



Community &  
Voluntary Services  
Cheshire East

# VCFSSE Mental Health funding 2025 – EOI pack

# Background

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (CWP) have released monies to CVSCE to distribute to the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sector as part of their commitment to improving the collaborative approaches to supporting Mental Health across Cheshire East. This is a pilot approach to the dissemination of funding at a place level, aiming to reduce bureaucracy and increase confidence between partners.

These monies are split into two distinct lots –

LOT 1: To provide care navigation support to adults (over 18) across the Cheshire East footprint, especially those who are being discharged from Serious Mental Illness (SMI) care by CWP.

LOT 2: Micro Grants for VCFSE Sector organisations of all shapes and sizes to increase understanding, connectivity and collaboration between all partners who support better Mental Health.

This pack explains the requirements and timescales for each lot.

# Criteria

Each organisation applying must be:

A Voluntary, Community, Faith, or Social Enterprise Sector organisation currently in existence

Currently operating within the Cheshire East footprint

Willing to work with a variety of partners, including CVSCE, CWP, Cheshire East Council, Cheshire and Merseyside ICB

Willing to contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of any successful application

Willing to share data and information in a legal and constructive manner

Be able to work with individuals over the age of 18



# CWP's strategy

The funding provided is part of CWP's ongoing strategy to Build on the past, Face the present and Imagine the future.

The funding for the VCFSE Sector recognises the needs of our communities, seeks to address health inequalities and increase capacity and resources.

Successful applicants will play an important role in progressing this current strategy, whilst also paving the way to shape the next one

Needs of our Community

Health Inequalities

Capacity and Resource

# CWP's strategy

Improving health, care and wellbeing

Working within communities

Working in partnership

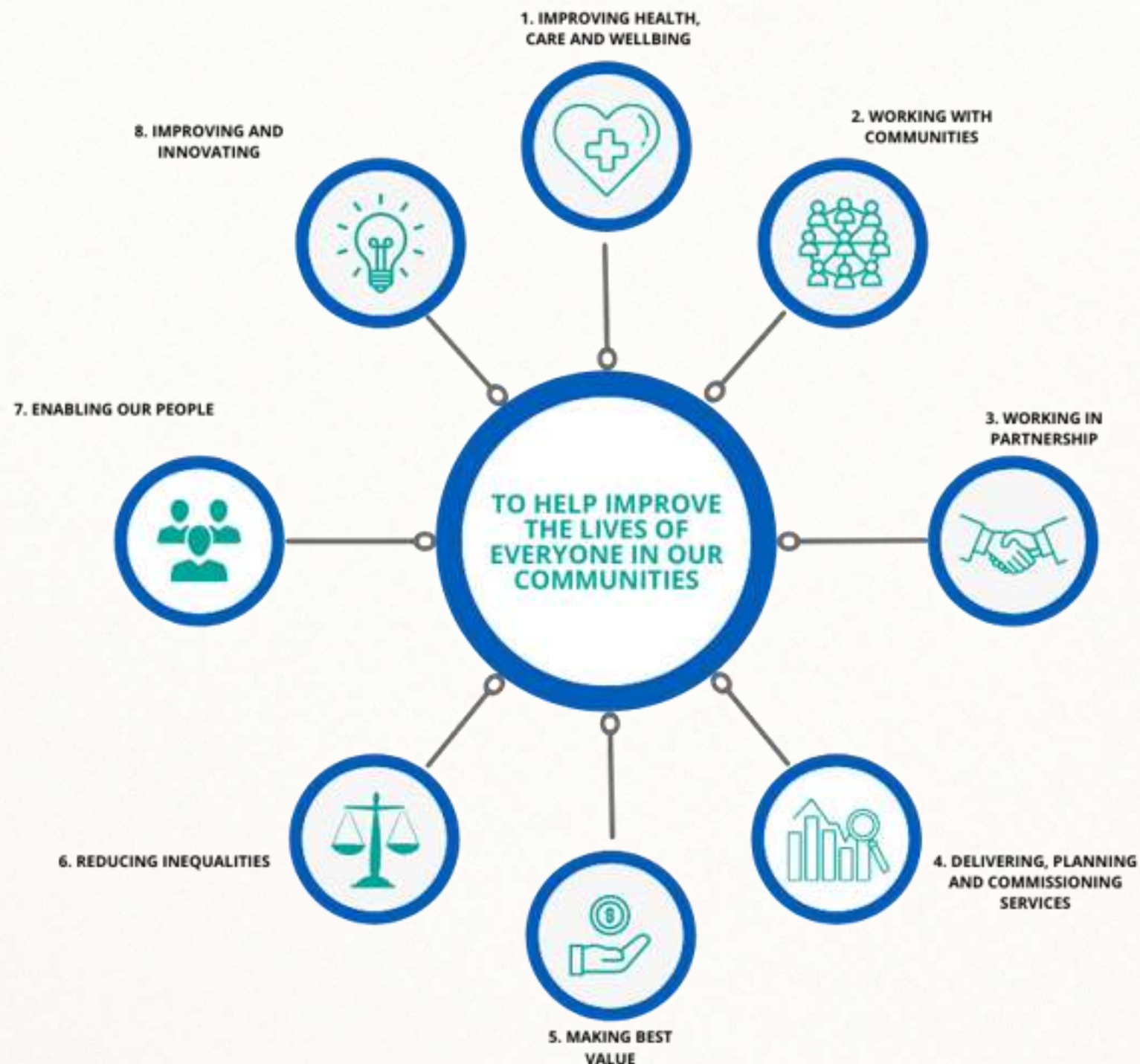
Delivering, planning and commissioning services

Making best value

Reducing inequalities

Enabling our people

Improving and innovating





# LOT 1 – Care Navigation

# LOT 2 – Micro Grants

## KEY FEATURES

- 2 years plus 1 funding – this is from a recurrent pot which we hope will shape a longer-term funding approach
- £165k p.a. in the lot
- Could be applied for as a single lot, or for part of a lot covering a specific geographical region
- Requires significant Mental Health understanding at a Cheshire East level
- Rooted in communities, this funding is to centre the individual on their own recovery journey
- CVSCE will conduct the monitoring
- Primary aim – to reduce instances of recurring SMI

## KEY FEATURES

- 12-month funding from point of grant – The recurrent funding will fund future rounds
- Broken into distinct areas: Training, Connections with Care Communities, Development of the Mental Health Alliance, Connections with VCFSE organisations who are not specifically under the Mental Health umbrella
- Organisations may apply for multiple grants if they meet the qualifying criteria
- Deliberately reduced administrative burden on the organisation
- Connecting with CVSCE and the development of a Mental Health Alliance critical
- Primary aim – to increase collaboration and shared understanding

# LOT 1 – Care Navigation - overview

The provider is expected to work with a pool of people in a coaching/mentoring capacity from those who are either:

- currently on the CWP Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) caseload; or
- have been assessed by the CWP Access Team

Providers may apply for the whole lot to cover the Cheshire East footprint, or part of the lot to cover a specific area

We welcome collaborative, joint, or lead/sub-contracted applications



# LOT 1 – Care Navigation – focus

The successful provision(s) will be:

- Recovery focused (focus on strengths, resilience, and individual goal setting to help manage mental health challenges and to support moving to recovery) and have been assessed by the CWP Access Team
- Self-management focused (supported and facilitated by people with suitable experience and qualifications, either in groups or on a one-to-one basis, people will be given help to cope in one or more of the following areas: problem solving, goal setting, identifying triggers and indicators of deteriorating health. They will be coached/mentored to respond to these themselves rather than solely relying on clinician-led intervention.)



# LOT 1 – Care Navigation – focus

The successful provision(s) will be:

Person-centred: Help individuals to make informed choices and participate actively in their own support journey. Service users will be expected to collaborate on the development of a simple personalised action plan.

Community-based: Integrate support within existing community resources, promoting social inclusion and connection. Support will be provided in a social prescribing capacity by introducing or reconnecting people to community groups, activities, networks, statutory services and help overcoming practical issues (e.g., debt, employment, and benefit advice).

# LOT 1 – Care Navigation – focus

The successful provision(s) will be:

Accessible: Ensure services are readily available, affordable, and culturally appropriate.

Evidence-informed: Use evidence-based practices and interventions tailored to individual needs.

Strengths-based: Focus on individual's strengths, skills, and resources to build upon and promote self-efficacy.

Non-judgmental: Create a safe and supportive environment free from stigma and discrimination.

Partnership working: Maximise the offer of support available by understanding the wider system, facilitating engagement into different groups, activities etc.

Commitment to working towards greater integration with statutory settings: Gain parity of professional judgement and allow people to experience joined up services.

# LOT 1 – Care Navigation – KPIs

The precise format of KPIs will be worked through with the provider and CVSCE, alongside CWP. As an example, the following information may be required:

Referral source: CMHT/Access Team

Reason for referral

Support provided

Numbers of people started

Number of people completed

Number of people showing positive outcomes (PROM to be identified and target established jointly between commissioner and provider)

Service satisfaction

Service user journey/case study

Numbers discharged from CMHTs who have been under the care of VCFSE (CWP to support with gathering info for this KPI).

Numbers supported from acute back into to community services including timeframe (including info of any readmissions). *This KPI is included to understand and support the reduction of inpatient admissions within 12 months of discharge from a community service.*



## LOT 1 – Care Navigation – Service Spec

The full service specification is provided alongside this EOI pack

Questions can be submitted to: [enquiries@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cvsce.org.uk) with the SUBJECT: CWP Funding Question before MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER at 5pm

# LOT 2 – Micro Grants

Any VCFSE Sector organisation operating within the Cheshire East footprint is eligible to apply for a micro grant to support one of four key areas, which have come from a variety of previous pieces of work including the ICB VCFSE Sector workforce resilience project and the follow up to the unsuccessful initial attempt to establish a Mental Health Alliance:

1. Training and development for the organisation's workforce in Mental Ill-Health prevention
2. Attendance and participation in conferences, network events and collaboration meetings with other VCFSE sector organisations or statutory & health partners regarding Mental Ill-Health prevention
3. Contribution to decision-making at a neighbourhood, local, regional or national level regarding Mental Ill-Health prevention
4. Recognition of the wider benefits of general VCFSE activities in the prevention of Mental Ill-Health

# Micro Grants - Training

## **1. Training and development for the organisation's workforce in Mental Ill-Health prevention:**

Grants capped at £3,000 for organisations receiving training, £15, 000 for those providing a training offer

Circa 5 applications to be accepted

Successful applicants will demonstrate what types of training they intend to provide for their workforce and, if known, the intended supplier. It is also acceptable for mental health specialist VCFSE organisations to apply to provide free workforce training to the wider VCFSE Sector, and for organisations to share an application to commission joint training.



# Micro Grants – Improved Mental Health Collaboration

## **2. Attendance and participation in conferences, network events and collaboration meetings with other VCFSE sector organisations or statutory & health partners regarding Mental Health prevention:**

Applications capped at £500 per organisation

Anticipate 10 applications to be accepted

Successful applicants will demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the wider prevention of poor mental health through participation in dialogue and decision-making across Cheshire East. There are no set number of meetings to attend, but success will be measured on overall contributions made across the year.

# Micro Grants – Representation across Care Communities

## **3. Contribution to decision-making at a neighbourhood, local, regional or national level regarding Mental Health prevention**

Applications capped at £1,000 per Care Community

8 applications will be awarded

We are hoping to award 1 application per Care Community footprint to secure VCFSE representation at a neighbourhood level.

Organisations can apply for multiple Care Community pots if they currently cover more than one footprint.

Success will be measured by contributions to agendas, discussions and decisions made at a Care Community level.

## 4. Recognition of the wider benefits of general VCFSE activities in the prevention of Mental Ill-Health

Applications will be for £250 per organisation.

16 applications are expected to be successful.

These grants are aimed at organisations not delivering direct mental health provision, but who contribute to the prevention of mental ill-health through their general activities.

Success will be measured by the provision of communications regarding the mental health benefits of the organisation's activities such as case studies, beneficiary statements and in other formats as deemed appropriate.



# Micro Grants Process

Complete the application form included with this EOI pack

If you cannot attend the drop in Q&A sessions and have a question, email:

[enquiries@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cvsce.org.uk) with the SUBJECT: CWP Micro Grant Question before the deadline

# TIMELINES

## LOT 1 – Care Navigation

**EOIs open** 1<sup>st</sup> September

**Drop in Q&As** 4<sup>th</sup> September @2pm and 11<sup>th</sup> September @10am

**Question Deadline:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm

**FINAL DEADLINE:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 5pm

**Bids Evaluated:** 14<sup>th</sup> October

**Bids Reviewed:** 29<sup>th</sup> October

**Applicants notified:** w/c 31<sup>st</sup> October

**Mobilisation process commenced:** w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> November

## LOT 2 – Micro Grants

**EOIs open** 1<sup>st</sup> September

**Drop in Q&As** 4<sup>th</sup> September @2pm and 11<sup>th</sup> September @10am

**FINAL DEADLINE:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 12 NOON

**Bids Evaluated:** w/c 29<sup>th</sup> September

**Applicants notified:** w/c 6<sup>th</sup> October

**Mobilisation process commenced:** w/c 13<sup>th</sup> October

# THANK YOU

## Phone

01270 763100

## Email

[enquiries@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cvsce.org.uk)

## Website

[www.cvsce.org.uk](http://www.cvsce.org.uk)

## Location

1a Gatefield Street, CW1 2JP





# WHO ARE CVSCE?

Community & Voluntary Services Cheshire East is a Registered Charity and Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) whose vision is:

**To enable strong empowered organisations that make a difference in our community**

## **What do we do?**

As the Local Infrastructure Organisation for Cheshire East, CVSCE acts as a connector, enabler, advisor and advocate for VCFSE organisations.

# CVSCE PROJECTS

Alongside our core work, we're proud to lead and support a range of additional projects that strengthen our local communities and the VCFSE sector.

## [Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance](#)

Email: [lucy.coates@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:lucy.coates@cvsce.org.uk)

## [Cheshire East Food Alliance](#)

Email: [graham.brown@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:graham.brown@cvsce.org.uk)

## [East Cheshire NHS Trust Volunteering](#)

Email: [sandra.griffiths@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:sandra.griffiths@cvsce.org.uk)

## [Giving Time](#)

Email: [lucy.coates@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:lucy.coates@cvsce.org.uk)

## [Healthy Young Minds](#)

Email: [ange.richardson@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:ange.richardson@cvsce.org.uk)

## [Refugees Welcome Project](#)

Email: [estelle.worthington@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:estelle.worthington@cvsce.org.uk)

# CVSCE TRAINING

We offer a range of training for groups including eLearning, live sessions, and bespoke courses.

## Introductions to:

- Safeguarding
- Professional Boundaries
- and more...

## Advanced courses:

- Volunteers and the Law
- Grant Applications

## Bespoke courses

Training and workshops can be arranged at a time and venue of your choice and tailored to your team.

Visit our [eLearning platform](#) contact us at [enquiries@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cvsce.org.uk) to find out more



# VOLUNTEERING PORTAL

- CVSCE host a volunteering portal where you can advertise your volunteering roles, a self-service platform designed to make recruiting volunteers easier, and it's free for you to use. Simply register your organisation, post roles, and connect with potential volunteers effortlessly.
- For bespoke support, CVS Cheshire East also provides an additional service for organisations at a rate of £35 per hour. Please contact [enquiries@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cvsce.org.uk) for further information.