

Background

Fife Carers Community Chest aims to fund local projects, that are for the benefit of carers. In Fife there are over 50,000 carers and our aim is to fund community projects which will allow carers to create supportive places, develop their sense of belonging and improve their wellbeing.

Who is a carer

A carer is someone who, without payment, provides help and support to a relative, friend or neighbour who can't manage without their help. This could be due to age, physical or mental illness, addiction, or disability.

Who can apply

The funding is available to any carer led community group/charity etc based in Fife who want to offer support to carers in their community. **The primary beneficiaries of the funding must be carers.**

If you are not an established/constituted community group, you can still apply for the funding but will need to have banking arrangements in place to accept the funding. If you wish to become a constituted community group; advice, guidance, and support to form a constituted group is available from Fife Voluntary Action (www.fva.org/organisation_support.asp). You can still apply for the funding whilst in the process of becoming constituted.

Groups can apply for funding before a bank account is in place. Banking arrangements need to be in place before the end of March 2026 to receive the funding.

The fund is **not open** to commercial businesses or individuals.

How to apply

Please use the MS form to apply to the fund:

[This form](#)

Funding will not be allocated until April 2026

Funding available

The funding for the Community Chest Fund is from Fife Health and Social Care Partnership. Community groups can apply for funding up to £10,000 for a project. Projects should detail in their application how the project will be continued after the funding period ends.

Standard grant conditions of Fife Health & Social Care Partnership will apply.

The funding can only be used for projects that are within Fife that primarily and directly support carers living in Fife.

Projects have 1 year to spend the funding if the project is approved. Projects should have all their funding allocation spent by 31st March 2027

Project suggestions

Examples of projects that have been awarded funding in 2023/24 include:

- Local café, supper clubs, coffee mornings, warm venues

- Art and crafts clubs or projects
- Shared allotment or gardening projects
- Sports and fitness - walking or cycling clubs, swimming clubs, golf groups
- Book clubs
- Creation of carers hub or space
- Short breaks and respite opportunities for carers

All Projects funded in the first and second round of funding, are detailed in the SWAYs below:

<https://sway.office.com/38c2FxHkWsFmCyak?ref=Link>

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/1eA9UfTlUiBVnm9z?ref=Link>

Costs

The panel will consider support for reasonable project costs which are new or additional costs to a community group as a result of a successful application. Each project will be required to fully account for its expenditure. The grant application will include details of the costs they will incur to deliver the project. All unused funding must be returned to the Health & Social Care Partnership and if the project exceeds the anticipated budget, further funding cannot be provided. The panel have discretion to award more or less funding than requested, if appropriate.

Costs that will be considered (examples):

- Venue hire (premises that are already owned or leased will not be funded)
- Equipment and furniture hire or purchase
- Promotional material and publicity
- Travel and accommodation
- Staff and volunteer nominal expenses e.g., additional mobile phone, broadband costs or travel costs
- Planned personal care, supportive respite for the carer
- Licences and permits
- Volunteer recruitment, training, and support
- Consumables e.g., printing, stationery, postage

Costs that will **not** be funded:

- Costs related to professional therapists/nurses etc
- Staff already in post
- Costs where the primary beneficiary is not carers
- Costs for personal, business or individual gain
- Rent or costs for premises already owned or leased
- Day services

Applications will be assessed on

Applications will be subject to consideration and evaluation by an independent panel of experts, which will include carers representatives and professionals from third sector organisations who support carers. The criteria against which the applications will be assessed include:

- The nature of the proposed project and the number of carers supported
- Demonstrable needs or demand for the project
- The benefit of the project to carers
- The difference the project will make to carers
- The additionality of the project

- Risk assessment and overall value for public money
- The spread of applications from each locality
- Agreement to partnership working and shared learning

At its own discretion, the panel may set additional criteria by which they assess all applications.

Timeline for applications

Please ensure you speak to a Locality Development Officer before you submit an application, to do this email - HSCPLocalityPlanning@fife.gov.uk

The fund will open on 2nd September 2025 for applicants to submit their application form.

The following timeline is an estimation:

2nd September 2025 - The Community Chest Fund opens – applications submitted to email address

23rd November 2025 - The Community Chest Fund closes – applications will not be considered after this date

28th February 2026 - Decision of application communicated to applicants by this date

Please be aware that the panel's decision on the fund is final and if there are unallocated funds there may be further rounds for applications.

31st March 2027 – Project to be complete and evaluation submitted to HSCPLocalityPlanning@fife.gov.uk

Project evaluation

We recognise the value of the grant offered is modest and while we are seeking to learn from each project about its impact, we will keep the evaluation simple, to a minimum of three key elements:

- A short report of achievements against the outcomes and impacts noted in the application, including the number of carers benefitting.
- An anonymised case study that can be used to promote the Community Chest Fund in the future.
- A final income and expenditure report for the project showing how public funding was used.

For further information and to submit your application form please email HSCPLocalityPlanning@fife.gov.uk