

UOK East Sussex Community Wellbeing Grants Programme 2026/27

Supporting wellbeing where you are

Stuart Reid – UOK East Sussex Partnership Lead



Overview

- The UOK East Sussex Community Wellbeing Grants Programme will distribute £115,000 during 2026/27 and 2027/28
- To support community-led wellbeing activity across East Sussex, with a focus on communities experiencing the greatest inequalities in access, wellbeing and social connection
- The programme will provide one-off grants up to £10,000 for activity delivered within the 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years
- There is no commitment to ongoing funding beyond the grant period

Aim of the Grants Programme

The programme is designed to:

- Support grassroots and voluntary organisations already embedded in local communities
- Reduce barriers to accessing wellbeing support
- Strengthen local resilience, connection and inclusion
- Complement the redesigned UOK wellbeing offer
- Ensure funding reaches communities experiencing the greatest disadvantage

Priority Areas

Funding will prioritise organisations working in communities experiencing the highest levels of inequality and barriers to support.

Geographic Priorities

Priority will be given to activity based in or supporting:

- Rural communities across Rother, Wealden and rural Lewes
- Hastings, particularly Central St Leonards, Castle, Baird and Hollington
- Eastbourne, including Shinewater, Devonshire and Hampden Park

These priorities are based on evidence of rural isolation, transport barriers and unequal access to services, and the Indices of Deprivation 2025.

Applications from elsewhere in East Sussex will still be considered where they clearly meet programme priorities.

Funding Priorities

The programme will support projects that improve mental wellbeing, social connection and community resilience, particularly for people who face barriers to accessing traditional wellbeing services.

Priority groups include:

- People living in rural or isolated communities
- Marginalised or seldom-heard groups
- People experiencing loneliness or social exclusion
- Communities facing barriers to accessing wellbeing support
- Groups disproportionately affected by inequality

Grant size and Timescales

- Individual grants up to £10,000

Programme launch

22nd September 2026

Application window closes

6th November 2026

Panel decision-making

November 2026

Grant delivery period

12 months from award of grant

Light-touch reporting

End of funded activity

Grants Panel

- Funding decisions will be made through a joint panel involving:
- East Sussex County Council (ESCC)
- East Sussex LEAG representatives
- UOK East Sussex

Further information

For any queries, please contact

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UOK and the LEAG

Working together to develop the UOK East Sussex Community Wellbeing Grants Programme

Ricky Perrin

