

# Updates on Public, Legacies, Corporate, Trusts and Public Sector Funding

Funding Bulletin No. 21 April 2022

Welcome to the April funding bulletin. This edition includes details of the final round of grant funding for Age UK's Dementia MCST Programme, together with an update on grant funding available during 2022 to support physical activity projects in local communities. There is also an update on the Levelling Up funding to be distributed across the UK. We hope you find it useful.

Please do remind your colleagues that they can receive this bulletin on Signpost - you can sign up [here](#).

The Fundraising Team

## 1. New grant funding opportunities for local Age UKs

### **Age UK's Dementia MCST Programme - Final round of grant funding opens on 9 May**

We are excited to announce that our third and final round of funding for the Dementia Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (MCST) Programme will be opening on **Monday 9 May**. This is the final grant period for our MCST programme, with grants of £20,000 available. We welcome all local Age UK partners that have not yet been part of this programme to apply.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions at [dementiamcst@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:dementiamcst@ageuk.org.uk) and keep an eye on the loop page [here](#), which will be updated as soon as applications open. If you are having any trouble accessing the loop, please email [theloop@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:theloop@ageuk.org.uk).

### **Physical activity grants programmes - Update on Tackling Inequalities Fund (TIF), Together Fund and Let's Mover Together Fund**

We wanted to provide an update on the grant funding available over the coming year to support local Age UKs to run physical activity projects in their communities.

#### **Tackling Inequalities Fund (TIF)**

Over the past 12-18 months, funding from Sport England's [Tackling Inequalities Fund](#) (TIF) has been available to encourage older people to get active as they recover from the worst of the pandemic.

During 2021, as one of Sport England's National Partners, the **Age UK TIF programme** made 41 grant awards of up to £6,000 to 38 local Age UKs for physical activity projects ranging from Tai Chi sessions to walking groups, with around 3,500 older people benefitting overall. Many other local Age UKs have also delivered physical activity projects funded through other Sport England National Partners such as their local Active Partnership and Versus Arthritis since the launch of TIF in summer 2020. It has been a tremendous effort and achievement by all those delivering these projects.

The TIF programme has since transformed into the **Together Fund** grants programme with a further major investment from Sport England. The Together Fund's purpose, however, remains unchanged in aiming to provide a range of physical activity opportunities for local communities, based on local need, and specifically targeting people with long-term health conditions, those living with disabilities, from culturally diverse communities, and from lower socio-economic groups.

**Age UK will not be awarding grants through the Together Fund (TF)**, but all local Age UKs will instead be able to access Together Fund grants of up to £10,000 for new physical activity projects through other TF National Partners, in particular Active Partnerships and Versus Arthritis.

#### *Local Active Partnership*

All local Age UKs can approach their local Active Partnership about Together Fund grant support, and those with an existing relationship with their local Active Partnership are especially encouraged to do so.

To discuss your project idea with your local Active Partnership, please contact them at [www.activepartnerships.org/active-partnerships](http://www.activepartnerships.org/active-partnerships).

#### *Versus Arthritis*

The **Versus Arthritis Together Fund grants programme** is now open for applications for new activities in England that specifically support people living with long-term health conditions to get active. An application for the fund will need to be submitted using the Grant Tracker System which can be found here - [Versus Arthritis Grant Tracker](#). The fund is open for applications for a limited period until **the end of May 2022**.

Versus Arthritis also has a new grants fund - **Let's Move Together Fund** - open to local organisations in **Northern Ireland, Wales** and **Scotland** - supporting people with arthritis and other long-term health conditions to get active.

Further details of the Versus Arthritis Together Fund and Let's Move Together Fund are available [here](#) and by contacting [physicalactivityVA@versusarthritis.org](mailto:physicalactivityVA@versusarthritis.org).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [TIF@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:TIF@ageuk.org.uk).

## **Sport England - Places and Spaces fund goes nationwide**

[Area of coverage: England / West Midlands]

The [Places and Spaces fund](#) set up by Sport England to help communities benefit from the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games has been expanded nationwide across England.

[Originally launched in November 2021](#) to cater for organisations in the West Midlands, Sport England has committed extra National Lottery funding to extend the fund. Its purpose is to help community organisations make small-scale facility improvements that will help to develop places and spaces wanting to use Birmingham 2022 as a catalyst to improve community sport and physical activity.

While the fund is now available to applicants nationwide, four areas will receive targeted investment to support people to get active. These areas are **Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Tyne and Wear** and **Tees Valley**, with this work forming part of Sport England's and the government's Levelling Up agenda to tackle inequalities across the country, including health inequalities, which have been worsened by the pandemic.

Places and Spaces has been developed in partnership with [Crowdfunder](#) and will see Sport England award match funding of up to £10,000 to eligible applicants who run a successful community crowdfunding campaign.

The fund is expected to be open until December 2022. Further details can be found [here](#).

Sport England is also making a further £600,000 available to benefit community organisations in the **West Midlands** as part of its investment into the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, with this funding to be distributed to organisations across six local Active Partnerships, who are working to support individuals - particularly inactive people from under-represented groups - to find ways to be active.

Further details about this additional funding for the West Midlands can be found [here](#).

## **Foyle Foundation small grants scheme** [Area of coverage: UK]

The Foyle Foundation Small Grants Scheme aims to support smaller, grassroots, and local charities across the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic. Small charities with a turnover of less than £150,000 per annum can apply for grants of up to £10,000. Grants can be used to cover essential equipment, core costs, homeworking, and ongoing service provisions. There is no set deadline and applications can be submitted at any time during the year.

This opportunity may be of particular interest to the Age UK Friends Network. Further details are available [here](#).

## 2. Other grant programmes

The following grant programmes have featured in previous bulletins but remain open for grant applications.

### **Age UK's Digital Inclusion Funding Opportunity - applications for grants now open**

[Area of coverage: England and Wales]

Funding for the **Digital Champion** programme remains open until **12pm on 4 May 2022**.

The Digital Champion programme will support local brand partners to deliver digital inclusion services in areas of high digital exclusion across England and Wales, and to transform the delivery of digital skills support so that we can reach and support those people that need it most.

Although the number of older people who are digitally connected continues to rise, there are still around five million people over the age of 55 who are not. We live in an increasingly online world, with many key services moving to become 'digital first', and while many older people have embraced digital technology, there are others who are less confident who are at risk of being left behind.

#### **About the Programme**

The Digital Champion programme will support local brand partners to deliver digital inclusion services with older people in areas of high digital exclusion across England and Wales, and to transform the delivery of digital skills support to ensure that we can reach and support those people that need it most. The programme will involve local brand partners recruiting and training volunteer Digital Champions; delivering awareness raising activities to motivate and inspire older people to get involved; provide technology on a loan basis to older people without access; and deliver skills support sessions to improve the confidence and skills of older people so that they can benefit from being online.

#### **Supporting older people most at risk of digital exclusion**

As part of this programme, we will also support local brand partners who want to focus their delivery on supporting a high-risk group to get online. Whilst the core elements of the programme will largely remain the same, adaptations will likely need to be made to the programme model, and expectations will be amended to reflect the higher intensity support that will be required. By focusing some of the delivery of this programme on supporting high-risk groups, we will reach those older people most in need, and gain a better understanding about how the service works, and to guide service development to ensure it remains as impactful and accessible as possible.

## Next Steps

The Digital Champion Programme will be delivered across two cohorts of 25 partners, with cohort 1 (this opportunity) commencing in **June 2022**, and cohort 2 in March 2024. Each partner will receive up to **£72,000 over 18 months** to deliver the programme in their local area, including set-up time.

**Please note:** the funding and delivery period remains the same for partners who apply to deliver the programme with older people generally, and for those who apply to focus their delivery on a high-risk group. Expected reach will differ accordingly.

**For more information on this opportunity and to apply, please click the link below:**

[Click here to get started!](#)

This funding opportunity will close at **12pm 4 May 2022**.

If you have any questions, please contact [servicesdigital@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:servicesdigital@ageuk.org.uk). If you are having trouble accessing the link above, please contact [theloop@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:theloop@ageuk.org.uk).

## **The Fore** [Area of coverage: UK]

The Fore (describing itself as a seed investor for the charity sector) is a trust offering grants of up to £15,000 over 6 to 18 months to small organisations (with an annual income of less than £500,000) working with marginalised groups and led by people in the community that may have found it hard to access trust and foundation funding in the past. The main objective of the unrestricted grants is to help organisations become more sustainable, more efficient, and to grow significantly.

This opportunity may be of particular interest to the Age UK Friends Network.

Summer 2022 funding registration opens on 19 April at 10am, with an application deadline of **9 May** and funding decisions to be made in July 2022.

Further details can be found [here](#).

## **Win £5,000 by entering for the Craig Macdonald Memorial Prize** [Area of coverage: UK]

Is your organisation working in your local communities to help close the digital divide? If so, you have the chance to win £5,000 by entering for the **Craig Macdonald Memorial Prize** in the Digital Leaders 100 Awards 2022.

Craig Macdonald was a technology professional dedicated to public service who passed away suddenly in early 2020. In honour of Craig's memory, Tech Investor Rob Wilmot is partnering with Digital Leaders for the second time to award a prize of £5,000 for the best grassroots organisation working in their local community to help close the digital divide.

Last year's winners were Knowledge Pool, a free training platform in Doncaster offering intensive training in Microsoft tools. Information about Knowledge Pool and how the Craig Macdonald Memorial Prize has impacted them can be found [here](#).

Enter for the Craig Macdonald Memorial Prize [using this link](#) or enter for one of the [11 other Digital Leaders categories](#).

### **3. Update on Levelling Up - the UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

We have been keeping an eye on developments on government funding earmarked to level up/reduce inequalities across the UK. On 13 April, the Westminster Government announced further details of the £2.6bn UK Shared Prosperity Fund, one of two post-Brexit funding programmes (the other being the £4.8bn Levelling Up Fund focused on capital infrastructure) that is seeking to level up and reduce regional inequality across the UK.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) succeeds the former EU Structural Funds and is allocating funding over three years from financial year 2022/23. The UKSPF has three investment priorities:

- Community and Place - improving community infrastructure
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills - helping people train for work

The announcement provided explanations of possible interventions, outputs and indicators and further information about [Multiply](#) (the government's adult numeracy programme), a key component of levelling up. UKSPF funding will be [allocated to all areas](#) and local authorities will be responsible for creating local plans with a broad range of stakeholders including charities.

Local plans must be submitted between 30 June and 1 August 2022, to be assessed and signed off by central government. Local organisations are being encouraged to discuss plans for delivering the UKSPF with their local authorities.

Further details can be found [here](#).