

Connecting Three Rivers Fund 14/11/2025

Connecting Three Rivers Fund 2025

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides information on the funding applications received into the Connecting Three Rivers Fund for 2025, scoring criteria, scoring and a proposal for funding allocation.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To fund the following organisations the amounts listed in the table below:

Organisation	Amount (£)
Mission Employable	2,500
New Hope Trust	1,500
Rennie Grove Peace Hospice	2,500
Inflammatory Arthritis UK	1,500
Say It With A Smile	2,500
Watford and Three Rivers Trust	2,500
Three Rivers District Council	2,500
Total grant awards	15,500
<i>Carry over into next round</i>	<i>2,882.51</i>

3 Details

- 3.1 In 2024, donations into the Connecting Three Rivers Fund were received through a community raffle, and contribution from Three Rivers District Council.
- 3.2 For 2025, partners on the Connecting Three Rivers Board were invited to contribute and hold fundraising initiatives for the fund. There is currently £18,382.51 available within the fund for community grants.
- 3.3 Funding contributions have been made by the following organisations:
- 3.3.1 Three Rivers District Council: £6,000
 - 3.3.2 Thrive Homes: £2,000
 - 3.3.3 Watford Community Housing: £5,000
 - 3.3.4 Homegroup: £2,000
 - 3.3.5 Game Changer: £3,382.51
- 3.4 In June 2025, the Board agreed the following priorities for the funding:
- 3.4.1 Health Inequalities and Health Promotion.

3.4.2 Adult Skills and Training.

3.4.3 Cost of Living.

3.5 The Fund was open to applications from 11 August until 19 September and 14 applications were received.

3.6 The Advisory Group, consisting of Board representatives from Three Rivers District Council, Watford and Three Rivers Trust, Citizens Advice Service Three Rivers and Hertfordshire County Council, met on 10 October 2025 to review and score the applications.

3.7 A summary of the applications and final scores are included in the table below and detailed breakdown of scoring can be found in Appendix 1.

Organisation	Project	Funding (£)
IMatter Health and Wellbeing	<i>Meet, Greet & Learn</i> – IT workshops to help adults with limited digital skills gain confidence using technology for everyday tasks such as online forms and prescriptions.	1,200
Mission EmployAble	<i>Woodoaks Farm Project</i> – Supports young adults with learning disabilities through practical training in regenerative agriculture, improving employment prospects and wellbeing.	2,500
New Hope Trust	<i>Tenancy Sustainment in Three Rivers</i> – Provides practical and emotional support to help residents maintain their tenancies, manage finances, and access essential services.	1,500
GUCE (Grand Union Community Energy)	<i>Energy Saving Kits</i> – Distributing 200 energy starter kits through local pop-up cafés to help residents improve energy efficiency, reduce costs, and build confidence managing energy use.	2,491.55
Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care	<i>CompassionART Cafés</i> – Creative, drop-in sessions offering art-based emotional support for people who are bereaved or isolated, helping them connect and express themselves.	2,500
Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership	<i>Providing Nappies for Clients</i> – Offers practical and emotional support to refugees and asylum seekers, helping them rebuild their lives safely and securely in the UK.	1,800
Inflammatory Arthritis UK	<i>Inflammatory! Podcast</i> – Raises awareness of inflammatory arthritis and its physical, emotional, and social impacts, supporting those affected and their families.	1,500
Signpost	<i>Young Minds Matter</i> – Provides free one-to-one counselling and creative therapies for young	2,500

	people aged 5–25, building resilience and addressing mental health challenges.	
Thrive 2Gether	<i>Building, Music and Cycling Clubs</i> – Creates safe, engaging spaces for young people to build confidence and wellbeing through cycling, music, and group activities.	2,500
Apex in the Community	<i>United by Football</i> – A collaborative football programme bringing together refugees and ethnically diverse communities to promote inclusion and wellbeing.	2,120
Everyone Active	<i>Active Ageing Programme</i> – Two 12-week programmes for adults aged 55+ combining physical activity with social connection to improve health and reduce isolation.	2,480
Three Rivers District Council	<i>Health Inequalities Programme</i> – A holistic initiative tackling root causes of health inequality through education, awareness, and engagement with under-represented groups.	2,500
Say it with a Smile	<i>Memory Steps Course</i> – A dementia support programme offering training, resources, and guidance for carers and those recently diagnosed, delivered by health professionals.	2,500
Watford and Three Rivers Trust	<i>Community Mental Health Day</i> – A collaborative event promoting mental health awareness through talks, workshops, and interactive wellbeing activities.	2,500

3.8 It was agreed by the Advisory Group that alternative funding opportunities were available for applications made by Grand Union Community Energy and Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership, so these were not scored.

3.9 It was also identified that there were conflicts of interest for 2 of the funding applications, submitted by Watford and Three Rivers Trust and Three Rivers District Council, therefore, representatives from those organisations did not score the corresponding applications.

3.10 The following questions were raised in relation to some of the funding applications, and summary of responses have been included:

Apex 360

3.10.1 The original application proposed service delivery in Watford instead of Three Rivers. Can delivery be moved to Three Rivers, and if so where? Man On is a similar project, being delivered in Mill End by Watford FC Community Sports and Education Trust.

3.10.2 *Apex 360 did not want to hold the project in Three Rivers district.*

IMatter

- 3.10.3 IMatter are recommended to get in touch with Staying Connected DI project for digital inclusion champions to support, work in partnership with W3RT if additional volunteering support is required, and hold alternative weekly sessions at South Oxhey & Croxley Green Libraries.

- 3.10.4 *The target audience for this project will be Young People aged 14–25. At Imatter, we believe in supporting healthier future outcomes. Strengthening young people, especially those in challenged communities within Three Rivers District Council, will ensure their future is secure in the modern digital world.*

This will be our first project in South Oxhey and Croxley, as previous projects were held in Mill End. Our mission will focus on mentoring new attendees and tracking their progress through media updates and case studies over six months.

Imatter Health and Wellbeing Support CIC is open to holding workshops in South Oxhey and Croxley Green Libraries for new attendees.

Imatter Health and Wellbeing Support CIC is willing to work with Digital Volunteers from W3RT to ensure smooth project delivery and shared expertise.

Mission Employable:

- 3.10.5 Current project costs are £3,000, but only £2,500 is available through this fund – has alternative funding been secured?

- 3.10.6 *We have 15 interns this year, all of whom will be involved in the Woodoaks project. The £500 shortfall will be match funded by Mission Employable.*

New Hope Trust:

- 3.10.7 Preference for the funding to be targeted at support for people after leaving temporary accommodation rather than those currently in temporary accommodation, as this provision is already funded by Three Rivers District Council and Hertfordshire County Council. How will you continue to support after the initial project?

- 3.10.8 *New Hope Trust assists clients during the transition into long term housing until they are fully independent. This usually doesn't take long; we aim for independence, not long-term reliance on New Hope.*

Signpost:

- 3.10.9 The original application proposed service delivery in Watford instead of Three Rivers. Can delivery be moved to Three Rivers?

- 3.10.10 *Signpost is based in Watford but supports people throughout Hertfordshire — in person, online, or via phone. Last year, we supported 80 people in Three Rivers.*

Thrive 2Gether

- 3.10.11 Cycling routes are mainly in Watford — would you consider any in Three Rivers? And how many people would be expected to partake.

- 3.10.12 *Clients have expressed they want to use Watford routes. Want to ride from base to Aquadrome to explore the area as the group expands. Will explore cycle routes in Three Rivers and along Grand Union Canal tow path. The location in Croxley Business Park will allow them the opportunity to explore both Watford and Three Rivers.*

Say It With A Smile:

3.10.13 The original application bases all courses at the Charity Hub in Leavesden. Can delivery for two courses be moved to other parts of the district?

3.10.14 *I can confirm that we will ensure 90% of attendees for the Memory Steps Course are from the district of Three Rivers. Our last course, with 36 attendees, was predominantly from this area, as GP and Social Prescriber referrals are based locally. Open to working in other locations within Three Rivers.*

Three Rivers District Council:

3.10.15 Concerns raised that similar work may be delivered through Adult Care Services and Public Health.

3.10.16 *Adult Care Services confirmed that this project does not duplicate. Meetings will be held with Public Health Team and the Integrated Neighbourhood Team to avoid any duplication in delivery or objectives.*

4 Next Steps

4.1 Officers from Watford and Three Rivers Trust and Three Rivers District Council will work with the successful organisations on developing key performance indicators and evaluation frameworks to measure impact.

4.2 Successful applicants will be asked to present at a future Connecting Three Rivers Board on their project, and to extend invitations to the Board to visit the projects.

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Background Papers -

Appendix 1: Funding Scoring Sheet, completed on 10 October 2025

