



Small Grant Application

Name of Organisation: Wansbeck Community Links (Cygnus Support)	Contact Name: [REDACTED]
	Position: [REDACTED]
Address for correspondence: [REDACTED]	Preferred contact for Grant Aid correspondence Letter () Telephone () Email (x)
Tel: [REDACTED]	Bank Details: [REDACTED]
Email: [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 who are a local counselling charity. Cygnus are in partnership with Wansbeck Primary care network to provide their patients of Guidepost, Gables, Bedlingtonshire & Seaton Park medical groups, with a full social prescribing service. As well as providing 1-1 support to our patients within the GP surgeries, we also support our wider community by running activities and groups that are open to everyone, not just our patients. These are not funded by the PCN and we regularly have to seek funding to keep them going. These activities allow us to bring wellbeing messages and support services directly to the resident, helping to reduce health inequalities in our local area and reducing social isolation. Currently we run the following: Weekly 'Wellbeing Wednesday' session at Hirst Welfare, Ashington. Weekly Walk & Talk sessions in Ashington, Bedlington & Newbiggin. Weekly social Thursday club in Bedlington. Weekly Writing for wellbeing session in Ashington. Weekly Adult Lego group in Bedlington. Fortnightly Men's talking group in Bedlington. Monthly coffee mornings in 3 of our 4 GP surgeries. We also run one off events such as pre loved clothing give aways. We run an annual Christmas appeal for the elderly and hold Christmas events for those nominated. We had funding for a community volunteer coordinator and now have a core of 5 volunteers supporting our Ashington activities. This funding has sadly come to an end.	



Small Grant Application

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 in 2021 and we are contracted to provide a service for their patients as part of our role as social prescribing link workers. The PCN fund staffing costs but do not contribute to the setting up and running of the community groups that the team have developed and run themselves.

Please provide details of membership/users:

Number of Members/Users? We don't have members but attendees. Our regular activities within Ashington are attended on average by 145 residents per month.	Do members/users pay a subscription fee? Yes/No (please circle): No	Subscription Fee?
Number of paid employees (if any)? 6	Number of volunteers? 5 community volunteers	

What percentage of members/users live in Ashington?
All of our current attendees at our Ashington activities 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.



Small Grant Application

As mentioned above we have meaningful contacts with on average 145 Ashington residents per month via out activities and groups. We also offer 1-1 support to an average 40 Ashington residents as patients within Seaton Park Medical Group per month, within our role as social prescribers.

We want to be able to help our residents in this particularly difficult time by bringing support services and having practical, social, emotional and health advice accessible to them within the community – a one stop information and support shop – in the form of our regular weekly wellbeing sessions. Friendships are formed and social isolation is also reduced, because of our activity 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 did this most recently by setting up a Writing for wellbeing group. The Bothy in Ashington provide free accommodation and we are supported by a member of Reading for Wellbeing (Library). Attendees have given feedback that this safe and non-judgemental group has improved their wellbeing, allowed for social interaction with like minded people and writing down their feelings has been more positive for them than attending therapy.

We run an annual 'Canny little Christmas appeal' for the elderly. Residents are nominated by staff within their GP surgery to receive a Christmas gift, these patients are elderly and isolated and may be alone over Christmas. We invite them along to one of 4 Christmas events, one of which is part of our Christmas Wellbeing Wednesday.

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

£500



Small Grant Application

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:

This year a number of patients nominated for our Canny Little Christmas appeal, were so immobile that they were unable to attend as could not manage public transport and would even struggle with a taxi. We are unable to transport patients in our own cars. Fortunately, Watbus stepped in and offered us free transport for 5 local residents to attend our event, one of which had not been out socially for 8 years since the death of her husband. They all reported to have had an amazing time and stated they would love to come to our Wellbeing Wednesday session regularly on a Wednesday morning but would require transport and support from the volunteer driver to get on/off and into the centre.

We have approached Watbus and they are able to provide transport but will have to charge us this time. They have quoted £14 return to transport the patients each week (£56 per month).

This is what we are requesting grant funding for to be able to allow them to continue to attend and build on the friendships they began to make at our Christmas event.



Small Grant Application

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.
- ✓ 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.



Small Grant Application

- ✓ I agree to inform the council of any significant changes to the membership or running of the organisation.

Signed <i>J. McGee</i>	Print name JANE MCGEE	Date 24.1.25
---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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