

# BLMK Suicide Prevention Wave 4

Community Grants Fund 2022/23

## Guidance Notes

### The Aim of the Wave Four Programme:

- Reduce Mental Health Inequalities in local communities
- Promote positive Mental Health in local communities
- Build resilience to Mental Health problems
- Reduce the stigma of Self-Harm and Suicide
- Increase community-based support for those at higher risk of Suicide
- Reduce the incidence of Self-Harm and repeated Self-Harm
- To reduce the impact of Self-Harm and Suicide

### Context

Covid-19 has widened health inequalities in England by disproportionately affecting those already experiencing health inequalities, such as those in the most-deprived areas and people from ethnic minority backgrounds. Inequalities in mental health mean that some people are more likely to have poor mental health, and less likely to get effective support.

The NHS defines health inequalities as *'preventable unfair and unjust differences in health status between groups populations or individuals that arise from the unequal distribution of social, environmental and economic conditions within societies which determine the risk of people getting ill, their ability to prevent sickness, or opportunities to take actions and access treatment when ill health occurs.'*

### Scope

Projects within Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes that support and proactively engage groups experiencing health inequalities where there is an emerging risk of Self-Harm and Suicide.

Projects supporting high-risk groups could include:

- People under the care of Mental Health Services
- People with a history of Self-Harm
- People in contact with the Criminal Justice System
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Vulnerable Groups including but not limited to:
  - Ethnic Minorities
  - LBGTQIA+
  - Veterans
  - Survivors of Domestic Abuse

- Survivors of Sexual Assault and Abuse
- Homeless and Rough Sleepers
- Loneliness and isolation
- Children and young people
- Autistic people
- People with a learning disability
- Those who are sensory impaired
- Carers
- People with a long-term health condition
- People living in poverty
- People struggling with their financial wellbeing including debt and gambling harm
- People experiencing marital breakup
- People who have been bereaved
- People who live alone

### Exclusions

- Training e.g., Mental Health First Aid or Suicide Prevention Training. This is already available through other initiatives.

### Please note the following conditions:

1. Any voluntary or not for profit organisation can apply but may make **only one** application
2. Maximum grant will be £5000. However, if your project is for more than one locality (Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, and Milton Keynes) we may consider further funding to a maximum of £8000. For example, if an organisation is seeking funding to deliver work in Luton and Bedford, it can apply for up to £8000.
3. The project must be related to delivery of services to those highlighted in the scope.
4. Projects can:
  - a. Expand existing services to target reducing Mental Health Inequalities.
  - b. Create new types of support specifically for those whose mental health and wellbeing is being impacted by inequalities.

### You will need to explain how this will in your application

### How to Apply

- Bidders must tell us if they are also being funded/seeking funding from other bodies and for what. We will not fund bids for the *same* project but may well

fund bids for a *different* or specific enhancement to an existing project even if bidders are funded by others.

- Match funding and/or other evidence of joint working are desirable but not essential. You should clearly identify which other funding organisations are involved, and how much they will be contributing.
- There can only be one bid per organisation. Where multiple organisations are bidding for funding to support a single project or initiative, we will only consider one organisation's bid.
- £5000 is the maximum size of any bid (this will help to ensure the funding helps more organisations) but it will not be reduced based on match funding. If a project covers more than one of the localities with the scheme (Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton or Milton Keynes) up to £8000 can be applied for.
- We encourage joint working between organisations and associations.
- All applications must:
  - Identify which key high-risk groups referred to above will be supported.
  - Explain how the project will be evaluated.
  - Explain how the project and outcomes will be sustained when the funding has ended.
  - Be willing to undertake Suicide Awareness community training and promote awareness.
  - Be willing to share and promote the Stay Alive App to support working towards a reduction in suicides locally.

### **Reporting and monitoring:**

All successful bidders will be required to:

- Provide quarterly updates on how the project or initiative is delivering against the objectives identified in the application.
- Tell us how they are spending the funding. They must also tell us if there is a risk that some of the funding will not be spent in line with the agreed plan or timescales.
- Where we consider that organisations are not spending the funding in line with the agreed plan, we may seek to recover these costs.
- Any unspent funds at the end of the funding period or when the project ends, must be returned to us.

### **Process**

Where funding is oversubscribed or more information is sought, bidders may be invited to an interview remotely or asked to provide more detail by email.

## **Timescales**

- The deadline for bids is 5pm on **31st July 2022**.
- Applications will be assessed w/c **1<sup>st</sup> August 2022**.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome by **15<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel. If your application is unsuccessful, we will let you know why and how future applications might be improved.
- The panel's decision is final, and we will not accept any appeals.
- Funding will be awarded during September 2022.
- You will need to sign a grant agreement before we will release any funding to you. The person signing the agreement on behalf of your organisation must be authorised to do so.
- From receipt of funding groups/organisations will have up to a year to deliver their project.

We will issue a grant number, which you must use when you invoice us for funding.

If you have any queries about the application, please contact Gary Read on [gary.read@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:gary.read@milton-keynes.gov.uk).

**Thank you for your interest; we look forward to hearing from you.**