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**Live Well Kent & Medway Innovation Fund 2021/22**

**Medway Fund**

**Guidance Notes**

Live Well Kent & Medway (LWK&M) is a mental health and wellbeing service, promoting mental health recovery and wellbeing. People are supported to feel part of their local community and the service provides information and skills for a healthy and independent life. Porchlight and Shaw Trust are strategic partners managing the service across Medway, working with the NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group.

LWK&M is currently running as a two-year pilot in Medway. The mental health interventions currently offered by the Porchlight led network include 121 support around social issues impacting on mental health, targeted BAME service, peer led support, social groups, recovery focused programmes and activities such as Mindfulness and Coping with Life courses and an individual placement support modelled employment offer.

An important element of LWK&M is to develop, encourage and share innovation in local mental health and wellbeing services. To support this, we have set up an Innovation Fund for Medway in line with the Innovation Fund which runs in Kent. We are working with Shaw Trust to offer two rounds of Innovation funding, this being the first round, with a second which will be led by Shaw Trust to be launched early in 2022. We welcome applications from across Medway, supporting delivery across the whole area, as well as community-based projects.

Throughout our work in launching the LWK&M services in Medway we want to improve our support in meeting the needs of the diverse population and would be interested to develop this offer using groups and organisations who are established within these communities.

We would be very interested in projects which work with BAME communities as well as those which work with people experiencing co-occurring conditions, with one being mental health alongside issues such as substance misuse or autistic spectrum conditions.

**There is a pot of £30,000** to fund 2 or 3 projects in any of the Medway area or across Medway with our focus being on work with BAME groups or addressing the needs of people with co-occurring conditions.

Porchlight would be willing to consider other projects that demonstrate a clear need and match the aims of LWK&M if sufficient innovation and creativity is shown in the project.

We are expecting applications to be for funding of £5,000 to £15,000 to be spent in a 12 month period before March 2023.

**What we want projects to achieve:**

Being able to show the difference that your project or initiative makes to individuals is important. We want innovations to be able to strongly show **two or more** the following outcomes for individuals:

* Connect to their communities and feel less lonely and socially isolated
* Maintain and improve overall wellbeing.
* Have choice, control, and feel empowered
* Achieve economic wellbeing - ensuring people’s income is maximised, debts are managed and where appropriate applicable welfare benefits are accessed.
* Feel satisfied with service delivery and service outcomes
* Be involved in service design, service offer and availability.
* Stay in or enter employment
* Be supported to be independent and manage their long-term conditions
* Have increased social skills
* Be appropriately supported to manage their recovery

**What we will consider funding:**

We want to fund projects and ideas where there is a direct benefit to people with mental health and wellbeing issues. We are particularly interested in the following:

1. **Recovery focused programmes through activity** – through evidence-based programmes, using activity to support recovery and self-management.
2. **Initiatives led by people with mental health issues** – this could include peer support, programmes or workshops.
3. **Sport, leisure and healthy lifestyles** – using these approaches to achieve better mental health and wellbeing, as well as developing new skills and confidence for people with mental health issues.
4. **Environmental** – using outside community spaces and green projects to support recovery and early intervention.
5. **Employability** – using evidenced based approaches to support people to develop skills and build confidence that help with future employment, such as personal development programmes or access to further education.
6. **Deprivation work** – targeted work with people in areas of high social deprivation (please contact Porchlight if you are uncertain which areas these are).

**Who can apply**

* Charities
* Schools, colleges and universities
* Youth organisations
* Peer led organisations
* Social enterprises
* Community Interest Companies
* Arts and sports organisations

Groups must have a formal constitution or legal structure, appropriate insurance and policies, and audited accounts (where relevant). You will be asked to provide evidence of these if you are successful.

**How much funding can you apply for?**

The Innovation Fund will provide successful project applications with between £5,000 and £15,000.

**How to apply**

To apply please download and complete the application form **and email your application to** **innovation@porchlight.org.uk**

All applications must be submitted by **Monday 10th January 2022 by 09.00am**

Successful organisations awarded an Innovation Fund grant will be notified by 17th January 2022 and agreements will be issued in January. The projects will start on 1st March 2022 and ideally would last for 12 months.

If you would like to talk through your idea or project, please contact:

Pam Burniston: pamburniston@porchlight.org.uk

07921605849

Decision to award funds will be made by an Innovation Fund panel. A point scoring system will be used. The scoring system will be looking for:

* How well your project meets the Live Well Kent & Medway outcomes
* The strength of innovation within the project
* Whether your project’s aims and activities are realistic and achievable
* Realistic budget and value for money

If you are successful, we will let you know in writing by email. Please allow three weeks from the submission deadline for our response.

**Monitoring requirements**

If your project is successful, you will need to be able to commit to monitoring paperwork including reporting on progress each quarter. You will also be required to use a wellbeing scale questionnaire for each person using your service; we can provide guidance and support with this.

You will also be asked to provide one case study, with a template provided, and a final project report will be required.

You may be asked for feedback from our Communications team so that we can promote and share the successes of the funding.