

### ***Is there anything else I/we need to know when applying?***

**It will be mandatory for all recipients of this fund to attend one workshop** where they will meet other recipients of the fund and find out about how this fund helps the council to achieve its aims in a wider context. We hope this workshop will be mutually beneficial as it will provide you with a chance to network and ask questions and it will provide us with a chance to explain all that the council is trying to do to reduce loneliness and social isolation.

### ***If I/we don't apply now will there be another chance?***

This fund is open until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Projects will then be selected to fund. If there are insufficient projects to use up the fund, then remaining monies will be distributed via another process.

### ***What evidence/monitoring do I/we need to provide to show what has been achieved?***

There will be a light touch monitoring, so you won't need to provide lots of detailed data, all we ask is that you invite us to attend any group or event you put on using money from the fund. We will then gather the data needed whilst at the group or event. This may be through interviewing, with consent, attendees, counting attendees, recording case stories. For unincorporated groups or individuals, we may ask to see receipts as evidence of expenditure. We will ask for a brief summary report of what you did and the impact it had towards the end of August. We recommend that you use the following measures to monitor the impact of your project on the feelings of loneliness of your participants. We recommend asking your participants during the first session as a benchmark and then repeating this as you see fit.

Measures	Items	Response categories
The three-item UCLA Loneliness scale	1. How often do you feel that you lack companionship?	Hardly ever or never, Some of the time, Often
	2. How often do you feel left out?	Hardly ever or never, Some of the time, Often
	3. How often do you feel isolated from others?	Hardly ever or never, Some of the time, Often
The direct measure of loneliness	How often do you feel lonely?	Often/always, Some of the time, Occasionally, Hardly ever, Never

[Source: Office for National Statistics](#)

### ***When do I/we need to spend the money/complete the activity by?***

You will have 4 months from receipt of the money to spend it, or until the end of August 2022, whichever is sooner. We will want to attend your event before end of August so that we have time to evaluate it and write up our report.

### ***What happens if I don't spend the money?***

You will be asked to return any unspent monies after August 2022. However, we will work with you to try to maximise the opportunity for you to spend this money. We want your project to be a success.

### ***How will the decision to distribute the Micro-funding be made?***

It is proposed that a panel of WCC staff will make the decision as to how the money is awarded and to which bids. This panel will include Mike Slemensek, Delivery Lead for Communities and Localities, Abi Culley, Rural Policy and Commissioning Officer and Rachel Knight, Loneliness and Social Isolation Development Worker.

Consideration was given to involving people with lived experience with the decision-making process, however it was felt that there were too many limitations and risks as well as insufficient time to undertake this meaningfully, as the project is due to be concluded in September 2022.

### ***How will the applications for Micro-funding be scored?***

Each panel member will score each bid according to the criteria as detailed below. These scores will then be collated up and awards made until such time as the funding is exhausted. If there are insufficient bids submitted to exhaust the £17.5k, a decision will then be made whether to hold a second round or distribute the remaining money through the communities and localities team to top up existing projects.