The NNS Northfield Fund Factsheet

Neighbourhood Network Schemes are locality and constituency-based networks funded by Birmingham City Council which enable the engagement with and investment in community assets. This is for the purpose of supporting older people to connect with individuals, groups, organisations, activities, services, and places in their local neighbourhood.

The fund aims to support local communities and projects, with a focus on supporting people over 50 within the Northfield area of Birmingham which have a focus on the themes listed in the Fund Aims.

Fund Aims

The fund is looking for applications that seek to provide opportunities which support older people to:

- Remain engaged with social activity
- Live healthy lifestyles
- Increase their financial capability
- Retain their independence in their home, whether it is their own home, rented accommodation or independent sheltered housing
- Aid families and carers to help them feel more supported

The priorities for the fund in 2026 - 2027 include:

- Mental Health
- Falls prevention
- Digital inclusion/safety
- Supporting diverse communities
- Inclusive communication

What will we support?

- Start-up costs for a new project.
- To extend or develop an existing project.
- To purchase equipment or resources.

- Volunteer costs

Grants of up to £10,000 are available for organisations in Edgbaston. The minimum grant request is £500.

Funding must be spent within 2 years.

Groups will need to be working actively within the wards of Northfield defined by the Parliamentary Constituency boundaries.

We expect all applicants to contact the NNS Lead Facilitators in advance of applying to ensure that their project fits with the NNS programme locally.

Northfield:
Northfield Community Partnership
NNSTeam@northfieldcommunity.org

Deadlines

The NNS Northfield Fund is a rolling fund, without specific deadlines, you can apply at any time. The panel meet every other month.

Eligibility

You can apply to this fund if you are one of the following:

- Registered Charities and Charitable Incorporated Organisations, but applications from the following will be considered:
  - Constituted Community groups
  - Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
  - Parish Councils, Schools, PTAs and Churches if community benefit can be demonstrated (but see 'Sorry we cannot fund' below}
  - Community Interest Company* - for community benefit
  - Co-operative - registered Community Benefit Society and Registered Industrial and Provident Society

*Funding to Community Interest Companies and other non-charities may include conditions to restrict funding to charitable objectives only.

Additionally, your organisation/company income level must be equal to or less than £500,000, as shown in your most recent annual accounts.

Organisations with a higher income may be considered for a grant, depending on the needs of community. This is at the panel's discretion. Any such organisations will need to speak to the Lead Facilitator for their area prior to applying.

What we cannot fund

- Projects that do not take place within the specified wards or provide a majority benefit to residents in the area
- Individuals or sole traders
- Capital builds
- Direct replacement of statutory obligation and public funding.
- Promotion of religious or political activities.
- Groups with significant financial free reserves.
- Retrospective grants.
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans.
- National charities (but we could consider local branches who have their own bank account and management committee).
- Overseas travel or expeditions.
- Medical research and equipment for statutory or private healthcare.
- General appeals.
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes).
- Statutory work in educational institutions.
- Sponsored or fundraising events or groups raising funds to distribute to other causes.
- Schools, Churches, Parish Councils or PTA's unless community benefit is demonstrated.

Additional Supporting Information

To be eligible to apply you must be able to provide:

- Proof that your organisation has a governing body with at least three unrelated people as members. You will need to submit a list of those members who have bank authorisation (at least two unrelated signatories).
- A written constitution / articles / set of rules.
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's income, expenditure and balance of funds and reserves.
- A bank statement from the last three months.
- A copy of your safeguarding policy(s). If you have any separate safeguarding procedures, please share them.
- A copy of your equal opportunities / EDI policy.
- Quotes for capital items over £300.

Your policies must show clearly that they are within their review date.

The documents listed above must be provided when submitting the application form. If any documents are unavailable at the time of submission, they must be provided within 7 days of submitting the application. Failure to provide the required documents within this timeframe will result in the application being rejected.

All grant applicants will be expected to participate in any appropriate publicity as requested by HoECF.

For guidance on impact reporting visit the Foundations website.

Additional Impact Measurement

Applicants who receive a grant of over £5,000 are required to measure impact by using one of the following public health impact measure tools:

What are the Public Health Impact Measures?

Public Health are helping to fund the NNS in return for which they have asked that Impact Measures are used by some NNS grant funded projects, details of types of projects included are set out below. The measures are used for activities that aim to improve health and wellbeing across Birmingham. The aim is to standardise measures used, to provide clarity and transparency, and enable accurate and meaningful assessment against KPIs.

The commissioning team, responsible for the NNS, have adapted these measures and put in place a process to record and return the data.

Your local NNS Team will be able to provide the forms you need and explain the process.

Using the Impact Measures will demonstrate the positive contribution that your organisation's project (and the NNS) is making to the health and wellbeing of Birmingham's older citizens, and younger disabled adults.

The table below shows the measures and how they align to 5 Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) from our agreement with Public Health.

Validated Impact Measure	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
30-Second Chair Stand Test OR Active Lives Questionnaire	% Fairly Physically Active or Better

Validated Impact Measure	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
Mental Health Wellbeing Questionnaire (WEMWBS)	% increase in Wellbeing by 3 or more points on WEMWBS 14-point scale
Social Isolation Tool (The three-item UCLA loneliness scale)	% not self-reporting loneliness
Nutrition Toolkit	% self-reporting an increase in nutritional understanding
All Aspects of Health Literacy Questionnaire (AAHLS)	% self-reporting an increase in health literacy

Which NNS funded Projects need to use a Public Health Impact Measure?

Projects awarded an NNS grant of £5000 or more*

1. Types of project activities in scope:
   a. social participation,
   b. healthier lifestyles (physical, mental, and social)
   c. carers support
2. Types of project activity excluded:
   a. General information advice and guidance / income maximisation services
   b. Independence at home, such as minor repairs and garden clearance

For more information, visit the Foundation's Essential Information page.