

Health Inequalities Fund 25/26

Supporting projects that use innovative and collaborative strategies for mitigating health inequalities and addressing preventable variations in healthcare outcomes

Guidance for
Southend, Rochford
& Castle Point
Based Projects



SAVS

 **Cavs** Better Together

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Background

Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS), supported by Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS) & Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Service (RRAVS) are administering the local, South East Essex Alliance Health Inequalities Fund in 2025-26.

The National Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme sets out the shared commitment of reducing inequalities together. Health inequalities are the preventable disparities in health and care outcomes that exist between different groups within our society.

This funding initiative aims to support targeted projects and programmes for both Adults and Children and Young People (CYP) as expressed in the Core20PLUS5 approach.

There is a total of £574,321.82 available. The fund's ambition is to fund projects aimed at adults, families, children and young people.

Health Inequalities

The NHS defines health inequalities as:

“
Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population and between different groups within society. They arise because of the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. These conditions influence how we think, feel and act and can impact both our physical and mental health and wellbeing. Within this wider context, healthcare inequalities are about the access people have to health services and their experience and outcomes.
”

Source: [NHS England - National Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme](#)





In 2021/22, there were

26,741

episodes of
tooth extractions with
a primary diagnosis of
dental caries (tooth
decay) for 0-19 yr olds
in England

Aims and Objectives of the Funding

The Health Inequalities funding aims to support projects that use innovative and collaborative methods to reduce health disparities and address preventable differences in healthcare outcomes.

The aims of the Health Inequalities Fund 2025/26 are as follows:

- Address inequalities in health outcomes, patient experience and access to healthcare
- Focus on three adult clinical priorities: Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), Cancer, and Respiratory Disease
- Provide preventative solutions or support for a specific community's needs
- Support the local Integrated Neighbourhood approach to reduce unnecessary visits and admissions to organisations and services that are part of the model
- Reduce the demand on primary care, hospital, or mental health services
- Address other local health inequalities based on the CORE20plus framework
- Focus on five CYP clinical priorities: Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, Oral Health, and Mental Health

How the Fund Aims to Achieve These Goals:

Promote innovative and collaborative efforts to create significant, measurable improvements in health equality within Castle Point, Rochford, and Southend on Sea (South East Essex Alliance Footprint)

Focus on helping the most deprived communities and aligning with key health priorities for adults, children and young people

Develop solutions that connect statutory (government) and non-statutory (non-government) organisations with the people they serve

Prioritise projects that have the greatest impact on our local health and care system

Ensure financial sustainability and good value for money in funded projects

Integrate a strong evaluation process to measure the outcomes and impact, including creating case studies to share locally and nationally

Support projects that can continue after the funding ends

Fund projects ready to start service/project delivery by 31st October 2025

Criteria for Funding

Projects **MUST** meet one or more of these criteria. Those meeting more criteria will be given priority:

For either Adults or CYP



Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

The delivery of holistic approach to addressing residents needs and tackling health inequalities, with the first phase focused on those living with frailty or who are in the last months or years of their life.



Mental Health

Adoption of the 'community first' approach to support individuals within their local community supporting early intervention to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.



Learning Disability and Autism (LDA)

Improving information and support in local communities for children and adults with LDA and reduce reliance on inpatient care.



Holistic Support

Providing proactive and personalised care approach to management of long-term conditions, supporting individuals' overall health and wellbeing to prevent ill-health.

For more information about any of the concepts or terms used in this guidance, please refer to the glossary section of this document.

Criteria for Funding Continued

For Adults specifically



Focus on one or more of the three local Clinical Priorities for adults in South East Essex

Projects should aim to improve outcomes and provide better care for individuals affected by Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), Cancer, or Respiratory Disease.

Projects aimed at delivering against the above and focusing on more than one element of the Core20Plus5 FRAMEWORK will be considered more favourably.

For Children and Young People (CYP) specifically

(Children and Young People is defined in this pack between 0-19 years old and up to 25 years for SEND)



Focus on one or more of the five Clinical Priorities for Children and Young People in South East Essex

Projects should aim to improve outcomes and provide better care for Children and Young People affected by Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, Oral Health, and Mental Health.



Provide preventative solutions with measurable outcomes based on the key local preventative priorities

Projects that focus on one or more of the key local preventative priorities: Obesity, Healthy Starts, education for parents and children on a nutritional diet and regular physical activities, and promoting sports and active travel for children.

CYP projects delivering to one or more of the CYP Plus Groups will be looked at more favourably, which are; Learning Disabilities, children of inclusion group families, Looked after Children, ADHD, and Autism.

For more information about any of the concepts or terms used in this guidance, please refer to the glossary section of this document.

Eligibility Requirements for Funding

Projects must meet **ALL** of the below eligibility requirements in order to be considered for funding:

✓ **Serve only residents of Southend, Castle Point, and Rochford**

Projects must be delivered in Southend, Castle Point, and Rochford to ensure the funding benefits the local community.

✓ **Show good value for money with reasonable and proportionate costs**

Project costs must align with industry standards, keeping overheads, management fees, and other additional expenses minimal. Projects demonstrating better value for money will be prioritised.

✓ **Provide clear evidence of return on investment, focusing on results within short to medium term**

Projects must demonstrate a return equivalent to the funding received. The UK Government provides resources to help calculate the return on investment (ROI) and cost-effectiveness of health programs. Applicants are encouraged to use these resources to determine their project's ROI. www.gov.uk/guidance/health-economics-a-guide-for-public-health-teams

✓ **Be financially sustainable by having a plan for continued funding beyond the grant period or be a pilot project to test a concept**

Projects must show a plan for continued funding and delivery beyond the grant period, without relying on this Health Inequalities funding as an enabler. If not designed to last beyond the funding period, projects should be pilot initiatives aimed at proving a theory, solving a challenge, or demonstrating a need/benefit for a specific population.

Eligibility Requirements for Funding Continued

- ✓ **Deliver a new initiative or service not previously funded or commissioned**

This funding cannot be used to continue or add on to existing projects. Eligible projects must introduce a new approach or support a different group of residents.
- ✓ **Work collaboratively, using a strength-based approach to project delivery and resident support**

Projects must adopt a strengths-based approach and involve at least one partner in delivery. Simple referrals do not count as sufficient collaboration. Examples of effective partnerships include multiple partners running a program together, academic and engagement partners working jointly, one organisation providing clinical input while another handles administration or partners being involved at various stages such as design, delivery, and evaluation.
- ✓ **Offer a new service that should not be funded by statutory bodies**

Projects must provide a new service that falls outside the funding responsibilities of government or statutory bodies. This ensures the initiative addresses unmet needs or gaps in current services.
- ✓ **Provide innovative and socially valuable solutions**

Projects must offer creative and socially beneficial solutions that address community needs and contribute positively to society.
- ✓ **Request between £10,000 and £150,000 in funding**

Funding requests must be between £10,000 - £150,000
- ✓ **Begin service delivery by 30th November 2025, with planning and preparation by 31st October 2025**
- ✓ **Please note only one EOI can be submitted per organisation**

Next Steps

01

Review Guidance Criteria

- Begin by thoroughly reading the guidance document to understand the criteria and requirements for the funding
- If you have any questions, or require support please contact hi-fund@savs-southend.co.uk

02

Submit an Expression of Interest

- Complete the Expression of Interest form at: [add hyperlink](#)
- The expression of interest will be reviewed for compliance against the funding criteria
- If the panel determines that the submission meets the criteria, the applicant will be invited to submit a full application

03

Invitation to Submit Application

- Submit a full application detailing the complete project plan, budget, and expected outcomes.
- The team may ask additional questions to support the application in preparation for review by the scoring panel.

04

Application Evaluation

- The application will undergo a thorough review by the panel to assess alignment with the funding criteria and project viability.

Next Steps Continued

05

Panel Decision Meeting

- The panel will convene to discuss and evaluate all submitted applications
- The panel will consider each application against the established criteria and make decisions based on the merit of the submissions

06

Decision Notification

- Applicants will be notified of the decision, indicating whether their application was approved, rejected, or if further information is required
- Clear and concise feedback may be provided to unsuccessful applicants, offering insights into areas for improvement

07

Paperwork Completion

- Successful applicants will be required to complete any additional paperwork or documentation necessary to finalise the approval process
- Ensure that all paperwork is accurately filled out and submitted within the specified timeframe

Should you require the application form in an alternative format, please contact hi-fund@savs-southend.co.uk

Tips for Your Application

Ensure that your project meets at least one of the main criteria for funding. Those meeting more than one will be given priority.

Ensure that your project meets all of the eligibility requirements for funding. Any Expressions of Interest that do not meet all of these will not be considered for full application and potential funding.

For guidance on the terminology and concepts in this document, refer to the Glossary section. There, you will find full explanations, examples and links to useful resources.

Although Expressions of Interest will not be long in length, it is important that you include the main elements of your project so that it can be properly considered for full application.

Remember that any funded projects must start project/service delivery by 31st October 2025. Refer to the timeline section of this guidance for more information about key dates and milestones in the process.

If you have any questions, or require any support with your application process, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us by emailing hi-fund@savs-southend.co.uk.

Funding Timeline

Monday
16th June 2025

Fund opens for Expressions of Interest

This stage is designed to allow applicants to understand if their project has the potential to receive funding.

EOIs are open for one month and feedback will be provided to applicants within five working days of receipt of EOI. Full Applications can then be made at any time from then until the closing date for Full Applications.

Monday
23rd June 2025

Online 'Meet the Funder' session

This session will provide an introduction and guidance to the funding, as well as a Q&A for potential applicants.

Sunday
20th July 2025

Closing date for Expressions of Interest

Any EOIs must be submitted by midnight.

Sunday
31st August 2025

Closing date for Full Application submission

EOIs will be reviewed on a rolling basis. If invited to make a Full Application, these must be submitted by midnight.

Friday
26th September 2025

Applicants notified of decision

Full Applications will be scored by a panel based on a scoring matrix.

By Friday
31st October 2025

Project delivery to begin by this date

All funded projects are required to begin project delivery by this date.



2 times

In 2020, the rate of premature mortality due to respiratory disease among people living in the most deprived quintile of areas was a least twice the average for England

42%

The age-standardised death rate from cancer for people from Black African ethnic groups is 42% higher than those from White British ethnic groups - ONS 2022

10 years

The life expectancy gap between the most deprived and least deprived areas of England can be up to 10 years - ONS 2022

1 in 5

In 2016-18, around one in five avoidable deaths from cardiovascular disease in people under the age of 75 were among people in the most deprived decile of communities in England.



Evaluation and Feedback

It is mandatory for all applicants to provide detailed feedback on the impact of their project or initiative. They need to comprehensively explain and provide evidence of the outcomes and effects, demonstrating how the funding has contributed in achieving the project objectives. This reporting not only ensures accountability but also plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency and effective evaluation of the initiative's overall success and effectiveness.

Timeframe

1-3 months following funding - an update to confirm the mobilisation of the project

3 months following funding - an update report focusing on the implementation process

6 months following funding - an update report focusing on delivering including a direct quote from a service user

13 months following funding - a full evaluation report with a case study

Glossary of Terms

Term	Description	Resource
Active Travel (CYP)	Active travel describes everyday journeys made by walking, wheeling, or cycling. It includes trips that are made by foot, pedal-cycles, e-cycles, adapted cycles, wheelchairs, mobility scooters and push-scooters.	NHS Grampian on Active Travel www.nhsgrampian.org/active-travel
Asthma (CYP)	One of five focus clinical areas under the CYP Health Inequalities Strategy. Address over reliance on reliever medications and decrease the number of asthma attacks.	NHS on Asthma www.nhs.uk/conditions/asthma/
Cancer	A disease in which abnormal cells divide uncontrollably and destroy body tissue. It includes various types, such as breast cancer, lung cancer, and prostate cancer.	NHS on Cancer www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer
Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)	A class of diseases that involve the heart or blood vessels, including coronary artery disease, hypertension, heart failure, and stroke.	NHS on Cardiovascular Disease www.nhs.uk/conditions/cardiovascular-disease
Case Studies	Detailed examinations of individual or group cases within their real-life context, often used to illustrate broader principles or outcomes.	

Glossary of Terms

Term	Description	Resource
Clinical Priorities	Key health issues that are prioritised for targeted interventions and improvements.	
Collaboration	Working together with other organisations or groups to achieve common goals, share resources, and leverage collective expertise.	
CORE20Plus5 Framework	An approach to reducing health inequalities at both national and system level. The approach defines a target population cohort and identifies '5' focus clinical areas requiring accelerated improvement.	<p>NHS on CORE20plus5 www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/national-healthcare-inequalities-improvement-programme/core20plus5</p> <p>NHS on CYP CORE20plus5 www.england.nhs.uk/publication/core20plus5-infographic-children-and-young-people/</p> <p>'Narrowing the Gap' - Detailed guidance from Mid and South Essex by MSE ICS www.savs-southend.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/MSE-Narrowing-The-Gap_.pdf</p>

Glossary of Terms

Term	Description	Resource
CYP Plus Groups	Defined population groups experiencing poorer-than-average health access, experience and/or outcomes, who may not be captured within the Core20 alone and would benefit from a tailored healthcare approach.	
Diabetes (CYP)	One of five focus clinical areas under the CYP Health Inequalities Strategy. Increase access to real-time continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps in the most deprived quintiles and from ethnic minority backgrounds and increase proportion of children and young people with Type 2 diabetes receiving annual health checks.	NHS on Diabetes www.nhs.uk/conditions/diabetes/
Epilepsy (CYP)	One of five focus clinical areas under the CYP Health Inequalities Strategy. Increase access to epilepsy specialist nurses and ensure access in the first year of care for those with a learning disability or autism.	NHS on Epilepsy www.nhs.uk/conditions/epilepsy/
Evaluation Process	A systematic method for assessing the design, implementation, and outcomes of a project to determine its effectiveness and impact.	

Glossary of Terms

Term	Description	Resource
Financial Sustainability	The ability of a project or service to maintain its operations and benefits over the long term without requiring ongoing external funding.	<u>The UK Government have created some useful resources</u> to calculate value for money by estimating the return on investment (ROI) and cost-effectiveness of health programmes.
Health Inequalities	Differences in health status or in the distribution of health determinants between different population groups.	NHS on Health Inequalities www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/resources/health-inequalities
Healthy Start (CYP)	The NHS Healthy Start scheme helps families and pregnant people on low incomes to get healthy food, milk and vitamins.	NHS on Healthy Start www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/
Integrated Neighbourhood Approach	A model of healthcare delivery that integrates services across primary, secondary, and community care to provide seamless and coordinated care, often focused on specific geographic areas.	NHS on Integrated Primary Care www.midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk/work/primary-care/integrated-primary-care
Mental Health (CYP)	One of five focus clinical areas under the CYP Health Inequalities Strategy. Improve access rates to children and young people's mental health services for 0-17 year olds, for certain ethnic groups, age, gender and deprivation.	NHS on CYP Mental Health www.england.nhs.uk/mental-health/cyp/

Glossary of Terms

Term	Description	Resource
Obesity (CYP)	Obesity affects one in four children in the UK and can increase the likelihood of a child developing serious health issues such as Type 2 diabetes, liver conditions and early heart disease.	NHS on Obesity www.nhs.uk/conditions/obesity/
Oral Health (CYP)	One of five focus clinical areas under the CYP Health Inequalities Strategy. Address the backlog for tooth extractions in hospital for the under 10s.	MSE ICS on CYP Oral Health www.midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk/health/campaigns/child-health/childrens-oral-health/
Prevention	Measures taken to prevent diseases or injuries rather than curing them or treating their symptoms. This includes lifestyle changes, vaccinations, and screenings.	NHS on Prevention www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/the-prevention-pyramid
Primary Care	Primary healthcare is the first point of contact for patients within the healthcare system, including services provided by general practitioners (GPs), dentists, pharmacists, and optometrists.	NHS on Primary Care www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/gps/what-is-an-nhs-gp
Respiratory Disease	Diseases that affect the lungs and respiratory system, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and lung infections.	NHS on Respiratory Diseases www.nhs.uk/conditions/respiratory-disease

Glossary of Terms

Term	Description	Resource
Return on Investment (ROI)	A measure used to evaluate the efficiency of an investment, calculated by dividing the benefit (return) of an investment by the cost of the investment. We recommend all applicants visit resources created by the UK Government to see if it helps in ascertaining the return on investment for their project.	UK Government Resources www.gov.uk/guidance/health-economics-a-guide-for-public-health-teams
Service Delivery	The project must be actively providing services to residents.	
Strength-Based Approach	A method that focuses on the inherent strengths of individuals, organisations, or communities to drive positive change and achieve desired outcomes.	
Social Value	The broader contribution to society beyond economic measures, including social, environmental, and community benefits. Social Value UK provide useful resources on this topic.	Social Value UK on Social Value socialvalueuk.org/what-is-social-value
Value for Money	The concept of obtaining the best possible outcome with the least expenditure of resources. It involves assessing the cost-effectiveness of different options to achieve the desired results. Overheads, management fees and other associated 'add-ons' need to be kept to a minimum.	

Contacts

Telephone: 01702 356 000

Email: hi-fund@savs-southend.co.uk

Website: www.savs-southend.org/health-inequalities-fund-24-26



Scan the QR for links to our
submission forms

