

Accelerating Reform Fund Small Grants Programme

Introduction

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched the Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) which provides a total of £42.6million in grant funding from 2023 to 2025.

The aim of the Accelerating Reform Fund is to address barriers to adopting innovative practices and building capacity and capability in adult social care. Surrey County Council's share of the fund means organisations may bid for up to £6000 to complete work in furtherance of the funds aims.

Accelerating Reform Funding is available for Surrey-based VCSE organisations who are working to support Surrey-based residents.

Eligibility criteria

This small grants programme is available to any voluntary, community, or social enterprises organisation registered within Surrey and working to improve the lives of Surrey residents. Organisations must be able to demonstrate how the project they are applying for funding for aligns with one or more of the [12 priorities for innovation and scaling](#) set out by the Minister of State for Care under the [10-year vision for adult social care reform](#).

What we won't fund

There are some legal and other organisational considerations that limit how Accelerating Reform funding can be used. If your project involves any of the following, then funding will not be awarded:

- funding political organisations and/or political activities
- teaching national curriculum subjects and/or learning-related activities contained in the annual School and Early Years Finance Regulations
- supporting contentious planning matters or disputes
- activities causing reputational damage and conflicts of interest for the council, including campaigns against the council or its statutory partners
- projects that contravene any of Surrey County Council's agreed policies or priorities, including Surrey's net zero ambitions. For example, we won't fund any non-electric vehicles or any fossil fuel based energy solutions.

How to apply

The process to apply for Accelerating Reform funding is simple:

1. Make sure your project fits within one or more of the 12 priority areas set out below
2. Download and complete the funding application form, returning it to j.yorke@surreycc.gov.uk no later than 9am Monday 12 May 2025
3. If you need support during your application, please contact j.yorke@surreycc.gov.uk
4. Once your application has been successfully submitted, you will receive an email confirming receipt
5. Please remember to submit supporting documentation such as quotes, permissions and bank details so that the application can be assessed as quickly as possible.
6. Please remember to include requested details on letter-headed paper, as per the instruction in section 1 of the application form. **Your application will not be processed without this.**
7. The deadline to apply for Accelerating Reform Funding is **9am Monday 12 May**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. No exceptions will be made.
8. Applications will be assessed w/c 19 May. All applicants will be notified by email during this week

Please note, we require all successful organisations to provide us with a six month interim report of the project's progress, as well as a 12 month impact report upon the project's completion. Surrey County Council will provide templates for these reports.

FAQ

- Organisations may apply for a maximum of £6000. Organisations wishing to partner with another organisation may do so and if successful, funding will be commensurate to a joint application, e.g. £12,000 for two organisations bidding together
- Applications for funding may include staffing costs for new projects specifically related to one or more of the 12 ARF priorities
- Funding is for 12 months and projects should be completed within this time
- In assessing applications, we will consider the following areas: alignment with ARF priorities; expected project impacts and outcomes; innovation; feasibility; sustainability; capacity and experience; engagement and collaboration

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Section 1: Organisation details

Applications should be submitted no later than 9am, Monday 12 May 2025. Please send completed applications to j.yorke@surreycc.gov.uk

Required information	Answer
Name of organisation	
Charity or company number	
Bank details Please answer with the bank name, account number and sort code.	
Name and position of main contact	
Address and postcode:	
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	
Name of at least one other contact who will be jointly responsible for the project:	
How much are you applying for? (Max £6000):	
Name of the project:	
Do you represent a voluntary, community or faith sector group? Please answer with yes or no	
Has your group been operating for at least 3 months? Please answer with yes or no	
Is your group constituted? Please answer with yes or no. If not, which charitable partner will hold the funds for you? Please give their name, address and charity number:	

PLEASE NOTE: in order to process your application, you must provide, **on letter-headed paper**, the information below. This should be provided alongside this application form. We cannot process any applications missing this information

- Company Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Email Address
- Contact Name
- VAT Number If applicable
- Company Registration number If applicable
- Bank Account Name
- Bank sort code
- Bank Account number

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Section 2: ARF priorities for innovation and scaling

Applications must align to at least one of the following Accelerating Reform Fund priorities. Please consider before applying whether your project meets this requirement.

1. **Community-based care** models such as shared living arrangements
2. Supporting people to have **greater control over their care** options, such as by using digital tools to self-direct support or communicate needs and preferences
3. Investment in local area networks or communities to support **prevention and promote wellbeing**, enabling people to age well in their communities
4. Ways to support **unpaid carers to have breaks** which are tailored to their needs
5. Digital tools to support **workforce recruitment and retention**, for example through referral schemes
6. Develop and expand the impact **of local volunteer-supported pathways** for people drawing on care and support
7. Ways to conduct effective **carer's assessments** with a focus on measuring outcomes and collaboration
8. Services that reach out to, and **involve, unpaid carers in the discharge process**
9. Digital **workforce development and market shaping** tools with capability to map, strengthen and grow local workforce capacity relative to system demand
10. **Social prescribing to connect people with information, advice, activities and** services in the community
11. Ways to better **identify unpaid carers** in local areas
12. Ways to encourage people to recognise themselves as carers and promote **access to carer services**

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Section 3: Application form

Please answer the questions below using no more than 200 words per question. Continue into a second page if necessary.

Tell us about your project. Which of the 12 priorities from section 2 does it align to?	Describe the impact and outcomes you expect your project to achieve. Describe how you will measure impact.	Describe the ways in which your project brings innovation to the problem you are trying to solve?	Who is your target audience? How will you reach them? Who are key stakeholders and how have they been engaged?	Is there a plan for sustaining the project post-funding?	Describe your organisation's/project team's capacity and experience to deliver your project.

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Section 4: Costs

Using the table below, please provide a breakdown of how you will spend the funding provided (e.g. equipment, staff etc.). Please make a reasonable estimate where exact costs are not known.

Item	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
			TOTAL	

We ask successful applicants to report on their progress six months after receiving funding, and again at the end of the funding period. We will provide a template for this but also encourage grantees to supply videos, photographs and feedback from participants in their project, where appropriate. Please confirm you agree to adhere to our reporting requirements and will follow GDPR.

Yes/No

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Is

there any other support you would need to help deliver your project? E.g. training, employee volunteers, publicity, help with communications? Please provide further details below.

