

CRITERIA DOCUMENT

Safer Streets 5

SAFER BEDFORDSHIRE COMMUNITIES FUND

A fund managed by

Bedfordshire and **Luton Community Foundation**

On Behalf Of

Bedfordshire OPCC, Safer Streets



Bedfordshire & Luton
Community Foundation



PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ THIS SECTION AND MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS BEFORE YOU CONTINUE:

- You are a not-for-profit constituted group with clear charitable aims and objectives to make a real difference to the people within the community.
- You have a constitution or other governing document.
- You have a committee of at least three **unrelated** Trustees/Directors. If you have more than this the majority must be unrelated individuals with no financial interest in the organisation
- You are not applying for retrospective costs.
- Your project will involve residents who live in Bedfordshire.
- You are not looking for a direct replacement for your statutory obligation and public funding.
- You do not hold a significant amount of free financial reserves.
- You are not using the funds for an appeal, sponsoring, or raising funds to redistribute to other causes.

If you've answered 'NO' to any of the questions above your organisation or proposed project is not eligible for this fund. You are welcome to get in touch with us to see whether we can support you in alternative ways, including advice and signposting to other organisations.

INTRODUCTION

Bedfordshire OPCC and the Home Office have come together to fund **Safer Streets 5**, protecting public spaces, a programme of interventions aimed at combating and raising awareness of wider issues in our society. The aims are to address the following priority areas:

- **Violence and exploitation of women and girls** (changing perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours towards women and girls in public spaces, with the long-term aim of reducing violence against women and girls (VAWG) crimes and disorder in public.
- Reduce **antisocial behavior** (ASB) and
- Reduce **neighborhood crime**.
- **See Appendix 1 for SSFR5 definitions of VAWG, ASB & NC**

With the overall aim of:

- Improving feelings of safety for everyone within the community, in particular women and girls' feelings of safety in public spaces and the Night-Time Economy (NTE)
- Making local areas safer, reducing the demand on the police, local authorities, and other local agencies.
- Building relations and increasing local area trust in policing and their activities within the community.
- Building evidence and understanding as to what works for reducing neighbourhood crimes and ASB and for changing attitudes and behaviours in relation to VAWG in the public domain.

Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation (BLCF) are partnering with Bedfordshire OPCC, to deliver a new and pilot fund that will focus on trying new ways to engage those most impacted and those who are more likely to engage in the behavior outlined.

THE SAFER BEDFORDSHIRE COMMUNITIES' FUND

Our experience in supporting the arts and cultural and heritage sectors to use creativity as a mechanism to understand why behaviors are formed and change attitudes and aspirations of those victims of crime or perpetrators of crime to change behavior is long standing. The Covid 19 pandemic showed the power of the arts and creative sector to support people and communities (of place and people) to come together and work for positive outcomes. This fund can harness that approach and be a vehicle to tackling these alarming issues head on as well as in a preventative way.

The **Safer Bedfordshire Community Fund** would offer grant funding for projects of **up to £5000** and by exception grants up to £10,000 for exceptional projects, to registered charities and not for profit organisations to address the issues above and to be creative in those approaches.

WHAT CAN THE GRANT BE USED FOR?

Organisations must be delivering projects/initiatives in **Bedfordshire**, and must: Demonstrably support **at least one of the priority areas** of the fund and be able to quantify impact.

- Should include **working with or be led by an artist or creative organisation**.
- Take place over a **maximum of 5 months** from October 2024 – March 2025
- **Participate in learning and evaluation** through our regular grants monitoring.

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

The fund will support **new** community, creative and cultural activities. All applicants are encouraged to work in partnership with an artist, creative or cultural organisation.

Projects that might be funded may include e.g.:

(Please check Appendix 1 for project exclusions)

- **Arts and creative activities and workshops** where people come together to discuss their behavior and use the arts to express their issues and worries e.g. creative of a theatre piece of music performance.
- **Community events that support cohesion** and a sense of place and ownership of community and neighborhood.
- **Support, mentoring, or therapeutic work** aimed at understanding and supporting those who are victims of crime e.g. classes to empower individuals to take control of the decisions they make.
- **Outreach activities to young people and/or adults** with a focus on providing support and/or targeted educational products and programmes focusing on attitudinal/behavioral change and awareness of the impacts of ASB on the local community and victims (not including diversionary activity) - this could include working with **young people and/or adults** to de-escalate ASB and raise awareness of the impact on victims and communities.

- **Training, support and mentoring** of a community organiser or community group/local organisation to work with a community to undertake and organise action on local priorities.
- **Crime prevention and ASB prevention activities** such as engagement events, distributing prevention advice and communication campaigns. Please check Appendix 1 for project exclusions
- **Community support for physical changes** in an area such as a community garden in a park that has had increased security installed.
- **Greater understanding of the local community needs** e.g. identification of hard-to-reach groups, repeat victims, and groups who are at increased risk.

Eligible costs include:

- **Project and staffing costs** of organising your events/project and the people needed to manage the project.
- **Artist costs** (both creating and delivering the event) if an artist or creative is part of the project.
- **Volunteer expenses**, incl a clear allowance for artists fees (these must be shown and must follow this guidance from Arts Council England)
- **Materials or equipment** needed for the event or activity*
- **Marketing costs** and promotion of the event
- **Overheads** relating specifically to the project (such as insurance)
- **Costs of making your event accessible** to all, such as BSL interpreters, translation services, additional signage

*if costs for equipment make up a significant proportion of the grant, please explain how this equipment will benefit you in the long term

ELIGIBILITY

We are only able to consider applications from not-for-profit constituted groups that have **clear charitable aims**. Applications from the following types of organisations/groups will be considered:

- Registered UK charities, including charitable incorporated organisations.
- Constituted Community groups and non-registered charities.
- Community Interest Companies Limited by Guarantee without share capital, social enterprises and community benefit societies (please review our guidance around CIC's and Social Enterprises before applying)
- Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs/PTFA's)
- Churches and other religious organisations (if the funded activity is not for religious purposes)

WORK THAT CANNOT BE SUPPORTED

- **Project Exclusions. See Appendix 1**
- General appeals or sponsorship costs of routine activity that regularly takes place.
- the mitigation of losses and/or debt mitigation
- Work normally funded from statutory sources or undertaken by or on behalf of statutory bodies.

- Work undertaken by/on behalf of schools, colleges, or universities as part of their statutory curricular activities.
- Work where the main beneficiaries are animals.
- Work which does not directly benefit people living in Bedfordshire.
- Overseas holidays, trips, or expeditions
- Retrospective grants i.e., for items already purchased or activity that has already started.
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes)
- Medical research and equipment for statutory or private healthcare
- Applications that support the furtherance of any one religion or political party.
- Organisations that have not fully completed all sections of the grant application form, provided all other requested information and documents or who have not answered any subsequent questions put to them.

If you are applying in partnership or as part of a consortium the organisation that submits the bid will be known as the lead organisation and must be an eligible entity from the list above, this organisation will manage the funds and the outcome monitoring if successful.

The lead organisation should have a signed partnership agreement with all the other organisations in the consortium. Please speak to a member of the Grants team in the first instance if you are looking to apply as a consortium/partnership.

INELIGIBILITY

This fund is not open for applications from:

- Applications where those benefiting do not live in Bedfordshire.
- **Organisations who are in receipt of any other prior funding from OPCC for a similar project or initiative. Please contact BLCF if you are unsure if your project is eligible.**
- National charities and their affiliates are not providing clear local benefits.
- Individuals and sole traders
- Private Businesses, Commercial ventures, and 'Community Interest Companies limited by Shares'.
- Companies Ltd by Guarantee
- Organisations or activities that promote political parties or the propagation of religion or conduct of worship. (Religious organisations may apply for activities that demonstrate wider public benefit.)
- Organisations or activities which are inconsistent with public policy, i.e., the promotion of terrorism or of sectarian interests.
- Projects that should be funded from statutory sources.
- Applications from Local Authorities
- Organisations that have been established for less than 12 months.

Timeline and Decision-making process

All applications will be reviewed and are subject to an assessment and relevant due diligence checks to determine eligibility by BLCF. An assessor may contact you to obtain further information if needed. We reserve the right to decline or accept any application in line with our grantmaking policy. Only requests for

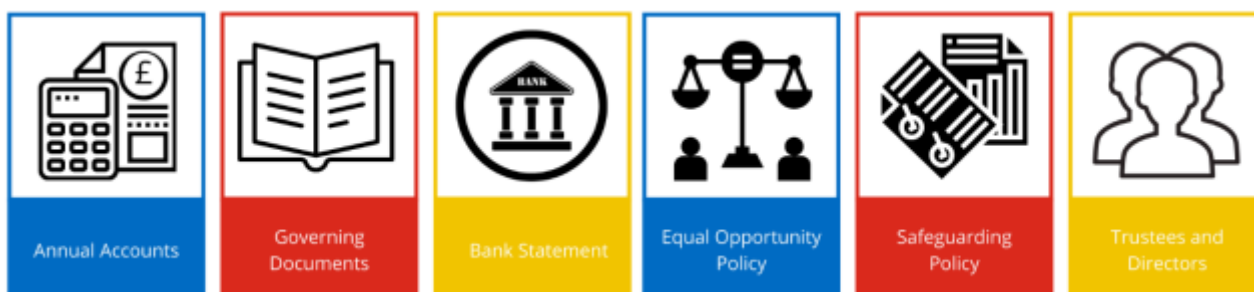
funding made via the official online application form will be considered. The form can be accessed via our website under the appropriate grants tab: www.blcf.org.uk

Only those applications that best meet the criteria for the fund will be shortlisted accordingly, with these then being considered by the grants panel. The panel is made up of local individuals & donor representatives and we reserve the right to decline or accept any application, according to the decision of the panel.

The deadline for applications will be the 19th August 2024 . Final decisions will be made by 9th September 2024 and will be ratified by the BLCF board of Trustees, in accordance with our grantmaking policy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following supporting documents must be uploaded with your application alongside a **copy of the full budget breakdown for the project/activity**:



If you do not have an Equal Opportunity or Safeguarding policy, please get in touch before applying. Your bank statement must show the name of your organisation and be dated within the last 3 months, as well as clearly show your sort code and account number.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Successful organisations will be required to complete an evaluation form (interim and/or end of grant) for their project.

Before beginning the project, we suggest you consider:

- Who will write the end of grant monitoring form report?
- What your aims and objectives are and how will you track progress against these
- What information you will collect. For example:
 - Beneficiary data (those people that have accessed the project/initiative)- this will include number of beneficiaries, ward area or village, age and ethnicity as a minimum.
 - Qualitative data (stories/case studies) – feedback from users and volunteers, observed increase in skills, confidence etc.
 - Learning – feedback from project participants, what went well, what would you do differently etc.
 - Feedback from partner organisations.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are committed to promoting equal opportunities and to valuing diversity regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion/belief, culture, language, disability, learning difficulty, sexual orientation, marital status, economic status, health status, or any other discriminatory grounds. We expect your organisation to also be committed to the promotion of equality, cohesion, and inclusion.

Should you have any queries about this criteria or applying to this fund please contact a member of the BLCF team who will be able to help either by phone: 01525 306690 or email administrator@blcf.org.uk

Appendix 1: Safer Streets 5 (SSFR5) Definitions & Project Outcomes

<p>ASB – Anti Social Behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas subject to regular incidents of street drinking or drunken behaviour; • Environmental ASB, such as vandalism, criminal damage, or graffiti to public buildings, vehicles, bus shelters, phone boxes, that is distressing residents and may be seen to be encouraging more serious types of crimes; • Other forms of environmental ASB such as litter and fly-tipping. • Inconsiderate and repeated nuisance behaviours in public spaces (such as the inappropriate use of fireworks; individuals kicking or throwing items in a way that is causing distress; cycling or skateboarding in pedestrianised areas); • Areas that are subject to repeated loud noises (such as loud music playing in public parks); • People using or dealing drugs or evidence left of drugs (such as discarded needles and nitrous oxide cannisters); • An area where people are being repeatedly intimidated, threatened, verbally abused, or harassed (including ASB related to people’s race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or other characteristic); • Persistent vehicle related ASB in the same area (such as repeated illegal parking, abandoned vehicles, speeding cars or motorcycles, joyriding); • Problems in a public space with out of control or dangerous dogs • Areas subject to regular incidents of drinking or drunken behaviour.
<p>Neighbourhood Crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic burglary • Robbery (against the individual/household rather than commercial robbery), • Theft from person, • Vehicle crime
<p>VAWG – Violence Against Women and Girls</p>	<p>VAWG in public spaces is defined broadly as crimes and issues that disproportionately impact women and girls’ safety and feelings of safety in public spaces. <u>Non-exhaustive list</u>: Street harassment, stalking, Causing sexual activity without consent, sexual assault/indecent assault, indecent exposure and voyeurism, up-skirting, rape</p>

Expected Project Outcomes

Short term measurable outcomes

- Reduction in the number of people concerned about Neighbourhood Crime (NC), Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Improved feelings of safety for everyone within the community
- Increased empathy and understanding of what constitutes VAWG/NC/ASB, key attitudes that underpin them, and the impact on victims among those likely to (re-) offend/demonstrate ASB
- Improved confidence in challenging/responding to inappropriate behaviour
- Improved trust in police/authority figures
- Development of new partnerships and strengthening of existing links between the police, LAs, Civil Society Organisations

Long term outcomes

- Reduction in incidence/crime and ASB levels
- Sustained reduction in the number of people concerned about NC, ASB and VAWG
- Reduction in experience/witnessing of crime

Appendix 2: Project Exclusions

VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls)	<p>Projects which cover the following related areas are not within the scope and cannot be supported with this funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online/cyber crime (including harassment and stalking).• Domestic abuse/violence offences which have been committed in a private residence.• Forced marriage and female genital mutilation committed within a private residence.• Revenge porn and image-based abuse.• Other offences (not including acquisitive crime and ASB) which have been committed in public spaces which are not associated with the safety of women, such as knife crime. <p>In addition, the following activity to tackle VAWG cannot be funded directly by SSF grant awards. They can, however, be included as match funding, provided</p>
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	<p>there is no overlap with interventions being funded through other Government grant schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Spaces – including provision of safe spaces in the NTE (night-time economy) and supporting activity such as the provision of drink spiking testing kits, safety bags. • Personal safety alarms. • Communications campaigns. • Educational programmes which have a focus on: Improving reporting, general awareness raising, self-defense.
<p>ASB (Anti-social behaviour) and Neighbourhood Crime</p>	<p>The following activity to tackle ASB and neighbourhood crime cannot be funded directly by SSF grant awards. They can, however, be included as match funding, provided there is no overlap with interventions being funded through other Government grant schemes, such as the ASB Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situational target hardening measures not outlined above – i.e., those where there is not ‘strong evidence’ of the effectiveness in the Safer Streets Fund toolkit. This includes ANPR and vehicle security. • Diversionary activity. • Immediate Justice. • Marketing/communications campaigns about ASB and public safety – with the exception of communications campaigns which focus on raising awareness of how to report ASB and the mechanisms available to victims of ASB • Interventions focused on addressing rough sleeping and/or begging. • Targeting areas where groups merely ‘hang about’ on streets or other public spaces, who are not partaking in any form of anti-social or nuisance behaviour. • Interventions that may put those in society who are classed as ‘at risk’ or as vulnerable groups in potential danger or amplify vulnerabilities.