

**Opportunity for Sunderland Voluntary & Community Sector**

**The Bloom Catalyst Fund is offering grants of up to £500 to help make local communities better places to live and work.**

The Bloom Catalyst Fund recognises that it can sometimes be hard for community groups to raise funding to progress with community-based projects. They want to work with NEPO Member Authorities, of which Sunderland City Council is a member, to help support local community projects/programmes by offering support.

Bloom aims to maximise sustainability and social value in local communities, dedicating their time and resources to support causes that matter to the North East. Their mission is to become a catalyst for good, with a common goal of leaving a positive legacy for the benefit of everyone - helping their customers create meaningful local social value.

The types of programmes they would like to support are:

**Build safe communities** e.g. support for local youth groups, lighting for public spaces, private security, etc.

**Support older, disabled, and vulnerable people** e.g. befriending schemes, digital inclusion clubs, etc.

**Engage people in health interventions & wellbeing initiatives** e.g. stop smoking, obesity, alcoholism, drugs, physical activities, etc

**Tackle Homelessness** e.g. supporting temporary housing schemes, etc

**Create or manage green infrastructure** e.g. increase biodiversity or to keep green spaces clean and deliver net zero, etc.

**Please note: They do realise that different localities will have varying priorities; therefore, if your project does not align with the above, they would still like to hear from you.**

If you are a VCSE organisation operating within the Sunderland Local Authority area, with an annual turnover less than £500k, and believe you could benefit from this offer, we would love to hear from you.

**What Next?**

If you would like to apply, you will need to complete and return the attached application form to [sharonquinn@sunderlandvsa.co.uk](mailto:sharonquinn@sunderlandvsa.co.uk) by Friday 21st February 25 at 12 noon.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Sharon Quinn via email or by mobile on 07770155710.

**Application Form for Bloom Catalyst Grant Funding**

Please provide the following details of the organisation delivering the project/ programme.

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| Name of organisation: |
| Address (including postcode): |
| Website address (if possible):  Contact number:  Email address: |
| A description of the project/programme, inc. details of the objectives and goals the project seeks to fulfil. |
| Project / Programme start and end date |
| The required amount of funds (maximum of £500 per application) and a summary of how this will be used/spent |
| How social value will be evidenced and when (i.e. impact report, case study, testimonials, photos etc) |