



Caring Together Warwickshire

Innovation Fund Specification 2022-2023

Introduction and background

There are an estimated 65,000 people with Warwickshire who care for someone who couldn't cope without them. The challenge of caring often means for many carers their health and wellbeing is neglected and often present to services when at the point of breakdown. Those with a caring responsibility have a right to an assessment of need and access to available support.

Caring Together Warwickshire is the new all age carers support service provided by Carers Trust Heart of England and Commissioned by Warwickshire County Council (WCC). The service will provide support to any carer who lives in and/or take care of someone who lives in Warwickshire. The service aims to support carers via three main aims:

- ***Improve access to information and advice to support and maintain carer health and wellbeing***
- ***Help carers to feel connected to their community and support carers to have a break from caring that is meaningful to them.***
- ***Ensure carers voices are heard by the services that support them and give carers autonomy to choose/influence the support they receive***

To support these service aims, Warwickshire County Council have allocated funds that can directly support carers to support and promote health and wellbeing. This is being promoted as an Innovation Fund.

Warwickshire County Council would like to hear from local carers groups, or local community non-profit organisations about their ideas, or potential opportunities where investment funding would support carer and demonstrate the above aims.

This funding is available for the financial year 2022-2023 and so projects or initiatives must be committed by end of March 2023. Any Warwickshire-based not-for-profit group or community organisation can put forward a proposal for funding from 24th November to 23rd December 2022.

IMPORTANT Please note awards will be assessed against the criteria in order of receipt and may be agreed before 23rd December 2022 so it is important that applications are received as early as possible. The fund will remain open until all monies have been allocated.

What can the Innovation Fund be used for?

Each group can apply for funding from £500 up to £3000 for use directly with carers in their community, to enable those with caring responsibilities to have the space and time to engage in activities for their own personal well-being. The proposals must demonstrate coproduction with carers themselves for example, targeting adult carers caring for adults, parent carers or young carers. The application should preferably have a level of sustainability built in. We are looking for applications from all district and boroughs and will allocate to ensure equitable access to the fund.

For illustration purposes only some potential ideas could be:

- ‘meaningful activities’ that engage the cared for in a safe environment, to give their carer, the confidence and peace of mind to attend a leisure pursuit or a social event or interest
- A volunteer or befriending local support services that encourages carers to network with each other and remain connected
- Group activities for carers that take place at the same time as activities for their loved ones. This might involve room hire, entertainment, an activity host and support staff, UK-based trips, or experience days.
- Virtual and/or digital support for carers, assistive technology, and online support
- The purchase of equipment, materials, or activities by an existing carers group to be able to offer more engaging or fun sessions to their members.
- Supporting carers to come together around a common interest book club, allotment, choir etc....
- Targeting a particular group or area such as faith group, male carers, a particular village, or neighbourhood.

Eligibility

Any Warwickshire based carer group or not for profit community organisation can apply for a funding. Formal organisations must have a constitution, bank account, appropriate insurance and a committee or board of directors. A group of carers can also set up as an informal small enterprise. Alternatively, Carers Trust Heart of England can facilitate the release of funds to informal groups without accounts. This enables unincorporated groups of volunteers to apply as well as more formal charitable organisations or community interest non profit groups. All groups must submit an evaluation of the activity they are funded for.

Any not-for-profit group or local organisation can apply to run a small project and can bid for an amount from £500 up to £3000.

What is the process for applying?

Each group is expected to submit an application. The [application form](#) constitutes a series of 8 questions (see Annex 1). You are required to provide a itemised costing proposal of how you will use this funding to support carers, consider:

- Is it, innovative, have a clear goal?
- Does it support the carers voice?
- Does it help carers to remain connected with their community and/or have a break from caring?

For a group to submit an application they will need to complete an [online application form](#) or a word document answering the same set of questions:

[The online application form can be accessed here](#)

(<https://forms.office.com/r/kaDjWq6nDe>) or QR code



Please answer all the questions before submitting the form. If you would prefer to send a word document or have a printed version, then please send a request to peoplestrategyandcommissioning@warwickshire.gov.uk. The questions for reference purposes are listed in Annex 1, below.

Deadline for applications is 23rd December 2022. The fund will remain open until allocated so it's essential to get your applications in early.

All successful applications will be announced by early January 2023.

All projects must start before March 2023 and spend committed before 30th March 2023. Applicants will need to provide us with the evaluation report and evidence of spend by the end of May 2023. Any underspend may need to be returned.

Applicants for funding are encouraged to send proposals in as soon as is possible but please observe key dates. A summary of the key timelines to note are outlined in the table below.

Activity	Key Dates	Notes
Fund release for Applications	24 th November 2022	
Bids receipt deadline	23 rd December 2022	
Panel review of Applications	December 2022 to January 2023	Applications may be reviewed and scored as they are received. Clarification may be sought to support scoring by the panel
Notification and Fund Award of proposals/projects	December 2022 to January 2023	Successful applications will be notified by the end of January 2023
Projects start	January to March 2023	Projects must commit spend before end of March 2023
Evaluation report due	Before End May 2023	This is to include impact on carers and carer feedback, evidence of spend any underspend may need to be returned.

Evaluation/monitoring requirements

We will require a report of activities and costs in delivering the project. As part of your financial reporting, we require you to keep copies of all invoices/receipts for audit purposes. Any personal or identifiable data must be always protected and kept safe.

The report would need to include an evaluation from the carers perspective of any well-being benefits gained through the project. We would also request a case study to illustrate how the grant was used and how it was of benefit; in certain circumstances we would be able to assist you with collecting the case studies for carers willing to share these with us. The final report will be due April 2023 we may request an interim report or would welcome preliminary reports on the project.

How will the decision to distribute the funding be made?

An independent panel from Carers Trust Heart of England, Warwickshire County Council as well as carers and community representatives will score the applications and make the recommendations for award. Carers Trust Heart of England will manage the allocation of funds to groups or organisations if needed. If a proposal was unsuccessful, we will let the applicants know how they can improve their applications or request additional information. The availability of this innovation fund will be reviewed annually.

How will the applications be scored?

Each panel member will score each application according to the criteria set out below. These scores will then be collated, and awards made until the funding is exhausted. The panel may request additional information from applicants to support the scoring. To pass the criteria, applications must score at least 2 of each element.

Theme:	Essential	Desirable	Not demonstrated	Partially/ not well demonstrated	Fairly well Demonstrated	Very well Demonstrated	Exceeds expectations and shows innovation
Not for profit organisation or group based in Warwickshire	✓						
Requisite constitution, insurance, bank account and committee		✓					
Demonstrate experience of working with and supporting carers promotes coproduction and carer voice			0	1	2	3	4
Able to demonstrate a need and demand for the project			0	1	2	3	4
Demonstrates the main aims of support for carers			0	1	2	3	4
Project represents good value for money			0	1	2	3	4

Group has considered sustainability of project			0	1	2	3	4
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If you have any questions regarding the funding or if you wish to discuss a project idea, please contact the peoplestrategyandcommissioning@warwickshire.gov.uk inbox in the first instance.

Annex 1. Questions that form the Expression of Interest

1. Who are you?

(Please provide the name and postal address for your group, also a named contact with phone number and e-mail)

2. What is your experience of working with and supporting carers?

(Please include in your answer who your Carer beneficiaries are, e.g. parent carers, adults caring for adults, young carers or young adult carers)

3. Please tell us about your project. What do you intend to deliver to carers through this funding and how many carers do you anticipate will benefit?

(Please try to be specific about the number of carers supported and the number of hours/sessions of support you intend to offer - e.g. 10 hours of respite for 10 carers to socialise, a day trip for 6 carers and their loved ones to the coast, a children's entertainer and support staff young carers with SEND, A group of 15 carers in a village to set up a gardening club to purchase tools, allotment. Equipment and broadband set up a virtual book club.)

4. Do you have any evidence to support the need and demand for the activity/support you are intending to offer? Please tell us about the people you are supporting, and any formal surveys or informal conversations you have

had with them that have led to this project idea. How will this project demonstrate carers involvement?

5. Where in Warwickshire will your beneficiaries come from, please be as specific as you can? (e.g. Warwickshire wide, Rugby borough, Kenilworth town, Camp Hill ward, Wolston village.)
6. What will be the legacy (if anything) of your project? For example, will you be able to continue any elements of the project once this funding has been spent, and if so, how do you anticipate achieving sustainability? (It isn't essential for a project to be sustainable. However, you will score extra points if you have ideas to sustain it.)
7. Please can you provide us with an outline budget for the programme? Your proposal should be costed for an amount from £500 up to £3000. (Please provide the total amount of grant that you are applying for, with an estimate on the split in spend on areas such as equipment, support staff, transport, room hire etc)
8. The funding for this project needs to be committed by 30th March 2023. Please indicate that you are aware of this, and anticipate being able to spend your grant by then? (Any unspent funds may need to be returned)