

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES: NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK SCHEMES (NNS) CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

SUMMARY

The aim of **Neighbourhood Network Schemes (NNS) Connected Communities** is to administer a small grants programme which will work to a set of principles outlined below. 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 NNS Connected Communities is a partnership between; the Commissioning Team, Community Partnership Worker and Heart of England Community Foundation (HoE). BVSC Research completed an initial review of data and high-level gap analysis. NNS Connected Communities is an integral part of the NNS recommissioned from April 2022.

1. NNS CONNECTED COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE OVERALL NNS MODEL

- 1.1. NNS Connected Communities activity needs to stay connected to NNS Leads and other key partners.
- 1.2. Where possible applicants will have initial discussions with their local NNS as a sponsor, this could be based on which NNS mapped them or the location of applicant's office. Applicants will not be able to go straight to NNS Connected Communities' panel and application forms will not be downloadable publicly.
- 1.3. Where NNS sponsorship is not possible / the appropriate 'sponsor' could be a partner organisation with relevant local knowledge and connections or the project team. Should there not be a local partner organisation, we will be necessitating sponsorship from an organisation based outside of Birmingham. We will identify an NNS lead to share sponsorship of the project. In some instances the NNS Connected Communities steering group may decide to sponsor an asset.
- 1.4. Definition of the sponsor – the sponsor will have mapped the asset; understood the interests, needs or issues of the citizens to be supported; checked suitability for the fund with HoE; and introduced the asset to the NNS Connected Communities project team.
- 1.5. Sponsoring NNS constituency Lead to make available capacity building support / offer to applicants that need it. These assets are also able to access to all capacity building events across the city.

2. GAP ANALYSIS / STEERING GROUP WILL DETERMINE PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING - WORK PLAN AGREED BASED ON THIS

- 2.1. Priority will be to support minority communities and communities of interest, not concentrated in a single or (up to three) constituencies.
- 2.2. Apart from a requirement that beneficiaries are over 18 years, the age of beneficiaries will not be a specific criterion for applications.
- 2.3. Priority will also be given to projects that support adults living with a long-term disability.
- 2.4. NNS Leads, and other relevant partners, should be engaged in gap analysis / priority setting.
- 2.5. Where possible, we will prioritise funding smaller grassroots assets and organisations with local knowledge and presence.
- 2.6. Applications will still need to demonstrate a link to one or more Prevention First Outcomes, which are: social isolation, being active, income maximisation, living in own home & supporting carers.

2.7. Data from Public Health and other sources will be used to inform an ongoing gap analysis.

2.8. NNS Connected Communities **will not** tackle generic wider 'big issues' in city such as – healthy eating, covid recovery, digital inclusion, accessible transport.

3. NNS CONNECTED COMMUNITIES STRUCTURE & ROLES

- Coordination of reference groups and production of a written gap analysis, and work plans, will be managed jointly by the project team [membership of which is listed in steering group terms of reference].
- Based on issues emerging from gap analysis; a steering group has been established to guide the work. Membership will be based on who has the most relevant experience but may include grant panel members, citizens with relevant lived experience or people with specialist knowledge on a topic.
- HoE, as the grant manager, will carry out following roles: provide application forms and guidance to support applicants, manage the grant panels, reports and updates to partners, data capture, payments and performance monitoring grant funded projects. Monitoring will include capturing equalities data of beneficiaries.
- Grant Manager will use their knowledge to check that other funding streams in city are not more appropriate.
- Proposed grant panel membership will have representation from: NNS lead facilitators, commissioners, social work teams, Community Partnership Worker, citizens through one or more of the following: HoE, Age of Experience and commissioning's coproduction group. Optional membership – Lottery, NHS Trust representative, Neighbourhood Development Support Unit and Public Health.
- Quarterly updates / progress reviews given to Lead Facilitators. Summaries of grant commitments emailed to NNS leads which they should share with their steering group / grant panel.
- The project team may also signpost to other organisations providing capacity building support, for example, Birmingham Community Matters and Institute for Social Entrepreneurs.

4. NNS CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANT PROCESS MUST MEET NEEDS / GAPS THAT LOCAL NNS CANNOT.

- Each application needs to demonstrate that it will benefit communities / interest groups that constituency NNS cannot reach.
- If one, two or three constituencies only are involved this should not go to the NNS Connected Communities' panel. This should be managed with a single application form either through a joint panel or taking to each NNS panel.

5. LIMIT EACH AWARD TO £5,000

- Currently £100,000 per year is committed for five years until March 2027.
- The limit of £5,000 will ensure money goes further and help with attracting smaller assets to apply.
- The panel has the discretion to award grants for more than £5000 if the applicant demonstrates an exceptional need for the proposed project.