

Birmingham Fairer Futures Fund

Locality Partnership Fund: **South Birmingham Locality**

Expression of Interest – Guidance Document

About this form

This form should be used alongside the Birmingham Fairer Futures Fund Locality Partnership Expression of Interest form to submit an Expression of Interest for funding from the Fairer Futures Fund Locality Partnership Fund grant. You must submit your expression of interest by midnight on **Sunday 20th July 2025 using this form**.

This document contains guidance information on completing the form as well as information on the Birmingham Fairer Futures Fund priority areas as well as those more specific to the South Locality (as agreed by the South Locality Partnership).

What is the Fairer Futures Fund (FFF)?

Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System set out a series of radical ambitions: to transform how health and social care services are run to give real focus to improving outcomes and tackling inequalities. The Fairer Futures Fund was created to support community, clinical and professionally led innovation. Funding was allocated to both Birmingham and Solihull, to be managed via their respective Place Committees. The Birmingham Place Committee agreed that funds be distributed via four themed sub funds. In September 2023, the Place Committee agreed proposals for the priorities and management of those sub-funds.

What is the Integrated Care System (ICS)?

Originally created as part of the NHS's Long-Term Plan, Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) became legal entities in July 2022. There are 42 ICSs covering the whole of England. BSol ICS is a partnership of health and care organisations, local government and the VCFSE sector, all working in collaboration to improve population health, tackle health inequalities, enhance productivity and help the NHS support broader social and economic development. BSol ICS serves 1.3 million people living across the city and borough and is working together to deliver a vision for Birmingham and Solihull to be the

healthiest place to live and work, driving equity in life chances and health outcomes for everyone.

What is the Locality Partnership Fund?

It is a three-year fund with a total value of £5.74million (across all areas) focusing on identified health priorities across the city. The aim of this fund is to tackle the health inequalities experienced by communities of identity or experience.

Partnerships should increase co-production with communities to better understand their challenges and priorities and how to tackle these effectively.

How much funding is available through the Locality Partnership Fund and what amounts can be applied for under the fund?

£993,393 of funding has been allocated to be distributed to partnerships within or providing services to the South Locality across the 3-year period

As this is a partnership fund, grants of £200,000 upwards are available. However, should a smaller organisation wish to submit an EOI for a lesser amount, these may be considered in supporting the formation of new partnerships. Please note, smaller grant submissions are likely to be introduced to partners to form larger partnership collaborations.

What projects will be considered for funding?

Projects that meet **at least one** of the four South Locality Priorities will be considered.

The priorities detailed are based on the five Fairer Futures Fund priority areas from the ICS 10-year strategy coupled with localised data (largely taken from Birmingham City Council Public Health Locality Profiles 2022 along with hyper-local knowledge from organisations and citizens who live, work and provide services in the locality.

South Locality Priorities have therefore been agreed as below:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Healthy Ageing
- Respiratory Health
- Cardiovascular Health

The table below shows the key issues prevalent in the South Locality within the above priority areas. Partnership proposals should aim to address the key issues based on the anticipated outcomes detailed.

The exact nature of interventions and activities is entirely at the discretion of the provider/partnership.

Fairer Futures Fund Priority	Locality Issue	Anticipated Outputs	Outcomes
Mental Health and Wellbeing	High rates of admissions due to self-harm High rates of mortality due to suicide Isolation and economic factors driving poor mental health	Increased 18 25-year-olds seeking self-harm support More men from target groups accessing help More staff trained in mental health basics Expanded out of-hours and drop-in services More Primary Care clinicians trained in self-harm referrals	Better access for target groups Empowered clinicians to discuss and signpost mental health support
Healthy Ageing	Dementia: High rates, low early diagnosis Falls: High emergency admissions in 65+ Lack of support for carers and slow diagnosis time	Community dementia awareness programs Training for early detection Accessible support tools Preventative fall services addressing balance, strength, housing	Higher early dementia diagnoses Improved care access for patients and carers Reduced falls, better quality of life Reduced stigma via education

Respiratory Health	High prevalence of smoking High hospital admission rates for COPD Rising vaping among youth	More smokers accessing quit services Increased asthma/COPD clinic uptake Anti-vaping education for youth Co-produced services with smokers/vapers	4-week and 12-week quit rate improvements Fewer asthma emergencies Increased youth awareness of vaping risks More diagnostics/treatment for COPD/asthma
Cardiovascular Health	High prevalence of CVD High rates of emergency admissions for CVD and stroke High prevalence of obese/overweight adults Poverty limiting healthy food access	More weight management program participants Increased CVD checks (BP, lipids, diabetes) Higher physical activity levels Community Health MOTs linked to GPs Budget cooking sessions and information	Reduced obesity (5%+ BMI drop) Lower CVD admissions Improved heart health metrics (e.g., GPPAQ readings) Decreased obesity levels in target groups

NB where possible, bidders should reflect potential impact on reducing pressures on emergency and urgent care systems as part of their EOI

Do specific tools need to be used to measure outcomes?

The Birmingham City Council Public Health toolkit will be used across the programme to measure outcomes. In December 2023, Birmingham's Public Health Team hosted a series of webinars to provide information and advice on measuring impact. Recordings of these can be found on the Birmingham Public Health YouTube channel -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3RIwgKB6ehKvOCb7QbSf1Q>

There is also a series of helpful toolkits -

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50321/birmingham_public_health_measurements_toolbox which introduce standardised demographic questions, as well as 13 standardised impact measures.

What is the indicative timeline for the Expression of Interest Stage?

Stage	Timeframe
EOI Opens	9 th June 2025
Q and A Session for potential bidders	Friday 20 th June (time tbc) – online
EOI Close	6 th July 2025 (midnight)
EOI Due Dilligence	Mid July
Unsuccessful Applications informed	Late July/Early August
Partnership Development and Finalising of bids	Early August 2025 (Date tbc)
Locality Partnership Decision	End of August 2025
Commencement of Delivery	September 2025

What happens during the Expression of Interest Stage?

A panel comprising of Locality Partnership members will assess the Expression of Interest submissions to ensure alignment with the identified priorities and ensure representation from South Locality organisations. Due diligence will be conducted on organisations within Partnership proposals to ensure viable and sustainable organisations are selected.

If during this stage, you do not currently have partners in mind but are open to delivering your proposal in partnership with other organisations, you can indicate in section 2.5 of the Expression of Interest form. Once all Expressions of Interest have been reviewed, we can then work with your organisation to identify other partners who have proposed similar work. Please be aware that if during the Expression of Interest stage, we receive multiple responses looking to deliver similar projects within the same thematic area, or cross cutting areas, we may suggest grouping or expanding of partnerships as part of the Development Stage.

How will Expressions of Interest be assessed?

The assessment process will be undertaken by Locality Partnership members supported by VCSE Lead Organisation representatives if appropriate. **Please note, in cases where VCSE Lead organisations have submitted an EOI for Fairer Futures Locality Partnership funding, they will be excluded from the Due Diligence and decision-making process for that application.**

Responses to the questions 3.5 to 3.8 on the Expression of Interest application form will be assessed by the panel using the following framework.

0	No response provided, or the response does not answer the question
1	The response is very limited in details provided
2	The response fails to meet the requirement in several identifiable respects
3	Overall, the response meets the requirement in almost all respects but is lacking in minimal respects
4	The response fully meets the requirement in all respects

All Expressions of Interest will then be awarded an overall score based on the following:

0	EOI not accepted – unsuitable
1	EOI accepted – with adjustments to delivery or partnership model
2	EOI accepted – no adjustments to delivery model required

Proposals which are not accepted will receive feedback from the panel (via VCSE Lead Organisations) and supported to access other funding sources if appropriate.

Proposals for which adjustments are suggested will be contacted by VCSE Lead Organisations to discuss suggested changes and agree if the partnership/organisation wishes to continue the process.

Can my organisation submit more than one expression of interest?

Your organisation can only be the lead applicant for one expression of interest. You can be a partner in others, but you should consider your organisations resources and capacity to deliver successfully against any proposed project in which you are involved.

Do organisations need to be part of a Partnership to apply?

Yes. All proposed projects are required to be developed and delivered through a collaborative partnership approach.

Can applications be made for existing and established projects that require continuation funding?

One of the intentions of the Fairer Futures Fund is to encourage new ways of working to make an impact on long-standing issues of inequality. All bidders are strongly encouraged to design projects that very clearly meet the priorities of the Locality Partnership Fund, rather than seeing the fund as an opportunity to replace or as a substitute for existing or reduced current funding. All bids will be assessed on their ability to impact the established priority themes. The Fairer Futures Fund has been created because it is recognised that the current ways in which statutory organisations deliver services is not making enough difference in terms of reducing the health and wellbeing inequalities experienced by some communities in the city and locality. All strands of the Fairer Futures Fund encourage working differently, in ways that are responsive to and led by communities who experience inequality of outcomes – ideally in partnership with practitioners and clinicians. We recognise that there are examples of this happening already. We want to grow and develop this approach.

What happens after the Expression of Interest Stage?

Please refer to the indicative timeline as detailed above. All organisations/partnerships who submit an EOI will be contacted following submission to discuss outcomes and next steps.