

# Warwickshire Covid-19 Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Fund

## Introduction

Paula Mawson

Strategy and Commissioning Manager  
(Health, Wellbeing & Self-Care)

# Background

- The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on people's mental health.
- There is growing concern regarding negative impacts in both adult and youth populations, with lockdowns damaging social connections, jobs, finances, and disrupting people's ability to engage in usual coping mechanisms, and routine access to mental health and other support services.

# Improving Mental Wellbeing in Warwickshire

- Warwickshire County Council (WCC) currently prioritises mental health and wellbeing through a range of strategic and partnership programmes and services, both delivered directly and through commissioned provision.
- The evidence of need relating to both mental health and wellbeing and loneliness and social isolation (LSI) is strong.
- The Council's Covid-19 Recovery and Restoration plan includes an explicit priority to support the mental health of Warwickshire's residents.
- The Warwickshire Covid-19 Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Fund will provide grant funding to organisations to support Warwickshire resident's mental health and wellbeing both during and through the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and respond to the predicted mental health and LSI surge.

# Warwickshire Covid-19 Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Fund

## **Overview and application process**

Neesha Memetovic-Bye  
Wellbeing & Resilience  
Commissioner

# Warwickshire Covid-19 Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Fund

- £750,000 Warwickshire Covid-19 Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Fund for community and voluntary sector organisations, parish and town councils and small to medium businesses that do not have access to an employee assistance programme to support Warwickshire resident's mental health and wellbeing both during and through the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- This includes the opportunity to bid for capital funding to make physical improvements to buildings and outdoor spaces to make environments more mental health friendly.

# The funding

- The overall total value of the fund is £750,000 of which £250,000 is provisionally allocated for capital spending.
- The fund is open to applications for projects which require investment under three thresholds.
  - Threshold 1: Minimum of £6,000 to a maximum of £10,000
  - Threshold 2: Over £10,000 to a maximum of £25,000
  - Threshold 3: Over £25,000 to a maximum of £50,000

# The funding

- This first round of funding will be launched on **Friday 21 May until Monday 21 June at noon.**
- A second round of funding may be available if the funding is not all allocated in the first round.
- This is a one-off funding to respond to the mental health impacts of the pandemic and bidders will be asked to outline how they will seek to ensure sustainability of the project as part of their bid.
- The funding must be spent within 12 months of the funding award date.

# Restrictions / Conditions

- Bids must be a minimum of £6,000.
- Successful projects which require investment under threshold 2 & 3, with the exclusion of capital funding will be allocated in two stages. 50% of funding will be made available at the funding award date and 50% following the first submission of the progress update report (quarterly).



# Intended outcomes and benefits

The **Warwickshire Covid-19 Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Fund** is designed to support community and business projects and initiatives at a local level that aim to achieve the following:

- Improve the mental health, wellbeing, and resilience of residents and local workforces by responding to the pressures of the pandemic.
- Provide support to residents with mental health concerns, whether this is a pre-existing mental health diagnosis, that has been exacerbated due to the pandemic, mental health illness from a Covid-19 diagnosis, or providing support for those with new and emerging needs as a result of the pandemic.
- Provide a range of support encouraging residents to return/begin to engage with activities which support the development of resilience and wellbeing and establishing a sense of social connection
- Create safe spaces in the community where people experiencing mental distress whilst out in the community can go to for a period to unwind, de-escalate and feel safe before they continue with their activities.
- Create physical environments where people can reconnect with nature and enhance their sense of wellbeing.
- Support specific trauma, suicide, self-harm prevention and bereavement interventions.
- Work in partnership with people with lived experience in the design and delivery of the support.

# Who can apply to the fund?

- Proposals for the funding available may include support for people who have been directly impacted by Covid-19 (e.g. recovering from Covid-19), or indirectly impacted (e.g. increased anxiety due to the pandemic).
- The funding is aimed at
  - community and voluntary sector organisations including town and parish councils
  - small to medium businesses *without* an Employee Assistance Programme

# Who cannot apply for the funding?

- Individuals
- Party Political Groups
- Organisations with significant 'free uncommitted reserves'
- NHS trusts
- County Council or District and Borough Councils

# The Application Process

- Application are made using the Councils e-tendering system (CSW-JETS) [www.csw-jets.co.uk](http://www.csw-jets.co.uk)
- Providers must register with the system to be able to express an interest and download documents
- Applications open **Friday 21 May 2021** and must be submitted by **12 noon Monday 21 June 2021**
- Applications can be submitted at any time, but funding decisions will only be made following the deadline date.
- Three documents have been created to provide support with using CSW-JETS:
  - Suppliers help sheet with **Registration**
  - Supplier help sheet with **Manage your account**
  - Supplier help sheet with **Locating/Managing a tender**

# The Application Process

- Once the application is live it can be viewed under ‘Tenders’ and found by searching either “**10548**” or “**WCC - Improve Mental Health, Wellbeing and Resilience across Warwickshire Funding Opportunity**”.
- Registration and use of CSW-JETS is free.
- All correspondence or clarifications relating to this funding opportunity must be via the CSW-JETS **correspondence function**.
- If you are having trouble registering with CSW-JETS please email us at: [procurement@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@warwickshire.gov.uk)

# Evaluations

- Panel of County Council officers including experts.
- Clarification may be needed so please be ready to respond.
- Provide a monthly update via CSW JETS on the progress of the evaluation and approval process.
- Successful applicants will be duly notified of arrangements for receipt of funding.
- A grant acceptance form/agreement will be required.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

- Each organisation that successfully applies for the Fund must support the evaluation process, which will be specific to the threshold applied for
- Completion of WCC evaluation document to capture impact and outcomes
- Use of a WCC recommended tool to measure change and impact e.g. WEMWBS
- Provide quarterly progress updates when requested by WCC

# Projects may include

- Enhance resident's resilience, wellbeing and coping abilities that are inclusive across the life course
- Promote mental health initiatives to help working age people at risk of stress, anxiety and depression, and support people experiencing mental distress to be retained in paid employment
- Build an inclusive and protective support system for the mental and emotional wellbeing of children, young people and families
- Create social activities including volunteering and intergenerational activities to enhance wellbeing including for those with caring responsibilities
- Directly support people experiencing poor mental wellbeing or mental ill-health, or aiming to reduce significant risk factors among people with or without a mental health diagnosis in the community
- Provide targeted support and provision to people who have or at risk of self-harm
- Support those that are experiencing mental distress and feeling suicidal and at risk of self-harm



# Projects may include

- Improvements to physical environments to support suicide prevention activities
- Increase capacity of VCSE organisations to address the increased demand and complexity of bereavement during the pandemic
- Provide support for those who have experienced trauma, particularly as a direct or indirect result of the pandemic
- Create mental health friendly environments where people experiencing mental distress whilst out in the community can go for a period to reduce levels of anxiety before resuming with their activities
- Enhance physical environments that promotes mental health (make places light and airy, create or develop access to green open spaces, create relaxation spaces- sensory rooms etc)
- Support efforts to address health inequalities within local communities and neighbourhoods.

# Warwickshire Covid-19 Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Fund

- <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/information-coronavirus/warwickshire-covid-19-mental-wellbeing-resilience-fund-2021>
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