

BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Community Grants Prospectus

Overview

The BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership is a voluntary sector partnership committed to providing expert mental health support at the right time and in the right place for people living in BSW.

The partnership is a new collaboration made up of:

- **Second Step** – A leading mental health charity in the South West
- **Alabaré** – A homelessness and mental health charity in the South West and Wales
- **Nilaari** – A Black-led mental health charity
- **Missing Link** – A charity that provides women's mental health services

Our Grants Programme, funded by the [BSW Integrated Care Board](#), will award grants to grassroots or community organisations across BSW to fund mental health and wellbeing activities.

Activities funded could include arts groups, physical activity groups, music groups, outdoor space groups, bereavement groups, safe spaces, cultural activities, or other projects to reduce isolation and increase the wellbeing of people with low, moderate or severe mental health needs.

We are particularly keen to fund projects which will reach marginalised communities, however will consider all applications received.

At a Glance

- Total funding: £50,000 per year
- Award range: £2,000 to £5,000
- One grant of £7,500 available per locality
- Projects: mental health and wellbeing initiatives led by small grass-roots community groups in BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire
- Applications open: 10 November



- Application deadline: 12 December. The fund will open for applications again in Autumn 2026
- Priority themes: projects to engage marginalised communities
- Range: awards will be split evenly across the three BSW areas
- How to apply: our application form will be available from 10 November

How to Apply

Apply using our application form: [BSW Community Grants: application form – Fill in form](#). The deadline for applications is noon on 12 December. Late applications will not be considered.

The application form includes,

- Your proposal
- A due diligence check
- A commitment to engage with monitoring and evaluation requirements

Organisations may be able to access support to apply from their locality's VCSE umbrella organisation, including Voluntary Action Swindon, Wiltshire Together, 3SG in BaNES.

Key dates:

- Applications open: 10 November
- Deadline for applications: 12 December
- Applicants notified: 31 January at the latest
- Projects start: March 2026
- Projects end: a year after commencement
- Fund reopens: Autumn 2026

Successful applications should:

- Start within 2 months of receiving funding and delivery completed within 12 months of the start date
- Only apply for funding for costs which are involved in direct delivery of a project or activity (this does include items such as equipment, hardware, software etc. on the condition that it is essential to delivery of the project or activity)
- Commit to complying with monitoring and evaluation requirements

Priority will be given to applications that seek to engage marginalised communities.



Your proposal must include:

- An explanation of your project, including how you would spend the grant funding
- An explanation of how your project will links with the wider mental health provisions across the area you plan to work in
- An explanation of how people will be made aware of and/or introduced to your project
- If you are applying for £7,500, how you would deliver your proposal if you were awarded a smaller grant amount

Who Can Apply

This grant is aimed at grass roots and community organisations, and as such, all applicants must have an annual turnover of **under £200,000** and be based in BaNES, Swindon or Wiltshire.

Applications may be made by registered charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, formally constituted community groups, or social and not-for-profit businesses, including Community Interest Companies and social enterprises.

All applicants must meet a due diligence check by providing evidence of:

- A constitution/governing documents
- 3 or more trustees
- A bank account named for the organisation, with at least two signatories
- Up to date annual accounts
- A safeguarding policy
- A named referee from another organisation
- Operational for at least 24 months

Organisations applying must be based in BaNES, Swindon or Wiltshire.

Priority Themes

We are keen to prioritise funding for projects which will serve marginalised communities.

- All applications will be considered
- We are keen to fund projects across BaNES Swindon and Wiltshire, and will look to award grants equally in each locality



‘Marginalised communities’ refers to any community who faces barriers to accessing mainstream services, leading to poorer mental health than others. This could include:

- Ethnic minority groups
- Migrant communities
- Refugee and asylum-seeking communities
- LGBTQ+ people
- People on low incomes
- Young people
- Older people
- People facing digital exclusion
- People living in rural areas

Importantly, people usually belong to more than one social group leading to different experiences.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Successful applicants will be expected to provide a limited monitoring information regarding how their grant award benefitted people in BSW. This will include:

- Number of people who benefitted over the year
- Case studies
- An end of year check-in

Objectives

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership Grants Fund seeks to deliver against the following objectives:

1. To improve the mental health and wellbeing of people in BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire by increasing the availability and variety of community activities and support on offer. To reduce loneliness and isolation by promoting togetherness and community, to promote recovery from mental illness, and strengthen networks of support for people living with mental illness. To build confidence and resilience of people with mental illnesses.
2. To strengthen community organisations providing mental health and wellbeing support by growing capacity, promoting routes into community mental health services, raising awareness of the support available across the region, and contributing to local wellbeing ecosystems. In particular, for organisations who engage marginalised communities, who can face barriers to accessing mainstream services.



Funding Principles

Our strong and inclusive VCSE Mental Health & Wellbeing Partnership aims to deliver expert mental health support at the right time and in the right place for people in BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire. Decisions around awarding funding will be delivered through the following values and principles:

Our values

- Focusing on recovery – supporting people to find hope, develop their strengths and thrive
- Valuing equity & integrity – ensuring all we do is informed and shaped by diverse voices to give equal access and opportunity
- Doing what works – understanding the impact and outcomes of our work to shape and improve delivery for people, communities and the system
- Sharing learning – building trust to ensure we learn together and share good practice with all partners, across all areas to be the best partnership we can be
- Leading change and transformation –being change leaders: transforming services and systems collaboratively and advocating for people who need mental health support

Our principles

- Together ensuring we provide the right support at the right time
- We ensure the person is at the heart of how we shape and deliver services, focusing on their strengths
- We are trauma-informed for the wellbeing of clients, carers, friends, families and staff
- We deliver a holistic, evidence-based approach, so people can access the support they need wherever they are
- We share resources and expertise to create positive communities where people can thrive
- Our focus on equity and accessibility alongside our passion to remove blocks and barriers guides and shapes our unrelentingly positive approach
- By creating strong and integrated partnerships between organisations, we support people to tell their story once, offering the best of our collective expertise and maximising our collaborative offer.



The contact for this project is bswgrants@second-step.co.uk however unfortunately we will not be able to offer advice or feedback for on individual applications due to expected high levels of interest.