AGEING BETTER
MIDDLESBROUGH

INNOVATION FUND

LOTTERY FUNDED
The Innovation Fund is about collaborating with local people and groups in the community to develop our learning and approaches in key areas that affect older people locally. You could be part of this exciting opportunity to help make a lasting difference to your community!

We have already been gathering intelligence and learning as we have gone along so that we can respond flexibly and innovatively to tackling loneliness and isolation.

Now, we want to learn from your expertise and experience and hear what you would do to change and improve the way things are done in your communities for older people. Your ideas could be put into action and form a new part of this exciting programme!

We are looking to support local community groups and organisations, big or small, with our funding in three key areas of learning. Please read on and if you have bright ideas about how to answer any one of the following, we want to hear from you.

1. Is becoming a volunteer an effective way of engaging lonely and isolated older people in community activity?
2. Can intergenerational approaches tackle loneliness and isolation?
3. How do people from black, Asian, minority and ethnic communities (BAME) perceive loneliness?

Details of each of these three areas of work are described in this document, as well as information about how to apply for funding and the application form.

The Money

We have over £100k to award to community groups and organisations who come up with the best ideas across all three areas of learning.

We’re looking to fund at least six or seven different small projects and anticipate that some projects might be very small scale, and others might be bigger. We are keeping the options open for you.

What Does Being a Part of Ageing Better Mean for Your Group or Organisation?

If you are successful in your application for funding it means you will become part of the Ageing Better Programme. This could bring with it tremendous benefits to your group/organisation but there will also be some responsibilities and things we will expect from you as part of the programme.
What you could benefit from if you’re successful:

- The opportunity to build relationships and collaborate with the large network of community groups, organisations and professionals who are engaged in the programme
- The opportunity to influence how the programme develops
- Support from the Programme Management Team
- Access to free specialist consultancy support from Hall Aitken, the consultants who are responsible for supporting Ageing Better Middlesbrough
- The opportunity to engage with the programme’s Community Development Team, who work to help grow local groups

What we will expect from you

- We will ask you to record some information about the activities you carry out using the funding. This will include a specific questionnaire that the people involved in your project will need to complete which will help us understand the difference it has made to their lives
- We will ask to meet with you regularly to find out how things are going and understand the learning from your project
- We will expect you to be honest and open about how well it’s going – Ageing Better is about learning, even if the learning tells us we made mistakes
- We will expect you to work very closely and communicate with the other Ageing Better Middlesbrough Projects – this programme relies on excellent partnership working and we want to see this continue
- We will expect you to have processes in place to manage the funding and we will need to see evidence of how it is being spent
- We will expect you to sign a contract with us, which will include a specification of the project being funded as well as the things listed above

HOW DECISIONS WILL BE MADE

Ageing Better Middlesbrough is led by older people and aims to involve older people as equal decision makers at every level. The decisions about how the money will be spent will be made by a panel of people including members of the Ageing Better Middlesbrough Advisory Group (ABMAG) and of the Core Partnership, which is a multi-agency partnership which reports to the Big Lottery.

Stage 1 – the panel will read all the completed application forms and decide which projects we want to meet

Stage 2 – we will invite the projects we have chosen to meet with the panel, where we will talk to you more about your idea. Preliminary dates for stage 2 meetings are the morning of Wednesday 1st February and the afternoon of Thursday 2nd February.

Stage 3 – the panel will make a decision about which projects it would like to fund

Stage 4 – we will communicate the outcome to everyone, and start supporting the successful projects to implement their project

And remember, the Innovation fund is all about learning. We want to find new and effective ways to improve older people’s lives so your ideas can be exploratory, testing out new approaches and above all, they should be innovative!
What we have learnt so far

We are looking for local organisations and community groups who can help us better understand the answer to this question. So far through delivery of the Ageing Better Middlesbrough Programme we know that:

- Older people who come forward to volunteer are often isolated or lonely
- Some older people are really motivated to volunteer, but their own situation means that they also have things in their life they need support or help with. This can result in groups and organisation needing to provide valuable time and support to enable people to take up their volunteering role
- Local groups and organisations are very positive about creating new volunteering opportunities for older people, and have lots of good ideas, but not always the time and money to make this happen
- Volunteering can be a powerful way of enabling people to connect with others, gain confidence and feel valued
- Getting out there and talking to older people about volunteering is one of the best ways to attract people who otherwise might never have responded to more traditional volunteer advertising
- Volunteers like to get together with other volunteers and share their experiences and provide support for each other
- There is lots of ‘informal’ volunteering going on in Middlesbrough – people who give their time and energy to keep community groups going, offer their expertise or support others. Often this type of volunteering goes unrecognised.

What we will fund

- Developing a new volunteering role in your organisation that will be taken up by an older person who is lonely or isolated
- Testing out new ways of attracting lonely and isolated older people into volunteering roles
- Increasing or improving support for older volunteers in your group or organisation
- Recognising the achievements of older volunteers
- Ways to bring older volunteers together to support each other and share experiences

But this list isn’t exhaustive, you might have your own ideas about how we can learn more, and we would love to hear these too. And remember, whatever your idea, there needs to be a way of recording and measuring your learning about the question above as well as a way of communicating this to us. We can work with you and support you to develop these processes.
What we have learnt so far

We are looking for local organisations and community groups who can help us better understand the answer to this question. Ageing Better Middlesbrough hasn’t delivered any specific intergenerational projects so far, but we have learnt about the experiences of loneliness and isolation of different generations through our work and the exploration work we carried out to develop this document. So far we have learnt that:

- Common interests are successful in bringing different generations together
- Good intergenerational work fulfils the needs of both the younger and the older person
- Approaches can start in education, bringing young children together with older people through the education system
- Intergenerational work can happen organically and in informal settings
- It relies on trusting people to make real human connections and working out what it is right for them – giving them space to build relationships naturally
- Young people with friends and close family still struggle with loneliness and isolation
- Constant exposure to social media can exacerbate feelings of isolation by making young people feel they are ordinary and worthless

What we will fund

- Projects, initiatives or even one off events that will help us to better understand more about how intergenerational approaches can help tackle loneliness and isolation
- Projects, initiatives or one off events that provide opportunities for older people to build relationships with younger people
- Projects, initiatives or one off events which promote older and younger people sharing their skills and experience
- ‘Intergenerational’ to us doesn’t just mean bringing children and older people together. We recognise that there are opportunities to learn about loneliness and isolation through bringing people together with less of an age gap.

But this list isn’t exhaustive, you might have your own ideas about how we can learn more, and we would love to hear these too. And remember, whatever your idea, there needs to be a way of recording and measuring your learning about the question above as well as a way of communicating this to us. We can work with you and support you to develop these processes.
We are looking for local organisations and community groups who can help us to better understand how people from BAME communities perceive loneliness.

Through our work so far we have engaged local people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures in the Ageing Better Middlesbrough Programme, but we recognise that in order to make sure Ageing Better Middlesbrough is accessible to everyone, we need to understand some communities in more detail. This strand of work is about collaborating with community groups and organisations with reach into BAME communities in Middlesbrough who have good ideas about how to engage with older people and can help us test out new ways to tackle loneliness in these communities.

**What we have learnt so far**

- There are lonely and isolated older people in BAME communities not being reached by existing BAME projects and services
- The key to engagement is the use of community networks, key individuals and trusted voices
- Events that bring people together are a good way of engaging people, especially those that involve food and provide transport
- There aren’t enough places for older people to come together and meet up
- There is a need for social activity for older refugees
- The diverse range of languages and cultures makes the solutions more challenging, but there are ways to overcome these challenges
- Persistence and consistency are key to engagement
- Reaching the existing community groups and networks will be challenging
- Confidence and self-esteem are big factors for older people from BAME communities engaging with existing activities and support
- Language barriers and transport are also big issues
What we will fund

We are looking to fund one or two community development projects that are both delivered in two specific phases:

**Phase 1 – Community Research** - a time limited exploratory/research phase which involves engaging older people from the identified BAME community/ies and gathering information and learning about their experiences of loneliness. This phase is all about getting out there and talking to older people and finding new and innovative ways to engage them in conversations that can generate new learning and insights. During this phase the project should also be making sure older people are offered opportunities to stay involved in the project and help to shape and design it as it moves into phase two. We recognise that there are many different BAME communities in Middlesbrough as well as older people with many different experiences. Focusing on the specific BAME community or communities that you are connected to may be an important part of gathering meaningful information.

**Phase 2 – Delivering new Ideas** - this phase is about taking what has been learnt from phase one, and testing out new ways to tackle the issues or needs that have been identified. Phase two is an opportunity to pilot new ideas and gather learning about what works. We don’t expect you to have formed plans for phase two of the project until after you have delivered phase one.

The key things about this project

- We will expect the project/s we fund to work with the programme management team to use ‘Service Design’ approaches in phase one of the project. Service Design is an accessible, creative and structured approach to designing services and solutions based on people’s experiences and needs. The process uses methods to discover, define, develop and deliver new solutions, which start from exploring people’s need and understanding the benefit that people will get from a product or service. The process is structured and methodical and aims to challenge assumptions about what works and provide opportunities to prototype new ideas. We will support you to understand this way of working and help you implement it in your project.

- Older people should be involved in the design and the delivery of phases one and two of the project. Ageing Better Middlesbrough is about uncovering the sometimes hidden skills and experience that older people have to offer and supporting older people to come together and use their skills and experience to make things better in their own communities. This project should provide older people with opportunities to get involved and influence what happens.

- The project/s we fund will work very closely with our Community Development Team. We have already started some work and made contacts with BAME groups and key people in Middlesbrough, and we need to make sure everybody is working together to make the best use of the resources we have.

- We don’t expect you to work with all BAME groups in Middlesbrough to deliver this project. We know that you may have connections or networks within one particular community and that will not be a barrier to you applying for funding.
COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

In order to make decisions about which ideas and projects we fund, we need to know a bit about you, your group/organisation and your idea.

We have tried to keep the application form as straightforward as possible. If you have any questions about completing this form, please follow the guidance in the ‘questions about the application’ section below.

Before completing the application form we would advise you to read more about the programme, on Ageing Better Middlesbrough’s website http://www.ageingbettermiddlesbrough.org.uk/about-us/

You should also carefully read the information within this leaflet and try to make sure that your proposal is about exploring the question being asked by whichever one of the three strands you’re applying for.

You should try to be clear and concise in your answers on the application form and use plain English and everyday language where possible. Applications which are clear, concise and accessible to the panel will be favoured over those that aren’t.

At the end of the form there is a declaration that needs to be signed in order for the application to be considered.

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Applications should be sent to the designated email address:
abmcommissioning@middlesbroughandstocktonmind.org.uk
or via post addressed to:

Michelle Dawson
Ageing Better Programme Manager
Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind
The Mind Centre
90-92 Lothian Road
Middlesbrough TS4 2QX

Organisations/groups are required to submit their applications and for them to be received by no later than 12pm Friday 13th January 2017 via the above email address.

Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind will acknowledge receipt of all application documents via email. The application should not be considered as received until you have received the acknowledgement email.

All submitted documents must be compatible with Microsoft Office or in PDF format.

Please note that an application received after the tender due date (and time) will not be considered. Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind accepts no responsibility for email failures.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION

Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind is committed to an application process in which a level playing field is maintained by the equal availability of information to all organisations. All requests for clarification or further information about the Innovation Fund should be made via the designated email address;

abmcommissioning@middlesbroughandstocktonmind.org.uk.

We will respond to email requests for clarification or further information from any organisation by posting the request/query and our response on the Ageing Better page on the

http://www.ageingbettermiddlesbrough.org.uk/documents/ under ‘procurement.’
The closing date for clarification questions is **12pm Friday 6th January 2017** We will not respond to questions submitted after this date.

Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind’s named manager for the Innovation Fund is:-

**Michelle Dawson**  
**Ageing Better Programme Manager**  
**Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind**  
**The Mind Centre**  
**90-92 Lothian Road**  
**Middlesbrough TS4 2QX**  
**Tel: 01642 257039**  
**Email: michelle.dawson@middlesbroughandstocktonmind.org.uk**

We will post details of enquiries and our replies to them on the Ageing Better Middlesbrough website, except where the organisation has indicated that an enquiry is of a commercially sensitive nature, in which case we will either:

- **a)** treat both enquiry and response confidentially, or
- **b)** If we disagree with the organisations/groups classification we will invite them to re-classify or withdraw the enquiry.

Neither Middlesbrough and Stockton mind or Ageing Better Middlesbrough accept responsibility for any expenses incurred in connection to the application process, nor for the return of, or payment for the return of, any documents.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What kind of organisations/groups are you looking for?**

The application process is open to all organisations and groups including those in the Voluntary/Community sector, private sector and statutory organisations. Community groups must be constituted and able to provide a copy of the constitution. We also have no preferences for how big or small organisations/groups are.

**Are you looking for partnerships to deliver this project or single organisations/groups on their own?**

We have no preference about whether organisations/groups work in partnership or apply to deliver a project on their own. We would encourage organisations working in partnerships to consider what each partner will bring to the partnership, how the partnership will be managed and ensure that the partnership is robust and cohesive enough to deliver the project.

**Information Session**

We are holding an information session on  
**Wednesday 21st December 1.30pm – 2.30pm**

**At: The Mind Centre Community Hall**  
**90-92 Lothian Road**  
**Middlesbrough**  
**TS4 2QX**

The session is open to anybody interested in hearing more about the fund. There will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions. Please book a space at the session by contacting Nick Greaves, Programme Support Officer by email or telephone.

**Nick.greaves@middlesbroughandstocktonmind.org.uk**  
**01642 257063**
APPLICATION FORM

ABOUT THE GROUP/ORGANISATION

Use this application form to tell us about you and the project/idea you would like us to fund. Please read the information leaflet before completing.

About you:

Name of organisation or group:

Are you a:  
- Registered Charity
- Constituted Community Organisation/group
- Community Interest Company
- Private company
- Statutory organisation

Other, please state:

Please tell us in one sentence what your group/organisation does:

MAIN CONTACT FOR THIS APPLICATION

Title:  
Forenames (in full):

Surname:  
Phone number:

Email (if available):

A BIT MORE ABOUT YOUR GROUP/ORGANISATION

Please read through the information required below. If you need any support to complete this section of the application, or you need some guidance on whether your group/organisation is able to apply for funding, please contact the Michelle Dawson (Details on page 8 of the information leaflet)

Business name (if applicable)

Charity Number (if applicable)

Company Registration Number (if applicable)

The year the company was established (if applicable)

VAT number (if applicable)
INSURANCE
Please provide details of the level of insurance your group/organisation has below:-

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<th>Level of insurance (i.e. 1 million)</th>
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Please provide a copy of the most recent audited accounts for your organisation for the most recent full year of operation.

If you have not provided accounts or are unable to do so, please give a brief explanation of the reason:

WHICH STRAND OF THE INNOVATION FUND IS YOUR PROJECT/IDEA ABOUT?

Is becoming a volunteer an effective way of engaging lonely and isolated older people in community activity?

Can intergenerational approaches tackle loneliness and isolation?

How do people from black, Asian, minority and ethnic communities (BAME) perceive loneliness?

How much funding are you requesting for your project? £
Please describe who your idea/project is targeting and how they will find out about it (max 200 words)
Please describe how your idea/project will help Ageing Better Middlesbrough understand your chosen Innovation Fund strand (max 200 words)

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your project/idea?
DECLARATION

I certify that the information supplied regarding the Organisation is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I accept the conditions and undertakings requested in the application form. I understand and accept that false information could result in rejection of this application.

I understand and agree that if our application is successful that the organisation will purchase insurance as required if such insurance is not already held.

NB This undertaking is to be signed by a Partner, Director or authorised representative i.e. in their name on behalf of the Organisation.

Organisation Name

Signatory Name

Signed:

Position/Status in the Organisation:

Organisation’s address:

Date:

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 21st December – 1.30pm – 2.30pm – Information Session
12pm Friday 6th January 2017 – Deadline for clarification questions about the fund
12pm Friday 13th January 2017 – Deadline for application forms to be received
Wednesday 1st February (am) and Thursday 2nd February.(pm) – Stage two meetings with applicants

Please note - if you have not heard anything about your application by Thursday 26th January, your application has not been successful on this occasion. We may or may not be able to provide feedback to applicants depending on the quantity of applications.