

## **SEFTON COUNCIL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT VCF SECTOR GRANTS CRITERIA 2024-5**

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Grant funding of up to £5,000 is available from Sefton Council's Public Health Team, for the delivery of activities which promote positive wellbeing for People over the age of 65 in Sefton.

Applications should detail support for:

- People aged 65 years+ to promote positive wellbeing.
- People aged 65 years+ who may experience loneliness, isolation, anxiety and depression.

Applications should be made for projects which will **commence before 31 March 2025**, the duration of projects has not been specified to allow for a variety of projects to be considered. All project must be completed by **31 October 2025**

Projects do not necessarily have to be new. We are looking to fund projects aiming to improve the health and well-being of the people above.

### **Criteria**

1. Community groups, residents' groups, voluntary organisations, faith-based groups, and social enterprises working in, or providing services to the residents of Sefton that provide appropriate services.
2. Grants from £500 up to £5,000 are available for these projects any returns and spend must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. Any unspent funds after the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 will be subject to repayment.
3. Applications should be made for projects commencing in March 2025.
4. Organisations involved in the project for which the grant will be used must all:
  - Be a constituted body and have a bank account with a minimum of two signatories.
  - Follow an open access policy.
  - Be non-political.
  - Agree to all appropriate staff and volunteers being trained in Making Every Contact Count
5. Applications for funding must demonstrate they:
  - Support the aim of improving wellbeing outcomes of people aged 65+ in Sefton.
  - Address inequality by improving the wellbeing of people aged 65+ within Sefton.
  - Being innovative or creative to address a specific problem or need.



- Work in partnership with others to avoid duplication and maximise impact.
  - Provide accessible activities for people aged 65+.
6. Activities funded should have clear and specific outcomes to be achieved within a defined period of time.
  7. Delivery of funded projects should not be dependent on groups securing further additional funding.
  8. These grants cannot fund political activities, religious activities, or the promotion of personal objectives.
  9. Groups are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that their activities can be made available for as broad a range of people as possible within the priority groups specified and that positive measures are put in place to remove any barriers to access.
  10. All organisations must have safeguarding policies in place.
  11. Organisations awarded a grant must have the appropriate public liability and employer's liability insurance for the activities that they provide if necessary.
  12. Applications must be submitted on the Mental Health Support VCF Sector Grants application form. If the application form is not fully completed, then the application will not be considered.
  13. Funding will not be awarded for activities that have already taken place.
  14. Organisations and individuals receiving funding will be required to take part in the monitoring and evaluation process and provide feedback when requested. Projects should be able to report on outcomes within six weeks of their project completion date.
  15. Organisations and individuals receiving funding will be required to promote Sefton's 'We're Here' campaign within their project.

### **Further Information for Applicants**

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- I. The deadline for applications to be received by is **12pm, Thursday 30th January 2025**
- II. The Mental Health Support VCF Sector Grants is a limited fund and not all applications meeting the criteria will be able to be supported.
- III. We particularly welcome applications which support activities that take place in community and faith-based settings.
- IV. We recognise the venue in which a project is based can sometimes be owned or managed by another organisation subject to additional safety requirements. In this instance, we encourage groups to state this in their application.



- V. Grant funds awarded will need to have been spent before **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025** and **likelihood of unspent funding will need to be notified to us and returned as soon as you know it will not be spent so we can redistribute to other groups**
- VI. The decision to award a Mental Health Support VCF Sector Grants rests with the Grant Panel (the panel will include representatives from Sefton Council and Sefton CVS). All decisions are final and there is no appeal process.
- VII. All successful applications will be notified within two weeks of the application deadline date.