

Forever Manchester This is The Place Fundraising Appeal

1.0 Overview

On Friday 27th March 2020, Forever Manchester launched the This is The Place Fundraising Appeal, a campaign to support our Community Support Fund which provides grants and awards to community organisations that are responding to the impact of Covid-19 by helping those most affected.

2.0 Appeal Target

It is difficult to assess the likely financial requirements in the current climate, but there is expected to be a very significant need. Forever Manchester has initially diverted £25,000 from our existing FM Awards scheme to support immediate need and is appealing to the public to donate further funds. An appeal target of £100,000 has been set. Our aim is to distribute all funds raised to those groups directly supporting vulnerable people affected by the pandemic. Any money donated above eligible financial needs identified will be used to fund and support a broad range of community activity across Greater Manchester in line with the charity's objectives.

3.0 Impact and Need

The Covid-19 pandemic is having a wide-ranging impact across all communities. It is leaving vulnerable people and communities isolated, without the essential foods, household goods, medicines and emotional support they need.

The Community Support Fund will accept applications from community groups based in any of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester. We want to fund organisations who are responding to the impact of Covid-19 through kindness, coming together to help those most affected however they can. We believe that these local groups understand how they can best help their communities at this time, so we will not place any unnecessary, bureaucratic restrictions on the type of request made.

At the time of launch, groups could apply for up to £1,000 although this might change over time dependent upon need and the level of funding raised.

4.0 The Hallmarks of The Fund

- It provides a specifically Greater Manchester focus for donations
- It provides a central 'clearing house' for requests for charitable support
- It operates a simple grant application procedure and responds speedily

- It attracts support locally and nationally where appropriate
- It is locally managed and accountable.

5.0 Fundraising for The Fund

The Fund has been established with an initial £25,000 from Forever Manchester's existing funds.

Funds will be sought from:

- Individuals
- Businesses
- Existing trusts and national funding programmes if relevant
- Community fundraising events

Forever Manchester will make special mention for major donations as required.

Donations from taxpayers can be made via Gift Aid, increasing the value of each £1 donated by 25p. All details of how to donate can be found on our website www.forevermanchester.com

6.0 Awards from The Fund

Application forms are available online here:

<https://forevermanchester.com/community-support-fund/>

The criteria are informed and guided by Charity Commission Guidance; Public Benefit: the public benefit requirement September 2013 and guidance given in Charity Commission booklet The Prevention or Relief of Poverty for the Public Benefit (December 2008).

The current criteria are contained in Appendix 1.

Submitted applications are assessed for eligibility by Forever Manchester staff and recommendations are made to the Senior Management Team. The Board of Trustees have given authority for decision making to the Senior Management Team to ensure a swift decision making and payment process.

In the event that the fundraising appeal fulfils its purposes, and with agreement of the Forever Manchester Board of Trustees, any balance remaining from the appeal shall be held within Forever Manchester funds for the benefit of Greater Manchester communities in line with the charity's objectives.

7.0 About Forever Manchester

Forever Manchester is the only charity that raises money to fund and support community activity across Greater Manchester. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to be happy and we'd love you to become part of this growing movement. We work with local people in our communities to inspire and encourage projects that they want to see, to make their neighbourhoods happier and safer places to be. All the money raised for Forever Manchester is used to fund and support over 1,000 community projects in Greater Manchester each year.

8.0 Forever Manchester Costs

Like all charities, Forever Manchester are experiencing significant loss of income during the Covid-19 pandemic, however we endeavour to keep our costs to a minimum and relative to funds raised and distributed.

8.0 The Future

It is too soon to know how long the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will last, nor the extent of its adverse effects. A flexible response is therefore required. The Trustees of Forever Manchester are determined to do all in their power to meet needs in the fields in which monies from the appeal will be applied. They are ready to continue with the appeal as needed and to modify the organisation of the appeal and award making to satisfy emerging needs.

Appendix 1

Community Support Fund

Forever Manchester, The Community Foundation for Greater Manchester, (charity registration number 1017504) manages the Community Support Fund. The following guidance are correct at the time of publication but may be amended over time subject to need and the level of funding received.

For Community Support

During these uncertain times, we know that grassroots community groups are responding to the impact of Covid-19 through kindness, coming together to help those most affected however they can. To support these local responses, Forever Manchester is offering awards of up to £1,000.

Fund Criteria

The Community Support Fund will accept applications from community groups based in any of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester. We want to fund organisations who are supporting their communities however they can.

Who Can Apply?

To apply you need to be a constituted community group with your own bank account and relevant safeguarding policies in place. We expect you to be based in the area where you are offering help.

Priority will be given to groups with an annual income of less than £100,000.

How much can you apply for?

You can apply for up to £1,000 but as we expect a lot of applications and we may not be able to fund them all, we ask that you only apply for what you know you need.

What can you apply for?

Local groups understand how they can best help their communities at this time, so we don't want to limit the type of request you can make, you just need to let us know what you want to do and how it supports your community.

How long will a decision take?

We aim to assess your application and give you a decision within two weeks but please note we can only do this if you provide us with the supporting documents requested.

At present there is no deadline for applications, however if we receive a high volume of requests for support, we may have to close the fund at short notice.