

Deciding Together Local Fund for York

Guidelines July 2021



You are invited to apply to a participatory funding process in York. Over the coming months, £240,000 will be allocated to help York better respond to people facing multiple issues including homelessness, addiction & recovery, mental health & wellbeing, poverty & offending by exploring and improving the systems that perpetuate multiple disadvantages in York.

- Led by people who live, work and/or access services in York– both how the fund operates and what it supports (funds).
- Connecting and helping to create space for people to explore, understand, question & change systems perpetuating disadvantage in York.
- Learning and sharing with others how funds like this can help change the ways things are done.

This document provides the guidelines for applying to the fund. We hope that is supportive and enabling, if a little long.

If we can support you to access this information in a different format, including via a conversation please contact:

- Ali Spaul on 07834 596576 or aspaul@tworidingscf.org.uk, or
- Kelly Cunningham on 07593 730539 or Kelly.Cunningham@changing-lives.org.uk

What you can find in this document

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Background

A network of people has been working together in York for more than two years under the umbrella of the Multiple Complex Needs Network (York MCN).

They, (perhaps including some of you) are collaborating on an inquiry about how to fundamentally change things for people who experience multiple disadvantages in York. This work has largely been funded by Lankelly Chase Foundation.

York MCN, and other learning across the country, raise the issue about decision making and allocation of resource. The Deciding Together Local Fund for York was established in 2020 between Lankelly Chase, Two Ridings Community Foundation and York MCN to explore ways to do things differently and shift the power.

What is the purpose of the Deciding Together Local Fund?

The Deciding Together Local Fund is a new pot of money (2021). It puts the control £240,000 in the hands of people in York to distribute via a participatory grant-making process.

The Deciding Together Local Fund for York aims;

- To connect and help create space so that people can explore, understand, question and change systems that perpetuate disadvantage in York.
- To involve people who live, work and/or access services in York– both how the fund operates and what it supports (funds).
- To learn and share with others how funds like this can help change the ways things are done.

How much can I apply for?

There is a total fund of £240,000 to allocate. There are two levels of funding that you can apply for;

- small grants up to £1000, and;
- larger grants for which we have not set an upper limit.

The overall fund that we can allocate is £240,000. We envisage using 10% (£24,000) of the fund for small grants. Therefore there is £216,000 available to allocate for larger grants. The number of applications that are successful will depend (in part) on how many, and what size of applications are received.

What COULD Deciding Together Local Fund for York support?

Funding is to help York better respond to people facing multiple issues including homelessness, addiction & recovery, mental health & wellbeing, poverty & offending by exploring and improving the systems that perpetuate multiple disadvantages in York.

It could support;

- Space and time for people to pause from the day-to-day pressures. Allowing them to talk and learn from others – both in York and wider (provided that the learning benefits residents in York) about what could be done differently to influence change.
- Work that tries to understand and change the underlying conditions that allow severe and multiple disadvantages to exist. 'Underlying conditions' are things like power, culture, mindsets and relationships - the dynamics of the way things are done. All too often these things can be problematic and hold harmful practices in place.

Ideas, big and small, that:

- Are preventative (not crisis management).
- Help people come together to make solutions for themselves.
- Bring people around an issue to address it from multiple angles.

This could fund "breathing space" enabling time for people to explore long term solutions they simply do not currently have time to do. Within that time and space, you might carry out learning activity, experiments, or prototypes to try new ways of working.

Similar funds elsewhere have supported a variety of projects, including:

- Really deep listening to voices of people who are experiencing severe and multiple disadvantages, so more is known about what needs to change.
- Adapting ways of working to better respond to root causes of issues.
- Work to build better relationships between groups of people who might not usually come together.

Please see the images at the end of this document which illustrates some of the text above. They may support your thinking and understanding of how this funding could support your ideas.

Funds could be used for:

- salaries,
- organisational overheads,
- equipment,
- venue hire or
- most reasonable things that are needed to help you, your group or partnership explore and develop your idea.

Learning

We are keen to learn from this way of working and the activity that is granted. We also wish to create opportunity for others to learn from this activity and from each other. To achieve this, we propose a shared learning session where people come together to share their work and learning, which may be up to one day per year. We encourage you to include costs relating to attending a learning and feedback event held in York, this could include things such as travel expenses.

Who can apply?

We will accept applications for either a small or large grant from the following:

- Constituted voluntary and community groups.
- Charities.
- Community Interest Companies.
- Other organisations with charitable aims, including statutory agencies.
- Partnerships and/or collaboratives (formal or informal) that are led by organisations with charitable aims.

Priority for large grants will be given to small organisations (Under £500,000 turnover) and partnerships that are steered by people with lived experience of the issues that the partnership seeks to address.

We will also consider applications for small grants from the following:

- Individuals
- Un-constituted groups i.e., groups that do not have a formal structure but that work together to improve lives of others.

We may need a suitable mechanism such as the Social Change Agency to manage grants to successful individuals and un-constituted groups, but we will provide further guidance and support if you are successful.

Conditions

- If working with children and young people and/or vulnerable adults, grant recipients must have appropriate Safeguarding Policies and procedures.
- If successful, you should begin working on your idea no later than March 2022.
- We will prioritise ideas lasting up to 3 years. If you need longer than this, we will consider this too, if there is a clear need.

What can't the fund support?

- Direct support services that address immediate need for people with severe and multiple disadvantages alone...this is because the fund seeks to provide solutions to the underlying systems that perpetuate severe and multiple disadvantages rather than responding to the symptoms.
- Illegal activities.
- Private 'for profit' businesses.
- Organisations whose work does not support people within the local authority area of York.
- General appeals or sponsorship.
- Work where the main beneficiaries are animals.
- Work which has already taken place.
- Work undertaken by/ on behalf of schools, colleges, or universities as part of their statutory curricular activities.
- Work for the advancement of a religious doctrine; mission, proselytising or promotion of the beliefs of a particular faith. Applications can be accepted from faith-based groups provided that the grant benefits the wider community and is open to all regardless of faith and to those of no faith.
- Political promotion including political party activity.
- Holidays or trips unless there are very clear community development benefits.
- Public bodies to carry out their statutory obligations.
- Activities which are a statutory responsibility. This does not mean that statutory agencies cannot apply but any application must be for work outside their usual remit.

How to apply

The application includes the following questions. We limit word count to: Small Grants: upto 200 words per question. Large Grants: no more than 400 words per question.

1. What do you want to address?
What is the need/opportunity/issue that you have identified.
2. Tell us about your idea and how you will approach it?
Please keep in mind the aim of this fund to explore, understand, question and change systems that perpetuate disadvantage in York.
3. Tell us what difference you hope this will make.
*Tell us how this impacts the need/opportunity/issue you hope to address.
Please keep in mind the aim of this fund to explore, understand, question and change systems that perpetuate disadvantage in York.*
4. Who else is involved in your idea, and how are they involved?
If you are working in partnership, please share who is the lead organisation.
5. How much money do you need? What do you think you will spend it on?
You do not need to provide a very detailed budget – although you are welcome to. Please provide as much information as you feel would support us to understand how your idea might be resourced.

How and when will your application be processed?

Deadline for both small and larger applications is 20th September 2021.

Applications should answer the five questions outlined above. They can be submitted via and of the following:

- **Online Application** (<https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/trcf-deciding-together-york>)
- **Word or PDF document** <https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/trcf-deciding-together-york>) and sent to grants@tworidingscf.org.uk or by post to Two Ridings Community Foundation, Pavilion 2000, Amy Johnson Way, Clifton Moor, York YO30 4XT.
- **Short film** (no more than 5 minutes in length). Sent to grants@tworidingscf.org.uk or by post to Two Ridings Community Foundation, Pavilion 2000, Amy Johnson Way, Clifton Moor, York YO30 4XT.

Please note that we have not received video applications previously so do bear with us as we manage this new media. Films will be transcribed before the decision making stage to enable anonymous and consistent review across all applications.

Successful applications over £10,000 will progress to a second stage where you will have the opportunity to talk about your idea with some of the people of York who have supported the development of this fund. Here you will answer some questions about your idea before a final decision is made. Please Note – there is only around one week between application decision stage1 and stage 2 (presentation). Please have this in mind as you pull your application together. We will confirm the date of stage 2 as soon as possible.

We expect to let everyone know the outcome of their application by 8th November 2021.

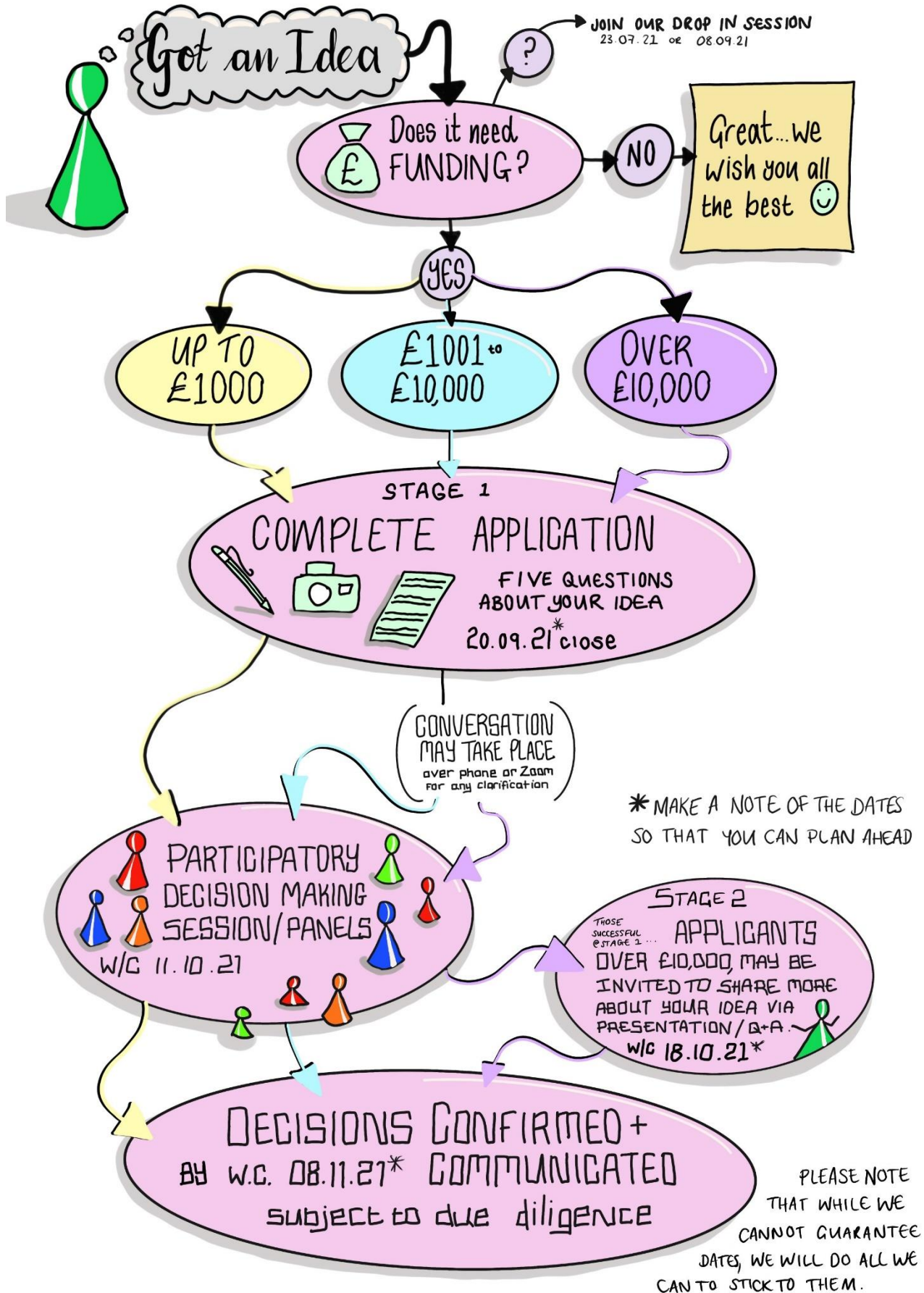
If you are successful, this will be subject to (Due Diligence), receipt and check of some or all the following documents:

- ✓ Governing document
- ✓ Details of the names and addresses of the management committee
- ✓ Most recent financial accounts
- ✓ Safeguarding policy (if working with children or vulnerable adults)

Please see overleaf an application pathway image.

Application Pathway

This is a participatory process, and the pathway for application and decision making is proportionate to the amount of money applied for. The image below outlines each pathway.



Useful links and further information

If you are interested in reading more about systems change there is lots out there. Here are a couple of resources from people/Organisations involved in the development of this fund.

Systems reading

There is lots to read about systems change. Below are a couple of pieces

- Ali Spaul's blog explores "stepping into Systems Change work": <https://alispaul148.com/blog/>
- Lankelly Chase Foundation's system behaviours document: <https://lankellychase.org.uk/our-approach/system-behaviours/>
- York Multiple Complex Needs Network <https://www.yorkmcn.org/systems>

Find out more about some of the partners working together on this fund:

Two Ridings, manage this fund and grant making locally: [Two Ridings Community Foundation | Giving across North & East Yorkshire \(tworidingscf.org.uk\)](https://www.tworidingscf.org.uk)

York MCN, KELLY TO something in relation to MCN role with Deciding Together ADD PLEASE: [HOME | YorkMCN.org](https://www.yorkmcn.org)

Lankelly Chase, funded the work: [Lankelly Chase](https://www.lankellychase.org.uk)

Art of Hosting, facilitated the participatory process: [Art of Hosting](https://www.artofhosting.com)

Contact

If you want to find out more, or have any questions, please join us as one of our drop-in sessions on:

- 10 – 11am 23rd July 2021
- 10 – 11am 8th September 2021

Sign up via Event Brite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/deciding-together-local-fund-for-york-tickets-163024630057>

If you cannot attend these sessions but need clarity on anything, please contact Ali Spaul in the first instance on:

07834 596576

aspaul@tworidingscf.org.uk

If you can't get hold of Ali (as she may be on annual leave) please contact Kelly Cunningham on:

kelly.cunningham@changing-lives.org.uk or 07593 730539

Appendix 1

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED –

The images below illustrate some of the aims of the fund.

