

Hidden Needs Grant Programme Relunched

The Hidden Needs grant programme, developed by the former East Suffolk Partnership, previously focussed on older people and families with limited access to resources. Given the wide reach of the Covid-19 pandemic across the population, these criteria have now been updated to reflect any/all age groups in East Suffolk experiencing loneliness or isolation.



We are particularly interested in funding projects that support those identified (pre-Covid-19) as more likely to be socially isolated and lonely, as we know that these individuals, families and communities are likely to be impacted by Covid-19 to a greater extent than the wider population. Projects may also target new sectors of the population who you feel have become more socially isolated because of the virus.

Maps have been made available to show geographical locations in the District that are/were more likely (pre-Covid-19) to have concentrations of people who are lonely and isolated. These maps only show where it is more likely that there are people with these needs, they do not reflect what might already be happening in these communities to tackle these needs.

Context

A significant amount of work has already been undertaken on social isolation in East Suffolk, including this ground-breaking hidden needs mapping and associated Hidden Needs Grant Programme, which has to date enabled a range of innovative community projects to tackle social isolation and loneliness (amongst older people or families with limited resources) in hidden need 'hot spots' identified through the mapping. This work has identified the effectiveness of using data and local intelligence to target effort.

The eight projects funding in the first phase of the programme were:

Group Name	Project Description	Grant awarded
ActivLives	Everyday ActivEast project – to expand their services into East Suffolk (Leiston, Felixstowe and Woodbridge)	£9,950.00
English Touring Opera	Turtle Song – an opportunity for people with dementia and their carers to write the lyrics and music for a new song cycle	£4,000.00
Thursday's @ The Fisher	Fortnightly dementia friendly screenings at the Fisher Theatre in Bungay to reduce isolation.	£10,000.00
Peninsula Practice	To provide training for local volunteers to become Compassionate Companions as part of a wider Compassionate Community.	£10,000.00
Age UK Suffolk	To create new 'Chinwags' groups in Beccles, Aldeburgh, Wickham Market,	£16,722.54

	Woodbridge based on the existing Kesgrave project	
Rose & Sweet William Club	To purchase a minibus to enable the isolated members of the group to attend their club.	£7,519.74
Beccles Men Shed	To re-locate the Men's Shed from a temporary home in Henstead to a permanent home in Beccles.	£10,743.00
Melton Primary School	To create a School Volunteering Programme tackling a range of key projects, led by a new Volunteer Coordinator.	£5,800.00
Total		£74,735.28

It is expected that significantly more people will experience increased isolation and loneliness due to government restrictions in place to manage/contain Covid-19 and this programme is an opportunity to take a data and intelligence-led response to these needs.

How to apply

If you know of a group that have a project idea that will help to reduce social isolation in one or more hot spot area, your first step is for them to discuss their idea with one of a list of lead officers. They will provide an application form and help them to complete it if they think the project is eligible.

Everything you need to know about applying for the grant (including the maps) is available on the East Suffolk website here: <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/hidden-needs-grant-programme/>

IMPORTANT DATES:

- The fund opens **8 June 2020**
- Application deadlines: Round 1: **17th July 2020**
Round 2: **30th September 2020**

East Suffolk Communities Team June 2020.