**North London Forensic Collaborative Meaningful Activity Grant for Forensic Learning Disability and Autism Services**

North London Forensic Collaborative (NLFC) has launched a Meaningful Activity Grant for Forensic Learning Disability and Forensic Autism (LDA) services aimed at Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) groups based in North London.

NLFC is the largest specialist forensic mental health provider collaborative in England and commissions and delivers adult secure inpatient and community services for the population of North London. The Collaborative is formed of five NHS Trusts and one Independent Sector Provider. North London NHS Foundation Trust is the Lead Provider.

NLFC delivers specialist adult secure forensic mental health services for people with a learning disability and autistic people. There are approximately 100 people with a learning disability and/or autistic people using forensic services across inpatient and community settings. The current provision includes five specialist wards based within Chase Farm Hospital (BEH) and the John Howard Centre (ELFT), and three Community Forensic Learning Disability Teams (CFLDT’s) operating across the three Integrated Care Systems (ICS) in North East London (NEL), North West London (NWL) and North Central London (NCL).

Addressing inequalities in access, experience, and outcomes for the people who use forensic services, reducing reliance on inpatient beds and ensuring services meets the needs of the people who use them are key priorities for NLFC. Good provision of meaningful activities that focus on the development of life skills and promote recovery and wellbeing are evidenced to support timely discharge, support people to live well in the community and reduce likelihood of readmission.

NLFC recognises the expertise VCFSE organisations have in working with marginalised communities and the positive impact this has on improving wellbeing, reducing social isolation and promoting sustained recovery.

The delivery of the NLFC Meaningful Activities Grant for Forensic Learning Disability and Autism services will provide an opportunity for NLFC to work in collaboration with VCFSE organisations to offer and deliver a range of meaningful activities to people using these services.

**Grant Amount**

The grant amount ranges between £1,000 – £9,999

**Who Can Apply**

1. Any VCFSE organisation based in North London that currently operates within one of the ICS regions (NEL/NWL/NCL) in the following boroughs:

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| --- | --- |
| Barking & Dagenham | Havering |
| Barnet | Hillingdon |
| Brent  | Hounslow |
| Camden | Islington |
| City & Hackney | Kensington and Chelsea |
| Ealing | Newham |
| Enfield | Redbridge |
| Hackney | Tower Hamlets |
| Hammersmith & Fulham | Waltham Forest  |
| Haringey | Westminster |
| Harrow |  |

1. Organisations currently working with people using NHS inpatient or community forensic mental health services and would benefit from additional investment to scale up the existing offer, or to further develop projects for people with learning disabilities or autistic people. This can include organisations working in other neighbouring boroughs to those listed in the table above, who would like to extend service provision to North London boroughs.
2. Organisations currently delivering a project or a service in the local community, that with additional investment, could extend this offer to people with a learning disability or autistic people accessing NHS inpatient or community forensic mental health services. This can include organisations working in other neighbouring boroughs to those listed in the table above who would like to extend service provision to North London boroughs.

**What Can the Grant be Used for**

Grants can be used for projects that promote skill development or provide meaningful activities, aimed at supporting preparation for discharge or reducing boredom for people whilst in hospital, and improving integration, building social connections, and promoting sustained recovery for people in the community.

We actively encourage applications for projects that provide meaningful activities focused on:

* Learning and developing new skills, this includes skills that would support people to gain employment.
* Building social connections and reducing social isolation
* Improving health and wellbeing
* Activities that promote better physical health

We are only able to fund projects that are targeted towards people with a learning disability and/or autistic people who are under the care of inpatient and community forensic mental health services.

Providers should submit applications targeted at people using forensic mental health services in one of the ICS areas that we operate in. Due to the scale of the geographical areas covered, we would welcome applications that can provide support with travel, or arrange taxis, with the cost for this included in the application.

**Application Timeframe**

Applications for the programme opened on the 26th of August and will be offered until the 31st of March 2025, or until the allocated budget is spent.

All funding grants must be spent within the 12 months of being awarded.

**How to Apply**

To apply for the grant please complete the Application Form and a New Supplier’s Form attached. Please return your completed forms to beh-tr.nlfc@nhs.net

Once your application has been received, it will be reviewed by the grant award panel, which meets once per month. If your application is successful, you will be notified by email and invited to meet with us to agree the terms and conditions of the grant.

**Project Monitoring and Evaluation**

Project monitoring to share the progress, outcomes and impact of the project is required at two intervals - mid point and on completion of the project.

All funded organisations will be asked to monitor and report on their funded activities by completing the NLFC Meaningful Activity Grants for Forensic LDA Services Evaluation template. This will need to be returned within two weeks of project end date.

**Application Limitations**

* Organisations can apply for a grant to the value of £9,999 per annum, which can be in the form of a single grant application or multiple grant applications.
* You will only be able to receive £9,999 in grant funding from the NLFC in a rolling year. You will not be able to reapply for funding via the NLFC Meaningful Activity Grants for Forensic LDA Services or the NLFC VCFSE Small Grant Programme until 12 months have lapsed.
* If your application is unsuccessful, following feedback from the panel you will have one more opportunity to resubmit your application.

We wish you every success in your application.

If you have any queries, or would like support to complete your application, please contact: Serena McCabe, NLFC Partnerships Manager, email: Serena.mccabe@nhs.net