



### Welcome!

This is a short summary of the key content from our first The Ideas Fund webinar including:

- An overview of the Fund
- Introduction of some of the key people involved and what excites us about this new opportunity
- Quotes and advice from our conversation with guests from Planet DIVOC-91 project and ARC North West Coast speaking from their experiences of communities and researchers working together
- Reflection questions to think about your own project



### This Fund is for you if...

**...you have an idea about how to improve mental wellbeing with your community** - even if this is at an early stage.

**..your community and activity is in one of our four focus areas** - Hull, the Derry and Strabane area of North West Northern Ireland, Oldham in Greater Manchester and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland (see page 3 for more info).

**...you are interested in being connected with researchers to explore this idea together.** This is an important part of The Ideas Fund. Don't worry if you don't have links with researchers yet, this is something we're going to be able to help with. If you are a researcher, you can also apply but you will need to show how your project is being led by the community.

**...you are interested in getting involved in an application process that helps you develop your ideas and partnerships.** We're hoping this feels a bit different to what you might be used to when you've applied for funding before.



### What motivated The Ideas Fund?

The Ideas Fund is designed to be as accessible as possible for communities outside institutions to get involved. This contrasts from previous complex processes which tended to only be accessed by those "in the know" and we want to enable communities to do what they do best throughout.

**"The Ideas Fund feels totally different in terms of its ethos ... it prioritises starting with ideas from the community and working from there"** - Dr Alexandra Parsons, Wellcome

### Key Links:

[Linked Blog Post](#)

[Webinar Video on YouTube including section links.](#)

[The Ideas Fund Main Site](#)

[@TheIdeasFund](#) on twitter



Click this icon on the PDF to link directly to the webinar at the right time

We mean mental wellbeing in its broadest possible sense, and this Fund isn't about funding mental health interventions.

**"We use the word community to mean people with things in common. Besides being in one of our focus areas, you might want to work with a more specific community including people who share a culture, an interest or are from a more narrowly defined geography like a certain estate"** - Jill Wells, The Ideas Fund

We hope that whether you decide this fund is for you or not, you get something valuable from being a part of the discussions in the webinars and workshops.

The Ideas Fund has been developed through co-design work with members of communities, researchers and other "connectors"

**"People told us that they want things to be simple and straightforward, to have a 'human' feel to submitting an application and have lots of opportunities for help and advice"** - Gill Riches, British Science Association



### What is the Fund's process?

#### Some of the main dates for the Fund include:

- The application form will be available from Early April
- The deadline of the Fund will be midday 14 May 2021
- Final decisions for Round 1 are planned to be made in June

#### The amount of funding available

We expect to fund up to £25k for Early Stage Ideas – these are projects and partnerships which might be new and/or a bit more experimental and may be around 6 – 12 months in duration (though this is flexible)

More Developed Ideas can apply for up to £90k – these are projects where you may have already had some evidence of the benefit this may have for your communities.

#### The balance of projects will be considered

The Ideas Fund is a pilot programme and we will be looking to find a variety of different projects for each area, and also across the four areas. This will allow us to learn from what works in terms of communities and researchers working together in different settings. This sort of spread of the portfolio, and the variety, will be a factor in the decision-making and we'll be as upfront as we can about this.



### What is the support available?

There are three planned national webinars which will cover the key information and explore themes of the Fund through conversations with the team and invited guests.

There are also workshops which follow each webinar and provide space to have conversations and start building connections with your local development coordinator and others in your region.

Local Development Coordinators will also be able to provide additional opportunities to connect with researchers and tailored support as the process develops.

In addition, there are reflection sheets (page 6 & 7) which may help you to think through some of the questions and ideas being shared from the webinars and workshops and may be useful to focus discussions as your project develops.



"...We wanted to acknowledge that although we're really excited to be launching The Ideas Fund, we recognise that we're still in the midst of a global pandemic, which has caused unprecedented challenges for mental wellbeing....So whilst the funding opportunities like this are really welcome, and it feels very timely, and I think it's important to acknowledge that the recovery will take time. We hope that by being part of this process, in some way, you'll take something away from being involved, that is useful to you, or to your organisation. even if you don't ultimately receive funding" – Chris Manion, The Ideas Fund

#### National Webinars

##### Why The Ideas Fund?

Thursday 18 February, 2pm

##### What does mental wellbeing mean to you?

Thursday 4 March, 2pm

##### Building community and researcher partnerships

Thursday 18 March, 2pm

#### Local Workshops

The first dates shown here. [See online](#) for further local information and dates.

##### Highlands & Islands

Thursday 25 February, 2pm

##### NW Northern Ireland

Thursday 25 February, 2pm

##### Hull

Friday 26 February, 10am

##### Oldham

Friday 26 February, 2pm

### What excites the Development Coordinators about the Fund?



#### The Highlands & Islands

Including Highland, Moray, Orkney Isles, Shetland Isles, Argyll & Bute Council areas, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Isles of Arran and Cumbraes

".. this is great opportunity to build on the excellent work we know already exists in communities and build that long-term capacity & real equity" – Lewis Hou, Science Ceilidh

Contact: [Lewis@scienceceilidh.com](mailto:Lewis@scienceceilidh.com) 07813 743662



#### North West Northern Ireland

Derry & Strabane

"I think the timing couldn't be better. We're excited about the opportunity of meeting new people, and the connections that we're all going to make and the legacy I think this project will leave helping groups build towards impactful projects, working in partnership with the researchers, and hopefully those connections will last" – Roisin McLaughlin, North West Community Network

Contact: [Roisin@nwcn.org](mailto:Roisin@nwcn.org) 07889 727013

With Erin Richardson, Developing Healthy Communities



#### Hull

"I think there's lots of things that we can do together, which will be really important. I have a foot in both camps in the university and the community. So I'm really excited about the opportunity to match people up so that we can create a real difference for our communities here. And the fact that this has values in lived and learnt experience together is really innovative" – Dr Gill Hughes, University of Hull

Contact: Harriet Johnson [Hjohnson@tworidingscf.org.uk](mailto:Hjohnson@tworidingscf.org.uk)  
Two Ridings Community Foundation, 07736 147674

With Kate Macdonald, TimeBank Hull and East Riding and Dr Gill Hughes, University of Hull



#### Oldham, Greater Manchester

"I'm really excited for local communities to drive the projects and what matters to them in wellbeing... And I'm really looking forward to seeing how these projects in partnerships with researchers will shape the future of health research and their impact on people in Oldham" – Paolo Arru, Vocal

Contact: [Paolo.arru@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:Paolo.arru@mft.nhs.uk) 07816 447520



### What's an interesting example of a community-researcher partnership to you?




"There was a project here locally with the Families Voices Forum. The group had experience of bereavement and supported the qualitative work of the research team to capture voices of lived experience in the review. A successful co-produced strategy for The Samaritans was enacted to strengthen their work in our area." – Erin Richardson




"A project we are partnering on is about rainwater management in urban areas, focussing on flood alleviation and community wellbeing in Hull...The project, led by Sheffield University is connecting community members with researchers, engineers, horticulturists, public health specialists and artists to co-design adaptations which in turn build resilience both to flooding and impact on wellbeing. Initially led by researchers, this is now a good example of co-production – communities and researchers learning from each other." – Kate Macdonald

### How can communities & researchers work together?

 **Planet DIVOC-91** is an example of the creative ways that young adults can work together with researchers to ensure their voice is heard in discussions and decision-making.

The young adults shared perspectives on what issues in this current COVID-19 pandemic were important to them, including mental wellbeing, equity and stigma, and put their views and questions directly to researchers and other experts including the UK's Chief Scientific Advisor. The responses were then used to inspire storylines for the Planet DIVOC-91 comic story which explores these themes through a character-driven narrative featuring a fictional virus on another planet.

It is a collaborative programme with young people, led by partners in the UK including Voice Up (Vocal's Young Person's Research Advisory Group), Vocal, Wowbagger Productions and BLAST Fest, along with acclaimed comic creators and researchers. We spoke to **Alma Jbeili**, a teenage public contributor, and her mentor on the project **Dr Bella Starling**.

 **ARC North West Coast (NWC)** involves community members in a different way through the role of Public Advisors, who are encouraged to bring their life experiences, expertise and opinions to challenge health inequalities with researchers and health services, and "translate" and inform research findings including through local projects with their wider communities. We spoke to **Naheed Tahir** and **Neil Joseph** about their experiences as Public Advisors.

"One of the projects we've been involved in as a Public Advisors with ARC northwest coast was the **Neighbourhoods For Learning** and the COREN which stands for Communities Of Research and Engagement Network and it was basically members of the public being involved as researchers. And we tackled some really quite sensitive themes through two graphic booklets sharing stories. And the first one was about social isolation, which came from a series of meetings where we engaged about roughly between 700-800 people. So we looked at ways to use them to do good, to connect people who experience social isolation with existing and new community groups, and to create a kind of systems resilience. And the people involved were the researchers, academics, members of the public and stakeholders like the local authority, registered social landlords, the third sector, public health. And we found that we created some brilliant partnerships"  
– Neil Joseph

#### **Planet DIVOC-91 Links:**

[Main Webtoons](#) [Comic Links](#)

[NIHR Blog](#) [On The Project](#)

[@PlanetDivoc91](#) on twitter

"...we need to step up as young people, we need to make the government and other people aware that we have our own opinions, our own voices too and these are as important as anyone else's because they do impact our lives directly" – Alma Jbeili

"...we work with a lot of communities already, including Alma mentioned, Voice Up, which is a group of young adults that we work with. And when COVID hit, we really needed to listen to what those groups and those communities were saying. And we realised that there was a real need to act on on, you know, on their health and their communication needs" – Dr Bella Starling

#### **ARC NWC Further Links:**

[ARC NWC Main Website](#)

[Neighbourhoods For Learning](#)  
[Stockbridge Summary](#)

[Neighbourhoods For Learning](#)  
[Moss Bay Project Video](#)

[Active Citizens](#) programme

[@arc\\_nwc](#) on twitter



### What opportunities can develop when communities work with researchers?

#### It's an opportunity to develop trust, listening and learning

"For me, especially I think coming from a BAME background, trust is paramount. When my community hears that I'm involved with research, it cements the fact that their views and needs are taken into account. So, I would encourage people of all ages to engage with researchers to help identify projects to improve society as a whole.

Research is also about being able to learn from the lived experience of people like myself - who are at the heart of seldom-heard communities. We know first hand about the diverse cultures and can further develop any research. It opens the doors to many other opportunities which are unique" – Naheed Tahir

#### ...and action too!

"...it was really valuable talking to them [researchers], and I felt that they really did listen to what we have to say, which was amazing. But at the same time, it's not just about listening. I appreciate them taking the time to do that. But we also need to see some sort of action taking place" – Alma Jbeili



### What advice do you have for communities thinking of working with researchers?



"Be bold with your ideas, be patient with researchers, they're learning how to work differently with communities. And be realistic about the time this might take" – Dr Bella Starling

"So in terms of young people, I would say always seek out opportunities to help your community any way. I know that might not sound very interesting and it does take a long time...but the more you actively engage, the more changes that you want you'll see happening for young adults as a whole" – Alma Jbeili



"Being patient and understanding that researchers and academics work in a very different way than we as community members... and again, the word trust has been mentioned, which is the foundation for everything... ..What I would say to anybody who has the opportunity to be involved in this kind of research and engagements is jump in, you know, because these are chances to define your own future in the places where you live" – Neil Joseph

"I'd like to finish with a quote from one of my blogs – Nelson Mandela said education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. For me, learning and engaging through research and to be able to translate that evidence to influence change in decision making, and then lead and develop projects in my communities, that is just as powerful" – Naheed Tahir



# Why The Ideas Fund?

## Reflection



These prompts are just suggestions. You can type in the PDF directly or feel free to print out!

These reflection questions are based on themes from our first The Ideas Fund webinar and may be helpful in thinking through and developing your project as you go along and stimulate useful conversations with your community and partners, researchers & the Development Coordinators. This is an optional personal support tool & though these questions may complement the final application form, you will not be asked to share them.



### How could The Ideas Fund help create change in your communities?

What motivates your idea? How does it link to The Ideas Fund's focus on mental wellbeing and groups connecting with researchers?

Who are your community and how can they be involved in developing the project? How can it be "by" or "with" them rather than "for" or "to" them?

What might this be an opportunity to try or build on differently?

What wider skills and knowledge could you and communities bring to the Fund as well as develop through this process? If successful, what would stay even after the project?

### What possibilities around working with researchers excite you?

What might you be able to do together with researchers that you couldn't do alone?

What could the researchers learn from you and your communities?

Do you have any concerns about working with researchers?

If you're not sure yet, don't worry! What questions would you want to ask researchers?

# Why The Ideas Fund?

## Reflection



What connections and support might you need for this process?

We're keen to hear from you and understand what areas you may need support in this process and who you may want to collaborate with. These could include:

Understanding what is eligible for the Fund

Understanding Mental Wellbeing

Getting in first contact with researchers

Building partnerships with researchers

Writing the funding application

Developing a budget for the application

Building community connections or collaborative bids

Managing a project with external funding

Any other reflections, questions or notes

There will be other opportunities to share these thoughts in the workshops and webinars, along with The Ideas Fund Team and Development Coordinators directly.

Each webinar and workshop will build on the previous session. The next session focuses on Mental Wellbeing

Get in contact, find out more and register on [the website](#)