Neighbourhood Network Scheme (NNS) Connected Communities - Grant Opportunity.

## Deaf Community Engagement and Gap Analysis

Project Purpose

As part of **Birmingham City Council’s Neighbourhood Network Schemes**; to engage Birmingham’s Deaf Community, and other key stakeholders, to identify community strengths alongside the sort of activities and support they would like to see to enable them to live happy, healthy lives in their own homes and communities. Following this engagement activity to complete a gap analysis including recommended priorities for small grant funding and capacity building activity. To regularly engage with the working group, and report findings to the steering group. By Deaf Community we mean Birmingham Citizens who are aged 18 years or over, profoundly Deaf, and have British Sign language as their preferred mode of communication.

What are Neighbourhood Network Schemes in Birmingham?

Neighbourhood Network Schemes (NNS) are funded by Adult Social Care, Birmingham City Council to develop the support people need to lead happy, healthy, independent lives in their own homes and communities. There is an NNS in each of Birmingham’s 10 constituencies, most of which are run by a range of voluntary and community sector organisations.  
  
More information on this can be found [here](https://birmingham.connecttosupport.org/prevention-and-communities/neighbourhood-network-schemes-nns/).

What is NNS Connected Communities?

NNS Connected Communities administers a small grants programme working to a set of principles outlined in the **Purpose and Principles document attached**. This is an integral part of the NNS model and will work within the overall aims, objectives, and ‘Prevention First Outcomes’ of the NNS. Where possible it will also work according to Asset Based Community Development principles. A workplan agreed with the steering group and other relevant partners will shape what is funded. The grant panel will only fund community-based preventative support, and capacity building activity, which could not otherwise be funded via a Constituency NNS grant panel and is not a priority in any of the Constituencies.  
  
The priority will be to fund preventative support for smaller minority or interest groups who are spread ‘thinly’ across the City, or who might prefer not to meet where they live. The project team leading Connected Communities is a partnership between; the Commissioning Team, Community Partnership Worker and Heart of England Community Foundation (HoECF). BVSC Research completed an initial review of data and high-level gap analysis. Connected Community NNS is an integral part of the NNS recommissioned from April 2022. ­



The successful bidder will need to demonstrate the following:

1. Existing links with a representative sample of Birmingham’s Deaf BSL Community members aged 18 years and over.
2. Able to facilitate conversations with members of the Deaf BSL Community which explore their strengths and ambitions; as well as the barriers they face and ideas for solutions.
   1. Minimum of 5 conversations with 5 different groups of Deaf BSL Citizens from various organisations engaging between 50 – 100 Deaf BSL Citizens during the project.
3. Those facilitating the conversations with the Deaf Community need to be fluent in BSL, preferably with local knowledge and connections.
4. Ability to work in partnership with the Connect Communities working group and steering group.
5. Facilitate conversations with relevant Adult Social Care Teams, including the Sensory Impairment Social Work Team and other stakeholders relevant to completing the gap analysis as directed by the NNS Connected Communities Steering Group.
6. Demonstrate understanding of strength-based working, principles and practice in adult social care and community development approaches.
7. Ability to capture the conversations and analysis in the gap analysis template provided.  
    
8. Complete desktop data analysis which supports identification of the priorities for the Deaf BSL Community in Birmingham. This includes considering any relevant reports which must include:
   1. [Public Health’s Deaf Community Health Profile](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/24028/deaf_and_hearing_loss_community_health_profile_report).
   2. Background research used to inform decision on priorities for Connect Communities. 
9. Office IT skills including us of Excel, email communication, Teams or Zoom meetings, preparation of presentations and reports.
10. Any community asset identified by the project to be shared with the working group in the correct format for inclusion in the community directory. The community directory can be viewed [here](https://birmingham.connecttosupport.org/search/?searchTab=directorySearchTab&templateId=ed1953b8-7e46-4ccd-b327-abb20091d7f4&sortOption=Rank%3Basc&pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&distance=1609).

Pricing

* The total guide price for this project is around £15,000 (including vat, interpreters, and any expenses).
* payment will be made in instalments based on agreed timescales and an outcome delivery framework in agreement with the appointed partner.

Scoring Criteria

* Submissions will be assessed against a scoring criterion covering cost, experience, and methodology.

Process for assessing bids:

* Advertise opportunity from 13th February 2023.
* Bid submission deadline, 5pm on 10th March 2023.
* Assessment of written bids by 24th March
* Interviews with shortlisted bidders between 27th March and 7th April.

Key Project timescales

* Project to start from no later than 17th April 2023.
* Approx. 10 – 12 weeks work.
* Regularly report progress to the connected communities working group.
* Gap analysis templated completed by June 2023.
* Present findings / recommendation to connected communities steering group.
* Complete project by end of July 2023.

Questions for written bid submission:

1. Tell us about current, or previous, work with the Deaf BSL Community in Birmingham, give examples of the groups of citizens and organisations you have worked with that are relevant to this project? **[Word limit 250]**
2. Tell us about any projects you have delivered that you think demonstrate your suitability to deliver this project? Please use different examples from the one provided in response to question 1.  
   **[Word limit 250]**
3. Provide a project plan which outlines how you will deliver this, detailing outcomes, delivery framework, timeline of deliverables and key milestones.
4. Please provide a summary project budget.

Please submit proposals to Shamiela Ahmed, Senior Manager Programmes, HoECF: [shamiela@heartofenglandcf.co.uk](mailto:shamiela@heartofenglandcf.co.uk)  
  
For any enquiries please email: [shamiela@heartofenglandcf.co.uk](mailto:shamiela@heartofenglandcf.co.uk)