

Common Good Fund: Application Form for 2020/21*

*Please note this is a fund of last resort – you will need to demonstrate to the Common Good Fund Committee that you have tried to secure funding from other sources.

Applicant Group/Organisation:	Interest Link Borders
Name of your project:	Interest Link Roxburgh (Hawick Residents).
The name of the Common Good Fund that you are applying to:	Hawick

What does your organisation do and who does it support? If appropriate. (max. 100 words)

Tell us what your group does, the activities it undertakes and in what way it benefits the community. We support people with learning disabilities, a lifelong condition that affects their development and means they need help to understand information, learn skills and live independently. Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, autism, epilepsy and sensory impairments are often involved.

To overcome our members' social isolation and lack of opportunity, we run befriending projects across the Scottish Borders, managed by paid staff and involving volunteers of all ages. Shared activities and positive contact lead to real and equal friendships and our activities also provide regular high quality respite for carers who have a demanding role that often lasts into their old age.

Summarise what you want to use this funding for (max. 100 words)

Developing existing work, our Roxburgh project will improve the quality of life of 40 members with learning disabilities aged 12-77 who live in Hawick and 50 family carers. 35 Hawick volunteers aged 16+ will become more confident and aware. Activities will also include members who live outside Hawick, but they are not counted or included in the budget for the purposes of this project.

30 members will be in our befriending groups:

Four age-based befriending groups, meeting fortnightly on weekday evenings. Under lockdown group meetings take place on Zoom, with activity materials and ingredients delivered to members' and volunteers' homes. When face-to-face delivery is possible they will meet at Burnfoot Community Centre. Whether online or in person, activities will include, art, crafts, music, drama and most of the features of mainstream youth or social groups.

Two in-school groups at Wilton Additional Needs Unit and Hawick High School will reach members with more serious personal care/health needs. These are currently operating via Zoom.

10 members will meet 1:1 with volunteers weekly on the phone or over Zoom or go out for walks, coffee, sightseeing, sports etc.

The distance service we started in March 2020 also includes Facebook and Whatsapp groups and a number of smaller informal Zoom groups such as Rugby Buddies, Train Buddies, Homeschoolers & Zoom Bubble.

The distance service has built on the community of friendship we had developed and been highly effective. Except for schools, since March 2020 it has been the only activities and respite service available to our members and their family carers.

Summarise how the outcomes of the project will be measured/evaluated (max. 100 words)

Outcomes are:

For members: more friends, improved happiness/mental wellbeing, confidence, self-esteem and social & communication skills

For carers: improved wellbeing, more opportunities to enjoy a life outside of their caring role and greater sustainability of that role.

They will be measured by:

Member & carer questionnaires

Case studies written by the Branch staff

Photoreports

Films, for example of music and drama performances.

See <https://www.interestlink.org.uk/evaluation.htm> for examples

Our September 2020 evaluation/consultation showed 88% of Roxburgh members felt all the above outcomes and 100% of Roxburgh carers experienced at least one of the outcomes.

Tell us how your activity/project will make a difference to your organisation and how it will benefit the residents of the current/former Burgh (max. 200 words)

Most of our young members are taught in additional needs units and lack opportunities crucial to wellbeing and personal development. In adulthood as few as 0.75% live with a partner and 4.5% are in employment (2019 Learning Disability Statistics). Day centre cuts have reduced social opportunities and members are at risk of bullying if they go into the community on their own.

Our project will enable members to form friendships with volunteers & each other and be able to pursue their interests, participate in activities, make choices, and develop independence. This will reduce their social isolation and greatly improve happiness/wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem.

As well as being fun, activities will develop lifeskills, particularly social and communication skills, which will help in making friends and reducing social isolation in the longer term.

Family carers often have a lifelong role which is difficult to sustain, causes financial hardship and isolates them from their communities. As a result of our project, family carers will be able to enjoy other activities, happy in the knowledge the person they care for is having fun with trusted friends. Members will have their spirits lifted and have something to look forward to, improving family dynamics and sustainability.

Tell us how your project will be sustainable in the future (max. 100 words)

We raise funding from a wide variety of sources, currently including National Lottery Community Fund, Children in Need, Better Breaks, trusts such as Robertson, Gannochy & RS MacDonald and local fundraising. This approach has sustained us successfully for 25 years.

We have applied to many funders but will have a funding gap of £3,000 in our Hawick project in 2021-22. We last applied to the Fund in 2014 and only apply when we have exhausted other sources. We are applying to SBC Community Fund for a project in Eildon, so cannot apply to Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership.

Expenditure: Please tell us how much money you need for the entire activity/project (you may be asked to provide up to 3 quotes to support your application)

Item of Expenditure	Cost (£)
Staff Salaries, NI & Pension (Branch Co-ordinator and assistant working total of 39hrs per week)	33,815
Staff & volunteer recruitment, travel & training	1,807
Group costs: Sessional Staff, Activities & materials, Tutors, Venue	7,275
Office & administration (rent, telephone, postage, stationery, insurance, payroll, accountancy)	2,633
Total Expenditure	45,530
How much would you like from the Common Good Fund?	£3,000
Please supply a copy of your signed & dated Annual Accounts or Projected Financial Plan	Attached

Have you received funding in the last 5 years from Scottish Borders Council or any other external funders? If so, please detail the fund name, the amount and the purpose of the grant.

Fund	Amount	Purpose
<p>We received funding of £529,426 from 29 external funders between April 2018 and March 2020: Please see page 19 of the attached Annual Accounts for a full list and amounts. All funding was for our Scottish Borders learning disabilities befriending projects.</p> <p>In the three preceding years 2015-2018 we received £847,417 from these 29 and a further 18 funders for the same purposes.</p> <p>Annual Accounts for all 5 years can be found at Companies House.</p> <p>The grants above included an annual grant by Scottish Borders Council of £21,996 for salary & office costs in our adult work and a grant of £6,129 from Eildon Localities Fund in 2019.</p>		

Tell us about your own fundraising or how you have secured other funding for this project.

	Secured	Pending	Total	Notes
Bank of Scotland Foundation	-	2,800	2,800	Decision March 2021: Existing funder
Better Breaks	-	2,400	2,400	Decision March 2021: Existing funder
Children in Need	6,675	-	6,675	
Creative Breaks	1,125	-	1,125	Decision Sept2021: Existing funder
Gannochy Trust	1,125	-	1,125	

Garfield Weston	3,000	-	3,000	
Henry Smith Charity	3,375	-	3,375	
Mainhouse Charitable Trust	375	1,125	1,500	Decision August 2021: Existing funder
National Lottery Community Fund	9,000	8,250	17,250	Decision March 2021: Existing funder
SBC Service Contract	3,280.40	-	3,280	
Total	27,955	14,575	42,530	

Organisation details:	
Contact Name:	Andrew Findlay
Position in Group/Org: (if appropriate)	Project Co-ordinator
Home Address:	
Post Code:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	andrewfindlay@interestlink.org.uk
Date:	04/02/2021
Signature:	

Equalities
Do you have an Equal Opportunities Policy or Equality Statement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Explain how your project complies with the obligations contained in the Equality Act 2010 Equality & Diversity Policy attached We do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity. Only those with learning disabilities can receive a service and our express purpose is to provide equality of opportunity to children, young people and adults with learning disabilities. Our members are unable to access mainstream clubs and associations, but our groups aim to create a similar environment and range of activities. Everyone with learning disabilities living in the area can access the project and activities are free save for occasional small contribution to cost of more expensive activities (which are waived if they cannot be afforded).

Public Protection
Does your idea/project involve work with children, young people under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes what public protection policies do you have in place and how often are these reviewed? Please provide a copy of these or give full details below.

Adult & Child Protection Policies attached.

They are written to dovetail with the Scottish Borders statutory protection system and reviewed annually (last in Jan 2021).

Permissions

Does your project involve work to a building or land? Yes No

If yes do you have the following? (please tick relevant)

- A lease agreement (Date of lease _____ and duration _____ years)
- Written permission of owner
- Planning permission (Reference No. _____)

Common Good Funds

Common Good Funds in Scotland originated in the 15th century and are the assets and income of some of the current/former Burghs. They can represent a substantial portfolio of land, property, some moveable items and investments and by law continue to exist for the benefit of the inhabitants of the former Burghs to which they relate. Scottish Borders Council is the owner of these Funds and each Fund has a sub-committee comprising the relevant local Councillors who make the decisions on the management of the Fund's assets and approval of any requests for funding (up to a limit of £20,000 above which full Council approval is required).

If you are successful in being awarded Common Good Funds, you will be asked to complete a monitoring & evaluation form when your project is complete or within 1 year of receiving funding. Future applications will not be considered until this has been received and the Common Good Fund Sub-Committee are satisfied with the evaluation you have provided.