

FUNDING PORTAL

South Tyneside Council

Opening the door to new funding streams

South Tyneside Council recognises the importance of voluntary and community groups in the delivery of services our residents rely on. The Council offers a free online funding tool to help these groups secure the funds they need to continue delivering their vital work in the Borough.

The Open 4 Community portal allows groups to search through a database containing hundreds of grants, awards and other forms of financial assistance from the European Union, charitable trusts and the government.

The funding tool is fast becoming the first port of call for the community and voluntary sector looking for funding. In 2017, the number of people accessing the portal rose almost fourfold, from 137 people in January to 400 people by the end of the year. The funds they are able to secure help them to continue their sterling work in the community.

One group which has used the portal is Age Concern Tyneside South which was able to successfully secure a grant of £5,000 from the Sir James Knott Trust. The money has been used to deliver community-based balance and stability sessions for people over 50 which improve confidence while also addressing social isolation and loneliness. The charity also successfully secured a grant to provide information on smart meters to older people with no digital access and another grant towards new uniforms for community-based staff to improve community safety and recognition for the charity.

As part of the development of a Third Sector strategy, a single overarching organisation called Inspire South Tyneside has been formed. This provides support for groups wanting to set up a new group or charity and disseminates information, advice and guidance. The organisation receives regular updates from the portal which are circulated, giving the third sector early notice of funding streams going live. This is often essential as many funders give tight deadlines by which applications for funding have to be made.

For further information contact:

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