

## Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for Adults (Dundee) Pre-launch Webinar Notes

**Date:** 2 September 2026

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### Purpose of Meeting

To provide an overview of the upcoming Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for Adults (Dundee), including fund priorities, eligibility criteria, application process, support available to applicants, and FAQs.

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### Fund Background

- The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults (the Fund) was established in October 2021 and to date has distributed around £99 million to community initiatives supporting mental health and wellbeing across Scotland
- Funding for the sixth year (£15 million across Scotland) was announced in March 2025.
- The upcoming round is the sixth year of funding
- **This year the fund is open to projects that are one year/12 months in length.**
- The Fund has a strong focus on prevention and early intervention and aims to support grass roots community groups in tackling mental health inequalities and addressing priority issues of:
  - social isolation and loneliness;
  - suicide prevention; and
  - tackling poverty and inequality.
- The Fund will continue to be delivered through a locally focused and co-ordinated approach via local partnership groups:
  - TSI Dundee (formerly DVVA), External Funding (DCC), Dundee Partnership, DHSCP, Public Health, FORT, Suicide Prevention (DCC), Hope Point

### National Priorities

- The National Guidance from Scottish Government state The Fund should be inclusive of the following priority 'at risk' groups:
  - Women, particularly women experiencing gender based violence; people with a long term health condition or disability; people from a Minority Ethnic background; refugees and those with no recourse to public funds; people facing socio-economic disadvantage; people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage; people with diagnosed mental illness; people affected by psychological trauma (including adverse childhood experiences); people who have experienced bereavement or loss; people disadvantaged by

geographical location (particularly remote and rural areas); older people (aged 50 and above); people with neurological conditions or learning disabilities, and from neurodiverse communities; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) communities; and young people aged 16-24

### Dundee Local Priorities

- Groups which were identified by the Strategic Oversight Group as being priority groups in the local area are:
    - Young men.
    - LGBTQ+ young people transitioning from child to adult services.
    - Communities affected by substance use.
    - Black and minority ethnic communities.
    - People experiencing menopause and perimenopause.
    - Neurodiverse communities.
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### Eligibility Criteria

- Not much has changed since previous years of the fund with regards to eligibility and that this criteria comes directly from Scottish Government.

Applicants must:

- Meet at least one of the outcomes:
  - social isolation and loneliness
  - suicide prevention
  - tackling poverty and inequality
    - Applicants don't have to meet all of the outcomes, they can focus on one or multiple but should be advised to focus on the outcomes and expand them in terms of project deliverables.
- The people who will benefit from your activity are **adults (16+) who live in Dundee**
  - In the past there were enquiries about applications for late stage high school pupils. This is fine, as long as they're 16 plus, then projects should be eligible.
  - However, if you're dealing with a mixed group of young people, then you can't really differentiate between age-groups and would not be eligible. Ensure your project is applicable and that those benefitting are aged 16+.
- **Avoid duplicating existing services in their area**
  - Advised for applicants to find out what projects and services are ongoing through TSI Dundee, speaking to local networks, the council and community planning. Stated that research is important to ensure your project isn't duplicating work by another group.

- If projects are similar then highlight the differences and what differentiates the projects.
- Have a **gross income of less than £1 million**
- Have an **independent bank account**.
  - In the past applicants have asked for another organisation can host their bank account however this caused issues with governance. Now this is discouraged unless there is a formal written agreement as to who's hosting the funds, why they're hosting and why you can't open your own independent bank account.
    - Encouraged that if more clarification around this is needed for people to get in touch at [funding@dvva.scot](mailto:funding@dvva.scot)
    - Confirmed as a baseline that it is expected that everyone who applies to this fund will host an independent budget that is attributed to their group or their organisation
- When completing the application form applicants will need to provide relevant accompanying documents:
  - **A constitution or governing document.**
    - Advised that unconstituted groups were able to apply for the fund previously, however it raised issues with governance and with groups managing the fund so it is encouraged that applicants are either constituted or have a set of rules. Clarified that doesn't necessarily mean that the group must be a SCIO or a CIC, they could still be a local community group, but they do need to have governing documents outlining the purpose and the rules of your group.
  - **Have an up-to-date year end of accounts**
    - Highlighted the expectation for end of year accounts and the most up-to-date accounts as well that have been produced. Those posted on OSCR are usually the most up to date accounts.
    - **If the group doesn't have an up to date year of accounts because this is first year of operation**, then a full budget for income and plans for the organisation must be provided. Highlighted again to get in touch at [funding@dvva.scot](mailto:funding@dvva.scot) with any issues or queries.
    - Highlighted the above point is only for those in the first year of running and states if you're an established organisation then you are expected to provide the most recent accounts.
- Be a Dundee-based third sector organisation, community group, charity, or social enterprise.
  - Highlighted that whether you're a SCIO, CIC or a limited company by guarantee that you can apply.
  - If you don't have any sort of legal structure but you still have a constitution, you are eligible to apply as long as you're third sector.
  - Highlighted that applications from grassroots organisations are encouraged, for groups that are local to Dundee who are relatively small and are up and

coming. Applications from smaller groups and organisations are highly encouraged and are a priority for the fund.

- All applicants must submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** before being invited to submit a full application.
    - EOI was introduced in the past 18 months and is a screening tool to get basic information to gauge viability for the fund. Before a full application is completed the EOI benchmarks eligibility to avoid a full application being submitted by a group who are not suitable for the fund. Highlighted that applicants who are not eligible will be signposted to other funding.
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## Application Process

### Timeline

- **EOI opens:** 7 September 2026.
- **EOI closes:** 18 September 2026.
- All funds will be distributed by end of March 2027 (deadline given by Scottish Government)
  - Highlighted that although the official deadline is March 2027 that often grant letters and funds have been distributed around December in the past.

### Stages

- Stage 1: Expression of interest
  - The expression of interest is a Microsoft Form and will be published to the DVVA website under the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund tab. This will be circulated once the page is published.
  - This stage involves giving basic information about the organisation and project.
- Stage 2: Pre-application shifting process
  - EOI's will be benchmarked against local priorities, feedback from Strategic Oversight Group and Decision Making Panel. If you are successful you will be invited to stage 3.
- Stage 3: Invitation to complete application
  - The Application will ask for more details about your project including plans, sustainability and KPIs.
- Stage 4: Panel review & assessment (including 5-10 minute meeting with the Panel)
  - The DMP will go through a review and assessment. During the scoring period they will score the application against criteria points raised earlier in the eligibility section.
  - A shortlist will be created by the DMP and the panel will conduct further review and assessments.

- This year organisations will be invited to meet the DMP to discuss the project and ask questions. This will replace back and forth questions and answers that were previously sent over email through administrators and took a lot of time.
  - Stage 5: Application outcome (award or rejection)
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## Application Support

Email [funding@dvva.scot](mailto:funding@dvva.scot) with any queries

- Contact with any queries including clarifications on the fund, eligibility and what support is available.
- The team will assist with enquiries are unable to inform you if your application will be successful and do not sit on the Decision Making Panel.
- Training Courses: [Events & training - SCVO](#)
  - SCVO's events and training calendar related to funding and finance
    - [How to win contacts and Service Level Agreements](#), 16th September, Online
    - [Meet the Funder with easyfundraising](#), 6th October, Online
    - [Funding fundamentals: creating effective corporate partnerships](#), 8th October, Online
- Resource: [SCVO Fair Funding Resource](#) – Free online resource
- Conference: [Get Grants FREE Virtual Conference](#), 6th and 7th October, Online

Further support resources:

- Step-by-step guide around submitting funding bids from Charity Excellence [How to Write a Charity Funding Bid - Template & Examples](#)
  - Video on writing funding applications by SCVO [Writing applications - SCVO](#)
  - Recorded "How to write a successful bid and Improve your fundraising success" 1hr webinar from the Cranfield Trust (registration required). [Cranfield Trust | Home](#)
  - Ten top tips from [Ten top tips for writing successful funding bids](#)
  - Practical guidance from [Small charity guide to writing funding bids](#)
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## Frequently Asked Questions

- **I've applied to this fund before in previous years can I apply again?**
  - A tentative yes.
  - The guidance from Scottish Government is to say that this fund is not a non-reoccurring fund.
  - If you're applying for a new project, then ensure you explain alignment with the fund and key, realistic outcomes.
  - If you're applying for the same project then you must demonstrate development, change, or expansion in the existing project which has occurred since previous funding.
    - In terms of sustainability, applicants will be asked to reference what was said in the original application.

### **Can unconstituted groups apply?**

- No, you cannot apply as an unconstituted group. You must have a constitution or a set of rules.
- If you are unconstituted, you can have a chat with our team ([funding@dvva.scot](mailto:funding@dvva.scot)) to support you through becoming a constituted group.
- This is in order for the TSI to ensure governance is sound and that sustainability and capacity are secure.

### **Can organisations apply for both Level 1 and Level 2 funding?**

- Technically yes, but it is generally not recommended unless there is a clear reason why you are applying for both e.g. you apply for level 1 for a project within your organisation and for level 2 you're submitting a partnership with a different organisation (or multiple organisations).
- It is recommended that you prioritise one project that requires funding and focus on optimising the one application.

### **What happens if an EOI is not submitted?**

- Applications will not be considered if you do not first submit an EOI.
- Submission through the formal process of completing the EOI Microsoft Form is mandatory.

### **When will applications be assessed?**

- Applications will be assessed in late Autumn. Specific DMP scoring periods are not publicised.
- Applicants will receive updates throughout the process.
  - Reminder to applicants that the Scottish Government guidance that this is a non-reoccurring fund and that this funding alone should not be used for core delivery or essential funding and organisations should not rely solely on this funding for deliverables and projects.

### **Questions Raised During Webinar**

## **Dundee-Based Eligibility**

Q: Does Dundee-based mean headquarters must be in Dundee, or just that we operate in Dundee and activities will take place in Dundee?

A: Organisations do not necessarily need headquarters in Dundee but the applicant should be able to evidence a strong understanding of the local landscape, priorities and client group. Activities must have a strong connection to Dundee communities and address local priorities. If this can be evidenced, and the group has a presence locally, the application will be considered.

## **Organisations with Income Above £1 Million**

Q: Our organisation-wide income exceeds the £1million threshold, although our Dundee service is a locally delivered operation with its own defined costs and beneficiaries. Are we excluded?

A: Not eligible under Scottish Government criteria unfortunately. But you can contact [funding@dvva.scot](mailto:funding@dvva.scot) in case there is any scope for meeting the eligibility criteria.

## **Joint Applications**

Q: Could you tell us more about how you'll be considering joint application, and who might be eligible to level 1 or 2?

A: There is no distinction between joint and single applications in terms of assessments or between Level 1 and 2. But joint applications will be expected to have a partnership agreement to ensure that partners have a good understanding of each other's role, accountability, etc. A template Partnership Agreement can be provided by TSI Dundee.

## **Funding Levels**

Q: Are there minimum and maximum amounts for the fund?

A: There are two levels of funding that can be applied for:

- **Level 1:** Up to £10,000.
- **Level 2:** From £10,000 to £30,000.

## **Will an EOI Template Be Shared?**

- A PDF version of the EOI questions will be made available for reference on the website. The link will be circulated once it is published.
  - Applications must still be submitted through the online form and applications through email will not be accepted.
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## Actions and Next Steps

| Action                                                                | Responsibility           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Publish EOI form, guidance, timelines and fund information on website | TSI Dundee               |
| Open Expression of Interest process                                   | TSI Dundee (7 Sept 2026) |
| Applicants to review full guidance before applying                    | Applicant Organisations  |
| Submit EOI by 18 Sept 2026                                            | Applicant Organisations  |
| Direct queries to funding inbox                                       | Applicant Organisations  |

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## Closing Remarks

Attendees were encouraged to carefully read the published guidance, submit EOIs through the official application process, and contact the funding team with any questions or support needs. The webinar concluded with signposting to the DVVA website and funding inbox for further information.

Website: [Our Work – Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action](#)

Email: [funding@dvva.scot](mailto:funding@dvva.scot)