £2,000**. Items can include: Office equipment including furniture, display boards, ICT/media equipment or software.

EXCLUSIONS

The Closing the Gaps for Communities Fund **CANNOT** support the following:

- The promotion of political or religious beliefs
- Payments to individuals, national organisations, profit making bodies or statutory organisations
- Animal welfare
- Project management fees or Fees for professional fundraisers
- General appeals or Core running costs
- Construction, acquisition or refurbishment of buildings
- Medical or research equipment
- School fees, bursaries or overseas travel
- Feasibility studies

ELIGIBILITY CHECK

It is imperative that you contact your Community Partnership Officer (CPO) prior to requesting an application form to enable you to discuss your project. An application form **will not** be sent out until you have endorsement by your CPO that you are eligible and that your project fits all criteria. Please note that for 2010/11 priority will be given to projects that address local needs in the following geographical areas:

- **Blake High School Catchment area (Cannock Chase District)**
- **Anglesey (East Staffordshire Borough)**
- **Glascote (Tamworth Borough)**
- **Penkside (Stafford Borough)**

This shouldn't deter other organisations from applying as projects from other areas will be considered providing real need can be demonstrated.

District Area	Name	Telephone No.	Mobile No.
Cannock Chase & Lichfield Email: graham.hunt@staffordshire.gov.uk	Graham Hunt	01785 358338	07969 726571
East Staffordshire & Tamworth Email: tim.leese@staffordshire.gov.uk	Tim Leese	01785 358334	07814 372627
South Staffordshire & Stafford Email: sarah.charles@staffordshire.gov.uk	Sarah Charles	-	07814 372657
Newcastle & Staffordshire Moorlands Email: gail.edwards@staffordshire.gov.uk	Gail Edwards	01785 358334	07814 370768

APPLICATION DEADLINES

It is advisable to submit your application as soon as possible and not wait until the deadline so that any queries can be resolved at an early stage in the process. Late applications will not be considered.

- **Friday 27 August 2010**
- **Friday 26 November 2010**

CLOSING THE GAPS FOR COMMUNITIES FUND

LAA PRIORITIES, SUB INDICATORS AND PROJECT EXAMPLES

This sheet has been produced to assist organisations in identifying and delivering particular projects within their localities that contribute and/or compliment the delivery of those indicators incorporated within the Staffordshire Local Area Agreement.

All applicants will need to demonstrate how their project contributes to at least one of the priorities and sub indicators referred to below. This sheet should be referred to when completing **Question 10** on the project proposal form. Example projects have been included that correspond to each respective sub indicators. **These are to act as a guide only and projects do not have to replicate these examples to be considered.**

High Level Priority (HLP1): A VIBRANT, PROSPEROUS AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY	
No.	Sub Indicator
1	14-19 year old skills achievement of level 3 qualification
2	16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs)
3	Improving skills amongst adults – (19-64 males and 19-59 females)
4	Business Growth - amongst small businesses
5	Combating poverty – Reducing the number of people claiming out of work benefits
6	Appropriate, affordable and aspirational housing

No.	Example Projects for corresponding sub indicators above
1	Mentoring project to help pupils at key transition stages in their school life.
2	A community gardening project targeted at engaging 16-18 year old NEET's in tidying local gardens, thus building their confidence and improving their skills to eventually re-engage them in learning or give them access to employment opportunities.
3	A neighbourhood resource centre offering adult learning opportunities specifically for people from a local BME community.
4	Business planning advice and support to secure external funding. Advice and support in setting up community / social enterprises / CICs
5	Local community projects assisting unemployed people with confidence building, skills development, CV/job application support and linking them with employment opportunities. Projects could target people with complex barriers to accessing work i.e. mental health
6	Advice services for homeless people to help them identify housing opportunities and access welfare support

HLP2: SAFE, STRONG AND COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

No.	Sub Indicator
1	Tackling the anti-social behaviour and crime that matters to local people
2	Confidence and trust within communities – (Local decision making, thriving 3 rd sector, volunteering, young people’s participation in positive activities)
3	Domestic Violence

No	Example Projects for corresponding sub indicators above
1	Youth organisations, music/arts/drama projects/activities to divert young people away from antisocial behaviour. Getting young people at risk of offending involved in a local environmental project.
2	Intergenerational youth volunteering project working with the elderly to reduce their social isolation.
3	New counselling service for victims of domestic violence in rurally isolated areas. Confidence building workshops.

HLP3: IMPROVED HEALTH AND SENSE OF WELL BEING

No .	Sub Indicator
1	Tackling the causes of neglect (amongst children)
2	Supporting and protecting vulnerable people (independent living, learning disability employment - adults)
3	Health Inequalities (smoking cessation, participation in sport, under 18 conceptions)
4	Reducing obesity (amongst school children)
5	Reducing the harm caused by alcohol
6	Reducing the harm caused by drugs
7	Carers (provision of advice/information)

No	Example Projects for corresponding sub indicators above
1	Grassroots parental support projects
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intergenerational heritage project for socially isolated people over 50 to engage with young people and share experiences Luncheon club for elderly people within a BME community Community café offering supported employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities
3	Community led exercise/physical activity programmes to tackle ill health within deprived neighbourhoods.
4	A family centre wants to host healthy eating and cookery project to engage parents and children from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in making healthier lifestyle choices.
5	Alcohol support groups / themed workshop sessions
6	Drug use support groups / themed workshop sessions
7	Awareness raising events / information sharing/social events – focussing on supporting carers

HLP4: PROTECTED, ENHANCED AND RESPECTED ENVIRONMENT	
No.	Sub Indicator
1	Sustainable travel to opportunities and services (walking, cycling, public transport)
2	Wasting less (household waste)
3	Sustainable management of the environment
4	Meeting the challenge of climate change

No	Example Projects for corresponding sub indicators above
1	Community cycle sharing schemes Walking bus projects
2	Recycling and Re-use projects Awareness raising in communities to promote reuse and recycling
3	Local wildlife projects, improving access to nature and conservation areas. Habitat creation and management
4	Local awareness raising project to help people understand the benefits that renewable energy can bring to their community

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

For general enquiries about the scheme please contact:

Nicola Edmonds, Corporate Third Sector Relations Manager

Tel: (01785) 358320 **Email:** nicola.edmonds@staffordshire.gov.uk

For assistance in completing your application form, please contact your local CVS Development Officer, see details below:

District Area	Name	Telephone No.	Email address
Cannock Chase	Bev Molloy	01543 500404	bevmolloy@chase-cvs.org.uk
East Staffordshire	Carolyn Coxon	01283 543414	carolyn@cases-vol.org.uk
Lichfield	Julia Harris	01543 303030	JuliaHarris@ldcvs.org.uk
Newcastle	Colin Williamson	01782 629269	c.williamson@nulcvs.co.uk
Stafford	Liz Reynolds	01785 279935	development@sdvs.org.uk
Staffordshire Moorlands	Carol Rodgers	01538 381356	carolrodgers@smcvs.co.uk
South Staffordshire	Emily Howsam	01902 851675	catalyst@sscva.org.uk
Tamworth	Wil Summers	01827 709657	w.summers@tamworth-cvs.org.uk