

Sutton Physical Activity Fund Guidance

What is the Sutton Physical Activity Fund?

It is a one-off funding programme, financed by Sutton Council. It supports small and community focused projects that benefit Sutton residents and encourage groups and communities to be more physically active. We are particularly interested in providing funding to cover set-up costs for projects which will be sustainable and self-sufficient long term.

We will not provide ongoing funding for any projects - the project must show how it will be self-sustainable in the longer term.

Focus on: Supporting Communities who are less physically active

Children and young people are less physically active now, than before the pandemic, with 44% active. Whilst activity levels are improving, the increase is only being seen in more affluent families, so the activity gap between affluent and non-affluent families is widening. Physical activity has also fallen in adults, with only 61% of adults currently active.

Sutton Council is actively working to promote physical activity in Sutton and create more opportunities for residents, especially those facing challenges to be more active. Despite an abundance of green spaces and facilities, physical activity levels in Sutton are lower than the London and England averages. Additionally, some residents may find it more difficult to be physically active than others. In particular, these residents may be unpaid carers, residents with disabilities, residents from minority ethnic backgrounds, residents with mental health priorities, residents with long term conditions, women and girls, and residents from less affluent families.

Some statistics and information for Sutton include:

- Activity has dropped for men and women, although men have been more active since restrictions were lifted;
- Adults with a disability or long-term health condition have seen activity levels drop compared to pre-pandemic. Recovery in active numbers has been more limited.
- Those from Asian, Black, Chinese and other ethnic groups have the lowest activity levels of under 60%. Asian (non-Chinese) and other ethnic groups have shown no signs of recovery.
- Activity amongst young people was falling even pre-pandemic.
- Activity has dropped for both the most and least affluent groups, with the most affluent groups showing signs of recovery, and no significant recovery for those in the least affluent groups.

Priority areas include encouraging the following groups to be more physically active:

- Those from more economically deprived areas of the borough such as;
 - South Beddington and Roundshaw
 - St Helier East
 - St Helier West
 - Belmont
 - Sutton Central

- Those from B.A.M.E communities;
- Those with disabilities;
- Those with long-term health conditions;
- Women and girls.

In light of this, consideration will be given to how projects make a positive impact on people in communities that are less physically active. Applicants should make reference to how their project will support people within these communities, and why they are best placed to deliver the project in the application form.

Who can apply?

- Voluntary and Community Groups and Organisations that benefit Sutton residents.
- Voluntary and Community Groups and Organisations that have established links with Sutton or who are a Sutton organisation.
- Organisations that support the most vulnerable members of Sutton's communities.

How much can I apply for?

- There is a total of approximately £100,000 available to be awarded in 2023/24.
- We will accept microgrant applications up to £1k and grant applications up to £5,000.
- Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

The amount awarded will be a one-off amount to help set-up a new physical activity project for targeted groups.

What is the funding period?

The funding is a one-off funding payment to cover the set-up costs of projects aimed at improving the physical activity for less active Sutton residents. Projects must demonstrate sustainability beyond the initial funding. Ongoing funding will **not** be provided.

What do we fund?

Pilot projects that meet the Sutton Physical Activity Fund criteria outlined in this guidance, targeting communities who are less physically active to be able to access and take part in physical activity.

The Sutton Physical Activity Fund can for example provide staff, venue and event costs; appropriate materials and equipment; and publicity (both paper and digital). We can fund the overheads needed to support the project you are applying for. However, you must be able to demonstrate how the project will be sustainable and self-sufficient beyond the initial funding period.

If you are providing classes/activities or equipment/materials for a project, Sutton Physical Activity Fund expects applicants to demonstrate how the activity will be sustainable in the longer term. In particular, for those projects which are targeting groups or communities on lower incomes to access physical activity.

Please note that the Sutton Physical Activity Fund will only fund projects which can demonstrate how they will improve the level of physical activity amongst the following priority groups:

- Those from more economically deprived areas (see above);
- Those from B.A.M.E communities;
- Those with disabilities;
- Those with long-term health conditions;
- Women and girls.

We expect to fund at least one project from each of these priority groups, so applications may be rejected if we already have a number of successful applications for a specific priority group, as we would like the funding to be spread evenly across each of these target groups.

What we won't fund

- Projects where a statutory agency would normally be expected to cover the costs.
- Projects whose primary purpose is not to promote physical activity.
- A 'shortfall' in funding from a statutory agency.
- Services which schools could be expected to pay for.
- Projects which have not demonstrated a clear local need for what they are proposing.
- Political parties, lobbying and campaigning.
- Individuals.
- The promotion of religion.
- One-off events, e.g. day trips/outings, party celebrations.
- Food and refreshments
- New projects where, in the view of the panel, there is already adequate provision.
- A project where the organisation has significant unrestricted reserves (in excess of 6 months running costs held in the form of unrestricted/free reserves).
- Organisations that do not have any established links with Sutton or are not a Sutton organisation.
- Projects which cannot demonstrate the long term sustainability of the project beyond the initial funding period.
- Existing projects.

Evidence of identified need/s

You must demonstrate in your application why your group/organisation is best placed to deliver the project to one of the following priority groups:

- Those from more economically deprived areas (see above);
- Those from B.A.M.E communities;
- Those with disabilities;
- Those with long-term health conditions;
- Women and girls.

For example, do you have previous experience and success engaging with a particular group? Are any of these groups a target group/priority for your organisation?

Decisions

- Organisations will be notified of the outcome of their application within two weeks of submission.
- The Panel may ask for further information before making a decision.
- The decision of the panel is final and there is no appeal process.
- The deadline for applications is 6 November 2023
- Applications will be considered against the less active groups that they are intended to support to ensure there is a range of projects supporting a wider range of the priority groups. An application may be funded over another application as it is supporting a priority group where the need is not being met.

Rejection of Applications

The Council reserves the right to decline any applications. Reasons for this may include, but are not limited to the following:

- You cannot demonstrate how your organisation/group is best placed to deliver the project for one of our priority groups.
- You cannot demonstrate how your project will improve physical activity amongst one of our priority groups.
- You cannot demonstrate how the project will be sustainable in the long-term, beyond the initial funding.
- We have already had too many successful applications targeting a specific priority group.
- We have issued all available funding.

Sutton Physical Activity Fund Application Checklist

It is important that you work through this checklist before you start completing the Sutton Physical Activity Fund application form. This checklist has been designed to help you decide if the Sutton Physical Activity Fund is right for your organisation, before you submit an application.

Part One: You must be able to answer 'yes' to all questions in part one in order to apply.	
Question	Yes/No
Is your group a voluntary or community organisation (including if you are a registered charity or company)?	
Is your group a corporate body, or does it have a formal constitution if not incorporated?	
Does your group or organisation already provide quantifiable benefit in Sutton, and/or have established links with Sutton?	
Does your group have its own bank account, which requires two unrelated people to authorise cheques and make withdrawals (including debit card or internet purchases and cash withdrawals)?	
Is the bank account in the name of the organisation making the application?	
Does your organisation have at least three people on their governing board or body?	
Part Two: You must be able to answer 'yes' to all questions in part two in order to apply.	
Does your organisation have a Safeguarding policy (if working with children and/or vulnerable adults)?	
Does your organisation have an Equality and Diversity policy?	
Does your organisation have a Health and Safety policy and risk assessments in place covering staff, volunteers and service users?	
Does your organisation have Public Liability Insurance in place?	
Is your organisation GDPR compliant?	
Part Three: You must be able to answer 'no' to all questions in part three in order to apply.	
Has any director or any other person having control or representation of the organisation been convicted of any of the following offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conspiracy ● Corruption ● Bribery ● Fraud ● Money Laundering ● Insolvency ● Failure to pay taxes 	

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Grave misconduct● Offences in the course of business (e.g. health and safety failures)● Serious misrepresentation in the provision of information required in a grants or services application process. | |
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