



Mental Health and Wellbeing Grants Criteria 2026-27

On behalf of Sefton Council's Public Health Team, Sefton CVS is pleased to launch the **2026-27 Mental Health and Wellbeing Grants**. This funding opportunity is designed to empower local Voluntary, Community, and Faith (VCF) sector to deliver inclusive, impactful activities that improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Sefton.

Applicants are invited to apply for funding for projects that support residents of all ages. In line with *Sefton's Public Health Annual Report*, the fund seeks to resource initiatives that address the social determinants of health and foster a "Population Health" approach.

Funding and Administration

Grants are available in two tiers: **Small Grants (up to £3,000)** for short-term projects and **Large Grants (up to £10,000)** for year-long delivery.

In alignment with the Sefton Public Health Annual Report, we are looking for projects that address the following areas:

- **Emotional Resilience & Mental Wellbeing:** Activities that provide early intervention for low mood, anxiety, and social isolation.
- **Life course Approach:** While "all ages" are eligible, we encourage projects that support key life transitions; from young people entering adulthood to older residents maintaining independence and community presence.
- **Tackling Health Inequalities:** Prioritising the "Marmot Principles" by supporting our most vulnerable residents and those living in areas of high deprivation to ensure we improve the health of the poorest fastest.
- **Building Emotional Resilience and Community Capacity:** Strengthening the ability of local people manage their own wellbeing through community-led support.

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.

Grant Tiers and Duration

Grants are available in two tiers:

- **Small Grants of between £500 - £3,000** for short-term projects (approximately 3 – 6 months delivery).
- **Large Grants of between £3,000 - £10,000** for year-long delivery (approximately six to 12 months delivery).

Key Dates

- **Monday 2nd February 2026:** Applications Open.
- **Sunday 1st March 2026:** Applications Close.
- **Week commencing 2nd March 2026:** Grant Panel.
- **Week commencing 16th March 2026:** Notification of Awards.
- **Monday 6th April 2026:** Delivery Commences.

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 **£10,000** are available for these projects and returns and spend must be completed by **31st March 2027**. Any unspent funds after this date will be subject to repayment.
3. 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
4. Applications for funding must demonstrate they:
 - a. Support the aim of reducing health and social inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of people in Sefton delivering strategic goals of:
 - Address inequality by improving the health of the poorest fastest.
 - Increase resilience at individual, household and community levels.
 - Being innovative or creative to address a specific problem or need.
 - Work in partnership with others to avoid duplication and maximise impact.

AND

5. Activities funded should have clear and specific outcomes to be achieved within a defined period of time.
6. Delivery of funded projects should not be dependent on groups securing further additional funding.



7. These grants cannot fund political activities, religious activities, or the promotion of personal objectives.
8. 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 that positive measures are put in place to remove any barriers to access.
9. All organisations must have safeguarding policies in place.
10. Organisations awarded a grant must have the appropriate public liability and employer's liability insurance for the activities that they provide if necessary.
11. Applications must be submitted on the Mental Health and Wellbeing Grants 2026-27 application form. If the application form is not fully completed, then the application will not be considered.
12. Funding will not be awarded for activities that have already taken place.
13. Organisations and individuals receiving funding will be required to take part in the monitoring and evaluation process and provide feedback when requested.

Further Information for Applicants

- I. The deadline for applications to be received by is **Sunday 1st March 2026**
- II. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Grants is a limited fund and not all applications meeting the criteria will be able to be supported.
- III. 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.
- IV. Grant funds awarded will need to have been spent before **31st March 2027** 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
- V. The decision to award a Grant, rests with the Grant Panel (the panel will include representatives from Sefton Council's Public Health Team). All decisions are final and there is no appeal process.
- VI. All successful applications will be notified within two weeks of the application deadline date.

For all questions or inquiries please contact: winteraccess@seftoncvs.org.uk.