

## **New Beginnings Fund**

### **Support for refugees and their communities**

A consortium of Funders have come together and pooled resources to create the New Beginnings Fund to support refugees and their communities. The fund is responding to the recent dramatic increase in refugees and asylum seekers moving across Europe which is placing incredible strain on the network of community based support available within the UK.

The New Beginnings Fund will award grants of up to £10,000 to frontline groups working to support refugees and asylum seekers across the UK. It will support local groups working to welcome refugees and asylum seekers into their local communities, through existing or new services. The fund is particularly interested in groups who are working to get their local communities involved in volunteering and supporting their work to promote integration and welcome new arrivals.

The fund will prioritise local groups, with turnovers of less than £250,000 who can explain the need for additional short to medium term support and how this will add capacity to their current work with local refugees and asylum seekers. Groups must be able to evidence an increase in demand for services and explain how they plan to respond using this funding, (larger organisations with turnovers of up to £1million are not excluded from applying for funding however, priority will be given to smaller locally based organisations.)

The types of activity that New Beginnings is likely to fund include;

- proposals from groups that are led by local refugees and asylum seekers
- projects offering guidance, counselling and community integration
- welcoming activities with existing local communities
- groups supporting volunteering and community activities

New Beginnings aims to provide funding to increase the capacity of small to medium sized local organisations to meet the support needs of refugees and asylum seekers to mobilise other forms of local support to ease their integration into local communities

The context of welcoming Refugees and Asylum seekers and promoting integration, the New Beginnings Fund aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improve access to volunteering
- Improve community cohesion
- Improve the community working together
- Strengthen organisations through capacity building
- Promote human rights and equality
- Reduce isolation
- Support vulnerable people

## Exclusions

The fund will not be supporting the following activities;

- promoting party political activity
- major capital costs
- individual sponsorship
- activities generating private profit
- statutory services
- faith groups are welcome to apply but activities which evangelise or proselytise religious beliefs will not be eligible

## How to apply

The fund is no closed to applications

Please contact the grants team on 024 76883265 or 024 76883262 if you require any further advice or guidance.