

Call for Expressions of Interest: Supporting day centres and food providers to build back better from Covid-19

Deadline: Monday 15th February 2021 5pm

Summary

Together Leicester has received funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to pursue the aims of Leicester's Homelessness Charter and is looking for an organisation to undertake a project to engage with new and existing groups to re-shape services as we recover out of Covid. This will include supporting Day Centres and food providers associated with homelessness to adapt to the new Covid operating environment.

We are inviting organisations to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI), which details how they would deliver the project activities in order to meet its aims. The EOI should include;

- What experience and competence does your organisation have to deliver the project
- What would your approach be to engaging with the sector
- What barriers do you envisage there being in achieving the outcomes of the project and what will be your approach to overcome them
- What capacity and resource will you apply to deliver the project.

The EOI should also include a project timetable.

The EOI should be no more than 1000 words (excluding budget).

A total of £7000 is available. We are looking for organisations who can be creative in making the best possible use of this funding.

The project is time limited (4 months). We expect the project to commence no later than 1st March 2021 and to be completed by 30th June 2021.

EOI's should be submitted as a PDF document to Eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk no later than the deadline. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel comprising of members of Leicester's Homelessness Charter Management Group and scored against their ability to meet the aims of the project. All applicants will be notified of a decision by 22nd February 2021.

Background

Leicester's Homelessness Charter came about because a number of organisations working in the field recognised that we can achieve more together than separately.

We wanted to 'join the dots', eliminate duplication and address the gaps in provision and support.

Led by the Diocese of Leicester and following a series of lively and well-attended workshops, the Charter was launched at Leicester Cathedral in November 2018. Its first signatories were the City Mayor, the Bishop of Leicester, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Dean of Leicester. Many others, including the Lord Lieutenant attended and also pledged their support.

To date, we have 150 signatories and 36 organisations actively working together. These include major institutions, businesses and statutory and voluntary sector bodies. There is greater understanding of who is doing what, and much better communication across the sector. Particular current objectives are:

- To ensure that anyone with no recourse to public funds has access to safe accommodation when needed
- To increase the availability of affordable accommodation for those in housing need
- To tackle rough sleeping to ensure no-one is sleeping on the streets;
- To improve local systems for homeless people through better partnerships and co-ordination
- To ensure the voice of those with lived experience is at the heart of designing services for people who are homeless.

Read the text of the Leicester Homelessness Charter here: <https://www.giveleicester.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Homelessness-Charter-Pledge.pdf>

Project activities

Covid-19 has had a disruptive impact on many homelessness services in Leicester, including day centres and those seeking to provide food and comfort to rough sleepers. This project will support new and existing groups to re-shape their services as they re-open, for instance moving away from “on the street” food provision to more structured support and supporting Day Centres to adapt to the new Covid environment. The project aims to further the objectives of the Charter by;

- Building on existing networks to create a space for groups/individuals involved in day centre and food provision to come together
- Improving connections between existing providers and expediting linking in of new providers to ongoing work
- Developing a shared vision of day centre provision for the city, including input from a wide range of stakeholders
- Supporting groups to consider how innovation and reshaping of services can improve impact
- Increasing the representation of lived experience voices within service design and development of day centre and food services
- Improving the resources available to groups delivering day centre and food services to ensure they are compliant with Covid-19 operating guidelines
- Creating an online toolkit for new groups which supports joined up working and ensures perpetuation of appropriate standards
- Mapping existing provision to support the identification of gaps in service

Project outcomes

The project will ensure that Leicester’s day centre/food provision is better coordinated and therefore better placed to deliver the necessary impact for beneficiaries;

- Existing services are reimaged and new and innovative methods of delivery are explored and introduced.
- New groups are quickly linked to an existing network of providers and duplication of support is avoided.

- Day centre and food services are designed and delivered based on the input of people with lived experience of homelessness; coproduction is at the heart of these services.
- Services are operating in line with relevant Covid-19 and Health and Safety standards and guidelines.

For further information please contact Eilidh Stringer, Leicester's Homelessness Charter Development Manager, at Eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk