



Warwickshire North Place

Warwickshire North Innovation Fund
Specification 2023-2024

Introduction and background

There are an estimated 9010 (8.3%) people within Warwickshire North 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 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 to Warwickshire North Place to use to directly support carers to support and promote health and wellbeing. This is being promoted as an Innovation Fund.

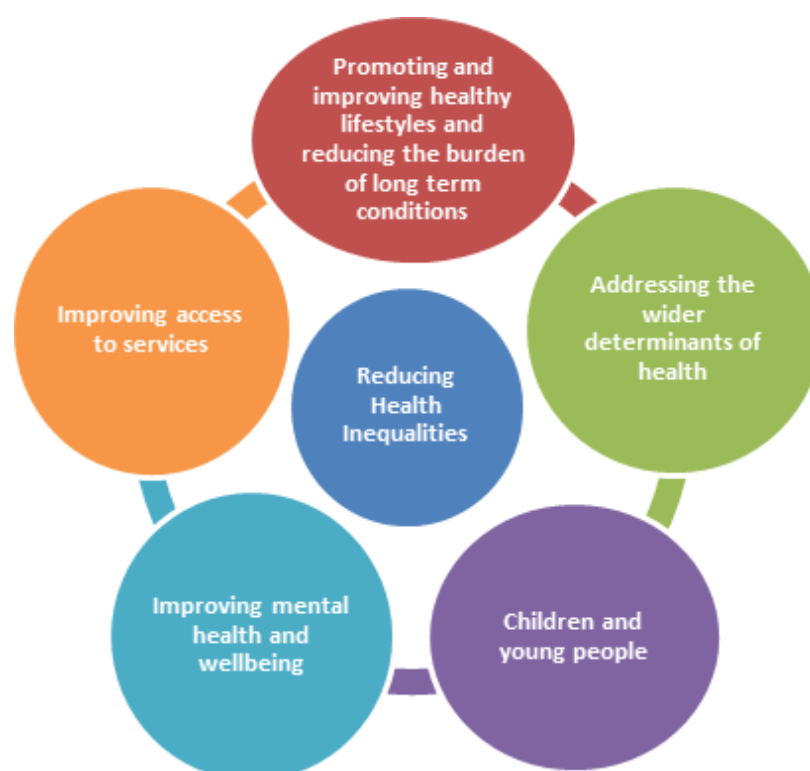
The Warwickshire North Health and Wellbeing Partnership and Warwickshire County Council would like to hear from local carers groups, or local community non-profit organisations about their ideas, or potential opportunities where investment funding would support carer and demonstrate the above aims. This funding is available for the financial year 2023-2024 and so projects or initiatives must be committed by end of March 2024. Any Warwickshire-based not-for-profit group or community organisation that supports **Carers in Warwickshire North can put forward a proposal for funding from 26 February to 18 March 2024.**

IMPORTANT Please note awards will be assessed against the criteria in order of receipt and may be agreed before end of March 2024, 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 North Warwickshire Innovation Fund be used for?

Each group can apply for funding of £8,000 as a minimum. There is no upper limit, but we are looking at funding up to 4 projects within the £33, 000 funding available that last for 9-12 months and that leave a lasting impact. Funding is 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.

Applications should also support at least one Warwickshire North Place Priority and one of the target groups identified.



Warwickshire North Place Priorities	Target Groups
• Access to Services • Mental Health and Wellbeing • Children and Young People • Wider Determinants of Health • Healthy Lifestyle and Long Term conditions	• Older people • Children and Young People • People with or at risk of mental ill health • People who are disabled • People experiencing poverty. • People with long term conditions • Those at risk from poor health behaviours

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 but the funding can only be spent on supporting Carers that live in Warwickshire North including both the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough and North Warwickshire District. Formal organisations must have a constitution, bank account, appropriate insurance and a committee or board of directors.

What is the process for applying?

Each group is expected to submit an application. The [application form](#) constitutes a series of questions (see Annex 1). You are required to provide an itemised costed 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](#) 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 hello@caringtogetherwarwickshire.org.uk and put 'Innovation Fund 2024' in the subject. All questions are in the Annex 1, below.

Deadline for applications is 18th March 2024. The fund will remain open until allocated so it's essential to get your applications in early.

All successful applications will be announced by end March 2024.

All projects must be committed before 31st March 2024. Funding will be released in two phases the first half as soon as possible from March 2024 and upon satisfactory interim evaluation report the final amount will be released by end October 2024. A final evaluation report will be expected by End March 2025. Please note that 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
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Fund release for Applications	26 th February 2024	
Bids deadline	18 th March 2024	
Panel review of Applications	From week of 18 th March 2024	Please note 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	End March 2024	Successful applications will be notified by the end of March 2024
Projects start	End March 2024 onwards	Projects must commit spend before end of March 2024. Release of half of funding upon satisfactory proposal and scoring by panel.
Interim Evaluation report due	Before End October 2024	This is to include impact on carers and carer feedback, evidence of spend any underspend may need to be returned. Also, sustainability and exit planning. Upon satisfactory interim reporting the remainder of funding will be released.
Final Evaluation Report due	31 st March 2025	This is to include impact on carers and carer feedback, evidence of spend any underspend may need to be returned. Also to include sustainability and exit plan.

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 March 2025 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, Warwickshire North Place Partnership and Warwickshire County Council will score the applications and make the recommendations for award. Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action 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. WCAVA will also provide support to unsuccessful applicants.

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 including at least one Warwickshire North Place priority and at least one target group			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

If you have any questions regarding the funding or if you wish to discuss a project idea, please contact the hello@caringtogetherwarwickshire.org.uk inbox in the first instance. Please add 'Innovation Fund 2024' in the subject of all correspondence.

Annex 1. Questions that form the Expression of Interest

1. Full name of main contact.
2. Telephone number of main contact.
3. Email address of main contact.
4. Name of organisation or group.
5. Full postal address of group or organisation.
6. 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).

7. Please tell us about your project. What do you intend to deliver to carers through this funding, how does the support Warwickshire North Place priorities and target groups, 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 for young carers with SEND, a group of 15 carers in a village to set up a gardening club to purchase tools, allotment, equipment, broadband to set up and hold a virtual book club).

8. 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 information conversations you have had with them that have led to this project idea. How will this project demonstrate carers involvement?)

9. Where in North Warwickshire will your beneficiaries come from?

(Please be as specific as you can e.g., All of Warwickshire North, A District Nuneaton and Bedworth, a town or village for example, Atherstone, Camphill, Bar Pool, Ambleside, Mancetta, Wembrook, Fillongley).

10. What will be the legacy 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.

11. Please can you provide us with an outline budget for the programme? Your proposal should be costed for an amount of at least £8,000. There is no upper limit, we are looking to fund up to 4 projects within the £33,000 funding available.

(Please provide the total amount of grant that you are applying for with an estimate on the split in spend areas, such as equipment, support staff, transport, room hire etc.)

12. The funding for this project needs to be committed to by 31 March 2024. Please indicate that you are aware of this and anticipate being able to begin your grant by then? Any unspent funds may need to be returned.