Age Friendly Rother Intergenerational Grants Programme 2026/27

Introduction

Rother District Council invites applications for round 1 of the Intergenerational Grants, designed to support local organisations working to unite our communities in what makes them the same, instead of focusing on what makes us different. Intergenerational activity can take place in all kinds of different spaces and places, adapting to the specific needs, issues and requirements of the people and communities involved.

The funding focuses on working with individuals aged 50 and over, in combination with one or more other age groups.

The Council is particularly interested in projects that can deliver against the following objectives:

- Enhance learning and skills sharing across all age groups
- Increase understanding and sharing of experience between generations to support reducing ageism
- Reduces loneliness and social isolation
- Builds friendships and social connections
- Creates opportunities for all generations to feel valued and part of their community
- Improves strength and balance through physical activity
- Encourage participation in creative activities

Funding is available for charities, voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, and other not-for-profit organisations working in Rother.

Alongside this guidance and application form, we have provided the East Sussex County Council Intergenerational Activities Toolkit and strongly encourage you to read it before applying.

Intergenerational Activities Toolkit | East Sussex County Council

Please note:
There will be a second round of grants made available later in 2026/27 on a date to be confirmed. New applicants as well as those whose projects were grant funded in Round 1 may wish to apply to expand or run a series of events. The eligibility criteria will be the same.

Background

Intergenerational practice is an evidence-based approach that brings people of different ages together through shared activities to build relationships, strengthen

communities, and improve wellbeing. Activities can include creative arts, storytelling, physical activity, gardening, music, and other participatory experiences of sharing skills and experience across generations.

Intergenerational activity delivers multiple social benefits. It enables the exchange of skills, knowledge, and lived experience between generations, helping to break down stereotypes and foster mutual understanding and respect. And can reduce isolation and increase purpose among older people, while supporting younger people to build confidence, communication, and social skills.

Overall, intergenerational activity supports preventative, community-based approaches that improve wellbeing, reduce inequalities, and build more connected and resilient places. And this supports key objectives within the Age Friendly Community programme to help support inclusion and reduce ageism and age related stereotypes and harms**.**

The Age Friendly Communities programme in Rother is funded through a partnership between East Sussex County Council Public Health and Rother District Council, in collaboration with Rother Voluntary Action. Specifically to support adults to age well in Hastings. This grant programme aims to support local organisations create new intergenerational activities, for the benefit of older people and young people in Rother.

Who Can Apply

This round of grants is particularly aimed at smaller amounts of funding to pilot a new project, not to continue something which is currently taking place or has happened before. We would want you to demonstrate that your project could become a regular activity, that it's not a one-off event.

We expect a lead organisation to meet the criteria below, but if they don't currently work with more than one generation of the population, then we expect that they will have identified a partner and have them sign to say they are committed to the funded project. This will be clearly set out in the application form.

You can apply if the **lead** organisation is:

- A registered charity
- A community or voluntary group
- A community interest company (CIC)
- A social enterprise
- A not-for-profit organisation
- School or college

Lead applicants must have:

- A governing document
- A bank account with two unrelated signatories
- Appropriate policies (e.g. Safeguarding, data protection)
- The capacity to deliver the proposed project

How Much You Can Apply For

We expected to award grants in this round to a maximum amount of £500.

Grant awards may vary in size depending on the nature and scale of the proposed project.

Projects with match funding or in-kind support are encouraged but not required.

How to Apply

To apply, please complete the application form, available as a separate document.

Supporting documents (e.g. policies) may be requested during assessment.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday July 31st 2026

Assessment Process

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria and how it delivers against one or more of the following criteria, including:

- Alignment with the aims of Age Friendly Communities
- Evidence of local need and community benefit
- Level of innovation as we are looking new ideas to be tested
- Value for money
- Expected outcomes and impact and clear plan of how this will be reported

Applications will also be assessed against the objectives set out in the introduction section of this guidance. As a reminder, these are:

- Enhance learning and skills sharing across all age groups
- Increase understanding and sharing of experience between generations to support reducing ageism
- Reduces loneliness and social isolation
- Builds friendships and social connections
- Creates opportunities for all generations to feel valued and part of their community
- Improves strength and balance through physical activity
- Encourage participation in creative activities

A scoring matrix will be used to ensure fairness and consistency.

Key Dates

- Applications closing date is Friday July 31st 2026
- Decisions communicated by the mid-August 2026
- Projects must take place anytime between September 2026 and the end of March 2027

- If you intend to apply for round 2 (after having been funded in round 1) then your round 1 project must be finished by 31st October 2026 and you must have submitted your report on the round 1 project
- We expect projects to end by the end of March 2027
- Monitoring report to be submitted by end of April 2027

Monitoring and Assurance

All organisations receiving funding through the Intergenerational Grant will be required to demonstrate that public funds have been used appropriately and in line with the agreed proposal.

Monitoring and assurance arrangements will be proportionate to the size and risk of the grant award, and may include:

- A short end-of-project report outlining activities delivered, outcomes achieved, and learning gained. Creative solutions to reporting on what was achieved by way of outcomes would be welcome, such as short phone video clips, photos, case studies.
- Evidence of expenditure and outputs

These arrangements are intended to protect both the Council and funded organisations, while ensuring the programme delivers meaningful outcomes and learning.

Please note, if further funding is sought in round 2, then a project report will need to have been submitted and accepted for this round first.

Further Information

For further information and/or to discuss a potential application, please contact Stuart Ramsbottom, Active and Healthy Communities Specialist at Rother District Council.

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