**Community Chest FAQs 2024/2025**

**Q: Where did the funding come from?**

A: North-East London ICS and LBBD. The funding awarded from NEL NHS has come from the NHS England Health Inequalities Fund.

**Q: How much is it in total?**

A: £90,000. Of this total, £45,000 comes from the Health Inequalities Fund from NHS North East London ICS and £45,000 from LBBD as match funding.

**Q: Who can apply?**

A: Voluntary and community sector groups working in Barking & Dagenham who will deliver social prescribing to residents.

**Q: How much money is there likely to be for my individual proposal?**

A: Whilst there is no automatic guarantee of funding, the range is expected to be from a few hundred pounds to a maximum of £5,000 per project.

**Q: Are there restrictions on who can apply?**

A: Sole traders cannot apply but can link in with other organisations or have a sponsor organisation to support them on the project.

**Q: When can we apply?**

A: An Expression of Interest / Proposal form will need to be submitted by 5pm on Monday 20 January 2025.  It will be available from Thursday 19 December 2024

**Q: How will we apply?**

A: Applications will be done in person on 28February 2025 between 10m and 4pm at Barking Learning Centreas part of a group session along with other organisations. This is the only way organisations can apply. Times and dates may vary slightly depending on the number of applications received.

**Q: What is a participatory budgeting process?**

 A: Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which voluntary and community groups decide directly how to spend part of a public budget.

**Q: Who decides which projects are funded?**

The funded projects will be chosen through an in person voting process (participatory budgeting) by the organisations who have applied to be part of this initiative. This will include VCSE’s, NHS and Local Authority participants.

**Q: Why are you doing it this way?**

A: Because we need a community-led approach to funding where are open and collaborative rather than closed and competitive.  We need to change how funding and partnerships work and this is an opportunity to try a new approach.

**Q: How will I find out the criteria and more specific details?**

A: Information is included in Guidance notes available at the Information event or online at: <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/adult-health-and-social-care/health-and-wellbeing/social-prescribing/community-chest-fund>

**Q: What is the criteria likely to be?**

We are proposing that applications are assessed against the following criteria:

* **Equality, diversity and inclusion** – supporting those who are left behind or not well provided for by the current offer
* **Capacity building** – strengthening your organisation’s capability to deliver projects
* **Existing Health Priorities** – how your proposal supports and compliments the local health priorities in Barking & Dagenham. Activities can include Befriending & Social Sessions, activities benefitting Social Isolation & building networks, Peer Support, Affordable help for residents around the home, Green Social Prescribing - Outdoor activities including nature / walking / gardening, Support residents to access health and wellbeing activities including activities to increase physical activity levels in adults, Translations support for people with language barriers, Form filling and applying for benefits / helping with financial support, Low level mental health support – different activities, Positive activities that support young people with poor mental health, Activities that support young people (12 to 16 years) to move more and eat healthily.
* **Evidence** – showing the impact of your work and sharing your good work with others

**Q: When should projects take place?**

Projects and activities should start on or after 10 March 2025 and be completed no later than 31 July 2025.

**Q: What support do you offer successful projects?**

We will be able to offer funded projects some support with data, monitoring and evaluation capture.

**Q: What if I feel vulnerable or not confident to participate?**

A: We want to create a space that is as safe and supportive as possible. If you have any concerns, please be in touch with the organisers so that we can find a way to support you and improve our process.

**Q: Will I be paid for attending Information session and application day?**

A: Organisations will be remunerated for attending both sessions.  If you have more than one person attending the sessions, you will only receive funding for one person.  The amount will £20.78 per hour.