

SHIRE Community Grants 2022-23





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SHIRE Community Grants are a key feature of Leicestershire Council's support to the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

We are interested in funding services, projects and activities that will:

- ▶ improve the lives, health and wellbeing of vulnerable or disadvantaged people and communities in Leicestershire
- ▶ provide community-based early intervention and prevention solutions which help to reduce demand on Council and other public services
- ▶ complement existing services already being delivered



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Eligible Organisations:

- Registered charities
- Community groups/organisations with a constitution and board of trustees / committee
- Social Enterprises / CICs
- Faith-based organisations/places of worship (but not for costs related to the promotion of religion/general worship)
- Parish Councils / Town Councils



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Eligible organisations can apply for a small grant (max £3,000) or a large grant (max £10,000) in 2022-23, for community based projects and activities that are specifically focused on supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities who live in Leicestershire.

Your application for funding can include costs related to all or any of the following:

- ▶ Project delivery costs
- ▶ Staffing costs (including volunteer expenses)
- ▶ Venue/room hire
- ▶ Core organisational running costs
- ▶ Capital expenditure, i.e. for items of capital equipment
- ▶ Any other eligible costs related to delivering activities which meet the grant criteria



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Beneficiaries / Client Groups who can be supported through SHIRE Grant Funding:

- Vulnerable and disadvantaged young people (e.g. those who are at risk of crime/offending, NEET, or experience other challenges/issues)
- Frail Older People
- People with physical disabilities and/or other long terms health conditions
- People with learning disabilities or other special educational needs
- People with mental health conditions
- People with caring responsibilities
- People experiencing financial hardship due to socio-economic or welfare status
- People experiencing homelessness or other adverse housing related issues
- Residents of communities in areas of multiple deprivation/poverty
- People with refugee or asylum seeker status
- People who are socially isolated, including those who are disadvantaged due to rural isolation and a lack of access to services



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What we cannot fund:

- ▶ General upgrades to community buildings (e.g. village halls, church buildings, community centres) unless the upgrades are focussed specifically on providing services for vulnerable/disadvantaged individuals or groups
- ▶ New roofs, resurfacing of parking areas; new disabled toilets (or other disabled access improvements); general maintenance and/or repairs of equipment
- ▶ Sports activities or equipment for the general community (i.e. sports activities which are not specifically targeted for vulnerable/disadvantaged groups)
- ▶ General running costs for community radio stations
- ▶ Costs for any activities which have already taken place (i.e. we cannot offer retrospective funding for costs already incurred), or one-off events (e.g. Christmas Fayres, lunches or a day trip/activity)
- ▶ Whilst faith-based organisations can apply for funding, we are unable to award grants for the purposes of delivering organised religious activities, including prayer and worship, or for any costs associated with the promotion of religion



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Focus on Outcomes:

- One of the key things we will be looking for in your application is details around the outcomes/impacts of your project
- In the application form, you will be asked to clearly explain the difference your project will make to participants, e.g. improved health and wellbeing, increased confidence and independence, access to employment or education, etc.
- You will also need to think about how these outcomes will ultimately help to reduce demand on Council and other public services



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Examples of outcomes which are expected to be achieved with SHIRE Grant funding

- Improved health, wellbeing and quality of life for vulnerable and disadvantaged people
- Vulnerable and disadvantaged people are safer, less isolated, confident and independent
- Disadvantaged groups have access to appropriate information/services and are empowered to participate fully in society
- Reduced inequality, and increased opportunities for vulnerable/disadvantaged people and communities to develop positive lifestyle choices,
- Less reliance on Council and other public services, particularly high-cost health and social care services
- Individuals who are NEET, including disadvantaged young people, have improved opportunities to access education, training and employment
- Reduction in crime, offending and anti-social behaviour in communities
- Communities/community organisations take responsibility for identifying solutions to local issues
- Stronger voluntary, community and social enterprise sector



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Below are some examples of Outcomes:

- 1. A project which provides support to older people with dementia, to help them live safely and independently in their own homes/communities and reduce or delay the need for residential or nursing care*
- 2. A project which supports people with mental health problems, helping them to manage their mental health and wellbeing more effectively, thus reducing the need for hospitalisation or frequent visits to the GP*
- 3. A project which works with young people who are involved in anti-social behaviour and are at risk of being excluded from school. The project provides positive opportunities and development of skills which will prevent the young people from getting involved in crime and more likely to continue with their education or help them to find training or employment.*



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Examples of Grants Awarded/Projects Funded in 2021-22:

- £2,000 awarded to Melton Mencap towards the wages of 1:1 Support Workers, to enable children with profound learning and physical disabilities to attend a Saturday club
- £3,000 awarded to Soar Valley Outreach to employ a Financial Coach to support individuals with budgeting, benefits and debt advice, and cost saving ideas
- £2,760 awarded to Hinckley Homeless Group to pay for mental health counselling sessions for homeless young people
- £7,500 awarded to Passion Youth Project for a Youth Worker to support young people with issues related to healthy lifestyle choices (e.g. substance use, crime, mental health)
- £10,000 awarded to Together Leicester for a Project Worker who will identify areas in the County to develop a number of community kitchens
- £7,500 awarded to Enderby Mission Life Foodbank towards a Foodbank Coordinator salary



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Examples of Grants Awarded/Projects Funded in 2021-22 (cont'd):

- £5,000 awarded to the Vayyu Project to support people from BAME backgrounds to improve their mental health and wellbeing, through the environmental activities
- £4,223 awarded to MRC Community Action towards a range of IT equipment, including computers, laptops, monitors and printers
- £7,500 awarded to Spirit and Soul Equine Assisted Activity Centre CIC, to refurbish a barn, which will serve as a workshop at a new base established in Shepshed
- £2,000 awarded to Hinckley Town Tennis Club to provide tennis coaching for disabled young people
- £8,000 awarded to Equality Action caseworkers, supporting people from BAME communities with English language skills, ICT skills, employment and benefits support
- £7,500 awarded to Feed The Hungry to equip a mobile foodbank and advice vehicle



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Application Process:

- Contact the Grant Officers to discuss your project proposal
- If eligible, you will be asked to complete the online application form (there is a Word document available to download to help you draft your application)
- Grants Officers will assess your application against the key criteria and a recommendation will be made (i.e. award funding in full; award a contribution or reject the application)
- Applications will then be discussed at a Grant Decision Meeting with the Head of Service and Lead Cabinet Member for a final decision
- The final decision will be communicated to you a few days after the Decision Meeting, and you will receive a Grand Award Letter and associated paperwork within a week of the Decision. Grant payments will follow within the next few weeks.
- Evidence of how the funding was used will need to be submitted to the Grants Team within 12 months of the grant award being made



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Decision Timescales:

- There are three rounds of funding for the SHIRE Grant programme in 2022-23:

	Grant Round Opens	Grant Round Closes	Decisions Made
Round 1	Weds 6 th April 2022	Weds 8 th June 2022	June 2022
Round 2	Weds 6 th July 2022	Weds 7 th Sept 2022	September 2022
Round 3	Weds 5 th Oct 2022	Weds 30 th Nov 2022	December 2022



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Additional support, information and guidance:

Grants & Funding: www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/grants

Voluntary Action Leicestershire: <https://valonline.org.uk/>

CASE: <http://case.coop/>

Leicestershire Funding Toolkit: www.fundingtoolkit.org



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For more information, contact:

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Email: shiregrants@leics.gov.uk

Web: www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/shiregrants