



Gravesham
Borough Council



Kent
County
Council



Gravesham Place-Based Partnership Health Innovation Fund

Funding closes 15th May 2026

Panel – Meet and review end of May 2026

Award /Delivery to commence end of early June.

The Gravesham Place-Based Partnership has launched its Health Innovation Fund. It is designed to support new or adapted community projects in Gravesham Borough that addresses one or more of the following local health priorities:

- 1) Reducing barriers to physical activity and improve wellbeing
Priority Groups: Muslim and Asian women, older men, young people, individuals with disabilities and/or neurodiversity, low-income families.
- 2) Better engage local communities and facilitate their voice/build trust and better understanding
Priority Groups: Muslim and Asian women, older men, young people, individuals with disabilities and/or neurodiversity, low-income families.

This is a new way for the Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector to be involved in supporting the outcomes of the district health action team. Each district has been allocated £30,000, so will limit the number of successful applications that can be awarded. We encourage you to be honest about your costs and ensure you have adequate support in place to enable you to work closely with Gravesham Place-Based Partnership on developing and measuring the success of your project.

About the Gravesham Place-Based Partnership

Gravesham is one of Active Kent & Medway's four Place Partnerships areas, selected as part of the first phase of Sport England's national programme to tackle inactivity and reduce health inequalities. As a Phase 1 investment area, Gravesham faces significant levels of deprivation and some of the lowest activity levels in Kent, particularly in neighbourhoods such as Westcourt and Northfleet North, making it a key location for long-term, community-led systems change.

Their place-based work in Gravesham is rooted in inclusive governance, partnership building and community-led insight. From the outset, partners across local government, public health, leisure services, and the voluntary and community sector have come together to shape a shared approach grounded in local priorities and aligned with Gravesham Borough Council's strategic vision for a "Happier and Healthier Gravesham." This commitment to collaborative working has strengthened cross-sector relationships and created a strong foundation for whole-system change.

Throughout 2025, their place partnership work has focused on deepening local understanding through needs assessment, strengthening governance structures and identifying opportunities for co-designed Test and Learn projects in neighbourhoods such as Westcourt and Northfleet North. As the Place Partnerships programme progresses, they will continue to work closely with residents, partners and organisations across Gravesham to co-design long-term, sustainable change.

Who can apply?

This fund is open to any grassroots charity, community group or organisation operating in the Gravesham District, with an idea that supports communities in addressing one of more of the local health priorities listed above.

What we can fund

Groups can apply for up to £10,000 for a project and must align with at least one of the Gravesham Place-Based Partnership's priorities. The group are looking to fund a range of projects so are suggesting a guide of £5,000-£6,000. It must be delivered in the required geographic boundaries, and delivery can be up to 12 months.

We are happy for organisations to apply for more than one priority, and for them to be ran as one combined project. We are aiming to award the funding to help with at least three of the priority groups listed.

Applicants should gather insight from their chosen group/s to understand:

1. **Current participation** – How are people currently engaging (or not) in community activities and/or physical activities?
2. **Barriers** – What personal, cultural, financial, social, or accessibility challenges prevent them from taking part?
3. **What matters to them** – What activities, environments, or types of support would feel welcoming, safe, and relevant?
4. **Practical changes** – What adjustments (e.g., timing, location, equipment, women-only spaces, sensory-friendly sessions) would help?
5. **Ideas for solutions** – What do residents themselves think would make it easier to join and stay involved?

Applicants should use this insight to co-design activity with residents, reduce inequalities, and create sustainable ways to increase community participation.

Whilst this is a district wide initiative, applicants are asked to consider the following wards that align with the place-based work being carried out by Active Kent and Medway:

- North Northfleet
- Westcourt

Strong applications would show what the need for the project is and how it is supported by and likely to be of interest to local communities/stakeholders. Activities must not duplicate those already happening locally unless there is a strong reason to do so. They must show clear added value.

Frequently Asked Questions:

The below themes will be used to assess your application:

Health and Wellbeing: Does the project align with one or more of Gravesham Place-Based Partnership's priorities and aim to produce measurable health benefits (e.g., increased activity levels, reduced social isolation and loneliness)?

Supported by your target group: Has the applicant demonstrated community support and relevance to the targeted group (e.g., local schools, families, older adults)?

New project/target group: Has the organisation shown that this is a new project and not something that is already running in their area? If not completely new, can you show that it is an existing project that will be accessed by new people, or will be expanding/adding a new provision?

Working in partnership: Can you show that you are working in partnership with other organisations? This can be with other VCSE organisations, your local Primary Care Network (PCN), district council etc.

Impact: Is the problem clearly defined? How is what you are going to do making a difference to peoples' lives? Will the solution address it effectively?

Beneficiaries: Does the project target the right population in the right wards or rural areas? Is the cost/impact ratio reasonable?

Sustainability: Has the applicant considered long-term impact and potential for continuation post-funding?

Can I apply for partial funding for a project?

Yes, providing your project meets the aims of this fund.

Can I submit a joint application?

Yes, we accept joint applications and encourage partnership working in your projects.

Is there a maximum amount of funding that I can apply for?

Yes, up to £10,000 per priority. Please note that we are happy for organisations to apply for more than one priority area, as well as combining them to be ran as one combined project.

When will I find out if my application is successful?

All applications are reviewed by a third-party panel, and applicants will be notified of the outcome within one month of the application deadline. If the application is unsuccessful, we will work with you to help you understand how it could be made better, and you are welcome to apply again for future funding opportunities.

If my application is successful, what happens next?

If you are successful, we will contact you to discuss your project in more detail and will take a proportional approach to the next steps.

We will talk to you about how your project is to be evaluated, and how it can be supported by Gravesham Place-Based Partnership. You will also need to sign a partnership agreement along with a funding agreement form.

We will contact you through the life of your project to find out how it is going and to gather some information as agreed with you. We would also want you to come along to Gravesham Place-Based Partnership meetings to update on your project and facilitate any support/encouragement needed from this wider group. We may also want to visit to speak to the people involved and find out what difference the project has made to them.

You may also be asked to complete an evaluation and monitoring questionnaire to help us evaluate the funding and improve the application process. By accepting the funding, you agree to work with us and participate in this evaluation process.

Ongoing support for groups is available from the Social Impact Gateway team.

Applicants will need to sign up to be an affiliate of the Social Impact Gateway prior to submitting their funding bid.

If you have not already signed up as a SIG Affiliate, then you can do this by visiting:

[Medway Voluntary Action | MVA's New Social Impact Gateway Programme](#)

Please follow the link below to view the guidance information to assist you with becoming an affiliate of the Social Impact Gateway:

[SIG-Quality-Assurance-Policy-checklist-for-applicants.pdf](#)

Please follow the link below to access the SIG Application Form via Jotform:

[Social Impact Gateway Affiliate Application Form](#)

Application Process

The application gateway is open for applications and the closing date for applications is 15th May 2026.

Application is via the Swale, Dartford & Gravesham Social Impact Gateway (SIG) and open to SIG Affiliates – who can access the application form via this link:

[Gravesham Place-Based Partnership Health Innovation Fund – Fill out form](#)

Please ensure you enter your **SIG Affiliate Number** in the relevant field in the application form.

We look forward to receiving your funding applications.