

## Acceleration Reform Fund – Carer Community Fund Guidelines

### Overview

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has provided Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) funding to each Integrated Care Board to support innovative practices in how unpaid Carers are supported.

On behalf of the DHSC, Derbyshire Carers Association (DCA) are working with Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and Citizens Advice Mid-Mercia to fund projects and initiatives that support Carers within their local community. This is connected to the Acceleration Reform Fund (ARF) Carers hospital discharge project called H-Connect.

H-Connect has a team of Hospital Liaison Workers that are supporting hospitals across Derbyshire to improve identification of Carers and increase recognition and involvement of Carers through the discharge process. H-Connect was launched in autumn 2024 and will be in place until autumn 2026.

Through the H-Connect project, we expect an increase in referrals for Carer support to Derbyshire All Age Carers Support Service and Derby Universal Services for Carers. To make sure Carers are connected to accessible support as soon as possible, grants will be available to fund a network of community support services for Carers in Derbyshire and Derby City.

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### Aim of the fund

The ARF Carer Community Fund have grants available for voluntary, community and social enterprises to pilot innovative projects that support Carers within their local communities. New and current Carers will be connected to groups, hubs and activities in their local community that improves wellbeing, enhances knowledge and learning and connects Carers to local support services.

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### Key facts

#### 1. What We Will Fund

The ARF Carer Community Fund will consider applications for new projects that:

- Improve Carers health and wellbeing
- Connect Carers with support services within their communities
- Provide Carers with relevant resources and support
- Support a specific group of Carers or supports all Carers
- Covers a specific geographical area or larger area
- Grants can cover a twelve-month period.

## 2. Who Is Eligible To Apply?

- We welcome applications from community & voluntary groups, community interest companies and charities across Derby and Derbyshire. The project must be a new area of work or enhance an existing offer to include Carers.
- Applicants do not have to be registered charities but must be constituted and have relevant core policies (safeguarding, GDPR, health and safety).
- We are happy to receive more than one application for different projects from each individual organisation. We also welcome [partnership applications.

## 3. How Much Can I Apply For?

- We welcome applications up to £10,000 per project to allow for a diverse range of applications across all areas.
- Funding can include equipment and project costs such as staffing and transport.

## 4. What Are The Monitoring Requirements?

We encourage projects to work collaboratively with the H-Connect team and other ARF funded projects. To gather as much learning as possible from these projects and to support sustainability, there will be a standard monitoring template where we gather quantitative learning as well as templates for case studies and narratives for qualitative learning.

## 5. What Are The Timelines?

- Week commencing Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
We will host an online session for interested applicants to share details of eligibility, examples of projects and answer questions you may have.
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Grant application forms, eligibility criteria and scoring information will be available on the Derbyshire Carers Association and Universal Services for Carer website.
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Deadline for applications
- Week commencement 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Outcome of applications
- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025  
Projects commencement