Mayor's Opportunity Fund Webinar: Round 3

Enriching lives of people aged 65+



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Community Foundation North East

North East Combined Authority



Zoom-keeping

- Please make sure your mic is on mute
- Webinar is recorded
- Make the most of the chat function, introduce yourself, ask questions and share thoughts

Plan for today

- About Point North
- About the Mayor's Opportunity Fund
- Who can apply and what does the fund cover?
- Application process
- Q&A



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Making a difference every day

£75.7m

awarded to communities since 1995

£5.7m

awarded to communities between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025

987,004

lives enriched between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025



Fighting Poverty & Enriching Lives

- We are an independent grant making charity and member of national body of UKCFs
- IVAR flexible funder accredited
- We raise funds and get grants out to local charities, community groups and people
- Based in County Durham for County Durham, Tees Valley and the wider North East

About the Mayor's Opportunity Fund

- £1m package delivered over two years; two rounds delivered last year and another two this year.
- Commitment to a **fairer North East** through creating opportunity and ensuring the North East is a **cohesive**, **inclusive** and **resilient** region, where everyone thrives and has the opportunity to contribute to the region's success.



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About the Mayor's Opportunity Fund (cont.)

- The third round of funding is worth **£225,000**
- **Grant size:** Between £5,000 and £10,000
- **Aim:** Supporting older people (aged 65 and over) by reducing isolation, addressing disadvantage and showcasing the region as one that values dignity and inclusion across all generations.

Key information

Enriching lives of local people

Apply by 27 February 2026

County Durham

Between £5,000 and £10,000

April 2026 decision time

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Location

- North East Combined Authority area
- Point North covers County Durham only (Durham County Council local authority - this does not include Hartlepool, Darlington, Stockton, Sunderland)
- North East Community Foundation covers the other areas
- You can only apply to one community foundation



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What will the fund support?

The fund can support a broad range of **existing** or **new projects** and activities which will help older people remain independent and active longer. Examples include:

- Projects led by older people
- Digital inclusion and digital literacy
- Initiatives to address or alleviate fuel poverty
- Community transport
- Environmental/outdoor activities
- Dementia-focused projects
- Work that enables better outcomes for women, and people from diverse backgrounds, including LGBTQIA+, those with disabilities and those from black and minoritised ethnic backgrounds
- Reducing social isolation and improving mental health
- Intergenerational projects
- Projects focusing on better outcomes at end of life, including bereavement

Priority will be given to organisations:

- Working in the most socially and economically disadvantaged parts of the NECA region, including isolated rural areas.

- Benefit women, those with disabilities and/or people from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic backgrounds.



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What do we mean by small charities and community organisations?

- **Must have charitable aims** and **annual income under £500,000**
- Registered charities
- Community/voluntary groups that have a constitution
- Social enterprises (CICs, companies limited by guarantee) that have been trading for at least 12 months, are registered with the appropriate body and have at least 50% income from trade/services. You must demonstrate this in the information submitted with your application.

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Safeguarding

- Safeguarding policy with a named officer/lead
- In date and in the name of your organisation (if you're part of a national organisation, you need to have a policy in your local branch name)



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What does the fund cover?

- Core running costs linked to the fund's aims
- Specific project costs
- Equipment and capital costs for buildings (must clearly support fund aims)









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What does the fund not cover?

- Building or buying premises or land rights
- Contingency funding
- Deficit or retrospective funding
- Direct replacement of statutory or public funding
- Feasibility studies or initial community consultations
- For profit or commercial elements of charitable organisation
- Fundraising activities



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Monitoring

You will need to monitor and report against one or more of the following intended benefits of the grant:

- Increased partnership working
- Increased provision of services
- Increased number of beneficiaries supported
- Increased workforce at your organisation

You will also need to provide case studies and may need to take part in publicity and visits by the Mayor and/or NECA and Point North staff.



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How to apply?

- Visit our website
- Read our full grant guidelines
- Complete our application form via our website
- **Decision made:** April 2026
- **Grants paid and activities begin:** May 2026

Pointnorth.org.uk/grants

Visit our website to apply

Any questions?



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Contact details

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Thank you!

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