



Shropshire and Telford Staying Connected Fund

Our **Staying Connected Fund** aims to strengthen community connections across **Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin**. It provides grants to local, grassroots organisations working with **older people** and those **at risk of loneliness or isolation**, helping them to stay active, engaged, and connected within their communities. Through this fund, we're investing in projects that bring people together, reduce isolation in rural areas, and celebrate the value of community belonging.

Priorities of the fund

The fund will support organisations who are supporting:

- Older people
- Those at risk of isolation and loneliness

Eligible organisations

- Constituted Voluntary groups
- Constituted Community groups
- Registered Charities
- Social Enterprises

This programme will support local, grassroots voluntary and community organisations. It will not support statutory agencies or national charities / organisations.

Organisations must have been established for longer than twelve months to apply.

Geographical Reach

Shropshire
Telford and Wrekin

We would particularly like to see applications from rural areas, supporting those most at risk of isolation

Eligible costs

- Proportionate core project costs, including facility costs, equipment costs, supplies.
- Proportionate salary costs for organisations who employ fewer than 3FTE
- Volunteer expenses
- Activity Costs



Ineligible costs

- Funding towards **religious projects** or projects that promote religion. Projects delivered by faith-based organisations will be considered, as long as the services they provide are available to people of all faiths or no faith
- **Political campaigning activities** specific to any one party, including participation in political demonstrations, support of a political party, or the issuing of material which supports or opposes a particular party or government
- **Statutory bodies or provision**, including towards the provision of core statutory services or services that carry out a statutory responsibility
- **Retrospective funding**, where the project has already occurred or for goods and services which have already been ordered or purchased prior to funding being approved
- Where the grant represents **over 25%** of a group's annual income
- **Trips abroad**
- **Large scale capital**, such as vehicles, property, build or adaptation costs

Grant amount

Grants of up to £5000

We would expect to see applications around £1500-£2500

Duration of projects

Successful organisations will be given 12 months to deliver their project.

Monitoring

End of Grant report to include evidence of spend, impact and case studies

Supporting documents required

- **Governance Document** – Constitution, Memorandum and Articles of Association
- **Accounts** – either independently examined, audited or a record of income and expenditure.
- **Bank Statement** – this will need to be in the name of the organisation, no older than 3 months old and clearly showing the account name, number and sort code. The bank account must have at least two signatories, who are not related.
- **Details of signatories**
- **Safeguarding Policies**
- **Equality and Diversity Policy / statement**
- **Quotes** for capital equipment



Project timeline

Launch 7th September 2026

Close 19th October 2026

Panel 12th November 2026

Delivery 12 months – EOG report due 12th November 2027