

Case Study 3  
Community Chests for  
Social Prescribing



Transformation  
Partners  
in Health and Care

# Enable and Wandsworth CCG



in partnership with  
**enable**  
leisure & culture



## Summary

Enable is a Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) anchor organisation who deliver the Community Chest as part of their provision of social prescribing services in Wandsworth. Enable and Wandsworth CCG have pioneered two funds to support social prescribing activities in the borough.

### Total funding

**£50k annual budget**

### Average award

**£1-2k per organisation**

### How is the fund structured?

There are two funds which operate under the Community Chest umbrella:

**Capacity Fund:** for VCFSE's who need financial support to manage capacity issues due to demand on services. This was the original fund that was set up and was initially designed to 'rebate' VCSE's for services that they were providing.

**Direct Micro Commissioning Fund:** This fund supports organisations with new projects or initiatives which respond to unmet need. Importantly, these projects are encouraged to be pilots only, with a view to showing proof of concept so that the organisation could apply for longer term service provision funding in the future.

### Where does the money come from?

Enable LC, Wandsworth CCG and the Local Authority (Wandsworth)

***"The best thing about the Community Chest for me is that it allows us to draw on the creativity of the Voluntary and Community Sector."***

Laura Chisholm, Personalised Care Service Manager

### Who runs it?

Both funds are operationalised and managed by Enable who also manage the team of SPLW's embedded within primary care across the borough. The 'Enable Community Development Department' bring their experience to the management and governance of the funds.

The selection panel comprises of Enable representatives (programme manager and senior link worker), CCG SP Lead, Clinical, Wandsworth Public Health Lead and an experienced VCSE representative.

### How does it work?

- Organisations need to be a registered charity to apply.
- Applications are made to a specific fund.
- Application support is offered by Enable.
- Applications are assessed in a quarterly meeting
- Funding allocations to grantees range from micro-grants of £250 to capacity grants of £10k (this amount has been increased following feedback from VCSE consultation).
- All funded organisations are expected to report on their activities however there are no prescribed monitoring or evaluation methods.

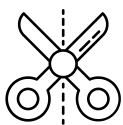


## Background to the Community Chest

The CCG recognised that with 20% of the GP caseload being psycho-social there would be an increased demand on the VCSE services. Following close consultation with the VCSE sector, Wandsworth and the CCG made a clear commitment to offer support and funding to the VCSE sector through a Community Chest model.



## Innovations



**Light touch monitoring and evaluation:** Micro commissioning fund uses light impact measurements such as attendance and numbers.



**Prototyping new activities:** Micro-commissioning supports VCSE organisations to test initiatives.



**Involvement of social prescribing link workers:** SPLW's identify the unmet needs in Wandsworth and evidence this via quantitative data extracted from the Elemental database.

## Learnings and Ambitions

- Some organisations declined the £6k capacity building funding because it was not enough. Upon evaluation, the fund was increased to £10k.
- Micro Commissioning Fund doesn't tend to receive applications for micro grants (£250-£500). The most popular funding amounts applied for were in the range of £1,000 - £2,000.
- Eligibility criteria could be improved. Organisations tended to put in applications for things that were not their specialism.
- It is easier to fund organisations that already can prove a track record of delivering their service.
- Better support could be offered around monitoring and evaluation, especially if the organisation has a desire to offer a longer term service.
- Equity and inclusion partnerships could be developed and embedded in the programme from the start of a cycle.
- It is essential to make sure that there is the capacity and staff resource in the grant management organisation to run the programme.