



## ELDERLY PERSONS SOCIAL ISOLATION FUND

### INTRODUCTION

The Elderly Persons Social Isolation Fund was launched in 2017 as a result of an anonymous donation which has enabled the Foundation to make a significant contribution to what is now recognised as something that affects a growing number of people across the country. In making the donation, the donor specified that funds should be used: *“to help older people overcome loneliness and enable them to make a bigger contribution to society”*.

The Jo Cox Foundation has underlined the importance of counteracting loneliness:

*“We believe it is essential to bring about a step change in the public policy response to the UK’s loneliness crisis by highlighting the issue of loneliness amongst different age groups and promoting a whole range of activities that encourages both the government and the general public to do more to tackle the loneliness crisis.”*

The key criteria for Round One surrounded “awareness” and the importance of creating awareness of those who are socially isolated. We have already funded projects that involve providing activities that increase resilience or build networks that increase social opportunities for older people.

The key criteria for Round Two focuses on **Communication**, and we are looking for innovative projects that address these issues (see below).

### INFORMATION

A recent report from Age UK provides some very useful information and is available from the Foundation’s website.

### THEME OF THE FUND

Awareness in local communities is key to identifying social isolation within local communities, something that, in the past, post office delivery personnel or milkmen were able to assess. By identifying those most vulnerable people through outreach activities, early interventions can be planned.

### TIMETABLE

The deadline for receipt of applications is **Friday 16 March 2018**. We aim to distribute funds during April 2018. Funding allocated must be spent within 12

months of receipt. All supported projects will be required to submit monitoring information including case studies.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

To apply go to [www.wakefieldcf.org.uk/grants](http://www.wakefieldcf.org.uk/grants)

## **WAKEFIELD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**

The size of the resident population of Wakefield District is estimated to be in the region of 332,000, making the District the 18th largest local authority in England and Wales. In common with other parts of the country, Wakefield's population is ageing, with an increasing demand for health and well-being services and a reduction in those of working age. This results in reducing contributions to the economy, lower incomes and increases in the requirement for care services (paid and unpaid).

According to this data, Wakefield is expected to encounter a large population structure change within the next five years, with the older persons grouping growing by over 11% by 2016 (73,000 persons), and over 22% by 2021 (80,900 persons). By 2025 we are going to see a doubling of men aged 85 and over and by 2031, the older persons' population is expected to have grown by over 50%, representing a total of close to 100,000 persons.

With such a growth in the elderly, increases in health and well-being services are becoming more and more stretched with incidents of social isolation growing. This effect is compounded by the fact that due to austerity measures Wakefield District Council and the local health authority are having to scale back their support services. It is essential that the voluntary sector react to these changes and this fund's aim is to "inspire local voluntary groups and charities to meet this challenge through local action".

There will be 3 rounds of funding over the next three years, each with a different theme with the first round focussing on "awareness". The fund is available to support a range of community-based projects to create awareness of those vulnerable elderly people living in isolation within the community.

## **FUNDING CRITERIA**

Applicants should be voluntary or community groups, charities or social enterprises. We cannot make funds available directly to individuals, statutory organisations or commercial entities. You can apply as a local organisation for awards of up to £10,000 to be spent within 12 months of receipt. Your organisation must be based within the Wakefield District and the project you apply for must only benefit those living with the Wakefield Metropolitan District.

We are looking for innovative projects that will communicate with those socially isolated elderly people in order to identify their needs, particularly those who find it hardest to access support due to geography, mobility, culture or other factors. We're also looking for projects that involve providing activities that

increase resilience or build networks which enable older people to increase their social opportunities.

Applicants must be able to show that they are communicating with the elderly to establish the needs within their community and that there is demand for their services. Any proposed project can be in addition to current activities. We're looking to fund practical projects that ensure direct contact with isolated elderly people encouraging them to outline their difficulties and measuring the overall isolation issues with the project boundaries. We're particularly interested in supporting projects that are pro-active and work with other organisations or agencies to refer and signpost people in order that they can access a wider range of support.

This fund is designed to put older people at the heart of everything that happens, so we would encourage you to think widely about their involvement in all elements of your project - design, delivery and evaluation. The fund can be used to extend a current scheme/project or introduce a new idea/activity/pilot.

We are not able to fund the following:

- Activity that's purely about research (although evaluation of the proposed activity can be funded and is a requirement for any successful applicant).
- Capital Projects (where capital costs are more than 25% of the total project cost); buildings including upgrades and refurbishment; vehicle purchase (but can fund general transport costs as part of your project).
- Costs associated with a project which you are already undertaking (although we will pay for extending/expanding a current project if you can demonstrate its effectiveness) or to replace funding streams that are no longer available.

### Please Note

We are looking for innovative ideas and therefore don't want to be prescriptive. However, we've given examples of the effective, good practice projects that we might be willing to fund below:

- Mentoring, buddying or befriending roles to help increase access to other services/activities
- Projects that involve visiting isolated individuals or groups to ascertain methods/ideas to reduce isolation in their area. Co-operation with other agencies, both public and private, together with signposting is encouraged.

**If you require further information, please contact:** Community Foundation for Wakefield District at the address below.

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