



PARTICIPATORY GRANT-MAKING PROSPECTUS

Loneliness and Social Isolation Grant

Plymouth, 2022

The Rank Foundation

Participatory Grant Making Programme

Since 2018, the Rank Foundation has invested some £2.5m in supporting Plymouth's vibrant social purpose sector. More recently, Rank's Board of Trustees has restated its commitment to Plymouth by approving a second phase of their place-based investment.

Over the next three years the Foundation will be supporting a number of initiatives but the principal one is a commitment to addressing the issues of loneliness and isolation in the City. To that end, Rank has committed £1m over the next three years to support projects delivered by social purpose organisations which are designed to address and combat loneliness and social isolation. To support the process a local Advisory Panel has been convened to determine Plymouth's priorities for action and the ways in which the social enterprise community might best respond through project-based activities. Their deliberations have resulted in the publication of this brief prospectus which provides guidance to potential applicants about what type of projects we are seeking to support, the criteria which will be applied plus details outlining the application process.

The Advisory Panel comprises:

- Geoff Baines, Deputy Chief Executive, Livewell Southwest
- Phil Davies, Rank Associate (Chair)
- Dr Mary Embleton, General Practitioner and Addiction Specialist, St Levan and Adelaide Street Surgeries
- Dr Ruth Harrell, Plymouth's Director of Public Health
- Annjames, Chief Executive, University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
- Mike Jarman, Chief Executive, The Zone
- Patrick Nicholson, Deputy Leader of Plymouth City Council and Chair, Health and Wellbeing Board
- Julie Paget, Strategic Manager, Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council
- Rachel Silcock, Strategic Commissioning Manager, Plymouth City Council
- Kate Smith, Joint CEO, Memory Matters

There will be a separate Participatory Grant Making (PGM) panel overseeing the application process which will apply the priorities determined by the Advisory Panel to guide their decision making around successful projects. This group will be chaired by Kate Smith from Memory Matters and will comprise some of the social enterprises supported by the Rank Foundation in the City plus those with lived experience from local communities.

Participatory Grant Making aims to engage those who, ultimately, will benefit.

The Participatory Grant Making programme will fund activities that address social isolation and loneliness in Plymouth

Plymouth's PGM Programme will:

- Hear diverse community voices
- Create on the ground decision making
- Provide more impactful and effective grant making
- Power shift to communities with lived experience
- Listen to community insight
- Improve transparency and accountability

“ **THOSE CLOSEST TO THE PAIN SHOULD BE CLOSEST TO THE POWER.** ”
- Ayanna Pressley -

PGM Grant Priorities

The Advisory Panel has determined that the main characteristics of people who are more likely to experience loneliness and social isolation include:

- Older people generally but particularly those who are widowed and/or living alone
- Those with poor physical and/or mental health
- Those with a long-term illness or disability
- Young people between the ages of 16-25
- Younger parents without local or family support
- Transition points across all age groups, but particularly at 16-18 and retirement
- People without a sense of belonging to the area
- Those with poor English language skills
- Those who are economically inactive

A list of non-exhaustive possible project-based activities which have been identified include:

- Improving non-users digital skills to reduce digital isolation and improve access to services
- Intergenerational activities
- Improving community connectedness
- Increasing the number of volunteers
- Returning to F2F or blended delivery
- Strengthening collaboration between the sectors
- Engaging older people in social activities such as lunch clubs, walking groups etc
- Addressing anxiety, low levels of confidence and self-esteem across all ages
- Wellbeing Hubs using community spaces to provide a focal point of activity in neighbourhoods

The above list is included simply as a 'flavour'; we encourage organisations making applications to the fund to bring their own innovative and creative ideas once the key groups and overarching needs have been identified.

What are we seeking to fund?

An invitation to RankNet Organisations in Plymouth

Your organisation is invited to apply for a grant of up to £30,000 per annum for a period of up to two years. A further year's funding may be available after the initial two-year period depending on the availability of funding and on the priorities at that time.

Applications for smaller projects with a shorter delivery time are welcome. Whilst the grant is only open to Plymouth members of RankNet, organisations can collaborate with other projects outside of the network. A Plymouth RankNet organisation must be the lead partner. Applications will be assessed by the local PGM Panel. The members of the Panel will score applications independently of the Rank Foundation ensuring genuine local participation.

What we are seeking to fund?

- Innovative and creative new projects which meet the priorities set out in this prospectus.
- Projects which complement existing activities.
- Projects that test out new approaches to the priorities identified on page two.
- Invited organisations might propose working with smaller organisations which have not previously been funded by the Rank Foundation, or work with other RankNet organisations on a collaborative project. One organisation must be identified as the lead organisation and this organisation must be a member of Plymouth's Rank network.

What we cannot fund?

- We will not normally fund expenditure on capital items or core costs, although if the project is dependent on capital costs then speak to Kate Smith or Phil Davies first.
- Projects whose funding is spent outside of Plymouth.
- Costs that support already commissioned services or continuation funding for current services.

You can expect us to be flexible and responsive and we will be interested in:

- Whether you need medium or short term funding (one or two years).
- Whether the funding is to support a single organisation or bringing a group of organisations together.

The Application Process

You can access the Application Form on RankNet on Friday 5th November 2021. We will also send you a link via email.

Once your application has been submitted, the first step in the process will be for the project to go through The Rank Foundation due diligence gateway which will assess the financial information you have provided, the governance of the organisation and that appropriate policies are in place.

Once this threshold has been passed, the PGM Panel will receive anonymised applications and will score the application answers in terms of the social impact against the core priorities and lived experience. The PGM panel will not see any financial or governance information.

Extra care will be taken to ensure this is a fair and reasonable process and applicants who are members of the PGM panel will not score their own submissions.

Once these have been individually assessed, the total scores will be brought to a meeting of the PGM panel to agree on which projects will receive funding.

This will be ratified and agreed by the PGM Panel.

Panel will then share these findings with The Rank Foundation for processing.

Successful projects will be monitored and evaluated during and at the end of each year using the Upshot Evaluation Platform plus an annual report.

Funding for future years will be dependent on the successful outcome of the monitoring and evaluation process, including the use of Upshot.

There will be compulsory Upshot training for all successful projects and ongoing support from the Rank Foundation team during the grant period.

To support your application and to provide you with a chance to ask questions, Phil Davies and Kate Smith will be hosting two identical briefing sessions.

The briefing sessions take place on Zoom on:

- Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 2pm
- Friday 12th November 2021 at 9am

Next Steps and Timescales

We are expecting high levels of demand for this funding and the PGM panel will no doubt have to make some tough choices.

If your organisation is thinking of applying it may be useful to attend the briefing session or arrange a conversation with either Phil Davies (phil.davies@rankfoundation.com) or Kate Smith (kate@memorymatters.org.uk).

The closing date for applications is : Friday 6th December 2021 at 5pm

Successful applicants: Projects and funding will start on 28th February 2022