



## Small Grant Application

**Name of Organisation:**  
Wansbeck Community Links (Cygnus Support)

**Contact Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Position:**

[REDACTED]

**Address for correspondence:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Preferred contact for Grant Aid correspondence**

Letter ( ) Telephone ( x )

Email ( x )

**Bank Details:**

[REDACTED]

**Please tick to show you have read and understood the Data Protection Statement** in the attached guidelines ( x )

**What is the status of your organisation?** (Please tick)

Registered Charity ( x )

Voluntary Organisation ( )

Community Group ( )

Tenants' Association ( )

Other, please specify

**If applying for the first time**, please give a brief description of your group/organisation:

We are a small team of Community Link workers (Social Prescribers), employed by Cygnus support, a local longstanding counselling charity.

We provide a social prescribing service for patients of Wansbeck Primary Care (Guidepost, Gables, Bedlingtonshire & Seaton Park medical groups)

As well as providing 1-1 support to our patients within the GP surgeries, we also engage with our wider Wansbeck Community, spreading wellbeing messages and helping to reduce isolation and health inequalities.

We were lucky to have free office accommodation last financial year, at Hirst Welfare in Ashington where we were able to engage with the wider community, encouraging social interaction and offering wellbeing sessions. We concentrated on the Hirst area of Ashington initially, due to the high levels of family poverty and increasing levels of poor mental health.

Our regular activities in Ashington included:

A weekly Wellbeing Wednesday in Hirst Welfare – a coffee morning that includes wellbeing themes, Reading for Wellbeing session and a multi sport session.

Facilitating a monthly Re Love Pre Loved clothing and household items event from Hirst Welfare.

Helping to facilitate a weekly warm hub and family fun session at Hirst welfare, alongside NCT.

Running a Bereavement support group alongside our Cygnus counsellor once monthly at Hirst Welfare.

Running a Walk & Talk session from Seaton Park medical and also a coffee morning in the GP surgery once a month.

We offered a safe space for young people during the summer holidays, at Hirst Welfare, to be able to come along and chat to our Link workers if they had any worries. This resulted in a group of young autistic ladies forming a Lego group, which has blossomed into strong friendships.

We helped facilitate the Family Fun day at Hirst, Halloween party and Christmas fair, which enabled us to build up trusting relationships with the community. We were also invited along to be part of the Christmas light switch on, which was amazing!

We set up our 'Canny Little Christmas' appeal for the elderly and have ran this successfully for the last 2 years where we were able to provide 500 gift boxes to older isolated residents.



**Small Grant Application**

Unfortunately, we no longer have access to a community base at Hirst Welfare, so are unable to run some of our previous activities.

We are however, able to run our Wellbeing Wednesdays for the moment from Hirst Park Pavilion and continue to run our Walk and coffee morning from the GP surgery.

Our Bereavement group has also relocated and is running from Full circle food for now.

We would like to seek funding to continue to provide our Wellbeing Wednesday to help pay for a premise if unable to continue at a free venue, to pay for refreshments, resources such as tabletop activity & crafts and possibly to pay for incentives such as raffle prizes, trophies when wellbeing activities have been completed. We would also like to provide some taster sessions of wellbeing activities but some of these will have a cost as need a specialist facilitator.

**Please include the following with your application:**

- ✓ Your constitution or governing document, or written aims and objectives.
- ✓ Up-to-date financial information, including latest accounts and bank statement.
- ✓ A set a basic core policies or statements:
  - ✓ Health & Safety
  - ✓ Equality and Diversity
  - ✓ Safeguarding
  - ✓ Data Protection and GDPR

**Please contact us if you are unsure about any of the above. We will support any group to achieve the required policies, in accordance with our work to promote Equality and Diversity in Grant Aid Allocation, and our obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty 2022.**

**Does your organisation work in partnership with any other organisations? Yes/No (please circle)**

If yes, please give details below:

Cygnus formed a partnership with Wansbeck PCN and we are contracted to provide a service for their patients as part of our role as social prescribing link workers.

**Please provide details of membership/users:**

Number of Members/Users? <b>We have around 25 attendees at our WB Wednesday each week.</b>	Do members/users pay a subscription fee? Yes/No (please circle): <b>No</b>	Subscription Fee?
Number of paid employees (if any)? <b>6</b>	Number of volunteers? <b>1 informal</b>	

What percentage of members/users live in Ashington?

**All attendees at our WB Wednesday, except 1 live locally in Ashington.**

Please use this space to tell us how your organisation serves the residents of Ashington or contributes towards the wellbeing of the town and residents.

We don't have a formal membership for the wellbeing activities we offer but do keep records of attendees. Since we started within Hirst Welfare at the end of January 2023, we have had meaningful contact with an average of 160 residents per month who attended our activities regularly. We also offer 1-1 support to an average 40 Ashington residents as patients within Seaton Park Medical Group per month.

We want to be able to help our residents in this particularly difficult time by bringing support services and having advice accessible to them within the community – a one stop information and support shop – in the



## Small Grant Application

form of a regular weekly wellbeing themed session. Friendships are formed and social isolation is also reduced, because of our sessions.

We encourage volunteering as part of our offer and this helps build self esteem for local residents who join us to help facilitate our activities and events.

As social prescribers we listen to our local community, try to fill any identified gaps in provision by working together as a team and with local partners. We instigate ideas which ideally are then taken over by the community. A good example is our Re Loved Pre Loved event where items were swapped for free. We also had so many donations; people were able to take what they needed without having to swap. This worked particularly well for our asylum-seeking families who were able to obtain clothing and household items, including baby items for free.

**Amount of small grant requested (up to £500)**

**£500**

Small Grants can be awarded towards specific projects, 'start-up' costs or maintenance/running costs (see Small Grant Guidelines) and must be spent in the financial year awarded, for the purpose given. You can only receive one small grant in any financial year.

**Please give full details of the purpose of your Small Grant application:**

We would like to seek funding to be able to purchase the following for the weekly wellbeing Wednesday sessions:

Refreshments.

Activity resources eg: Crafts, board games, jigsaws, colouring books and pens.

To pay for room rental costs (if unable to secure a free venue).

To pay for a one-off specialist facilitator to offer taster sessions eg: deeper dance or meditation.

To purchase incentive resources eg small trophies, medals for completing wellbeing activities.

To purchase reward resources eg toiletries, flowers, when wellbeing challenges have been won.

To pay for transport for an annual outing. We took the group to the Zoo last year as interaction with the animals was good for their mental wellbeing.

**Please attach a copy of your latest financial statement together with a copy of your most recent bank statement for each bank account your organisation maintains.**

**UNRESTRICTED BALANCES WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN AGREEING AWARDS**



### **DECLARATION**

- ✓ I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this application is true and correct.
- ✓ I agree to any disclosure or exchange of information about this application which Ashington Town Council deem appropriate for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of Small Grants.
- ✓ I understand that acceptance of this application by Ashington Town Council does not in any way signify that the organisation is eligible to or will receive a Small Grant.
- ✓ I have included the documents and policies required.
- ✓ I have included an up-to-date Financial Statement and copies of bank statements.



**Small Grant Application**

- ✓ I understand that the Council will *freeze* or *withdraw* funding or *reject* future applications if certain conditions are not met and/or there is evidence of unlawful activity, malpractice, or other behaviour that the Council deems improper.
- ✓ I agree to verify that Grant Aid has been spent for the intended purpose.
- ✓ I agree to inform the council of any significant changes to the membership or running of the organisation.

Signed 	Print name 	Date 4.4.24
---	---	----------------

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date application received	Application successful? Yes/No	Proposed Award £
Any additional information requested:		