

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MONDAY 9 MARCH, 2015

NEAR NEIGHBOURS PROGRAMME

1.0. Purpose of report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to provide SACRE with information on the near neighbours programme as referred to at the last meeting.

2.0. Recommendation

2.1 That SACRE give consideration to appropriate projects that could attract grant aid from the Near Neighbours Programme;

2.2 That officers be requested to process a grant application to the programme in respect of the project identified, in consultation with the members of the Sub-Group.

3.0 Background

3.1 At its meeting held on 6 October, 2014 SACRE was informed of the 'Near Neighbours' programme which was aimed at projects to support local groups to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities in order to improve their communities. A copy of the Grant Criteria and Guidance 2014 is attached at appendix 1.

3.2 The 'Near Neighbours' programme is aimed at bringing people together who are near neighbours in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse so that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of trust and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in. Grant requests of between £250 and £5000 will be considered and the programme is expected to run until December 2015.

3.3 Walsall is within the eligible areas for grant aid and the criteria are set out in appendix 1.

3.4 SACRE could consider identifying a project that could support its work and objectives.

Near Neighbours has **two key objectives**:

- Social interaction - to develop positive relationships in multi-faith areas i.e. to help people from different faiths get to know and understand each other better.
- Social action - to encourage people of different faiths and of no faith to come together for initiatives that improve their local neighbourhood.

The programme works in a number of **key locations** across England. We are present in the northern towns of Bury, Rochdale, Oldham and Burnley; Leeds, Bradford and Dewsbury. In the midlands we are working in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley; Leicester and Nottingham. In the south we operate in Luton and across most of London.

Each of these locations is covered by one of our **local hubs**. These hubs act as a focal point for much of the work of the programme. We have a coordinator based at each who is connecting with local projects and developing the work of the programme. [Click here](#) to find out which hub covers your area.

We are also linked with a number of **national partners** across the programme who are providing expertise through their focused work. Our partners contribute to the programme with training, expertise and resources. Their work is developing the networks and capacity of local communities and organisations through sustainable initiatives that will continue to impact long into the future. Information about our partners can be [found here](#).

This is supported by a **small grants fund**, providing seed capital for local groups and organisations who are working to bring together neighbours; to develop relationships of diverse faiths and ethnicities and also to improve their communities. Details of our fund can be [found here](#).

Why is Near Neighbours needed?

Many neighbourhoods in England have a number of different faith and ethnic communities living close to each other, some of these communities rarely interact with one another and instead live parallel but separate lives.

Such separation can lead to misunderstanding and a lack of trust or respect for each other, which is not healthy for a local community.

These are also often areas of deprivation, with people living there sharing common concerns for a better community. Despite this shared concern they don't come together to talk or act on this as much as they could.

Yet it is local people, in local communities, that are the ones who are ideally placed to identify and develop solutions that can improve their own neighbourhood.

Thus Near Neighbours bring people together; breaking down misunderstanding and developing trust, and helps them to act to change their communities for the better

The Near Neighbours programme offers small grants between £250 and £5,000, providing seed capital for local groups and organisations who are working to bring together neighbours, to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities in order to improve their communities.

This is a rolling programme with no deadlines but our second phase is due to run until March 2016 and we expect the grants programme to close near to this date. We will invest in a broad range of work including environmental, social, cultural, artistic and sporting ideas but they need to fulfil the following criteria.

1) Creating Association

We are looking to encourage stronger civil society in areas that are multi-religious and multi-ethnic by creating association, friendship and neighbourliness. The programme intends to bring together people of different faiths and of no faiths to transform local communities for the better.

This is done by enabling communication and understanding in local neighbourhoods and through creating joint work, organisations or projects which address community needs.

2) Local and Sustainable

The programme aims to build association as deeply and sustainably as possible in local neighbourhood contexts. So a key criterion is that grants are spent in ways which bring together people from different ethnic and faith communities which impact

specifically locally. We also want to see lasting relationships between people, which will continue naturally beyond the period of funding.

3) Transformative

We are keen to give grants that positively impact and transform the neighbourhoods in which projects run. This could be done through something as simple as litter picking or as developed as reducing community tensions. Regardless of what the particular activity is we want to see it transform the local neighbourhood for good.

We have full details of all our criteria, including what we won't fund and what we will prioritise in our Grants Criteria and Guidance which can be [found here](#). Please read this in full before submitting an application.

Our application form is available for [download here](#).

How to apply

To apply for one of our grants, please do the following:

- Check that your proposals fit our criteria. Full details of all our criteria can be [found here](#).
- Speak with your local coordinator about your proposals. They are in place to support and help you apply. Contact details can be [found here](#).
- Download and complete the application form. This is available for [download here](#).
- Where possible, speak to your local Church of England vicar. They are able to act in an advisory role in support of your application. [Click here](#) to find your local Church of England vicar.
- Return your application to your coordinator. They will review it locally and may offer you recommendations, before forwarding it to our central office for final assessment.

- Your application will be assessed centrally. We will aim to make a decision within 14 days of receiving all information relevant to your application.

Transforming Communities Together, Black Country

If you are based in the towns of **Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall** or **Dudley** you are in our Black Country hub.

TCT is a partnership with Church Urban Fund, supporting faith based responses to poverty in the Anglican diocese of Lichfield.

Contact - Ruth Burgess; Tel: 07530 741 923 Email: ruth.burgess@tctogether.org.uk



NEAR NEIGHBOURS

GRANT CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE

2014

Funded by:



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Administered by:



Near Neighbours is a charity set up to bring people together who are near neighbours in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse, so that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of trust and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in.

The grants programme which is part of Near Neighbours is being administered by our partner organisation, Church Urban Fund. Near Neighbours is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government. We will work with those of any faith or none.

Church Urban Fund is a Christian charity, with a vision to bring about lasting and positive change in the lives of people on the margins of society – through investing resources, influencing change makers, and impacting on the causes of poverty. Church Urban Fund relies on regular contributions from different parts of the Church and donations from thousands of generous individuals.

Church Urban Fund is a registered charity, no. 297483

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in Cardiff no. 2138994

Near Neighbours is a registered charity no. 1142426 and a company limited by guarantee no. 07603317

Grants Policy and Procedure Manual, 2014 Version

This version of the Grants Guidance Manual will supersede all previous guidance issued by Near Neighbours. It has been developed as a resource and will be reviewed and re-issued annually or at any other time as required. The latest version of the Grants Guidance Manual will always be available for download from the Near Neighbours website. For additional information, please contact us using the details below.

Near Neighbours

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Great Smith Street

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W: www.near-neighbours.org.uk

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NEAR NEIGHBOURS

The idea is to bring people together who are near neighbours in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse, so that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of trust and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in.

Near Neighbours has **two key objectives**:

- Social interaction - to develop positive relationships in multi-faith areas i.e. to help people from different faiths get to know and understand each other better.
- Social action - to encourage people of different faiths and of no faith to come together for initiatives that improve their local neighbourhood.

Grant requests between £250 and £5,000 will be considered. This is a rolling programme with no deadline dates; however it is currently expected to run until December 2015.

Grants are available for local groups and organisations who are working to bring together neighbours, to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities in order to improve their communities.

These must be local initiatives planned by and involving local people. We will not fund national organisations working locally, nor are we likely to fund local authority initiatives or schools projects. We will look especially favourably on applications from diverse neighbourhoods and those with particular issues of deprivation and challenge.

A key criterion is that grants are spent in ways which bring together people from different ethnic and faith communities which impact specifically locally. If there is the intention and likelihood of deep and lasting relationships of trust between people, in order to transform communities, then a grant is more likely to be awarded.

We consider projects to fall into three broad categories. A project need not fit itself to just one, and we recognise that activities may naturally cover two or even all three of the following:

- **First Encounters** that develop *new* relationships between people of different faith and ethnic communities and encourage the development of mutual understanding - initiatives which begin the process of developing friendship and neighbourliness.
- **Everyday Interactions** that support regular 'day-to-day' interactions, repeatedly bringing neighbours together and encouraging families and individuals to come together to share life – building flourishing and sustainable friendships and relationships.
- **Civil Engagement** which brings together people from different faith or ethnic communities to work together to change their neighbourhoods for the better – enabling diverse communities to transform their neighbourhoods.

ELIGIBLE AREAS

The programme works in a number of key locations across England. We are active in the northern towns/cities of **Bury, Rochdale, Burnley and Oldham; Leeds, Bradford and Dewsbury**. In the midlands we are working in **Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley; Leicester and Nottingham**. In the south we operate in **Luton** and across most of **London**.

However, we are also only working within specific areas of these places. To discover exactly which areas are eligible please refer to our website which has maps displaying each place. This can be found here:

www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/grants/eligible-areas

CRITERIA

Below is an exact list of our grants criteria. A project should:

- **Bring together peoples of two or more different faiths and /or ethnicities**, to build friendships and develop relationships of trust.
- **Work locally.** We want to see people who are living very locally (i.e. in the same street, estate or neighbourhood) come together.
- **Work sustainably.** We want to see long term and natural relationships grow, that will last beyond the period of funding.
- **Work to improve the community.** We want to see people working to make their communities a better place to live.
- **Planning and implementation:** People from more than one faith group and/or ethnicity are involved in planning and implementing the proposal.

In addition, a grant must be for:

- **New or developed work.** We won't support repeat or ongoing activities.
- **Specific activities.** Funding is given for a specific project or activity.
- **Immediate activities.** Grants should be claimed or part-claimed within three months and normally fully spent within 6 months of approval.
- **Grassroots organisations:** We seek to fund charities, religious organisations and other not-for-profit organisations whose focus is on local work. We will look especially favourably on small organisations with a low annual turnover.

The Fund is particularly pleased to receive applications from groups comprising people of multiple faith groups and none, or working in partnership. Funding cannot be granted to individuals but may be given to small groups without a constitution or bank account where there is a reputable local community organisation willing to act as the accountable body for the funds.

PRIORITIES

In addition to our criteria, we also assess applications by a number of priorities. Applications showing the following qualities will be prioritised for funding:

- Where the purpose of the proposal is first and foremost to bring local neighbours of different faiths and ethnicities together to build trusting relationships through an activity or project.
- New and innovative projects with a high local impact at the neighbourhood level.
- Proposals from minority faith communities.
- Proposals from small faith or community organisations or groups.
- Where a project shows sustainability; with relationships, sustainable change and/or further work together likely to continue naturally beyond the period of funding.
- It is clear what difference the activity will make to the local community
- Proposals that are run by volunteers or have a strong volunteer base
- Organisations which haven't been given Near Neighbours funding before.
- It shows value for money.

WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND

There are also a number of things that Near Neighbours does not fund. These are:

- Projects that will not run in one of our eligible areas. (see pg3 'Eligible Areas').
- Repeated activities (such as an annual summer camp or regular training sessions that have happened previously).
- Activities open only to one faith group.
- Activity promoting a specific faith.
- Faith leaders' salaries.
- Individuals.
- Organisations with a high annual turnover (more than £150,000) or with significant reserves.
- Existing salary costs, except where there is a significant increase in hours in order to expand an existing project or begin new work.
- Ongoing revenue costs (core costs).
- Unspecified or excessive volunteer expenses.
- Work that has already been completed or started (retrospective funding). We will not accept applications for work that will begin with 14 calendar days of receiving your application.
- Deficits or loans.
- Campaigning and fundraising activity.
- Revenue and capital funding for national voluntary/ community organisations and public and private sector organisations.
- General repairs and refurbishment, internal re-ordering of places of worship, building.
- Maintenance or DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance.
- General appeals.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

If you wish to apply for our funding, please follow the following procedure:

- Review whether your activity/project fits in with our criteria and is based in an eligible area. Eligible areas can be found here: www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/grants/eligible-areas
- Speak with your local coordinator about your proposals; they are in place to support and help you apply. You can find your coordinator here: www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/local-hubs
- Complete the application form. These are available from your coordinator and on our website. Where possible, speak to your local Church of England vicar; they are able to act in an *advisory* role in support of your application. You can find your local Church of England vicar here: www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/grants/eligible-areas
- Return your application to your coordinator who will review it locally and may offer you recommendations, before forwarding it to our central office for final assessment.
- Our grants coordinator will assess your application. If necessary they will contact you with any questions they may have. Once they have all the necessary information, they will work with CUF staff who will aim to make a decision within 14 calendar days.

GRANT CONDITIONS

If you are awarded a grant we will outline several conditions that you must agree to in order to receive payment; this is a legally binding agreement. This will include using your grant only for the purposes laid out in your application. Additionally we include details about transferring funds, our grant evaluation process and publicity. Please be aware that additional conditions may be attached as required. These will always be stated at the time a funding offer is made. Please contact Near Neighbours if you have any queries on this.

CONTACT DETAILS

Your key contact for the Near Neighbours programme is your local coordinator:

Bradford Churches for Dialogue and Diversity

Bury, Rochdale, Burnley, Oldham: Carlo Schröder at carlo.schroder@bcdd.org.uk / 0771 416 7923

Leeds, Bradford and Dewsbury: Wahida Shaffi at wahida.shaffi@bcdd.org.uk / 0798 364 6096

BCDD Office: 0127 466 8312

Address: BCDD, Thornbury Centre, Leeds Old Road, Bradford BD3 8JX

Transforming Communities Together

Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley: Ruth Burgess at ruth.burgess@tctogether.org.uk /

07530 741 923

Address: TCT, The Small Street Centre, 1a Small Street, Walsall, WS1 3PR

Faithful Neighbourhoods Centre

Birmingham: Jessica Foster at jess@nearneighbours.com / 0121 675 1156

Address: FNC, 10/12 Court Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, B11 4LX

St Philip's Centre for Study and Engagement

Leicester, Nottingham: John McCallum at nn@stphilipscentre.co.uk / 0116 273 8813

Address: St Philip's Centre, 2A Stoughton Drive North, Leicester, LE5 5UB

Grassroots Programme

Luton: Kim Greig at near.neighbours_luton@btconnect.com / 0793 060 1640

47 High Town Road, Luton, Beds, LU2 0BW

King's Centre

West London: Becky Brookman at beckyb@kingscentresouthall.org.uk / 07837 936 957

Address: St John's Church, Church Avenue, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 4DH

The Contextual Theology Centre

East London: Timothy Clapton at nearneighbours@theology-centre.org / 02077801600

Address: CTC, The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, 2 Butcher Row, London, E14 8DS