

## Warrington Fund Grant Programmes

Cheshire Community Foundation are delighted to announce three new grant programmes. These programmes will be delivered in partnership with Warrington Voluntary Action and with the support of the Steve Morgan Foundation. The programmes will fund projects in Warrington which:

- reduce loneliness.
- increase self-confidence in life-skills.
- and build the capacity and sustainability of organisations working in these areas.

### Introduction

We wanted to create a fund for the people and communities in Warrington, designed by those it was going to serve. In 2023, we commissioned a series of [consultation sessions](#) to find out what were the main issues facing the people of Warrington. Whilst there was a range of responses, two issues came up repeatedly:

- The importance of feeling connected with others.
- The need to feel confident: to have the skills to manage the day to day, and the challenges life throws at you.

In a similar way, we also asked how we can be more effective as a grantmaker. We learnt that Warrington needed:

- A variety of sizes of funding pots for different projects, including some funds with a long-term view.
- More funding for core costs, e.g. room hire, rents, overheads, staff, etc.
- Funding current 'quality' projects and helping groups do what they do, as well as helping to expand or develop new things.

The Warrington Fund is designed to take these findings and turn them in to a series of grant programmes which make difference in the lives of the people who need them most. We are also keen to include people with lived experience in the decision making process. As part of these programmes, we aim to recruit community experts to our decision making panels.

## What will it fund?

Through the Warrington Fund, we want to invest in projects and organisations which:

- reduce loneliness and improve wellbeing for the people of Warrington.
- Raise self-confidence for the people of Warrington.
- improve the capacity and/or sustainability of projects which work in these areas.

All funded projects will work within the Borough of Warrington and be able to deliver measurable outcomes in at least one of the above areas.

Examples of funded projects could be:

- Activities which create communities around an interest or hobby
- Community Transport
- Projects building confidence in life-skills such as budgeting, cooking, resilience, parenting etc.
- Community food projects

Based on community feedback, we are also keen to hear from projects which:

- Work with refugee and migrant communities.
- Work with new or expecting parents.
- Work with neurodiverse children and young people.
- Have a focus on mental health.

## What can organisations apply for?

There are three programmes available.

### Microgrants (Up to £1,000)

DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WARRINGTON VOLUNTARY ACTION

The Microgrants programme will provide grants of less than £1,000 for community lead projects. These grants will suit new or grassroots organisations working directly with people in their communities. This could be either through existing work, or by piloting new approaches.

### Project Grants (Up to £15,000)

Project Grants will run two rounds of funding each year, awarding up to £15,000. Grants will be for up to two years. These grants will help organisations develop previous pilot work, or further explore different ways of working in Warrington. We will seek to prioritise projects which have scope to build the capacity and sustainability of the organisation.

### Strategic Funding Grants (Up to £30,000)

Strategic Funding Grants will fund up to £30,000 for up to three years. We are open to applications for a wide variety of activities and associated costs. These could include core costs. This programme will run once a year, funding established organisations with a proven track working with disadvantaged people in Warrington.

## General Criteria

**All applicants will be required to meet our general [eligibility criteria](#), as well as our [Grantmaking principles and minimum standards](#).**

We will only consider applications for projects which fit with the fund's vision of reducing loneliness and improving self-confidence for disadvantaged people in Warrington. For Project and Strategic Funding Grants, you will also need to meet the Steve Morgan Foundation's [eligibility criteria](#).

## Timeline and How to Apply

The programmes will open for applications on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024. You will hear a decision on your application in Mid-July.

### *For Microgrants:*

All applications should be made via [Warrington Voluntary Action's website](#).

### *For Project or Strategic Funding Grants:*

All applications must be made online via [Cheshire Community Foundation's website](#).