

South Yorkshire Green Social Prescribing Grants Programme

The South Yorkshire Green Social Prescribing test and learn programme is launching a new grants round in 2024/25. South Yorkshire's Community Foundation is pleased to manage this fund on behalf on NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and health and care system partners.

Background to programme

'Preventing and tackling mental ill health through green social prescribing' is national programme to improve our health by increasing the connection to and time spent in nature through social prescribing. Please see here for more information on the national programme:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/social-prescribing/green-social-prescribing/>

Building on the government's commitment to transform mental health services and increase social prescribing (NHS Long Term Plan), the programme also helps to deliver on the governments 25 Year Environment Plan to help more people, from all backgrounds to engage with and spend more time in green and blue spaces in their everyday lives.

South Yorkshire has been one of the seven test and learn sites for the national programme for the past three years. A range of health, care, and VCSE organisations across our region's [Integrated Care System](#) have worked together to deliver a programme that has reached people at risk of health inequalities and has had a positive impact on peoples mental health. In our fourth year we are keen to build on this success and to identify sustainable approaches for the future.

Past Projects

Please see video links below for an idea of previously funded projects:

[Flourish, Doncaster](#)

[Fishermans Friends Rotherham](#)

[Rhubarb Farm](#)

What is social prescribing?

Social prescribing is the practice of supporting people to engage in a range of community-based activities and services, often delivered by the voluntary and community sector, which will benefit their mental, emotional, physical, or social health. This is done through social prescribing link workers (or sometimes others known to the person) who build relationships with people based on a "what matters to you" conversation and an offer of practical and emotional support.

What is green social prescribing?

Green social prescribing, or green-blue social prescribing builds on this, and is the practice of supporting people to engage in nature-based interventions and activities and includes both green and blue (water) environments. The activities which people may be linked to include local walking schemes, community gardening projects, conservation volunteering, green gyms, fishing, paddle sports, waterside walks, eco-therapeutic activities, arts, and cultural activities which take place outdoors and any physical activity sessions which encourage people to move more.

The term green-blue social prescribing simply recognises that time spent in 'blue' environments such as canals, rivers and lakes have health and wellbeing benefits, which may be different to those in more commonly recognised 'green' environments such as woodlands and grasslands. Both types often go under the same banner of 'green social prescribing.'

Funding Priorities

Applications are invited from voluntary and community organisations who can demonstrate that they can support the programme funding priorities as follows:

Green and/or blue activities

All funded projects will need to demonstrate that they connect people with the outdoors. This might include connecting people with green or blue space in some of the following ways:

- Horticulture
- Conservation
- Physical activity (moving more)
- Wilderness focussed.
- Integrating alternative therapies
- Craft focussed.
- Integrating talking therapies
- Nature appreciation
- Care farming.

We will fund *existing* activities that can support our programme objectives and need additional funding to expand, develop or adapt. We will also fund *new* activities that help to increase the breadth and diversity of provision.

All groups that we fund can receive referrals from any source including self-referrals, but must be prepared to receive referrals from their local social prescribing team. If a connection is not already established, you will be helped to make one.

As a test and learn programme we are seeking to understand what works well and to evidence the impact of green social prescribing interventions for people participating in activities. All funded groups must be committed to supporting the learning objectives of the programme. This will involve:

- **Completing monitoring information about the activity.** We will provide successful grant applicants with a spreadsheet to capture anonymised data about participants in the activity. This will need to be completed and returned to us monthly.
- Producing an anonymised case study about an individual who has benefited from a green social prescribing activity.
- Sharing information about the activity for a South Yorkshire directory to support referrals.
- Participating in a community of practice which will involve networking and workshops with other grant recipients. The focus of the sessions will be about peer support, strengthening data sharing and working together to identify sustainable funding approaches for the future.

Supporting people with mental ill health

The key aim of the programme is to tackle and prevent mental ill-health and will offer green and blue activities to people with a variety of identified mental health needs. This will range from those with low level emotional and psychological needs, for example loneliness, worry and low mood, to people with mild to moderate diagnosed mental health need, such as mild depression and anxiety, to people with severe and enduring mental health conditions, who may need support in their recovery and to prevent relapse.

Improving access to green prescribing for communities at risk of Health Inequalities

The South Yorkshire Green Social Prescribing Programme aims to improve access to green prescribing for the general population. However, we know that some communities are particularly at risk of health inequalities. For that reason, we will prioritise activities that are inclusive of diverse communities, and that can specifically improve access to green or blue activities for any of the following communities:

- Black and Ethnic Minority Communities
- Young People
- People who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable to Covid
- People living in areas of deprivation (Index of Multiple Deprivation most deprived 20% Lower-layer Super Output Area).

Programme Outcomes

We are interested in supporting activities that can connect people to nature in the winter months as well as the summer months, and that also work to achieve the following outcomes:

Outcomes for individuals

- **Improved mental health.**
- Improved physical health.
- Improved wellbeing
- Improved social connections.

Outcomes for communities (neighbourhoods and communities of interest)

- Improved green/blue space
- Improved access to green/blue space
- Increased range of activities available
- Improve capacity and sustainability of voluntary and community groups.

Outcomes for the health and care system

- Strengthened social prescribing pathways.
- Improved understanding of barriers to green prescribing and effective ways to address this.
- Better evidence of the value of green prescribing for health and care professions
- Sustainable services/activities
- Reduced pressures on health and care services
- Reduced health inequalities

Who can apply?

Grants are specifically to support voluntary and community organisations, including small community led groups through to larger established organisations.

The applicant must be:

- A registered charity,
- A community interest company, or
- Another constituted community organisation or social enterprise (including companies limited by guarantee, cooperatives and community benefit societies which are strictly not for-profit)

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have a governing document (e.g. a constitution or memorandum of association),
- Have a board or management committee of at least three unrelated people,
- Have a bank account in the name of the group requiring at least two unrelated signatories,
- Have an equal opportunities and safeguarding policy,
- Have beneficiaries who live in South Yorkshire.
- Be locally led and run in South Yorkshire.

Grants will not be awarded to:

- Individuals, or any structure with less than 3 unrelated directors
- Statutory organisations- though statutory organisations can be a named partner in an application an application led by a voluntary or community group.
- Private companies limited by shares.
- Sole traders
- Organisations that discriminate based on race, religion, national origin, disability, age, or sexual orientation.
- Organisations that promote hate speech
- Retrospective funding for activities or projects that have already taken place.

For Groups who have already received funding through the SYCF managed Green Social Prescribing programme:

Please complete the Expression of Interest form linked through our website. You should demonstrate how this funding will link to existing work through this project and how you will commit to participation in workshops held throughout the year for this programme and adhere to the reporting requirements. Please ensure capacity costs for this are included in your budget breakdown.

For Groups new to this programme:

Please complete the Green Social Prescribing Application form linked through our website and ensure that requested documentation is included with the submission, along with considered responses to each question. Please ensure you explain how you will commit to participating in the workshops held throughout the year for this programme and adhere to the reporting requirements. Please ensure capacity costs for this are included in your budget breakdown.

Project requests for either group can be for up to £7,500.

When can I apply?

We are accepting application forms from now until 9am, Monday 27th May.

Please note, it is a requirement of this funding that your grant should be spent by **31st January 2025** Please keep this in mind when deciding how much your organisation applies for.

Eligible spend for grants.

Grant funding can support project costs including operating, revenue, and capital costs.

Categories of spend that cannot be supported:

- Statutory fines and penalties, criminal fines and damages, legal expenses in respect of litigation, debt interest, other fines, or financial penalties
- Recoverable VAT

Conditions of Grant

Successful grant applicants must:

- Utilise the grant for the agreed purposes only.
- Support and cost in capacity for this programmes learning objectives by:
 - Completing a form with anonymised data about activity participants each month.
 - Producing at least one case study.
 - Participating in a community of practice which will involve workshops with other grant recipients.
- Support the aims of the programme to promote green prescribing e.g. by using agreed programme branding and communications tools.
- Inform South Yorkshire Community Foundation if there are problems in delivering the agreed activity and agree a plan.
- Accept that this is a one-off grant payment, and there is no commitment to further grants.

Selection process

On receipt of your application form, we will check your eligibility and supporting documents.

The application process will include due diligence where SYCF will review your eligibility, governance, and financial records. Your application will be assessed against the grant criteria and priorities. Shortlisted applications will then be assessed by an independent decision-making panel, who will meet in early June.

Reporting Requirements:

As this is a test and learn programme, monitoring, evaluation and capturing learning is an important feature of the grants programme. **Please do not apply if you cannot confidently commit to participation in workshops and the monthly reporting requirements.**

The team leading the Green Social Prescribing Programme will work with you to agree an approach to capturing and sharing your impact and a reporting schedule. They will be interested in your experience of delivering the activity, stories of impact that your activity has both with the individuals you work with and

the communities you connect with. They are also interested in data and will work with you to ensure that this is appropriate to your activity and the amount of funding that you receive.

As a guide, they will discuss the following with you and agree an appropriate reporting and sharing approach together:

- How many people take part in your activity.
- How many people from our target cohorts you have connected with.
- How many people started and then completed the activity. If they did not complete the activity, why was this?
- Information about who referred people to your activity.
- How do you plan to measure the impact with individuals? Do you have a way to measure outcomes? e.g. using ONS4, WEMWBS, or SWEMWBS. Is this something you might want help with?
- Can you share case studies/stories with us?
- Are you able to take part in a telephone or online interview with us towards the end of your project to discuss the experience, what went well, and any challenges you experienced?
- Are you interested in joining online meetings with other grant recipients to share your experiences and offer peer-based support?
- Are you interested in sharing your project and learning in media opportunities or national learning events?

Important Dates

w/c 6 th May	Grants launch
9am Monday 27 th May	Application deadline
Mid-June	Grants decisions
July 2024 – January 2025	Project delivery
April – May 2025	Project evaluation