



National  
Academy  
for Social  
Prescribing



# Thriving Communities Fund (Social Prescribing)

Guidance for applicants

Supported by  
National Academy for Social  
Prescribing &  
Arts Council National Lottery  
Development Funds

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& Arts Council National Lottery Development Funds

The below is an outline summary of key information.  
Please see [Section three](#) for full eligibility criteria.

#### Summary of key information

##### What is the focus of the fund?

The Thriving Communities Fund will support local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCSFSE) projects that bring together place-based partnerships to improve and increase the range and reach of available social prescribing community activities – especially for those people most impacted by COVID-19 and health inequalities.

Partnerships supported by the fund will come together to plan and deliver community activities involving partners from:

- the arts, creativity and culture (including museums and libraries)
- sport
- nature
- financial wellbeing
- community advice
- and the wider VCFSE sector.

Funded activities will increase social connectedness, and help communities cope with the impact of COVID-19.

By working with those communities most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including black, Asian and ethnically diverse communities, the projects we will fund will help to:

- strengthen the range of social prescribing activities offered locally;
- enhance collaboration and networking between local organisations;
- and enable social prescribing link workers to connect people to more creative community activities and services.

Projects supported by the fund will also explore ways to make the resourcing of social prescribing activities more sustainable over time.

## Summary of key information (continued)

### Who can apply?

Applications can be led by voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCSFE) organisations working in **any** of the following sectors:

- Arts, and culture, including libraries, museums and heritage
- Sport, leisure and physical activity organisations
- Financial wellbeing, advice, food and practical support
- Environment and nature-based organisations
- Non-statutory health and care organisations, working with social prescribing link workers

These organisations may be registered charities, community interest companies, co-operative societies or community benefit societies.

A key part of each funded project will be to bring together the necessary place-based partners to work together across all these sectors to plan and deliver community activity.

As such, all applications must demonstrate a commitment to work with partner organisations from **all** of the above sectors in the course of the funded period.

All applications must evidence the commitment of **three core partner organisations – including at least one partner organisation from the arts and culture sector** – at the point the application is made.

At application stage, this could come in the form of complete or draft partnership agreements, letters of intent from partners, or clear statements of commitment from those partners.

A **confirmed, signed partnership agreement** with at least the three core partner organisations (including one from the arts and cultural sector) will be a condition of first payment should an application go on to be successful.

We encourage applicants to connect to local VCSFE infrastructure organisations, who may be able to help you forge local partnerships. For further suggestions on navigating partnerships across culture, sport, nature and beyond, please visit:

<https://socialprescribingacademy.org.uk>

<b>Summary of key information (continued)</b>	
<b>When is the deadline for applications?</b>	12pm (midday), Friday 8 January 2021
<b>How much can be applied for per application?</b>	Between £25,000 and £50,000
<b>When must the activity take place?</b>	Projects within the thriving communities fund will run for a year including planning and delivery time. They are expected to commence on 15 March 2021, and end on 31 March 2022.
<b>Minimum match funding from other sources</b>	<p>At least 20% of the total cash project budget must come from sources other than this Thriving Communities Fund or any other Arts Council England funding.</p> <p>We welcome ambitious proposals that include cash match contributions exceeding this 20% minimum threshold, as well as additional in-kind match funding contributions.</p> <p>Sources of cash match funding could include: NHS partners (Clinical Commissioning Groups, Primary Care Networks, Integrated Care Systems); local government; other trusts and foundations; philanthropy or corporate social responsibility; or a wide range of other possibilities.</p> <p>In-kind contributions can include support provided by partners, in addition to cash match – such as staff time, venue hire, project materials and equipment and online services.</p>
<b>Other key eligibility points</b>	<p>A statement of support from the relevant social prescribing link worker(s) for the geographical location of the proposal is required to support each application, which ensures that social prescribing link workers can connect people to the community activities being funded.</p> <p>There are a number of ways to connect to local link workers, including through making contact with your local Primary Care Networks, GP practices or Clinical Commissioning Group.</p>
<b>When will we make our decision?</b>	We will aim to notify applicants of our decision no later than Monday 8 March 2021.

## Assistance with your application

We are committed to being open and accessible and want to make the Thriving Communities Fund application process accessible to everyone.

We realise some people may find that there are barriers to applying to this fund, and we want to help people with access requirements to apply. If you do have an access support requirement, we may be able to offer you some additional support.

Please contact our Customer Services team on [enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk) or visit <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/contact-us>

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## Section one – introduction

### Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Thriving Communities Fund. Made possible by National Academy for Social Prescribing (providing £1.15m) and Arts Council England (providing £250k), the initiative also includes NHS England, Sport England, Natural England, the Office for Civil Society, the Money & Pensions Service and NHS Charities Together as strategic partners.

This guidance gives you information on how to apply for funding to activate and strengthen social prescribing in your area, especially to support the individuals and communities worst-hit by the coronavirus pandemic (including those experiencing heightened risk factors; in need of support for recovery and rehabilitation; subject to increased healthcare inequalities; facing financial, housing or legal instability; and those feeling the effects of the pandemic upon their physical, mental and social wellbeing, including through loneliness and social isolation).

The Thriving Communities Fund will support place-based partnerships, led by local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCSFSE) organisations, that improve and increase community activities, which social prescribing link workers can connect people to. These could be drawn from the following sectors:

- Arts, and culture, including libraries, museums and heritage
- Sport, leisure and physical activity organisations
- Financial wellbeing, advice, food and practical support projects
- Environment and nature-based organisations
- Health and care agencies, including social prescribing link workers

Each successful application will also need to show how they will bring together local partners to plan and deliver community-level activities that involve **all** these sectors.

Projects will also need to show that they are strengthening local partnerships, and the sustainability of social prescribing activities, over the longer term.

### About the National Academy for Social Prescribing

The National Academy for Social Prescribing was launched by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, on the 23 October 2019.

The Academy aims to help people live their best lives and bring about a social revolution in wellbeing, by encouraging partnerships across the arts, health, sports, leisure, and the natural environment that social prescribing link workers can connect people to.

[www.socialprescribingacademy.org.uk](http://www.socialprescribingacademy.org.uk)

## About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision.

Our new 10-year strategy, Let's Create, signals a clear commitment to advancing the contribution of the arts and culture to health and wellbeing, including through social prescribing.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

## About our other partners:

- **NHS England and NHS Improvement** leads the National Health Service (NHS) in England. Social prescribing is one of the key commitments of the February 2019 NHS Long-Term Plan. NHSE/I provides support to social prescribing link workers, commissioners and leaders in Integrated Care Systems and Primary Care Networks to implement social prescribing.
- **The Office for Civil Society**, within the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, is responsible for: stewarding strong, stable and more sustainable voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors; unlocking private and public resources to maximise social value; supporting communities by leading on volunteering and loneliness; and delivering opportunities for young people to realise their potential.
- **Sport England** is an arms-length body of government responsible for growing and developing grassroots sport and getting more people active across England. Their aim is to build an active nation through a combination of National Lottery funding and grant-in-aid from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.
- **Natural England** is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide. Natural England is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.
- **The Money and Pensions Service** is an arm's-length body, sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions. Its mission is to ensure everyone in the UK can easily access the information they need to make the right financial decisions for them throughout their lives, making the most of their money and pensions.
- **NHS Charities Together** is the new name of The Association of NHS Charities, the membership organisation and national charity representing, supporting and championing NHS Charities. They support the work and are a collective voice of the 240 official NHS Charities. Their vision is to inspire NHS Charities to become the Nation's biggest independent supporters of health and wellbeing.

## About Arts Council England's Development Funds 2018-22

Our Development Funds help us target particular challenges, opportunities or gaps, and create the environment for further creative and cultural development to take place. These funds will help us deliver our strategic vision, as set out in Let's Create 2020-30, of a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences.

Let's Create will apply from April 2020 and focuses on three Outcomes:

- **Creative People:** Everyone can develop and express their creativity throughout their life
- **Cultural Communities:** Villages, towns and cities thrive through a collaborative approach to culture
- **A Creative and Cultural Country:** England's cultural sector is innovative, collaborative and international.

Each Outcome is important and will work together with four Investment Principles. The Thriving Communities Fund will specifically contribute towards the Cultural Communities Outcome, and our commitments to:

- work with NHS England and other partners in health and social care;
- bring together place-based partnerships of cultural and wider community assets, healthcare partners and local government;
- reach those communities least likely to be engaged in culture.

### Advice giving

We have designed this application process to be as straightforward as possible, requesting only the information we need.

We will not be able to offer specific, one-to-one advice about eligibility, how to write your application or to read draft applications for this programme.

Our Customer Services team can help you to use the online application form or to set up or make any required updates to your applicant profile.

If you feel you face particular barriers in making an application, please contact our Customer Services team by emailing [enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk).

## Section two – purpose of the Thriving Communities Fund

### Aims and outcomes

Social prescribing connects people to community support through social prescribing link workers - who start with what matters to the person; create a shared plan; and introduce people to community activities and services, for practical and emotional support. The NHS Long-Term Plan supports Primary Care Networks (the local-level organising units of general practice services, covering population areas of 30-50,000) to introduce over 1,000 additional social prescribing link workers into their multi-disciplinary teams and enable 900,000 people to access social prescribing.

The Thriving Communities Fund will support local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCSFSE) projects that bring together place-based partnerships to improve and increase social prescribing community activities – especially for those people most impacted by COVID 19 and health inequalities.

In addition to stimulating the provision of such activities, these partnerships will seek to embed long-term collaboration and sharing of practice at a local level, between organisations across the arts and culture; sport, leisure and physical activity; nature and the environment; financial wellbeing, advice, food and practical support; and health and care.

Partnerships supported by the programme will also explore ways to secure sustainable funding and support for local social prescribing activities – first by securing match-funding for the project, and then by building connections with commissioners, funders and donors over time.

This is fully aligned with the aims and outcomes of the newly created National Academy for Social Prescribing, which has been established to champion social prescribing and the work of local communities in connecting people for wellbeing, by:

- Raising the profile of social prescribing – locally, regionally and nationally;
- Finding the resources to make social prescribing sustainable;
- Building relationships at all levels, whether between government departments or local grass-roots organisations
- Shaping and sharing the evidence base
- Spreading what works

You can find out more about National Academy for Social Prescribing's aims and vision here: <https://socialprescribingacademy.org.uk/about-us/our-vision>

The Thriving Communities Fund is also closely aligned with the Cultural Communities outcome of Arts Council England's new 2020-30 strategy *Let's Create*, which strongly foregrounds the importance of forming partnerships across government to explore the potential of approaches such as social prescribing. The focus of the programme on those most impacted by the pandemic and wider health inequalities also addresses our 2020-30 Investment Principle of Inclusivity and Relevance. For further details on *Let's Create*, visit:

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/letscreate>

## **How much funding is available?**

The total budget available for this fund is £1.4 million. £1.15 million of this is provided by the National Academy for Social Prescribing, and the remaining £250,000 is drawn from Arts Council England's National Lottery funding.

## **Geographical focus of the fund**

The fund is seeking an even spread of high-quality projects across the seven NHS England regions:

- the North West
- Yorkshire & the North East
- the Midlands
- East of England
- the South West
- London
- the South East

This distribution will be a balancing factor in our decision-making.

## Section three – eligibility

Please read the eligibility requirements for the fund carefully. If you do not meet any of these requirements, we will be unable to consider your application for funding.

### Eligibility requirements

#### Who can apply?

Applications can be led by voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCSFE) organisations working in **any** of the following sectors:

- Arts, and culture, including libraries, museums and heritage
- Sport, leisure and physical activity organisations
- Financial wellbeing, advice, food and practical support
- Environment and nature-based organisations
- Non-statutory health and care organisations, working with social prescribing link workers

These organisations may be registered charities, community interest companies, co-operative societies or community benefit societies.

A key part of each funded project will be to bring together the necessary place-based partners to work together across all of these sectors to plan and deliver community activity.

As such, every application must demonstrate a commitment to work with partner organisations from **all** of the above sectors in the course of the funded period.

All applications must evidence the commitment of **three core partner organisations – including at least one partner organisation from the arts and culture sector** – at the point the application is made.

At application stage, this could come in the form of complete or draft partnership agreements, letters of intent from partners, or clear statements of commitment from those partners.

A **confirmed, signed partnership agreement** with at least the three core partner organisations (including one from the arts and culture sector) will be a condition of first payment should an application go on to be successful.

We encourage applicants to connect to local VCSFE infrastructure organisations, who may be able to help you build new partnerships. For further suggestions on navigating partnerships across culture, sport, nature and beyond, visit:

<https://socialprescribingacademy.org.uk>

## Eligibility requirements (continued)

### What activity can be supported?

Grants made through the Thriving Communities Fund can be used to support partnership development, research and planning activities, and delivery of public-facing community activities. Funded activity must take place between March 2021 and March 2022.

Successful applicants to the Thriving Communities Fund will be expected to increase and improve community activities and support for people impacted by COVID-19, by developing partnerships across **all** of the following local sectors:

- Arts, and culture, including libraries, museums and heritage
- Sport, leisure and physical activity organisations
- Financial wellbeing, advice, food and practical support projects
- Environment and nature-based organisations
- Health and care agencies, including social prescribing link workers

Partnerships will plan and deliver a programme of community activities. These will enable people to engage in positive activities including the arts and creativity, sport and physical activity, and connection to nature. They will also support people to deal with practical issues (such as food and debt), and to build confidence and social connections.

By building partnerships with the whole range of local organisations who support health and wellbeing, applicants can support people holistically, meeting a wider range of needs.

Working together in partnership should also help applicants to be more sustainable, attract more local funding to continue activities, and reach a wider audience.

It is essential that applicants build partnerships with social prescribing link workers, to enable link workers to connect people to activities.

## Eligibility requirements (continued)

<p><b>Who cannot apply?</b></p>	<p>We expect applicants to the fund to comprise of registered charities, community interest companies and industrial provident societies.</p> <p>This fund is not open to for profit organisations, statutory agencies or individuals.</p> <p>Smaller, unincorporated organisations can be part of project partnerships, but cannot be the lead applicant.</p>
<p><b>What activity cannot be funded?</b></p>	<p>We are unable to fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that do not include activities that support communities impacted by COVID-19.</li> <li>• Applications which do not demonstrate the required partnerships specified</li> <li>• Proposals that do not demonstrate a plan to engage the full range of specified sectors</li> <li>• Activities (including buying goods or services) that have started, been bought, ordered or contracted before we make a decision about your application. This is because we cannot fund activity retrospectively</li> <li>• Costs that are already paid for by other income including your own funds or any other funding</li> <li>• Capital (building and equipment purchase) costs</li> <li>• Salaried posts (though additional time-limited staff costs relevant to the delivery of the project can be included)</li> <li>• costs related to the promotion of the beliefs of political or faith organisations</li> <li>• Any other non project-specific costs</li> </ul>
<p><b>How much can be applied for per application?</b></p>	<p>Between £25,000 and £50,000.</p> <p>The amount requested should reflect the scale and ambition of your proposal.</p> <p>We envisage that most awards will be at the upper end of this band, and encourage applications with a corresponding scale and level of ambition, but we will consider all applications.</p>

## Eligibility requirements (continued)

### How much match funding from sources other than ACE is required?

At least 20% of the total cash project budget must come from sources other than this Thriving Communities Fund and other Arts Council England funding.

We welcome cash match contributions beyond this 20% minimum threshold, as well as additional in-kind match funding contributions.

We expect this minimum cash match to be confirmed at the point of application.

### Delivery timetable

Activities must start no earlier than Monday 15 March 2021

Activities must end no later than Thursday 31 March 2022

Funded projects, including planning and delivery time, should be about one year long.

## Partnerships and partnership agreements

If we decide to fund your project we will enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the lead organisation. This organisation must accept our terms and conditions for grants and will be accountable to us for all monitoring information, how all the money is spent and for the full and successful delivery of the project.

However, this fund requires lead applicant organisations to work in partnership with other organisations across a number of sectors, as outlined above. If we award a grant, before the project can start, we must approve a partnership agreement between the lead organisation and the other core partners involved in the project.

For this fund, all applications must demonstrate a commitment to work with partner organisations from **all** of the sectors noted in the [Eligibility](#) section in the course of the funded period.

All applications must evidence the commitment of **three core partner organisations – including at least one partner organisation from the arts and culture sector** – at the point the application is made.

At application stage, this could come in the form of complete or draft partnership agreements, letters of intent from partners, or clear statements of commitment from those partners.

A confirmed, signed partnership agreement with at least the three core partner organisations (including one from the arts and culture sector) will be a condition of first payment should an application go on to be successful. If this is not provided, the grant offer will be withdrawn.

There is further guidance about [Partnership agreements](#) and what we would expect to see in them on our website.

## Section four – what you will be expected to deliver

We welcome applications that will make a contribution to achieving the aims and outcomes outlined in [Section two](#) above.

Successful applicants to the Thriving Communities Fund will be expected to deliver three strands of activity:

- To both bring together the necessary place-based partners to work together, including arts, culture and heritage; sport, leisure and physical activity; environment and nature-based organisations; financial wellbeing, advice, food and practical support projects; and health and care agencies, including social prescribing link workers.
- To plan and deliver a programme of community-level activities across all of these sectors to enhance the local social prescribing offer – especially where this addresses the needs of individuals and communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- To explore ways to make both the partnerships and the funding for such activities sustainable over the longer-term, beyond the end of this funded programme.

### **Skills and experience needed to deliver successfully**

We expect lead applicants to the Thriving Communities Fund to:

- Be committed to supporting the communities most impacted by COVID-19 and health inequalities, working with them and involving them in the development of community activities and support
- Have the knowledge, contacts and expertise to credibly bring together appropriate local partnerships
- Have the capacity and processes in place to plan and manage community activities and support, as part of a wider partnership
- Have the capacity and processes to receive and administer a grant of this size

## Section five – how to apply

### Making an application

#### When to apply

The online application form will open on Grantium on **Monday 23 November 2020**. Applications must be submitted by **12pm (midday) Friday 8 January 2021**. Applications submitted after this time will not be considered.

### Application process

**If you do not have a profile in our online application system (Grantium), you will need to set one up. It can take up to 5 working days to validate profiles, so please do this immediately.**

If you have not submitted your applicant profile for validation before 12pm (midday) on Monday 4 January 2021, we will not be able to guarantee its validation in time for you to apply to this fund.

Please be aware that Arts Council England will be closed from Thursday 24 December 2020 until Monday 4 January 2021. We are unable to help you with a query during these dates.

#### 1. Read this guidance carefully and contact us

This guidance gives you information on how to apply and answers some common questions. If you have any further questions you can contact our Customer Services team at [enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk)

#### 2. Prepare and submit your application

You must apply through [Grantium](#).

The Grantium guidance for applicants **available on our website** should provide you with all the information that you need about how to access the system and complete your online application.

### The application form

The application form will ask you four questions and ask for a set of mandatory attachments.

We have kept the questions as straightforward as possible so that you can provide us with the information, we need to make a decision. Some questions have prompts we'd like you to consider when providing your answer.

The application will firstly ask for some basic details including the amount you are requesting from us.

We will then ask you to provide answers to the following questions:

**1) Tell us about the people and organisations who will be involved in your partnership.**

*(up to 4,000 characters including spaces, approximately 700 words)*

**Prompts:**

- Who is the lead organisation, and why are they the right partner to lead this work?
- Who are your (min. three) core partners in making this application, and what will they contribute?
- What other local organisations will you engage across the specified range of sectors, as the project progresses?
- What role will link workers and other health and care partners play in your project?
- How will you ensure that all partners are fully involved in the project? What governance arrangements will you put in place?

**2) What community activities and support do you intend to develop for communities most impacted by COVID?**

*(up to 4,000 characters including spaces, approximately 700 words)*

**Prompts:**

- What types/range of activity will your project provide?
- How will you work alongside communities impacted by COVID to involve them in developing community activities and support?
- How many people do you plan to reach, over which geographical areas?
- What communities impacted by COVID will you provide support to, and how have you worked with them to identify their needs?
- How will these activities be made visible to social prescribing link workers?

**3) Tell us about the impact your project will have.**

*(up to 4,000 characters including spaces, approximately 700 words)*

- How will you know whether this partnership project has:
  - o made social prescribing more sustainable locally;
  - o made a difference to communities impacted by COVID
  - o made a difference to underserved groups in society (e.g. D/deaf and Disabled people, black, Asian or other ethnically diverse communities, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ people),
- What will you measure? eg the numbers of participants & partner organisations; the diversity profile of participants; use of metrics to track progress, eg ONS 4 + Loneliness measures, Wenwebs etc
- How will you demonstrate impact – capturing stories of the differences made to individuals, organisations and places, and communicating this creatively?

#### **4) Briefly outline your high-level work plan for the project, including milestones, review dates, and risk management summary**

*(up to 4,000 characters including spaces, approximately 700 words)*

- If your application is successful, we will ask for a more detailed project plan and budget; please briefly summarise your current plans here.

### **Attachments**

You **must** upload the following mandatory attachments on the 'Attachments' screen:

1. Complete or provisional/draft partnership agreements with your (min. three) core partners including your arts and culture partner organisation, or letters of support from each of these prospective partners, outlining how they plan to work with you on your Thriving Communities Fund project.
2. A statement of support from the relevant social prescribing link worker(s) for the geographical location of the proposal.
3. A detailed budget for the activity showing proposed income and expenditure (as an Excel sheet or similar)

Allowable formats: jpg, xls, xlsx, jpeg, pdf, doc, docx, pptx, and ppt.

The combined limit on file size for all the attachments taken together is **10 megabytes**.

We will use the information you give us in your application form and in any attachments, any publicly-held information about your organisation (and any other information we hold about you if you are a National Portfolio Organisation) to decide whether we will offer you a grant. If your application does not contain the information we need in the format we ask for it to be in, we might not be able to consider your application. After you have read this guidance, if you have any further questions please contact us.

### **After you submit your application**

We will conduct an eligibility check within ten working days of the deadline for applications. If your application is not eligible, this means that we cannot process it any further and it will not be considered for funding. If your application is not eligible we will write to you to let you know, and will explain our decision.

## Section six – how we will make our decision

We will aim to notify applicants of our decision no later than Monday 8 March 2021.

We will check your application to ensure that you have provided all the information we have requested.

A balancing panel will review all applications and make recommendations to the decision panel. The balancing panel is made up of core programme partners – Arts Council England, National Academy for Social Prescribing, NHS England and NHS Improvement, Sport England, Natural England, The Money and Pensions Service, and NHS Charities Together.

We will make our decision based on the information you provide in your application, any further information that we request and, where relevant, data and information from the Charity Commission and Companies House websites relating to your constitution and audited accounts from the past two years. If you are a National Portfolio Organisation we may also refer to any other information we hold about you.

We are expecting more demand for this programme than we have resources available. Following this assessment of all the applications we receive, we will then look at a range of 'balancing criteria' to consider if we are achieving the right spread of investment. The balancing criteria we will consider are as follows:

- **Diversity:** we want to make sure that, as far as possible, our funding supports partnerships that reflect the diversity of communities across England.
- **Geographic spread:** we will take into account the need to support partnerships across England. We will also consider a spread of applications across the NHS Improvement's seven regions (see section 2, above).
- **Range of activity:** we will consider your ability to work across the range of partners, including sport, leisure and physical activity organisations, financial wellbeing, advice, food and practical support projects, arts, cultural and heritage agencies, environment and nature-based organisations, health and care agencies, including social prescribing link workers.

These balancing criteria will be used to ensure a good spread of funded projects according to each balancing criterion, and to differentiate between a number of proposals that are considered fundable.

### Terms and Conditions

If your application goes on to be successful, all grantholders must agree to our [Terms and conditions](#).

## **Making a complaint**

As an organisation, we will always listen to and respond to any concerns that you may have. If you would like to make a complaint about either the service you have received from Arts Council England or the way we have handled your application, we have a process that you can use.

Please note that Arts Council England does not have an appeals process and for this reason, we are unable to accept complaints that relate solely to the decision we have made rather than how we have made it.

For more information, please visit the 'Complaints' section of our website, under 'Contact us' ([www.artscouncil.org.uk/contact](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/contact)). Additionally, you can email [complaints@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:complaints@artscouncil.org.uk) for more information.

## **State aid**

We do not anticipate that grants awarded as part of this programme will constitute state aid, given the nature of the activity we expect to support. However, we are unable to confirm that any grants are definitively not state aid, as the status can change throughout delivery. If you are unsure whether state aid regulations may apply, you should take independent legal advice.

## Section seven – Freedom of Information Act

The Arts Council is committed to being as open as possible. We believe that the public has a right to know how we spend public funds and how we make our funding decisions.

We are also listed as a public authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. By law, we may have to provide your application documents and information about our assessment to any member of the public who asks for them under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We may not release those parts of the documents which are covered by one or more of the exemptions under the Act. Please see the Freedom of Information website at <https://ico.org.uk/> for information about freedom of information generally and the exemptions.

We will not release any information about applications during the assessment period, as this may interfere with the decision-making process.

## Section eight – Data Protection

The Arts Council is committed to using any personal information (or personal data) we collect on a lawful, fair and transparent basis, respecting your legal rights as an individual in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679), the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and other applicable laws that regulate the use and privacy of personal data (Data Protection Law).

As part of us meeting this requirement, we have published our General Privacy Notice for you to refer to [here](#). This tells you more about the personal data the Arts Council collects; the different purposes that we use it for and on what legal basis; who we may share that personal data with; how long we keep it; and your legal rights, including your right to contact us and receive information regarding the personal data about you that we may hold from time to time.

For further information about our obligations and your rights under Data Protection Law, as well as how to report a concern if you believe that your personal data is being collected or used illegally, please also see the Information Commissioner's Office website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)



### Contact us

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### Get in touch

[socialprescribingacademy.org.uk](http://socialprescribingacademy.org.uk)

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