



# MK Community Foundation – Meet the Funder

Jake Geelan, Philanthropy Manager

# About me

- I am one of four Philanthropy Managers at MKCF and I have been in post for 11 months.
- I have worked in the charity sector for 8 years.
- Prior to this role, I worked for Bletchley Park Trust as a Senior Fundraiser
- I oversee the Vital Signs areas of Environment, Housing and Arts & Heritage

**Please Introduce yourselves!**



# MKCF - Meet the Funder

## Introduction to the Foundation:

1. About MK Community Foundation
2. Our funding
3. Meet the Philanthropy Team
4. Vital Signs
5. Environment Vital Sign

## Applying to MK Community Foundation:

1. Eligibility criteria
2. Funding programmes
3. How to apply

## What are we looking for in an application?

## Q&A Session



# Introduction to MK Community Foundation



# About MK Community Foundation

- Established in 1986, MK Community Foundation is a grant-making charity sending funding where it's needed most in Milton Keynes.
- The Foundation gives out an average of £1.6m in grant funding and a further £1.3m in rental subsidy support each year.
- We are part of the wider UKCF network of 47 community foundations in the UK covering different geographic locations.
- MKCF is one of the larger community foundations and owns a property and land portfolio worth c.£40m.
- Our grant making is guided by our Vital Signs research which aims to collect the most up to date information about the issues affecting Milton Keynes, our impact goals and feedback from the local Voluntary and cultural sector.

# About MK Community Foundation

## Our Mission is:

We are sending funding where it is needed most in Milton Keynes. By guiding businesses, philanthropists and charities to the right giving and grants, we're on a mission for a fairer community.

## Our Values are:

- Fairness: We seek detailed understanding to make the right decisions
- Assistance: We share our expertise and referrals for those who need advice
- Inspiration: We communicate our unique proposition passionately and with hope
- Reliability: We deliver what we say, when we say

# Our Funding

- MKCF looks after over 50 different funds all with individual criteria.
- Fundholders are made up of individual donors or corporates
- Applicants apply to the community foundation generally rather than to specific funds
- MKCF ensures that money from each fund goes towards supporting projects within the fund criteria
- We will then report back to our fundholders each year to share with them the projects their fund has supported, and the impact made.

# About the Philanthropy Team

The Philanthropy Team oversee both donor engagement and grant giving at the foundation.

## Meet the Team:

Ranjit Singh and June Oldroyd, Philanthropy Directors

Jake Geelan, Philanthropy Manager – Vital signs: Environment, Housing, Arts and Heritage

Sarah Sibley, Philanthropy Manager – Vital signs: Work and local economy, Education

Peter Bakare, Philanthropy Manager – Vital Signs: Transport, Health and Wellbeing

Samantha Snelus, Philanthropy Manager – Vital Signs: Inclusion and Diversity, Crime and Safety, Stronger Communities

Hafsa Akter, Philanthropy Officer – Small Grants and Bursaries

Sandra Green – Philanthropy Assistant





# Vital Signs

- Vital Signs is an annual publication designed to identify and spotlight issues facing the communities of Milton Keynes.
- There are 12 vital signs areas.
- It allows us to direct our donors to identify causes or issues that they are passionate about giving to and allows us to effectively direct our giving.
- Before making any application to the foundation, read this report and think about which vital signs areas relate to your project
- Often your project will fall into numerous Vital Signs areas



# Environment

The Environment vital sign could be linked to projects relating to:

- The 'outdoors'
- Green spaces
- Waterways
- Biodiversity
- Recycling
- Renewable energy

This year the 'vital thinking' around 'Environment' is about raising awareness of the issues around climate change.



## ENVIRONMENT SDG SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The environment theme encompasses the natural and built environment, including its design and architecture, green spaces, and waterways.

MK Council has stated its aspiration to make MK the world's greenest city and to be carbon neutral by 2030. The City is well known for the integration of green spaces and water into its design. However, the low-density layout creates a comparatively high level of greenhouse gas emissions from transport.

MK Council set itself a target of 70% recycling by 2024/25. Rates for recycling household waste are currently at 54%, above the average for England.

### Innovative solutions

A programme to pilot the application of emerging technologies to help MK become carbon neutral by 2030 is being sponsored by MK Council. Projects funded include sustainable mobility, renewable energy, and air quality, among others.

### Vital Thinking

How do we raise the awareness of the issues around climate change to encourage all citizens to contribute to MK Council's aim to become carbon neutral by 2030?



# Applying to MK Community Foundation



# Eligibility Criteria – Who can we fund?

## Who we can Fund:

We can accept applications from constituted, Not for profit organisations supporting beneficiaries for MK including but not limited to:

- Local community groups
- Voluntary sector organisations
- Registered Charities
- Charitable Incorporate organisations
- Social enterprises
- Sports Clubs
- Faith Groups (not for promotion of religion)
- Community Interest Companies (CIC's) - only for start-up costs

## Who we cannot fund:

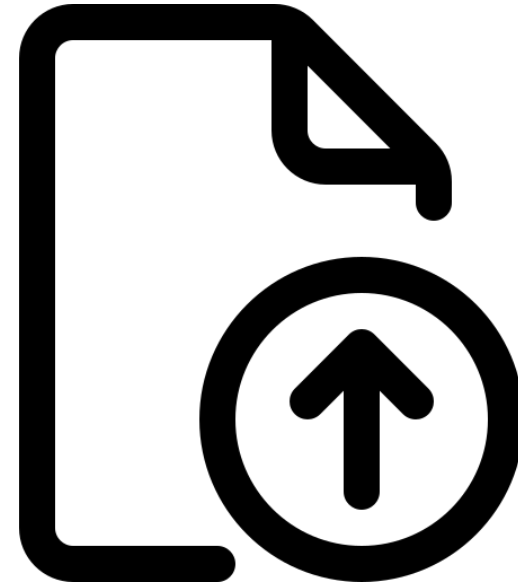
- Individuals
- Social enterprises or CIC's for continued project funding
- For-Profit organisations
- Political parties or affiliated groups
- Organisations with free reserves greater than 12 months turnover
- Statutory bodies



# Eligibility Criteria – Documentation required

In order to be eligible to apply, organisations must provide the following documentation alongside their application:

- A governing document
- Financial records
- A bank statement
- Equal Opportunities policy
- Child and Adult Safeguarding Policies
- Evidence of expected cost



# Eligibility Criteria – what we can't fund

- Core costs not related to specific project delivery, except in exceptional circumstances
- Statutory activities, or purchase of equipment that will become the property of a statutory body
- Projects that will give a charity an unfair commercial advantage
- Animal welfare
- Retrospective costs (anything that has already been bought or committed to). Rare exceptions may be made where a deposit may be required to secure a venue and must be agreed in advance by a member of the Philanthropy Team.
- Medical Research or treatment
- Deficit funding or repayment of loans
- Unspecified expenditure
- Events or activities where the primary purpose is to fundraise,



# Funding Programmes

## Small Grants

- A monthly grant programme for applications between £300 - £3,000.
- Small grants are approved by an internal panel
- Decision is usually known within 2-3 weeks of deadline date
- For projects completing within a year of application date

**Next Deadline: last Friday of every month.**



## Community Grants

- A Quarterly grant programme for grants up to £10,000.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to source at least 20% of project funding from other sources.
- Approved by an external grant panel made up of trustees and community representatives
- For projects completing within a year of application date

**Next Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

# Funding Programmes



## Transformation Grants

- Biannual programme For grants over £10,000 completing in a 12-month period
- Projects addressing a new or priority need
- Project must 'transform' the organisation or be 'transformational' for the beneficiaries
- EOI required in the first instance through a pre-application meeting with a Philanthropy Manager.
- Applicants must have experience of dealing with significant or equivalent levels of grant funding
- Approved by an external grant panel made up of trustees and community representatives

**Deadline: Not announced for 2024 yet**

## Large Strategic Grants

- A programme for larger grants for projects delivered over more than one financial year (max 3 years)
- Projects must make a 'strategic impact' on the org or beneficiaries.
- EOI required in the first instance through a pre-application meeting with a Philanthropy Manager
- Applicants must have experience of dealing with significant or equivalent levels of grant funding
- Approved by an external grant panel made up of trustees and community representatives

**Deadline: Not announced for 2024 yet**



# Other Funding Programmes

- Emergency Appeals – for example COVID-19
- Bursaries and prizes -delivered in partnership with other organisations
- Strategic partnerships – Annual grants awarded to selected partner organisations who we have an established relationship with, for example MK Pride Festival
- Rent Subsidies – Charitable organisations who require space can apply for a rent subsidy.
- Land – Charitable organisations can apply for land at discounted rates



CHARITIES QUALIFY FOR UP TO 75%  
**Rent and land subsidies**



CHARITIES QUALIFY FOR UP TO 70% OFF  
**Apply for land**

# How to Apply?

## Small and Community Grants:

- Online application form on the MKCF website
- All documentation can also be uploaded online via the form

## Transformation and Large Strategic Grants:

- EOI meeting required in the first instance
- Word doc EOI form provided
- If successful at EOI, feedback is given and link to full application form is provided

## Support throughout

Applicants are encouraged to talk to the Philanthropy Team at any stage when making an application, we can advise you and answer any questions you may have.

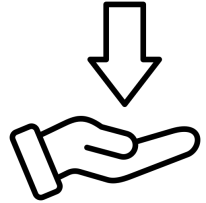
Email: [applications@mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk](mailto:applications@mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk) Tel: 01908 690 276

What are we  
looking for in an  
application?

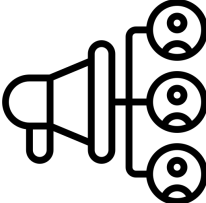


# Assessment Areas

Need and Demand



Reach and Impact



Sustainability



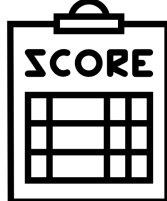
Partnership



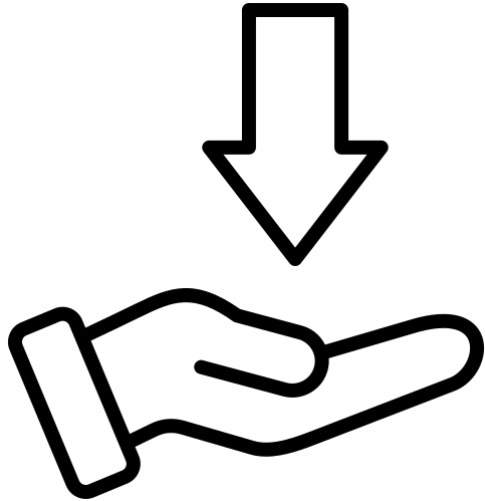
Diversity and Inclusion



Group Profile Score

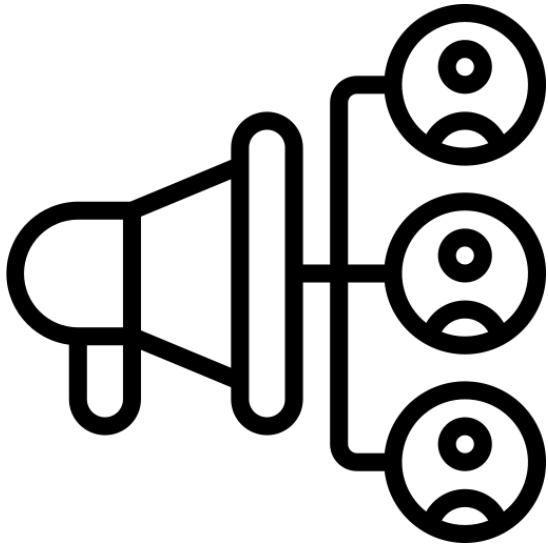


# Need and Demand



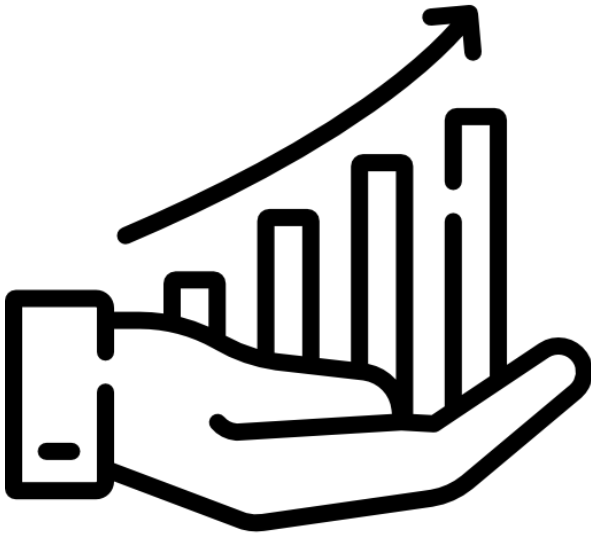
- The group has provided strong evidence that there is a need for this project.
- This need is not being satisfactorily met locally by other agencies, i.e. this is not a duplication of an existing service.
- This is the best way to meet this need.
- There are limited opportunities for these funds to be raised elsewhere and/or there are not more appropriate other avenues for this funding to be sought
- There is a need for this project to be supported by grant funding, e.g. the applicant organisation could not reasonably fund this from free reserves or other means

# Reach and Impact



- The project and all associated costs and activities are relevant to the need it is trying to address
- The applicant is properly qualified to deliver these services to the relevant individuals in the community and possesses the skill or established connections to ensure they are delivered effectively.
- The project will serve under-funded geographical areas and communities.
- The application shows an understanding of and plans for effective outreach.
- The group has addressed barriers to provision (e.g. cost, access, cultural divisions).
- The project will serve a hard-to-reach demographic and there is evidence that the group will be able to work well with this demographic.
- The project will build useful skills and resources for the local community.
- There are other long-term benefits to the community from this project.

# Sustainability



- The applicant can evidence that their group has begun to strategize / investigate long term funding options that will enable this project to continue past the end of this grant
- There is realistic expectation that long term funding can be secured following the end of this grant.
- If the project is not long term, the costs and financial projections offered are realistic and sustainable for this project. 'Good value for money.'

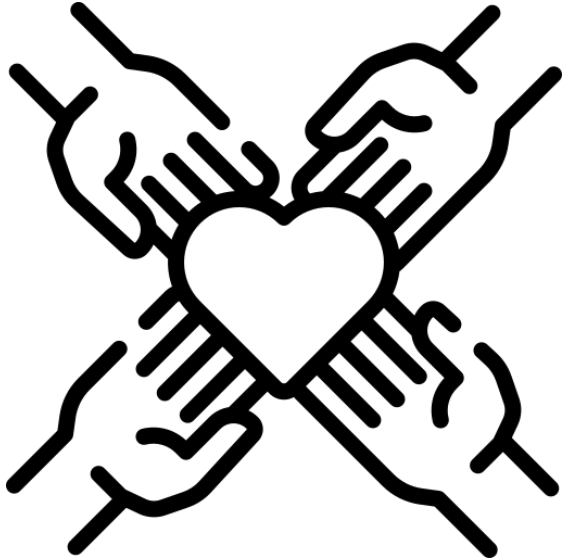
# Partnership



- The project must show collaboration with other organisations where objectives are similar.
- The project brings together several groups to maximise expertise
- The project is innovative and/or unique in the area and is it a creative approach to addressing a need.
- Will the project help our community by being proactive in meeting an emerging need before it gets more critical or damaging?

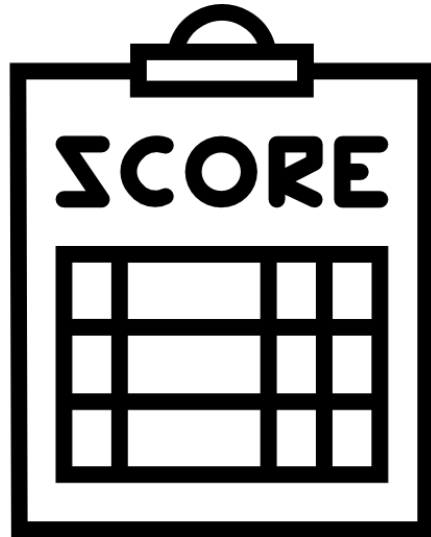


# Inclusion and Diversity



- The project is fully inclusive and has considered differing needs with the diverse communities of MK
- Reflects an awareness of the 9 protected characteristics in terms of flavour and design

# Group Profile Score



- Previous grant monitoring been submitted on time and to a good standard
- There is a good record of sound financial and project management
- Provided governing documents and policies that comply with criteria
- The organisation has reputable endorsements from individuals and/or other organisations
- The organisation has a record of enterprise or fundraising
- The organisation has a history of reaching diverse and/or vulnerable beneficiaries and/or supporting Vital Signs priority areas.

Q&A Session  
Any Questions?

Feedback wanted...

