

## Sir George Earle Benevolent Fund Programme

The Sir George Benevolent Fund is named after its principal benefactor, the late Sir George Earle. The fund was established in 1974 to fund local projects supporting older people facing loneliness and isolation.

### How much can I apply for?

Grants of £500 - £3,000 per organisation.  
£25,200 in total is available.

### When can I apply?

Applications are now open with a deadline of 9am, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

### Aims and priorities.

We want to fund organisations which will make a difference in their local neighbourhood, focusing on the following priorities:

- Improve older people's access to social activity.
- Reduce feelings of loneliness or isolation in older people.
- Increase the availability of local projects or activity which supports older people.
- Respond to local social or economic needs.

Projects can cover a small geographic area, e.g., housing estate/village, or larger areas e.g., town/borough where there is evidence of community involvement.

Community groups that can draw in match funding are encouraged to apply. Match funding should be considered for costs that the fund cannot fund e.g., large-scale capital costs.

### Who can apply?

This fund is for community organisations in South Yorkshire. This includes charities, community groups, clubs, and not-for-profit social enterprises. To be eligible for a grant you 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 beneficiaries who live in South Yorkshire and be locally led and run. We will only fund local offices or branches of a national charity if they have their own local management committee and manage their own local finances.



### What can I spend the money on?

Anything that delivers the impact for your community including core costs! It could include:

- Small-scale capital work (e.g., equipment, building works or repairs, provided you own or lease the building/land being built on or repaired)
- Revenue, including room hire, volunteer expenses, sessional staff, or salaries (e.g., extra hours for an existing staff member, or a short-term contract)
- Service provision, including e.g., materials, practical and specialist support for groups and activities.

If your application includes staff costs, we encourage you to pay at least the real [Living Wage](#). Do not forget to include a fair share of overheads like rent or room hire, utilities, and admin or management costs needed to support your project.

Where relevant, we expect you to shop around to find the best value for money.

### What cannot be funded?

Community Grants cannot be used for:

- For-profit organisations, statutory organisations, or overseas organisations. We can fund 'Friends of' organisations and/or after school clubs.
- Individuals or individual sponsorship
- Retrospective funding I.E. activity and costs that have already taken place or repayment of money which has already been spent.
- Overseas trips or expeditions
- Grant-making to other organisations and/or individuals
- Activity that promotes a particular political or religious point of view. We can fund religious organisations (like a church, mosque or gurdwara) delivering activity which benefits the community (like running a food bank), but we cannot fund an organisation or activity intended to promote one religion.
- The grant should not represent over 25% of your group's annual income, unless your group is newly set up.
- Major/large-scale capital, such as vehicles, property, build or adaptation costs.
- Organisations who are already in receipt of a grant directly from the Sir George Earle Fund at UK Community Foundations.

### What happens after I apply?

Your application will be assessed against the criteria, aims and priorities above and we may contact you to ask some additional questions or for missing information. Please ensure you attach or email the essential requested additional documentation when you submit your application to prevent delays to this process.



**President**

Professor Dame Hilary A Chapman DBE RN  
H.M. Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire

**Chair**

Professor Chris Booth-Mayblin

**Chief Executive**

Ruth E Willis MCIH FRSA

Our panel of independent volunteers will make the decisions, which are final. The panel will sit in mid-September so your project should start no earlier than 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

If your application is successful, we will contact you with the good news and details of which fund has provided the grant and when you can expect payment. You will need to send a thank you letter and request SYCF's logo to acknowledge on your website and relevant marketing. If your application unfortunately does not meet our criteria, or if the panel decide it is not a priority for funding, we will contact you to let you know and provide feedback on request.

Please note that we expect to receive more applications than we can fund, so not every eligible application will be funded.

Reporting

We're keen to understand what difference our grants make, and to share good stories with our donors and supporters. We also want you to learn from delivering your project, and to share that learning with us and with others. Finally, we have to ensure that funding has been appropriately spent, in line with your application and our terms and conditions.

For all these reasons, we will ask you to send us an end of grant report, confirming your expenditure and sharing information about the difference the grant has made to your group and beneficiaries. This must be completed two weeks after the grant has been spent or the activity has finished. We'll send you a link to the online end of grant report form and treasurer's confirmation form around the same time as we make your grant payment.

We might also arrange to visit your project or contact you during the project to discuss your progress.

Contact us.

If you would like more information or to discuss your application, please contact the Grants Team via [grants@sykf.org.uk](mailto:grants@sykf.org.uk).

If you are based in Barnsley or Sheffield, and you would like more support to make an application, please contact our colleagues at [SYFAB](#) who will be happy to help you.

