



## Common Good Fund: Application Form for 2021/22\*

\*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.

<b>Applicant Group/Organisation:</b>	Interest Link Borders
<b>Name of your project:</b>	Interest Link Central Borders (Selkirk Residents)
<b>The name of the Common Good Fund that you are applying to:</b>	Selkirk

### 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. Founded by carers in 1990, 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)

(i.e. will it increase access, improve quality of life etc.)

From April 2022-March 2023, developing existing work, our Central Borders project will improve the quality of life of 10 members with learning disabilities aged 12-70 who live in Selkirk and 15 family carers. 10 Selkirk volunteers aged 15+ will become more confident making friends with people with learning disabilities.

Although all group activities will be in Selkirk, some activities will include members who live outside Selkirk: these members are not counted as beneficiaries or included in the budget.

7 members will be in our befriending groups:

Three age-based befriending groups, meeting fortnightly on weekday evenings (with additional Zoom meetings open to members of all ages). Groups will meet at Selkirk Cricket Club. Activities will be similar to mainstream youth or social groups: art, crafts, music, drama, cookery & festive parties. If pandemic restrictions prevent physical sessions, meetings will take place on Zoom, with activity materials and ingredients delivered to members' and volunteers' homes.

A weekly in-school group at Selkirk High School in the autumn term will reach members with more serious personal care/health needs.

3 members will meet 1:1 with volunteers weekly or fortnightly and go out for walks, coffee, sightseeing, sports etc. If pandemic restrictions make this impossible they will maintain contact on the phone or over Zoom.

**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
- Films, for example of drama performances.

Our June 2021 Evaluation produced survey returns from 40% of Central Borders members, all of whom felt all the outcomes, and 45% of Central Borders carers, all of whom 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)

Tell us what activities you plan to carry out and how you will deliver it.

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.

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.

As acknowledged in Scottish Borders Learning Disabilities, Children's and Carers' Plans, there is a great need for these types of social inclusion and respite activities in Scottish Borders and relatively little provision.

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

We raise funding from a wide variety of sources, such as National Lottery Community Fund, Children in Need, Better Breaks, Gannochy Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Bank of Scotland Foundation and local fundraising. This approach has sustained us successfully since 1990.

We have applied to many funders outside the Borders but there is extreme competition for grants and we will have a funding gap of £2,500 re the Selkirk element of our Central Borders project in 2022-23.

**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)**

<b>Item of Expenditure</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>
Staff Salaries, NI & Pension (Branch Co-ordinator and assistants working total of 11hrs per week)	<b>9,555</b>
Staff travel & training & volunteer recruitment, travel & training	<b>620</b>
Group costs: Sessional Staff, Activities & materials, Tutors, Venue	<b>2,500</b>
Office & administration (rent, telephone, postage, stationery, insurance, payroll, accountancy)	<b>1,000</b>
Total Expenditure	<b>13,675</b>
<b>How much would you like from the Common Good Fund?</b>	<b>Up to £2,500 for Group costs</b>
<b>Please supply a copy of your signed &amp; dated Annual Accounts or Projected Financial Plan</b>	<b>Attached</b>


**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.**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<p>As an organisation, supporting 200 members across the Scottish Borders, we received funding of £624,244 from 38 external funders between April 2019 and March 2021: 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 2016-2019 we received £802,572 from the same funders and a further 10 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 &amp; office costs in our adult work, a grant of £6,129 from the Eildon Localities Fund in 2019 and £5,000 in March 2021 from SBC Community Fund (Eildon) for salaries.</p> <p>We appreciate we have already drawn from the Eildon Area funds twice in the last three years. If the committee are happy to make us a grant, we would understand if the committee asked us to have a break before applying again.</p>		

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

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
National Lottery Community Fund	7,000	Salaries and Office & Administration Secured
Children in Need	3,555	Salaries Secured

Wood Foundation	620	Recruitment, travel & training Secured
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,175</b>	

Individual/Group/Organisation details:	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Andrew Findlay
<b>Position in Group/Org:</b> (if appropriate)	Project Co-ordinator
<b>Home Address:</b>	Fawside Lodge, Gordon, Berwickshire
<b>Post Code:</b>	TD3 6JZ
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<b>Email Address:</b>	andrewfindlay@interestlink.org.uk
<b>Date:</b>	04/02/2021
<b>Signature:</b>	

Equalities
<b>Do you have an Equal Opportunities Policy or Equality Statement?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Explain how your project complies with the obligations contained in the Equality Act 2010</b> 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
<b>Does your idea/project involve work with children, young people under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>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.</b>
Adult & Child Protection Policies attached. They are written to dovetail with the Scottish Borders statutory protection system and reviewed annually (last in Dec 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.

This completed form and supporting documents should be submitted to Democratic Services, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA. Email: [compap@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:compap@scotborders.gov.uk) Telephone: 01835 825005