

**Live Well  
HAVERING**

# Community Chest 2026/27

**Apply for up to £5,000\* for local projects**





# Introduction

- Live Well Havering is a long-term vision of preventative health and wellbeing transformation for the borough.
- This programme aims to shift the borough's focus to prevention rather than cure, with the mission of driving better health outcomes for all, as well as less demand on statutory services.
- The strategy prioritises working hand in hand with community services and the voluntary sector to co-produce local solutions with local people.

## The vision:

To create a borough where everyone is given the best chance to live well at home without, delaying or preventing need for statutory services, supported by a flourishing community sector that effectively meets local need.

# Our Values

- **Resident-focused** – we put residents first and listen to what residents tell us.
- **Data driven** – We make decisions based on evidence. If what we're doing isn't working, we change it!
- **Accessible** – accessibility is our priority as something we build into the foundation of our work, not an after thought.
- **Inclusive** – we create sensitive and relevant resources for residents of all lived experiences, especially our marginalised communities.
- **Innovative** – we actively seek better ways of doing things and come up with creative ideas to improve what we do.
- **Compassionate** – we lead from the heart and empathise with the challenges our residents and colleagues are facing.
- **Trauma-informed** – we are curious about how previous experiences drive people, and recognise that we need to consider what someone has been through to give them the best support possible.
- **Preventative** - we know prevention is better than cure and work to support people stay well for longer.
- **Empowering** – we give residents easy-to-understand information and support so they can make their own informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

# What is the Community Chest?

- We have £90,000 in funding from NHS North East London ICB's Health Inequalities Fund to fund local projects. We have also secured approximately £20,000 of social value contributions to fund more projects.
- Boroughs in North East London can access this funding and use it in different ways to fund local projects.
- The Council is administering this money as it makes the process of giving local groups money easier, but it comes from the ICB.
- Last year we worked with a panel of community champions to redesign the community chest process. This is our second year running it this way.
- We want this project to work for the VCFS and local groups, as well as for us as 'commissioners'.
- We want to make sure there is equity of opportunity for all organisations to apply.



# Last year's projects

**Paint Wellbeing** courses for women experiencing mental health challenges

**Collier Row Skills Share**

**The Habbit Factory** inclusive theatre programme for young people

**Romford Shakespeare Theatre** towards summer performance and affordable tickets

**Well Social CIC** Art Sessions for care experienced families

**Kaleidoscope** LGBTQ+ friendly venues project

**Rainham Royals** Cultural Supper Clubs

**From Me to You** breakfast club for people with experience of cancer

**True You Today** Support for people who have experienced gender-based abuse

**Rainham Foodbank** in-person befriending

**HoPEC** Outings for isolated community members

**The Crook'd Smile** Girls body image and empowerment programme

*Getting funding last time does not disadvantage you for this year.*

**Romford Deaf Club** Support to continue running and pay for BSL interpreters

**Lumiere Cinema** Improvement to the accessibility of their film screenings for disabled and neurodivergent residents

**Havering Volunteer Centre** funding to increase telephone befriending service

**Harold Wood Foundation** Men's mental health and wellbeing programme

**ADDUP** February half term activities for children and young people with ADHD

**HBBS** Specialist counselling for bereaved children and young people with SEND

**Sycamore Trust & St Albans Baby & Toddler CIC** toddler group for autistic toddlers and their parents

**The Proper Blokes Club** walk and talk groups for men in Harold Hill and Rainham

**Authoring our own stories** art workshops for global majority young women

**HASWA** free chair yoga sessions

**Ukrainian Supper Club** social gathering for Ukrainian migrants and refugees

**Rush Green Amateurs** Free boxing programme for children and young people

**Havering BME Forum** Elders wellbeing group and friendship cafe

**The Church of the Good Shepherd** contributions towards their sensory room

Live Well  
HAVERING

# Community Chest 2026/27

This year...



# What projects are we looking for?

**Projects that improve residents' wellbeing** - on any topic that impacts wellbeing, from health checks, to cost of living support, to loneliness and isolation.

**Projects that aim to tackle health inequalities** - they work with residents pre-disposed to having health and wellbeing challenges.

**Projects that fill a gap in the borough** - there isn't a similar project already running.

**Projects must meet all three objectives to move to the community panel stage.**

# What is the criteria?

You can bid for **new** or **existing** projects.

Projects can be a **one off / series off events** or a **project lasting a series of months**. We can't fund materials alone, it must be linked to a project.

Organisations with an **income of less than £2,000,000** can bid.

Groups must be:

- A registered CIC
- Registered CIOs
- Company limited by guarantee
- Cooperative
- Community Benefit Society
- Constituted group / organisation
- A collective of local residents.
- Unincorporated Association with UK Registered Charity Status

Projects need to be **completed one year** after receiving funding.

Groups are welcome to **join up to bid together** if they wish - contact us to be put in contact with like-minded organisations.

Groups must be running their project **in Havering for Havering residents**.

Groups can submit multiple bids, but each group will only get funding for **1 project each**.

Groups need to **already have a good relationship with the target audience** they wish to work with / have a plan of how to reach their audience.

Groups can bid for **up to £5,000**

Ability to pass the **due diligence**.\*

\*This is project specific and we can talk through what this looks like for your project if it is a concern.

# We cannot fund:

**Materials / equipment alone** - they MUST be part of a wider programme of support.

**Improvements to venues / outdoor spaces** - unless part of a specific broader programme. Last year, very few improvements were eligible.

**Projects that already exist in another form** somewhere in the borough (duplication).

**Parks / Planting / Green Spaces work** - Please contact the parks team for more information.

**Projects that do not align with the Live Well Havering values**

**Projects that do not meet the due diligence.**

We are unable to fund projects for groups that have not provided impact reporting for 2025/26. Please get in touch if you are facing barriers completing this reporting.

# The process

Applications open from **1 May** until **30 June**

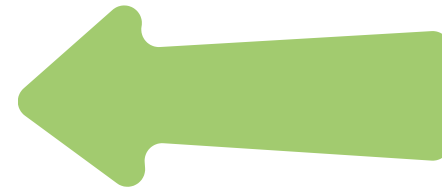


LWH team review expressions of interest by **31 July**

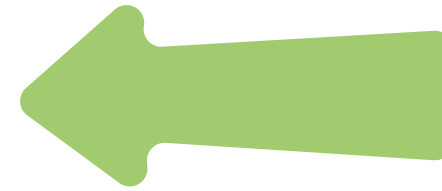


Shortlisted bids are notified and due diligence documents are requested **31 July - 14 September**

Money is transferred to successful projects by the new year.



Successful groups are notified by **November** (subject to board)



Community panel presentations take place early **October**





# Governance

This work will report into the NHS ICB (TBC pending restructure).

Shortlisting will be completed by the Community Engagement and Participation team - this is to check bidders are qualified and safe.

Presentations will be scored by the Community Panel and the Community Engagement and Participation team.

# Learnings:

## You said, we did!

- **We have secured more funding** this year from Council suppliers' social value donations to fund even more projects (approx. £20k in social value!).
- **Impact reporting minimised** - monitoring will take place mid-way through the project and at project close rather than quarterly to minimise admin.
- **Groups can apply for up to £5k** (rather than £10k) to fund as many projects as possible with our limited budget.
- **The income threshold** for eligible organisations has changed to a maximum income of £2m to account for the surge in the cost of running organisations.
- **Questions:** Some of the initial application questions lent themselves to repetition, we have streamlined these questions to align directly with the funding requirements.

# Applications

**Deadline is 30 June at 17:00**

**Please submit a EITHER a 5 minute video OR the application form answering the following questions:**

- **Project Overview:** what is your project, where will it take place and who will it benefit?
- **How does your project meet the community chest criteria** to improve residents' wellbeing, tackle health inequalities and fill a gap in the borough?
- **How much money do you need to run the project and what will you spend it on?** Please note you will be asked to provide a full budget if you move to the community panel stage.
- **How are you going to reach your target audience?**

## **Why have the panel chosen a video?**

- Written bids don't always convey passion.
- Some people can write bids really well, some people can't. It's not a very fair way of doing things.
- It's not a very community and people-centred way of deciding who gets funded.

## **We are here to help:**

- To brainstorm ideas.
- To be a sounding board for your thoughts and vision for Havering.
- To help you make your video.
- To help you send the video to us.
- To support your application.
- Connecting with partners doing similar things.
- Getting data to support your bid.
- Finding other funding options if you are not successful this time around.

# The video

You can either...

## Film the video yourself:

- Do a selfie style video
- Get your service users involved in the film / filming it for you.
- Ask someone to film it on a phone for you.
- Use our top tips for recording yourself on video.

## Get support to create your video:

- Havering College students are on hand to support you to film and edit your video.
- If you'd like this support, email us to organise a time to visit the College to make your video.

We ARE NOT evaluating you according to the quality of your video.  
**We care about your passion!**

# The video

## Top Tips

Choose a quiet, well-lit location with natural light.

Record the video horizontally for the best results.

Set up your phone, laptop or recording device on a steady surface at eye-level or use your phone in 'selfie mode'.

Check the recording to see if we can hear you clearly.

Make sure you cover the points required in the video:

- What project are you planning on doing?
- Why are you doing it?
- Why is it needed?
- Where are you doing it?
- How much money do you need?
- What difference are you going to make to residents?
- How are you going to reach your target audience?



# Shortlisting

We will approve bids to the final stage as long as they evidence that they meet the criteria.

We will let you know if you are through to the community panel on July 31.

We recommend an email / virtual / phone call / in-person conversation about your project before you bid so we can talk through your project together about:

- **1-1 support required** to get your documents together in time to bid.
- **Organisations you may wish to partner with** / learn from who run similar projects.
- **Feedback about your application.**
- **What resources you will need** so we can give you access to cheaper / free resources where possible.

**Book time with us**

# What happens after the application?

After the application, we will:

- Read and process your application.
- Ask you to submit due diligence documents.
- Ask you to complete a project plan, risk register, and budget document.
- Invite you to book onto a panel.

**Once you submit your EoI, we can't offer feedback / advice, so we recommend running your idea by us before submitting.**

# What documentation do you need?

If you are shortlisted, we will ask you for:

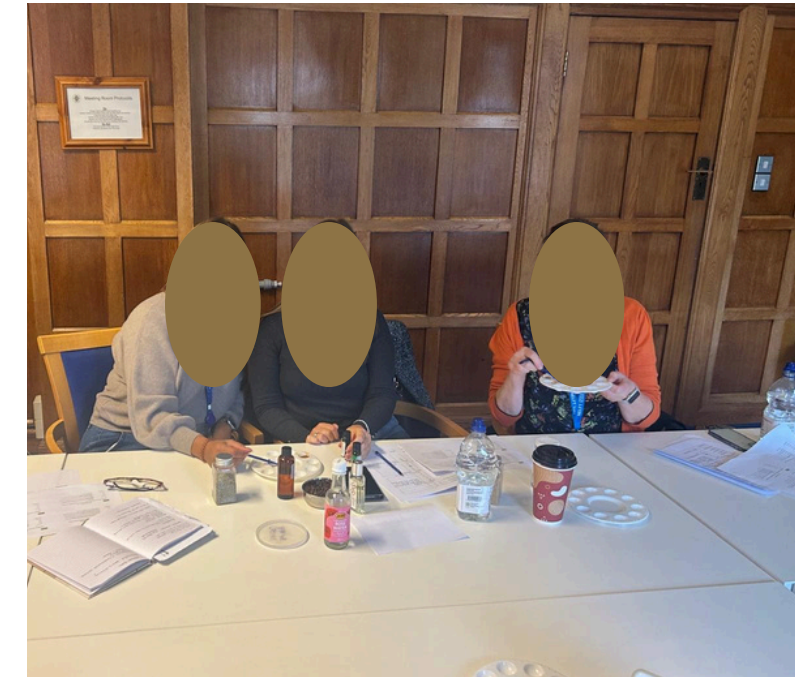
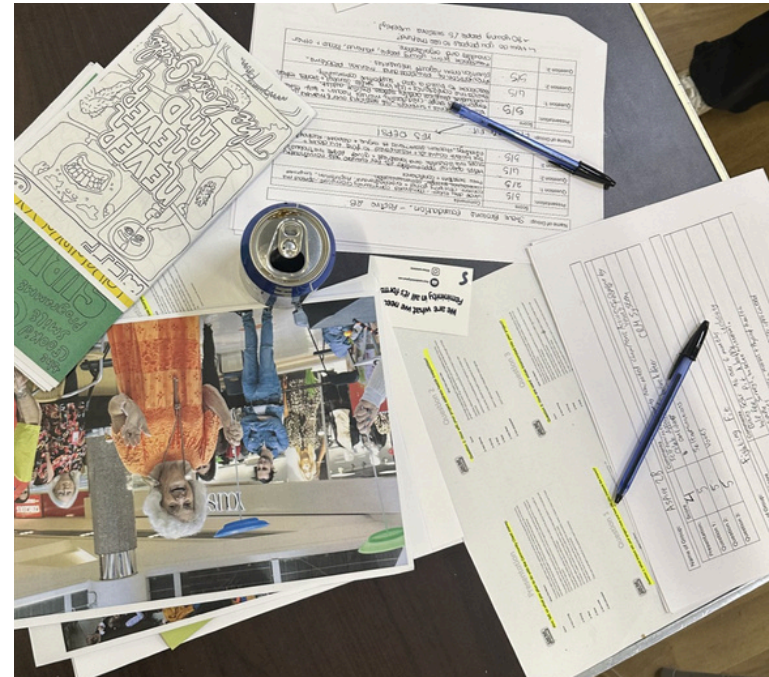
- **Governance document:** Your group's adopted constitution or governing document, including your charity/company number (if registered). This should explain your group's purpose, name, structure and what happens to funds if you close.
- **Bank account in your group's name:** A copy of a recent bank statement in your community group's name.
- **Recent accounts:** A signed copy of your most recent accounts. If your group is less than a year old, please send two bank statements instead.
- **Safeguarding policies:** Please send a copy of your safeguarding policy. If you are working with children or vulnerable adults, we also need to see your child protection and working with vulnerable adults policy.
- **Project plan, risk register, and budget**
- **An appropriate level of insurance:** A copy of your insurance. If you do not have insurance yet, please let us know which insurance you'll get.
- **One professional reference:** This should be someone independent who knows your work well – perhaps someone who has commissioned your services or worked closely with your group. We've attached a reference form for you to use. We may contact them for more details.

**You will have approx 2 months to pull this information together. If you are facing barriers or challenges, please tell us.**

# Community Panels

Last year, each applicant was given the same 3 questions in advance and asked to give a 5 minute presentation about their project.

Resident scores were combined with due diligence scores. These were used to guide the fund allocation.



# Impact tracking

If you are successful in being funded, you will need to provide an impact report mid way through and at the end of your project.

You are welcome to use our template or your own impact tracking methods.

We understand that projects evolve and change - this is okay - we just need some data to feed back to our funders.

Funding is so scarce now that it's more important than ever that we track as much positive impact as possible.

# Other Funding in Havering

- **Thrive Fund:** £250 - £30,000 for projects that support the emotional wellbeing of children, young people and families aged 0-18 (up to 25 for care-experienced people and those with SEND).
- **Havering Together Spacehive:** Community crowdfunding programme with up to £5,000 from the council towards your project. 13 May 2026.
- **Havering London**
- **Havering Changing**
- **and more!**

# Apply now!

- **Book in time with us!**
  - Run your idea past us for advice and guidance if you're looking for support.
  - We can put you in touch with people working on similar projects.
  - Get support to make your video.
  - Get support to pull your documentation together for if you are shortlisted.
- **Submit your bid by 30 June:**
  - Complete our online form to apply (form going live 1 May).
  - For help with this, get in touch.





**questions?**