

## Common Good Fund: Application Form for 2023/24\*

\*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 Tweeddale (Peebles Members)
<b>The name of the Common Good Fund that you are applying to:</b>	PEEBLES COMMON GOOD FUND

### 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 family carers, we work across Scottish Borders improving the lives of socially excluded children (8+) and adults with learning disabilities and their family carers.

We achieve this through volunteer befriending: 200 peer-age volunteers support 220 members in 1:1 links and friendship groups, also benefiting 250 carers. We deliver through four local Branches (Berwickshire, Central Borders, Roxburgh and Tweeddale).

Our service has developed through co-production and benefits include more friends & opportunities and improved mental wellbeing, confidence, self-esteem and social skills for members. Family carers' role is eased and they have better wellbeing and more opportunities for other activities.

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

Over 12 months our Tweeddale Branch will support 20 Peebles members through:

- c10 1:1 links meeting fortnightly for 2-3 hours for e.g. walks, shopping, sightseeing & sports.
- c20 places in six groups:
  - Four groups will meet fortnightly on a weekday evening for 2 hours at our Cavalry Park venue for arts & crafts, music, games, healthy eating, parties and trips out: Champions (8-16s), Fronrunners (16-25s) Motivators (Young Adults) and Make That (Older Adults). Each has 22 sessions annually.
  - Green Wanderers group will meet fortnightly on a weekday to tend their raised beds at Greener Peebles Community Garden, go on trips and do crafts.
  - Online Zoom Bingo Group connects residents at Garvald West Linton with friends in Peebles.
- We also run a Parents Craft & Chat group at Cavalry Park, which includes 4 Peebles family carers.
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### Summarise how the outcomes of the project will be measured/evaluated (max. 100 words)

Our Annual Survey in June 2024 will gather outcome statistics and feedback from at least 40% of supported members, family carers, volunteers as well as teachers and care professionals. We will also ask for ideas to improve the service. This will produce a Tweeddale Impact Report similar to that attached and we will also drill down and report benefits to those living in Peebles.

Branch Co-ordinators Mary Mouat and Rosa Cabello will write at least four case studies based on observation and feedback

[See recent examples](#)

**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)

Our members have Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome & Autism, with high levels of epilepsy & sensory impairment. They are socially excluded: children are taught in additional needs units and only 1% are likely to have a partner in adult life and 4.5% a job. Day support has shrunk and they are at risk if they go into the community on their own.

Our project will breakdown barriers with the Peebles community, give members some friends who are in their life out of choice and provide opportunities for new activities and experiences. This will improve their happiness, confidence, self-esteem and social skills: in our June 2023 survey 88% of Peebles members said we had made a difference in all of these areas (and 100% a difference in most of them)

Family carers have a lifelong role which isolates them and is hard to sustain. Our project will give Carers time to spend on themselves, each other and social connections, happy in the knowledge the person they care for is enjoying themselves safely with friends. In our June 2023 survey all Peebles family carers said we had made a difference to their quality of life.

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

Tweeddale Branch raises funds from a wide variety of sources, currently including SBC funds, National Lottery Community Fund, Better Breaks, Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, Creative Breaks, Borders Children's Charity, Gannochy & RS MacDonald. We are always looking for new funders and have a strong track record which has sustained Tweeddale Branch successfully for 22 years.

For the 2023-24 Peebles project we have a funding gap of £2,000 after all our other applications are included. We are going to every source available and the external funding environment is currently extremely competitive.

**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 Co-ordinator working total of 25hrs per week)	23,843
Staff & volunteer recruitment, travel & training	2,220
Group costs: Activities & materials, Tutors, Venue	10,152

Office & administration (telephone, postage, stationery, insurance, payroll, accountancy)	<b>1,411</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>38,875</b>
<b>How much would you like from the Common Good Fund?</b>	<b>2,000 for volunteer and 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.**

Fund	Amount	Purpose
<p>Please see Schedule attached, compiled from Annual Accounts and 202-23 Management Accounts: SBC grants are highlighted. All were for our befriending service running costs in the different localities.</p> <p>We receive £21,996 annually from SBC Learning Disabilities budget: this is classed as unrestricted income by our independent examiner so is not shown separately in the Annual Accounts, however it is shown in the 2022-23 Management Accounts.</p> <p>We received a grant of £2,000 from the Peebles Common Good Fund in February 2021.</p> <p>We received a grant from the SBC Tweeddale Neighbourhood Support Fund in September 2022. This has been fully spent and reported on.</p> <p>In the current year, we received a grant of £4,805 from SBC Cheviot. Neighbourhood Fund in April 2023</p>		

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

	Secured	Pending or Planned	Notes
Better Breaks Fund	2,500		
Borders Children's Charity	750		
Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund	2,250		
Co-op Local Community Fund	825		
Creative Breaks		2,000	Decision Sept 2023
Donations and fundraising		656	Ongoing
Gannochy Trust	1,000		
National Lottery Community Fund	11,444		
Orcome Trust		2,500	Decision Oct 2023
<a href="#">Peebles Common Good Fund</a>		<a href="#">2,000</a>	<a href="#">Decision August 2023</a>
People's Postcode Trust		3,000	Decision Oct 2023
RS MacDonald Charitable Trust	1,500		

Rooney Foundation	750		
SBC Community Welfare Trust		500	Decision Sept 2023
SBC Healthier Happier Stronger Fund Tweeddale		2,500	Decision August 2023
SBC Neighbourhood Fund Tweeddale		2,500	Decision Oct 23 or
SBC Main Grant	2,200		
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,219</b>	<b>15,656</b>	
<b>Combined Total</b>		<b>38,875</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>	Registered address: Volunteer Hall, Langtongate, Duns Berwickshire TD11 3AF
<b>Post Code:</b>	TD1 1SW
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	07785 734992
<b>Email Address:</b>	andrewfindlay@interestlink.org.uk
<b>Date:</b>	26/07/2023
<b>Signature:</b>	

Equalities
<p><b>Do you have an Equal Opportunities Policy or Equality Statement?</b>    Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>Explain how your project complies with the obligations contained in the Equality Act 2010</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Diversity Policy attached</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Providing opportunities usually denied our members with learning disabilities is key to our mission. Our members cannot attend mainstream groups, they are on low incomes, do not have friends or access to transport and are vulnerable if they go into the community alone. As a result they have poor outcomes relative to the general population in terms of mental wellbeing, confidence, self-esteem and social &amp; communication skills. This makes them unlikely to achieve positive destinations such as employment and independent living</p>

Public Protection
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**Does your idea/project involve work with children, young people under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults? Yes  No**

**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 September 2022)

## 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 Lynne Cuerden, Democratic Services Officer, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA. Email: [lynne.cuerden@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.cuerden@scotborders.gov.uk) Telephone: 01835 826527