



North Central London Suicide Prevention Community Fund

Community Fund Guidelines 2025

Please read these funding guidelines in full before filling in our funding application form.

1. About the fund

In North Central London, an average of 93 people die by suicide every year; each of these is a life lost and a community devastated.

To address this, representatives from Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, and Islington public health teams, along with the NHS, have come together to form the NCL Suicide Prevention Partnership. Our goal is to reduce the suicide rate locally through population-based suicide prevention measures as well as programmes targeted to those at highest risk. One of the ways that we are doing this is by letting our community know that **suicide prevention is everyone's business**.

Suicide is often seen as a mental health issue, but only 1 in 4 people who take their life are in contact with mental health services before their death. However, this doesn't mean that there aren't any opportunities for intervention; many people struggling with thoughts of suicide are facing other issues in their life that can lead to an increase in suicidal thoughts, including loneliness, domestic abuse, financial concerns and housing insecurity. People from different marginalised groups, such as LGBTQ+ people, racialised communities and autistic people, are also at an increased risk.

Often, people will reach out for help for a wide range of issues other than suicide, which creates an opportunity for compassionate professionals and volunteers to identify potential suicide risk and offer much-needed support.

Therefore, we want to support the VCFSE sector across North Central London to make suicide prevention everyone's business. As such, we are making **grant funds of up to £10,000 for VCFSE partners to better support service users who are struggling with thoughts of suicide**.

The key objectives of this fund are to:

- Provide the NCL VCFSE workforce with the confidence and resources they need to better support people struggling with thoughts of suicide
- Develop greater collaboration between NHS, local authority and voluntary sector partners
- Embed support within communities, led by members of that community
- Offer support at an early opportunity to prevent escalation of mental health crisis, in turn reducing pressure on NHS



2. Eligibility Criteria

You can apply if:

- a) You represent a:
 - i. registered charity
 - ii. charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
 - iii. community interest company limited by guarantee (CIC)
 - iv. company limited by guarantee
 - v. constituted community group
 - vi. constituted but unincorporated club or association
 - vii. community benefit society
 - viii. social enterprise.

- b) Your organisation works in one or more of:
 - i. Barnet
 - ii. Camden
 - iii. Enfield
 - iv. Haringey
 - v. Islington

Individuals and businesses are not eligible to apply. This fund is intended for local organisations. This includes local services that operate as part of a national organisation, or local franchise branches already working within NCL.

Organisations that are based outside of North Central London but conduct work within North Central London are eligible to apply, but need to specify how the proposed work will support those living in NCL specifically.

3. Funding Criteria

The grant fund can be used to support a range of initiatives, inclusive of staff salaries and project related costs. The funding needs to be used as described in the Funding Application and for the purpose of the project for which you have applied.

The NCL Suicide Prevention Programme board have identified the below groups and risk factors as priorities for intervention:

Priority Groups	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Men• Middle-aged and older adults• Children and young people• People who self-harm or have attempted suicide• People in contact with Mental Health services• People in contact with criminal justice• Autistic people• Pregnant women and new mothers• Marginalised groups (on the basis of ethnicity, gender, sexuality etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical illness• Financial difficulty and socioeconomic deprivation• Alcohol and drug misuse• Social isolation and loneliness• Stressful life events e.g. relationship breakdown, bereavement, experiences of abuse



However, projects are welcomed from organisations supporting other groups of people at an increased risk of suicide, as well as whole population measures. We also recognise local variation and need, acknowledging that the needs of the communities in each borough are varied, and an application is not expected to necessarily work across the whole area.

We encourage creativity and innovation, but some examples of suitable use of funds include:

- Offering bespoke suicide prevention training sessions for staff
- Hosting suicide prevention events/sessions, for service users or other professionals
- Developing and distributing suicide prevention resources
- Funding staff to attend suicide prevention engagement sessions regionally and nationally
- Other community-building activity that would have an indirect effect on suicide rates by decreasing social isolation or increasing opportunities for intervention

We cannot fund:

- Projects that will require continued funding from the local authority or NHS once the fund ends
- Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest or any budget deficit
- Any retrospective payments for the project or purchases which already took place
- Costs that are already paid for by other income including applicant's own funds or any other funding
- VAT that you can reclaim
- Projects that are initiated by a public sector body (e.g. a school or a GP surgery).
- Administration and/or research costs of preparing this application (e.g. paying someone to write an application for you)
- Projects that relate to the promotion of political or faith activities
- Profit-making or fundraising activities
- Projects which have previously been turned down because they do not meet the above criteria will not be considered if resubmitted.
- any other non-project-specific costs

Projects should have a clear suicide prevention focus within their approach, but please note that work aimed at supporting members of the public does not need to be explicitly labelled as suicide prevention activity, as this may limit uptake.

Organisations may submit multiple bids of up to £10,000 each, but a single organisation may not bid for more than £25,000. We welcome joint bids from organisations working together, particularly if these are new partnerships.

All projects must commence within 2 months of grant determination and be fully delivered within 12 months.

4. How to apply

Barnet Council will be managing the application process for this fund on behalf of the North Central London Integrated Care System. You can apply for the Suicide Prevention Community Grant Fund by completing our online form, which can be found [here](#).

Applications open on 27th March 2025 and close on 24th April 2025 at 5pm.

What you will need

To complete the form, you'll need:



- contact details of a trustee, director or member of your management team
- registration number
- governing document (constitution, company articles of association for Community Interest Groups or Social Enterprises)

If your bid is successful, you will also be asked for the following

- last submitted annual accounts
- a bank statement showing organisation name, address, sort code and account number
- safeguarding policy or statement if you are working directly with vulnerable service users

Check our [privacy notice](#) before you apply.

Key dates

- applications open 27th March 2025
- application deadline 24th April 2025 5pm
- decisions will be made within four weeks of the closing dates.
- applicants are likely to be notified by 31st May 2025.

5. Decision Making Process

Your application will go through an initial due diligence process – which includes looking at whether it has been demonstrated that the proposal is in line with the Suicide Prevention Community Grant Fund guidelines and does not require on-going financial support – and you will be notified if your project does not pass this or if the panel needs further information to process it. All applications which fulfil the criteria set out in the guidelines will be put before the Suicide Prevention Community Fund Panel for consideration.

On receipt of your application, the following stages will be followed:

Stage 1: North Central London's Suicide Prevention Programme Manager will make an initial assessment of your application to ensure that all relevant information is available, that the organisation is eligible for the grant and to undertake a due diligence check and to check if all relevant policies and systems are in place to meet the criteria of the fund. All applications will be assessed, and the following considered:

- Ability to meet the criteria of the fund – to support service users struggling with thoughts of suicide
- Ability to meet the needs of identified priority groups
- Feasibility and deliverability of the work
- Innovation or the ability to allow for learning and sharing of best practice
- Commitment to share outcomes of the project to provide insight into the need through effective success measures and expectations that are proportionate to the grant
- Equitable use of funds across North Central London

Stage 2: The Grant Panel, consisting of representatives from the NCL Suicide Prevention Programme Board will meet and make a final decision on your application. The Grant Panel will aim to meet within three to four weeks of the closing date. You will be notified of the outcome of this decision.

Stage 3: The organisations successful in their application will be awarded their grant directly to their bank account, once a monitoring/evaluation schedule is agreed. If phased funding is agreed by the panel, the grant will be released following the decision. If match funding is required, you will receive a letter from the panel Chair asking you to advise when the



additional funds have been secured. We will aim to notify you within five weeks of the closing date.

Payment will be made directly to your organisation.

Once funding is approved and payments made, you may be asked to provide receipts or copy invoices to the value of the grant (or above). Any unspent funds must be returned to Barnet Council.

How payments will be made

All grant payments are credited to an organisation's bank account via the Bankers Automated Clearing Scheme (BACS).

6. Monitoring and evaluation requirements

All grant recipients will be required to monitor their projects against pre-determined criteria provided and submit monitoring reports. Reports will be required at the end of the project, as agreed with the Grant Panel Committee. In some circumstances, a mid-point report may be required – this would be stipulated as part of the grant.

7. Support with your application form

NCL Suicide Prevention programme colleagues can provide support with grant application forms. Please contact ncl.suicideprevention@barnet.gov.uk for support with your forms.