

Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) – grants to community groups and local organisations

Background

As national Covid19 restrictions are lifted, it is likely that many residents will choose not to take their annual holiday abroad. Instead, they may be planning to stay closer to home and more visitors are likely to head towards the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and other tourist areas in South Lakeland, whilst some residents remain apprehensive about mixing socially. At the same time, tourists to Cumbria tend to gravitate towards usual tourist centres which can lead to issues due to overcrowding in streets, shops and the general areas.

Cumbria County Council have received some funding to help contain the outbreak from the UK government. This is to address the issues presented to both local communities and visitors to the area, through improvements to outside space and facilities and through events across South Lakeland.

Specific funding for local groups to improve facilities, manage events and organise activities is available, with the overall aim of encouraging residents to enjoy their local area and attracting new visitors away from the 'honey pot' areas.

Grant Criteria

Grants are available to support local groups to meet this aim and to help ensure that facilities and community venues re-open to the public in a COVID safe way.

Examples;

- Purchasing cleaning products/hand sanitiser and equipment to maintain COVID safe conditions in a community centre, social or sports club
- Additional staff/cleaning costs incurred in operating COVID safe conditions
- Creating or improving usable outdoor space at a community centre (purchasing furniture, awnings, gazebos)
- Making adjustments to indoor space e.g. screens and signage
- Running activities outside or in open spaces e.g. healthy walks & fitness classes

Eligibility

Applications for funding are welcomed from locally based voluntary and not for profit groups who are involved in community projects or initiatives. To receive funding, groups must be constituted and hold a bank account in the name of the group.

To discuss your project or community needs and the amounts available before making an application, please contact the Area Support Team southlakeland.areasupport@cumbria.gov.uk and we will aim to respond within 3 working days.

Decisions will be made by a local grants panel made up of CCC Councilors & officers which will meet bi-monthly. Urgent applications may be considered between grants panels, please contact Area Support to discuss.