**Health Inequalities and Wellbeing Fund: Application Guidance**

**Background**

£772,402 is being made available to establish a fund to improve outcomes on the key areas of Health and Social Inequalities and Health and Wellbeing. This fund is non-recurring (one-off) and is to be allocated by Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership by 31 March 2024. Funding can be used over a two-year period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024).

The funding programme has been developed by representatives from the HSCP, Falkirk Council and CVS Falkirk. Both recognise short-term thematic funding programmes that are currently being administered locally, together with other funds allocated from the Scottish Government. Details of these funds are provided within Appendix 1.

**Fund Outcomes**

This fund aims to develop community-based services and projects that minimise health and social inequalities and improve people’s health and wellbeing. This fund supports two key priorities - health and social inequalities and health and wellbeing. Applicants must support at least one priority but can also support both. Further information regarding health and social inequalities is provided within Appendix 2.

Projects supporting health and social inequalities:

* Can be targeted towards reducing health or social inequalities for a particular group or community.
* Can support people, groups, or communities whose health and wellbeing has been most adversely impacted by Covid-19.
* Can support projects funded beyond the scope of the HSCP, where match funding is provided and there is a clear demonstration of whole system impact. For example, a project focussing on families including children, will be considered where part funded by another source.
* Collaborative working is encouraged to ensure that a whole systems approach is adopted to tackling health and social inequalities.
* Must also support at least one priority of the [Public Health Priorities for Scotland](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/corporate-report/2018/06/scotlands-public-health-priorities/documents/00536757-pdf/00536757-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00536757.pdf):
	+ Priority 1: A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities
	+ Priority 2: A Scotland where we flourish in our early years
	+ Priority 3: A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing
	+ Priority 4: A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
	+ Priority 5: A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all
	+ Priority 6: A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

Projects supporting health and wellbeing:

* Can support projects or services that contribute towards improved health and wellbeing within localities. [Locality profiles](https://falkirkhscp.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2018/01/Locality-Profiles.pdf) can help inform specific key areas of health and wellbeing improvement within localities.
* Can be used for projects that support the development of recommendations outlined in the [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-review-adult-social-care-scotland/documents/), particularly in relation to earlier intervention and prevention, service user and carer participation, and self-management. Relevant IRASC Recommendations:
* Projects that help people to access care and support when they need it (IRASC Recommendation 3)
* Projects that can respond appropriately to the needs of local citizens, including for prevention and low-level support (IRASC Recommendation 6)
* Projects that support carers to carry out their caring role and to take a break from caring (IRASC Recommendation 11)
* Projects that enable people to stay in their own homes and communities, to maintain and develop rich social connections and to exercise as much autonomy as possible in decisions about their lives (IRASC Recommendation 31)

**Basic Eligibility Criteria**

* Funding can be used for a maximum of two years, from 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024.
* We will accept proposals from community, third sector groups and statutory organisations.
* Organisations can apply for up to **£25k per annum** for the two-year period as fund is non-recurring.
* Preference will be given to proposals that include match funding. This is required where services go beyond the scope of integration. For example, this fund can be used to support adults, but match funding will be required to cover costs for children and young people.
* Match funding can be direct (finance) or in-direct (existing staff and volunteer time).
* We will accept proposals for 100% funding if activity is in-scope of integrated health and social care. For a list of in-scope services, see appendix within [Integration Scheme](https://falkirkhscp.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2018/01/Integration-Scheme.pdf).
* Funding can be used to continue a project initially funded by short-term funds (as highlighted in Appendix 1), with evidence of good impact via evaluation.

Funds CANNOT be used for:

* Replacing core funding (although it can be used to add value to core provision where a specific or short-term need has been identified)
* Un-constituted groups
* The sole benefit of one individual
* Private companies or sole traders
* Activities promoting religious or political beliefs
* Activities supporting people not resident in the Falkirk Local Authority area

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

As a condition of your award, you are required to monitor and report on how the funding has been spent and the impact that it has had. Monitoring will include what difference the funding has made to the community and progress made in achieving the outcomes as set out within your proposal. Evaluation will include information about the number and types of people who benefited but will mostly concentrate on qualitative information including snapshots or case studies.

**Application Process**

Funding proposals will be assessed by a panel of representatives from Falkirk HSCP, Falkirk Council and Third Sector. The panel will make funding recommendations and Falkirk HSCP Senior Leadership Team will take final award decisions.

There will be two rounds of applications. Any future rounds of applications will be dependent on the level of demand of previous deadlines.

All eligible applications submitted by the first two deadlines will be assessed on own merit, regardless of applicant i.e., no priority will be applied to either statutory or third sector applications.

In addition to open calls for proposals, the Senior Leadership Team may commission specific projects or services during the funding period. This will be based on needs identified within locality profiles or other strategic needs assessments.

**Application Deadlines**

Applications will launch on Tuesday 1 March 2022.

* First round of applications: **Friday 15 April 2022**
* Second round of applications: **Friday 17 June 2022**

**How to Apply**

Please complete the application form and submit your proposal along with any supporting documents via email to: integration@falkirk.gov.uk.

**Appendix 1: Overview of Funds Available**

**Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund**

This fund is open to third sector groups and organisations. This fund aims to tackle mental health inequalities and increase community-led support options for people aged over 16 years old across Falkirk. Further information, including the type of projects supported can be found [here](https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk/falkirk-communities-mental-health-and-wellbeing-fund/).

**Community Based Adult Learning Fund**

CVS Falkirk are working with Falkirk Council and the Adult Learners Network to create an initial business plan before confirmation of the grant. Groups may access this funding to pilot projects and activities with groups and communities of interest. CVS Falkirk can provide highlight the most appropriate funding strands to organisations.

**Covid-19 Response Grant 2021-2022**

Applications will be considered from organisations across Forth Valley which support and connect communities to respond to Covid-19. Grants can be applied for up to a maximum of £500. More information about the organisations and projects previously awarded can be found [here](https://nhsforthvalley.com/health-services/health-promotion/community-grants/).

Grants can be used for:

* A range of health and wellbeing activities in response to Covid-19 and must address a reduction in [health inequalities](http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/1184/tackling-inequalities-leaflet-the-right-to-health_apr2016_english.pdf) and/or improve [mental health and wellbeing](http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/1626/inequalities-briefing-10_mental-health_english_nov_2017.pdf).
* Piloting new ideas and initiatives or adapting previous activities.
* Development and training of employees, volunteers or clients directly relating to the work of the programme.
* Equipment which directly relates to the work of the activity.
* Previous applicants must demonstrate how they plan to build on previous activities to create sustainable projects.

**Falkirk Food Futures Fund**

This fund aims to support organisations to address food insecurity in Falkirk and build a fairer resilient and sustainable food future. Application proposals must meet **outcome** **one** and **at least three** other outcomes:

1. Improve access to both dignified, nutritious, affordable, and sustainable food in Falkirk communities.
2. Build capacity and/or capability within community organisations staff or volunteer teams
3. Improve health and wellbeing via improvements in our food system and food environment.
4. Provide opportunities for communities to cook, grow and eat together.
5. Increase availability and use of seasonal, locally grown and produced food
6. Support the local food economy
7. Redistribute acceptable surplus food
8. Reduce food waste
9. Improve access to and awareness of digital networks and platforms
10. Develop community reuse/climate hubs which promote net zero lifestyles

**Appendix 2: Health and Social Inequalities – Background**

**‘Health inequalities:** unfair and avoidable differences in people’s health across social groups and between different population groups…

Health inequalities go against the principles of social justice because they are avoidable. They do not occur randomly or by chance. They are socially determined by circumstances largely beyond an individual’s control. These circumstances disadvantage people and limit their chance to live longer, healthier lives.

[What are health inequalities? - Health inequalities - Public Health Scotland](http://www.healthscotland.scot/health-inequalities/what-are-health-inequalities#:~:text=What%20are%20health%20inequalities%3F%20Health%20inequalities%20are%20the,and%20%E2%80%98inequities%E2%80%99%20to%20denote%20unjust%20differences%20between%20groups.), 24 December 2021

Health and social inequalities can present themselves in many different forms such as life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and access to/experience of health services. As these inequalities are evaluated by national and local governments as well as health bodies, it is becoming apparent that health and social inequalities is a growing issue. Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership encourages collaborative work with partners to minimise and resolve health and social inequalities. The fund provides leverage to enable this collective working – by understanding the complexities of such inequalities, Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership are willing to invest funding beyond the scope of the Partnership.

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| **Organisation** | **Report** | **Priority** |
| Falkirk IJB | HSCP Remobilisation Plan update | Ensure carers and supported in their caring role |
|  |  | Focus on early intervention, prevention and harm reduction |
|  |  | Alcohol and Drug Partnership will align with local evidenced need |
|  |  | Help those with learning disabilities |
|  |  | Partners will work together to address the determinants of health and social inequalities  |
| NHS Forth Valley | A Thriving Forth Valley: NHS Forth Valley Health Improvement Strategy 2017-2021 | Children and Early Years |
|  |  | Worthwhile Work |
|  |  | Substance Abuse |
|  |  | Population Health Improvement Programmes |
| Falkirk Community Planning Partnership | Falkirk Plan | Mental Health & Wellbeing |
|  |  | Substance Use |
|  |  | Economic Recovery |
| Scottish Government | Covid-19: Framework for Decision Making – Assessing the Four Harms of the Crisis | Focus on the indirect impact of Covid-19 on both health and social care services and wider impacts on public health |
|  |  | Overlap to some extent with the wider physical mental health impacts of Harm 2 [previous priority] so, as part of the assessment process, care is taken not to double count impacts’ |
| NHS Health Scotland | Reducing Health Inequalities: What NHS Non-Executive Directors can do to make a difference | Encourage improved housing policy to adopt adequate levels of good quality, affordable social housing with general improvements to the neighbourhood |
|  |  | Ensure that individuals first point of contact when receiving health care is informed and enabled to transfer to appropriate service |
|  |  | Prioritise those who are disadvantaged population groups, intensive support and starting young |
| NHS Health Scotland | The role of Health and Social Care Partnerships in reducing health inequalities | Quality services with allocation of resources proportionate to need |
|  |  | Train the workforce to understand their role in reducing inequalities |
|  |  | Effective partnership across sectors to help reduce health inequalities |
|  |  | Mitigation of inequalities through employment processes |
|  |  | Mitigation of inequalities through procurement and commissioning process |
|  |  | Leadership and advocating to reduce health inequalities |
| Public Health Scotland | The Health Inequalities Framework | Offer additional training to staff members to make them aware of cultural differences |
|  |  | Offer adaptable services that can help those who are not literate or are not fluent in English |
|  |  | Promote services in a way that reaches those who have little engagements with health services |
|  |  | NHS staff advocate for health to be considered in strategies for housing, local environment, transport and education |