

Bedfordshire and Luton

Music24 - £28,557

Music24 is a charity supporting only adults with learning disabilities, mental ill-health, dementia and neuro-disabilities, such as stroke and Parkinson's. It also supports carers and families.

The funding will support 350 people by the setting up of a range of groups and sessions offering music therapy, emotional freedom technique (EFT, aka tapping) and sound baths.

Autism Bedfordshire - £51,812

Autism Bedfordshire is an independent charity whose aim is to improve the quality of life for autistic children, young people and adults and their families in Bedfordshire. The funding will help continue to provide the charity's crisis helpline for adults. Calls increased 62 per cent during 2020.

It will also help its specialist transitions support programme, a service supporting young autistic adults (aged 18-25), that has been designed to help them and their families to navigate the confusing world of adulthood.

Disabilities Resource Centre (DRC) - £82,330

The Disability Resource Centre (DRC) is a user-led charity that has people affected by health and disability at the centre of its decision making.

The grant will help continue to provide a three-stage approach to provide a centralised gateway for residents to access services and support to address their mental and physical health.

Carers in Bedfordshire - £75,000

Carers in Bedfordshire (CiB) will use the funding to broaden awareness of carers across the health service and identify and support people who care for someone with a serious mental illness (SMI).

Funding will also help the organisation continue providing support to carers. Before the pandemic there were 6,397 carers registered with CiB. That number has grown to 9,410 today, placing significant pressure on the organisation.

Bedford Players Trust - £8,932

The community-focused arts organisation will use the funding for its Timeless Tales programme which promotes companionship and friendship residents in local care homes using stories, poetry and songs.

They will focus on two homes in which there are 70% or more residents living with dementia, working with them for three months, after which time we will begin again with two different homes with a similar demographic.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity - £93,008

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) will use the funding to develop its good neighbour (GN) schemes network. During the pandemic its 43 GN groups saw an unprecedented demand for help at a time when many volunteers/ committee members were shielding or becoming too old.

It will also develop green social prescribing. The pandemic has highlighted the physical and mental wellbeing benefits social, outdoor, active and environmental activities. BRCC will use increased staff capacity to increase the number of activities it runs, strengthen links with other outdoor activity/ green-gym type providers and increase partner understanding of wellbeing issues and facilitate social prescriber/ agent referrals to these providers.

The funding will also support its You Can Do IT! Digital inclusion project.

ACCM (UK) - £45,700

ACCM (UK) helps BAME and other vulnerable communities be healthy, safer and happier by raising awareness and improving access to statutory services.

They will use the funding to address COVID misinformation and the pandemic's impact on people's mental health by organising an open day in partnership with Age UK – Bedford and ELFT, resuming free coffee mornings, linking with faith leaders to organise workshops, continue supporting 40 elderly people they have been helping during the pandemic and continue working with public health to provide counselling and information in different languages to reduce anxiety and reduce belief in misinformation about the COVID and vaccinations.

Outreach Music Group (OMG) - £17,940

OMG is a community based peer-to-peer organisation that provide creative workshops and courses to help people with mental health illness or challenges can learn ways to express and manage their wellbeing. Trustees are from the community and represent the wide diversity of Luton and Bedford.

The funding will provide a number of 10 week creative courses targeting marginalised individuals with serious mental health illness/mental health illness in Bedford and Luton.

Women's Aid in Luton (WAIL) - £99,774

Women's Aid in Luton (WAIL) is a charity, providing trauma-informed support for women and children impacted by domestic abuse.

The funding will enable a senior mental health specialist to work with staff to build skills, mainstream mental health support across their services, develop multi-agency approaches, enhance the WAIL offer to vulnerable women (particularly 16-21) and fully integrate a planned concierge system (a 24-hour refuge support for women with additional vulnerabilities).

WAIL will also expand their children's work with a part-time worker with mental health expertise and appoint a part-time administrator to help with data capture – with the extra hours releasing front-line practitioners for appropriate continuing professional development.

The Counselling Foundation - £54,175

The Counselling Foundation is an organisation that provides BACP accredited

training and counselling services, with counselling and training centres in Bedford and Luton and in Hertfordshire.

The funding will be used to recruit a full-time counsellor to work with the foundation's complex needs team. The new counsellor would also develop a partnership approach with other VCSEs and statutory bodies who have access to some of our most marginalised groups or individuals with more complex needs.

NOAH Enterprise – £41,041

NOAH supports individuals who are homeless, socially excluded, have fallen into poverty.

The funding will be used for a support worker at their welfare centre. Funding will also be used to improve the medical centre with some soft furnishings and improvements to the psychologically informed environment.

The remaining £5,000 will be allocated towards HR training costs for diversity and inclusion.

Penrose - £100,000

Penrose help people excluded from other services due to their complex and multiple needs, challenging behaviour or history of non-engagement with statutory services.

The funding will support a minimum of 170 people with priority needs across Luton and Bedford - centred around Penrose's existing residential, hospital step-down and floating support provision and new referrals from existing partners who have no access to the therapy support they need.

Boxing Saves Lives – £52,870

Boxing Saves Lives use boxing as a therapeutic intervention for boys and girls, including those who are at risk of exclusion, isolation or exploitation.

They work across Luton, Central Bedfordshire and Bedford and the funding will be used to target schools and provide a combination of 121 intervention work and group sessions. The majority of the children they work with are of South Asian or Afro Caribbean descent.

CHUMS - £91,348

CHUMS provide mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children, young people and their families.

CHUMS will use the funding to rebuild COVID-affected capacity within their recreational therapeutic service (REC) and trauma service to help 234 children and young people on waiting lists and/or who are identified as being most in need.

The REC service programmes are designed to support children in a way that is fun and engaging through activities they are passionate about – for example, music, art and football - with a sound psychological approach around Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) principles, a well-known and evidence-based psycho-social intervention.

Through using football, art and music CHUMS are able to evidence a tangible improvement around behaviour, anxiety, self-confidence and engagement in learning.

Bedfordshire Open Door – £62,430

Bedfordshire Open Door is a registered charity for people aged 13 - 25 years in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire. They deliver free, confidential 1-1 counselling, drop In, group work and retreats for young people experiencing issues including suicidal ideation, self-harming, eating disorders, domestic violence, abuse, crime, exploitation, drugs, alcohol, anxiety, depression, bereavement, bullying, relationships, identity issues and homelessness.

The funding will enable open door to continue delivering the service to current capacity and to resource gaps in funding for the year ahead.

Caraline - £19,913

Eating disorders charity Caraline will use the funding to provide further support to the Trust which is transforming eating disorder services in the county and mobilising a high-intensity team (HIT) community crisis pathway for young people with eating disorders.

It will enhance further partnership working with ELFT and enable the delivery of a stepped care approach to children and young people supported by eating disorder services.