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**Gwent Regional Partnership Board**

**REGIONAL INTEGRATION FUND**

Small Grants Fund

2024-25

Part 1

Guidance Notes

**INTRODUCTION AND GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS**

Gwent Regional Partnership Board have agreed to provide a small grants fund to each Integrated Service Partnership Board (ISPB) within Gwent for 2024-27 through the new Health and Social Care Regional Integration fund (RIF) (2022-27).

The respective County Voluntary Council (CVC) within each Integrated Service Partnership Board area will host the small grants fund, with funding promoted across the Integrated Service Partnership Board and social value/third sector in the respective locality.

The aim is that by the end of the five-year RIF programme the RPB will have established and mainstreamed at least six new national models of integrated care so that citizens of Wales, wherever they live, can be assured of an effective and seamless service experience in relation to;

* Community based care – prevention and community coordination
* Community based care – complex care closer to home
* Promoting good emotional health and well-being
* Supporting families to stay together safely, and therapeutic support for care experienced children
* Home from hospital services
* Accommodation based solutions.

The small grant scheme will support this work and activity funded will contribute to one or more models of integrated care.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) and Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) will manage the Small Grant Fund within their respective areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. The small grants fund will be made available for locality-based schemes only.

The Regional Integration Fund is governed by the terms and conditions prescribed by Welsh Government. Any organisation in receipt of Regional Integration Funding must abide by the terms and conditions and accept any due diligence requirements if managing onward transfer of this fund.

Further information is available at: <https://gov.wales/health-and-social-care-regional-integration-fund>

Allocation of funding across the integrated partnership boards is provided below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Allocation** |
| **County** | **2024-25** | **2025-26**  | **2026-27** |
| Blaenau Gwent | £ 87,500 | £ 87,500 | £ 87,500 |
| Caerphilly | £ 87,500 | £ 87,500 | £ 87,500 |
| Monmouthshire | £ 87,500 | £ 87,500 | £ 87,500 |
| Newport | £ 87,500 | £ 87,500 | £ 87,500 |
| **Torfaen** | **£ 87,500** | **£ 87,500** | **£ 87,500** |

Applications can be made for projects from £5,000 to a maximum of £20,000.

The funding has been allocated for the 2024-25 financial year so it is expected that applications will identify the spend from 1st April 2024 to no later than 31st March 2025.

Please note this funding allocation must be spent in line with the funding Terms and Conditions which will be provided to successful applicants.

The fund is designed to support local voluntary action. Any organisation applying into multiple areas will have their applications reviewed by the Gwent Panel as a whole – with no organisation receiving more than the maximum grant available of £20,000.

**RIF Priority Areas**

Use of the funding must align with an RIF Priority Area as indicated in the Guidance. All proposals supported to receive funding must align with at least one priority area.

Due to the slow return to community-based services following the Covid-19 pandemic, it is expected that all projects will take full account of Welsh Government and Public Health Wales requirements at the time of application. As a result, the focus of the funding during this period will continue to include innovative ways of delivering against the priorities set out below that utilise remote or virtual means or will have the flexibility for alternative forms of delivery should circumstances and legislation change.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Older People including People with Dementia** | * Support adults to maintain independence and remain at home, avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions
* Focus on preventative and home from hospital services to ensure people are discharged in a safe and timely manner
* Prevent people from becoming lonely and socially isolated
* Support people to access enablement and rehabilitation services
* Support the vision to create an area friendly Wales
* Support for older people with dementia
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| **Children and Young People with Complex Needs** | * Help families receive seamless care and support
* Utilise the [NYTH/NEST Framework](https://nest.gov.wales/) to develop comprehensive support for children and young people with emotional and mental health and well-being needs
* Support families with support related to neurodevelopmental assess, treatment and rehabilitation services
* Support children and young people transitioning to adulthood

The definition of children with complex needs now comprises:* Children with disabilities and/or illness
* Children who are care experienced / looked after children
* Children who in need of care and support
* Children who are at risk of being looked after
* Children with emotional and behavioural needs
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| **People with Learning Disabilities, Neurodiverse and Neurodevelopmental conditions** | RIF should be used to support the National Learning Disability Improving Lives Programme (2018-21), from which there are three priority areas:* Reduction of health inequalities
* Increasing community integration
* Improving planning and funding systems
* Addressing the impacts of the pandemic on people with learning disabilities
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| **Unpaid Carers** | Activity funded through the RIF should directly support unpaid carers and the delivery of the [Strategy for Unpaid Carers (March 2021)](https://www.gov.wales/strategy-unpaid-carers-html). The strategy sets our four refreshed national priorities for unpaid carers: 1. Identifying and valuing unpaid carers
2. Providing information, advice and assistance
3. Supporting life alongside caring
4. Supporting unpaid carers in education and workforce
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| **People with Emotional Health and Mental Well-being Needs** | * people of all ages, including children and young people, being identified as having emotional health and well-being support needs
* to develop community-based models of care that will provide early intervention and prevent the escalation of poor emotional and mental health and well-being
* For children and young people the RIF should be used to support implementation of the [NYTH/NEST framework](https://nest.gov.wales/)
* the RIF should not replace funded mental health services but instead should be invested in integrated models of care that will compliment mental health services both by preventing poor mental health developing and by supporting people with lower level emotional needs in the community
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**Process**

Applications should be made on the Application Form. Applications should be received, with typed or scanned signatures by the closing date, via email to the corresponding CVC covering the locality area, as specified in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Application Submissions Send to:** | **Application Closing Date** |
| **County** | **2024-25** | **2025-26** | **2026-27** |
| **Blaenau Gwent** | rif2024@gavo.org.uk | 09/06/2024 |  |  |
| **Caerphilly** | rif2024@gavo.org.uk | 09/06/2024 |  |  |
| **Monmouthshire** | rif2024@gavo.org.uk | 09/06/2024 |  |  |
| **Newport** | rif2024@gavo.org.uk  | 09/06/2024 |  |  |
| **Torfaen** | funding@tvawales.org.uk  | 24/05/2024 |  |  |

Applications submitted in each county by the closing date will be reviewed and considered by the respective CVC Panel, following which applicants will be notified of their success or otherwise. Approved applications will be shared with the RPB and relevant Strategic Partnership Boards to enhance programme delivery and raise awareness. This collaboration ensures effective coordination and alignment of efforts towards our shared objectives.

Successful applicants, on notification, will be required to sign and return a set of Terms and Conditions specifying the organisation’s responsibilities for the management of the funding. Failure to return the signed document will result in the withdrawal of the funding offer. Failure to comply with the requirements will result in the funding being withdrawn and any monies returned.

**Progress Reporting**

Quarter 2 (Midway – June to September) and Quarter 4 (end-of-year – October to March) progress reports will be required from all successful projects each financial year, depending on the length of the project. A final report will be required, and any underspend will be reclaimed. An audit of the grants programme will be undertaken by the RPB, and successful projects will be required to retain all documents for audit purposes.

Application forms are available from:

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| Colorful circles with white text  Description automatically generated |  | A rainbow colored logo with white text  Description automatically generated |
| Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations[Home | GAVO](https://www.gavo.org.uk/) (gavo.org.uk)0800 4701378 |  | Torfaen Voluntary Alliance[Home – TVA (tvawales.org.uk)](https://tvawales.org.uk/) 01495 365610 |