



## Press release

### **'Surviving to Thriving' - £200,000 West Berks COVID-19 Mental Health Fund**

West Berkshire Council and Greenham Trust have jointly set up a £200,000 'Surviving to Thriving' fund to enable voluntary and community sector organisations in West Berkshire to apply for grants to fund projects aimed at helping improve the mental health and wellbeing of local residents impacted by COVID-19. Grants of £500 to £30,000 will be awarded for successful applications. Requests for grants made via The Good Exchange (Greenham Trust's online funding and fundraising platform) will reviewed weekly so organisations are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

West Berkshire Council and Greenham Trust have each pledged £100,000 to the "Surviving to Thriving" fund. This partnership initiative is designed to enable not-for-profit organisations to carry out small, meaningful projects that can help mitigate the impacts that COVID-19 has had on mental health and wellbeing in the district. It also means that smaller organisations will also have the opportunity to apply for funds to carry out their activities (possibly online), one-off purchases or new initiatives.

Cllr Lynne Doherty, Leader of West Berkshire Council, said:

"The pandemic has clearly had a detrimental impact on the mental health and wellbeing of many residents in West Berkshire. But we have also seen an incredible spirit of togetherness and communities supporting and caring for each other when people have needed it the most. We are excited to partner with Greenham Trust on launching 'Surviving to Thriving.' With the health of our population being a key aspect of our recovery strategy, this fund will provide the opportunity to help charitable organisations offer increased local support to those struggling at this time."

Chris Boulton, Chief Executive, Greenham Trust, added:

"The pandemic and resulting lockdowns and restrictions have changed our lives beyond recognition, bringing enormous pressures on our society. This is affecting people in a wide range of ways, and not least their mental health and wellbeing. I am delighted that Greenham Trust is working with West Berkshire Council on this joint £200,000 fund to provide vital support to voluntary, charitable and community groups across the district. The funds will support vulnerable people of all ages with their mental health and wellbeing. As we look cautiously but optimistically forward to the months ahead, I am confident this initiative will help the recovery process."

All not-for-profit organisations in West Berkshire are invited to apply for funding for COVID-19 related mental health projects via The Good Exchange.

An expert panel will review and approve submissions periodically throughout the application period. More details about the fund can be viewed on:



<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/survivingtothriving>.

The application process begins on The Good Exchange page: [Start Your Registration](#). Charities or community groups already registered on The Good Exchange will need to create a new project. Visit the [How to Create a New Project](#) page for further information on how to get started.

Additional information on how to use The Good Exchange is provided on the [Help & Support Page](#) which is full of useful information including FAQs, hints and tips, video training and user guides.

The deadline for applications is 30 September 2021.

### **About Greenham Trust**

Greenham Trust is an innovative charitable trust that gives grant funding and support to charitable, community and voluntary organisations in West Berkshire and north Hampshire. The Trust uses its investment in Greenham Business Park and other property assets to generate surplus income. Charitable organisations apply for grants and fundraise via The Good Exchange, the Trust's online crowdfunding platform for fundraisers and funders.  
<https://greenhamtrust.com>

### **About The Good Exchange**

The Good Exchange is a not-for-profit fundraising platform which makes it easy for charitable organisations to raise money through Greenham Trust, grants from other funders, and donations from the general public. As the only platform to bring together grant-making, donations, charitable projects and fundraising in one place, the automated matching system with its simple single on-line application form has revolutionised charitable giving in its local area, making it more accessible, transparent and collaborative.  
<https://thegoodexchange.com>

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