Local Friendship Grants

The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council is inviting community organisations to apply for **Local Friendship Grants** to support people living with **dementia and/or sensory impairments**.

These grants help local groups deliver friendly, inclusive and accessible support, enabling people to stay connected, develop skills, maintain independence and feel part of their communities.

Friendship Grants are flexible and can be used in a range of ways, provided the funding supports communities affected by Dementia and/or Sensory Impairments.

What can the grants be used for?

Funding may be used to:

- Support Social, recreational or community-based activities and sessions.
- Promote independence among adults with dementia / sensory impairments.
- Deliver ongoing activities that provide sustained benefit.
- Support adaptations to spaces, and the provision of resources or equipment, that enhance accessibility and inclusion
- Support that helps people build, develop or maintain life skills
- Activities or support that benefit carers of people living with Dementia and/or Sensory Impairments
- Projects that reduce isolation and create opportunities for meaningful connection
- Help connect people from different backgrounds
- Transportation costs for days out e.g. bus hire can be funded by the grant. Where transport is a barrier for people accessing your project, the grant can

be used towards short term transportation support for new members. It cannot be used as long term solution (or for existing members) and each application will be considered on its own merits.

The types of projects we are looking to fund, include (but are not limited to):

- Encouraging people to remain active and engaged in their communities
- Reducing social isolation, loneliness, and improve wellbeing in adults.
- Increasing physical activity and support people to become and remain active.
- Supporting people living with dementia and/or sensory impairments to develop and maintain skills, and to explore or re-engage with meaningful activities

The examples listed are not exhaustive, and we encourage innovative approaches where applicants can demonstrate clear benefit for people living with dementia and/or sensory Impairments. We particularly encourage projects that deliver longer-term or sustained impact, and these will be prioritised when funding is awarded

What is sensory impairment?

For the purposes of these grants, sensory impairment is taken to mean people who are deaf or who have sight and/or hearing loss which has an impact on their daily life.

What can the grants not be used for?

- The grants cannot be used to pay for insurance.
- Funding cannot be used to pay the existing wages of staff already employed by your group or organisation; however, it may be used to fund additional staffing hours required specifically to deliver the proposed project.
- Funding cannot be used to support the regular day to day operations of the organisation.
- Funding cannot be used for the regular maintenance of equipment.

How much funding can an organisation apply for?

- Organisations applying for a grant to support with dementia related projects are eligible to apply for between £500 and £5,000
- Organisations applying for a grant to support with sensory impairment related projects are eligible to apply for between £500 and £8,000. Please note, for organisations applying for over £5,000 we may ask for more details about your proposed project, and enhanced monitoring requirements may apply.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Organisations who have applied for previous rounds of friendship grants are all eligible to apply again. You cannot submit the same application but are welcome to build on previous projects or submit a new idea.
- Applications are welcomed from properly constituted groups — including, but not limited to, peer support groups, registered charities, social enterprises, not-for-profit small businesses, and voluntary or community organisations. Groups that are not yet constituted may still apply; however, if successful, funding will only be released once formal constitution is in place.
- The panel reserve the right to include past performance within the evaluation stage and this may influence the outcome applications.

What makes an application more likely to successful?

Projects that demonstrate long-term or sustained impact will be prioritised for funding. We particularly encourage initiatives that create lasting change, support ongoing connection, or provide continued benefit to people living with dementia and/or sensory impairments. Applications that clearly describe how the project will have meaningful impact beyond the immediate activity will be viewed most favourably.

Short-term or one-off activities (such as single day trips or standalone events) may still be considered; however, projects that offer longer-term value or continued engagement are more likely to be prioritised.

Please note that organisations do not need to exclusively support people with dementia and/or sensory impairments to be eligible to apply. The main element of the application form is **Section 4: Project Details**; applicants are encouraged to refer to the table below for guidance on what each question in this section should cover.

Application form Support

Section	Guidance
3. About your group. 'Is your organisation constituted?'	Organisations that are not yet constituted may still apply. However, if your application is successful, funding will only be released once your group has become formally constituted. If you need support to help your group or organisation to become constituted please contact ASCGrantsInbox@bradford.gov.uk

3. About your group. 'Do you have relevant policies, procedures and insurance'	As part of the application, you are not required to submit copies of your policies or insurance. However, we may request these before releasing funding to successful applicants.
4. Project details. 'Please provide a description of your project proposal'	Please describe your project in detail, including what it aims to achieve and how you plan to deliver it (Where, when, how). Your response should be clear and concise, covering the number and duration of sessions, the activities involved, and the estimated number of people who will benefit. (We recommend between 250 and 600 words)
4. Project details. 'Please explain how you know this project is needed'	In this section, please explain the evidence that shows your project is needed. This could include feedback from people you support, observations, interest or requests you have received, waiting lists, previous attendance at similar activities, gaps you have identified in local provision, or any conversations or insight that highlight demand.
4. Project details 'Proposed project end date'	All projects will need to be completed by March 2027. All funded projects will be required to submit monitoring information no later than April 2027.
4. Project details 'What outcomes are you hoping the project will achieve, and how will they be measured? (Please include both short and long-term outcomes)	Describe the difference your project is expected to make (your outcomes) and how you will capture evidence of these changes. Include both short-term outcomes (changes that may happen during or soon after the project) and long-term outcomes (changes that may continue beyond the funded period). Please outline how you plan to measure these outcomes, such as through attendance records, feedback forms, observations, or conversations with participants. These outcomes will be reviewed again in the monitoring stage,

	so we strongly recommend planning how you will collect this information from the start of your project.
4. Project details 'How will you promote the project and ensure accessibility?'	Explain how you will make sure that the people who are intended to benefit from the project (for example, individuals living with dementia or sensory impairments, and their carers) will know about the project and be able to take part. Please outline how you plan to promote the project, as well as how you will remove or reduce any barriers to attendance. This may include how you will advertise the project, the accessibility of the venue, the timing of sessions, and any other steps you will take to ensure people can access and participate fully.
5. Project costs 'Please provide a breakdown of how you plan to spend the grant'	Please provide an itemised breakdown of all costs associated with delivering your project. This should include each expense you expect to incur (for example: staffing hours, room hire, equipment or materials, travel costs, or training). Wherever possible, please include quotes or indicative prices to show how you have estimated your costs.

Besides the application form will I need to submit any other information as part of my application?

At the application stage, we only require you to complete and submit the online application form. If your application is successful, we may request additional information, such as copies of relevant policies. All successful applicants will also be required to sign a memorandum of agreement. We do also require all applications to be listed on Connect to Support. Help and guidance will be provided.

How to apply

Friendship grants will be open for applications from the 2nd March 2026 until the 27th March 2026.

We ask that applications are submitted using the online form.

To support the application process, a paper-based copy of the application form is available.This is provided **for reference only** to help you understand the information that will be requested. **All applications must be submitted online**. (If you are having difficulties with the online application, please email ascgrantsinbox@bradford.gov.uk with the reference 'Local friendship grants' in the title)

As part of the application process, a **clarifications log** will be open from 2nd March to 15th March. This is a public document where we will publish answers to any questions applicants submit about the grant or application process. Questions can be emailed to ascgrantsinbox@bradford.gov.uk using the title 'Local friendship grants clarification'. All questions and responses will be added to the log so that every applicant has access to the same information. The clarifications log will be available on Connect to Support.

Successful applications – What you need to know

Organisations awarded funding will be required to take part in monitoring to ensure the grant is used appropriately and in line with the project outlined in their application. Bradford Council will ask all successful applicants to complete a monitoring form at the end of their project. Organisations must also provide evidence of how the funding has been spent, including receipts or invoices. Additional evidence of project activity may also be requested. This could include (but is not limited to) photographs of improvements made, images of activities taking place, attendance records, or feedback from participants.

Organisations that do not provide the required monitoring information and/or proof of spend may be subject to Bradford Council reclaiming the grant.

We recommend reviewing the monitoring form before applying for a grant so you are familiar with the types of questions you will need to answer at the end of your project. Understanding these requirements early will help you plan any necessary data collection from the start.

As it is difficult to collect information retrospectively, we strongly advise building data-capture methods into your project from the beginning.

Monitoring information will be submitted via an online form; however, we also recommend reviewing the Word version of the form to understand in advance what information you will be asked to provide.