

Invitation to Quote:

Evaluation of 'Making it Happen' Grants

Summary

The city council has provided a small number of low-level grants to community organisations across the city to support the development of health focussed projects. These projects are currently in delivery or being developed for delivery later in the year. We are looking to commission an evaluation of these projects to ensure that learning supports development of future health-focussed community projects.

Background

The City Council was successful in being awarded funding from NHS England to explore innovative ways to increase the take up of preventative health services across the city. The funding was awarded to:

- Undertake a Community Inquiry to understand the range of health issues concerning local communities and the issues affecting them as a result of the pandemic.
- Develop a broad range of opportunities for Community Health Champions to understand local health related issues through ongoing engagement and links to the community.
- Develop a co-produced programme of start-up projects in partnership with the existing, and new Community Health Champions and communities.
- Undertake evaluation and learning from start-up projects to support ongoing development.

To support delivery of co-produced start up projects we have made 'Making it Happen' grants available to organisations and community groups who wanted to deliver projects which aimed to:

- Increase mental health awareness;
- Reduce drug and alcohol misuse;
- Support access to services for frail elderly;
- Help reduce teenage pregnancy; and / or:
- Reduce smoking.

Priority was given to projects which targeted under-represented or vulnerable groups including (but not restricted to) BAME communities and young people. Applications were made from organisations and groups engaged with the Community Health Champion programme supported by VAST. Funded projects received up to £2,000 (or up to £5,000 where the project was delivered as a partnership between a two or more organisations).

Making it Happen grants have been offered in two rounds, the first in November 2022 and the second is currently open. To date 6 projects across the city have received funding and a similar

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number of projects are expected to receive funding from the second round. A summary of the projects funded through the first round of funded is attached.

Scope

To maximise the impact of these projects we want to ensure that the learning is captured and shared. The learning is intended to:

- Support other community groups who may be thinking about developing similar projects.
- Demonstrate the impact of the community level projects health improvement, including the take up of health prevention programmes, to NHS and wider health commissioners.

We are therefore seeking a provider to undertake an evaluation of the projects funded by Making it Happen grants. The evaluation should include:

- An assessment of the outcomes and impact of projects on the health and wellbeing of users.
- An assessment of the success of projects in increasing take-up of health prevention programmes.
- Key learning on the opportunities and challenges faced by organisations in setting up projects that support health improvement, and particularly take up of preventative services.
- Key learning for funders on supporting organisations to develop projects that support health improvement, and particularly take up of preventative services.

We are looking for the evaluation to be engaging and meaningful to both community level organisations, health providers and commissioners – we would therefore welcome submissions that consider alternative ways to present the findings.

Timescales

The first round of projects funded through Making it Happen grants are now in delivery and due to complete at the end of March 2023. The second round of funding will be made available in January 2023 with projects expected to be completed at the end of April 2023. The final evaluation work will therefore be required to be completed by mid-May 2023.

Budget

The total available budget for this work is £8,000.

Submissions

Written submissions should be provided in Word or PDF format. Submissions should include contact details for the lead contact and organisational details. Written responses under each of the headings under the assessment criteria (below) should be no more than 500 words per section.

Submissions should be made via email to christina.harrison@stoke.gov.uk.

The deadline for submissions is 4.00pm on 10th March 2023. Assessments will be completed week commencing 13th March 2023 with the successful provider being informed by 22nd March 2023.

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Any questions or requests for additional information can be sent to christina.harrison@stoke.gov.uk.

Assessment Criteria:

Price	40%	Clear breakdown of costs, including day rates and all expenses should be included.
Methodology	20%	The methodology should set out clearly how you intend to complete the evaluation in a way that actively engages the organisations delivering funded projects, the users of projects and other relevant stakeholders.
Ability to Deliver	15%	A clear timeline for delivery should be provided setting out key milestones. Confirmation of ability to meet the deadline for the work should be included.
Presentation of Learning	20%	The presentation of the final results should make use of innovative approaches that reflect the need to share learning with grass roots community groups
Experience	5%	Details of all those working on the project, including name and role within the project is required. An outline of similar evaluation work undertaken by the proposed team should be included. Full CV's are not required.

Scoring:

0	Application does not provide any information relating to the criteria.
1	Application provide very basic information relating to criteria.
2	Application provide some information relating to the criteria but insufficient detail to provide confidence that it will be delivered.
3	Application covers the criteria adequately and there is some additional information to support evidence of deliverability
4	Application addresses the criteria well and there is additional information to support evidence of deliverability.
5	Application fully addresses the criteria and there is a good level of confidence in the ability to deliver from the evidence provided.

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Community Champions - Making it Happen Fund (Round 1)

Organisation	Amount	Project Summary
Beth Johnson Foundation	£3,300	<p>The project will provide a series of free and friendly digital drop-in sessions for older people in Stoke on Trent. The sessions will help older people who often feel marginalised and isolated to join with other community members to develop their digital and health literacy skills in a relaxed atmosphere. Supported by volunteer Digital Friends the participants will be able to build their skills and confidence, linking them to health apps, health appointments, wellbeing, and community groups. Working in partnership with the Older LGBT group, the digital friends will also offer one to one support to their group members. The aim of the project would be to ensure older people in Stoke on Trent have greater access to health and social care services which will lead to better health outcomes for individuals and their families.</p>
Cobridge Community Health Champions	£2,000	<p>A creative crafts and sewing group to bring together those in our community who are isolated/struggling with mental health. We would like to create a warm, friendly space where people can share what they know about crafts/ sewing and learn new skills from each other. We would also like to offer hot drinks and a space to chat so that people can build relationships and feel part of belonging in our Cobridge community.</p> <p>We hope that by creating a space where elderly people and those with mental health issues can come and share their creative skills and learn from each other, we will enable them to feel part of something bigger and have a reason to get out of the house. We also hope it will help them with their mental health struggles, to be able to share how they are feeling and build friendships with others. We hope to reach 10 people for each weekly session. (160 visits between November-March.)</p>
Fegg Hayes Futures	£2,000	<p>We have just started to host adult social care in our community hub to run one of the 'Community Lounges' that are happening across the city. We are running the sessions during November as a pilot to gauge the uptake of the signposting/support offered by the locality officer. Historically we have observed that there is a reluctance within the community to access support on its own but if twinned with other activities the uptake increases dramatically. We would therefore like to gain funding to offer a more varied session of activities alongside the support. This would include paper, card and decorative craft, basic sewing machine skills, access to laptops/internet, board games and supporting adults with a comprehensive range of distance learning courses as a new initiative with Stoke on Trent College. The session would include light refreshments and a warm, sociable space with access to a luncheon club afterwards for older isolated residents.</p>

Fenton Hub	£2,000	<p>We aim to set up a new weekly service accessible to anyone who requires support for age related or mental health issues. It would be supported by the city council (Jill O’Hare) through the Community Lounge initiative.</p> <p>Initially, one session would be used to plan a range of activities, link with external providers and create a timetable, so that a weekly programme could be advertised with times, date and services. The project will provide access to services that are not easily available to the community. For example, a visit from the breast screening adviser would highlight the need for monitoring for people over 70. A physiotherapist would offer advice for getting up from the floor or from a low chair. Exercises would help participants to retain their maximum level of mobility. A member of staff would provide mindfulness activities for those who wished to sit quietly, enjoy a cuppa and relax.</p>
Human Nature	£2,000	<p>Human-Nature connects people to nature for positive mental health. Our ‘Nature’s Ways to Wellbeing’ provide a simple nature-based, self-care model - promoting positive mental health awareness in a preventative way.</p> <p>Our co-created digital wellbeing e-books offer ‘virtual nature escapes’, drawing on the creative talents of our ‘Friends with Human-Nature’ walking group, plus our wider circle of followers within Stoke (and beyond).</p> <p>We encourage people to explore local parks/canal-sides in a mindful way, engaging creatively through mindful photography and poetry. With 5 e-books now created, over 50 friends/followers have themselves shaped the digital wellbeing content, featuring uplifting scenes from Stoke’s wonderful landscapes.</p> <p>This project will pilot 2 new innovative ways to distribute these free-to-read wellbeing resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ‘therapeutic slideshows’ in GP waiting rooms leading to ‘digital social prescribing’ 2. ‘walking galleries’ of our e-books in local landscapes as ‘art installations’.

Stoke Your Gratitude	£5,000	<p>We're proposing a novel approach that combines two activities known to improve physical health and mental wellbeing: social walking and gratitude journaling. Our specialism is teaching people how to gain the most health benefits by cultivating an 'attitude of gratitude' using a process we've devised called Cognitive-Based Gratitude (CBG). We will partner with a walking group in Stoke East to deliver these Gratitude Walks for Wellbeing. Appreciating Our Bodies: Collective appreciation of the green-blue spaces in our local environment while walking opens up conversations of feeling appreciative and grateful for our bodies and what they let us do, for example: walk, breathe in fresh air, talk, see the beauty of a flower, hear the birds etc. Maintaining/Improving Health: By appreciating what our bodies do for us, it prepares people to be open to conversations about maintaining and improving physical and mental health through accessing prevention health services.</p>
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