



Small Sparks Fact Sheet

What is Small Sparks?

Small Sparks is a small amount of funding which can be used to kick start, inject life or enhance community based services or activity which can show a clear positive difference to adults within their local community.

It is a local fund offered by Help Direct and funded by Lancashire County Council.

Help Direct is an information, signposting, access to advice and referral service open to all adults in Lancashire to help them stay independent and improve their wellbeing.

The aim of Small Sparks is to help the citizens of Lancashire to:

- Improve their health and well-being
- Improve their quality of life
- Make a positive contribution to their local community
- Increase their choice and control to help meet their needs
- Support freedom from discrimination and harassment
- Support economic wellbeing
- Maintain dignity and respect

These are also the seven outcomes of Help Direct.

There are four organisations that have the responsibility to manage and deliver Help Direct across Lancashire. These organisations are also responsible for looking after Small Sparks; we call them the Help Direct providers.

The Help Direct providers are:

- Calico Enterprise Limited – East Lancashire
- Age Concern Lancashire – Lancaster, Chorley and West Lancashire
- Age Concern Central Lancashire – Preston & South Ribble
- N-Compass – Fylde and Wyre

How much money can be applied for from Small Sparks?

Small Sparks will provide funding from £50 up to £500 for activities or services that will support local people and communities.

What is the criteria for a Small Sparks Community Grant?

Small Sparks must be used to kick start, inject life or enhance community based services or activity which can show a clear positive difference to adults 18 plus and their community.

To apply for Small Sparks activities must

- benefit adults over the age of 18 within a Lancashire district
- meet local needs
- make a positive difference to local people

Types of activities Small Sparks may fund are:

- a. Resources to help set up a local befriending service
- b. A new regular exercise activity
- c. A local volunteer scheme

Small Sparks would not fund:

- a. Equipment for an individual's personal needs
- b. Ongoing utility bills
- c. Activities/services that are aimed at people under the age of 18
- d. Items that have already been purchased or ordered

To apply for a Small Sparks grant?

To apply for a Small Sparks grant an application form needs to be completed. The form can be completed by using a paper or electronic copy and filled out by a person or Help Direct staff member on behalf of a person.

Small Sparks forms and application packs are available in a hard or electronic copy from REAL. Rossendale Enterprise Anchor Ltd.

Contact details are

Phone number 01706 871730. e mail info@realtd.co.uk

Contact Kirstie Barlow.

What is the Small Sparks process?

1. Completed Small Sparks application forms can be posted, emailed or passed on to any member of the Help Direct providers. The contact details for the Help Direct providers are shown overleaf.
2. The local Small Sparks panel will assess the Small Sparks applications, make a decision and will contact the key contact outlined in the application within **four weeks**. The key contact will be notified by telephone (or another preferred method of contact if stated on your application form) if the application has been successful or not.

Please contact the Help Direct providers if you would like:

- Extra Small Sparks application packs and or forms
- Help to complete the Small Sparks application form
- Further information on Small Sparks
- To discuss a persons ideas for a Small Sparks grant
- Any other questions you have about Help Direct and Small Sparks

To contact the most appropriate Help Direct Provider please choose the area that is most appropriate for the Small Sparks activity:

Area Covered	Telephone & Email:		Help Direct Provider
	Small Sparks Administrator:	Help Direct:	
Burnley Pendle Rossendale	Rossendale Enterprise Anchor Ltd (R.E.A.L) 8 St. James Centre Bacup OL13 9AA	Tel: 01706 871730 Fax: 01706 871731 Email: info@realtd.co.uk	Calico Enterprise Limited
Ribble Valley Hyndburn	Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS 21 Cannon St Accrington BB5 1NJ	Tel 01254 879944 Fax 01254 879944 Email: mail@hyndburnandribblevalleycvs.org	

The Help Direct providers can be contacted by telephone, email or face to face; you can pop in to see them at their local offices or community venues. The Help Direct providers can provide you with these details.