

Blue Stone Consortium/Well Newcastle Gateshead COVID-19 Statement

Context

Blue Stone Consortium and the Well Newcastle Gateshead initiative remain committed to supporting the people and organisations working across the Newcastle Gateshead arts and health sector.

We are conducting much of our day to day business remotely and we are doing everything we can to ensure we maintain business as usual.

Aim

Ensuring the people and organisations that make up our Well Newcastle Gateshead communities are protected during the Coronavirus crisis is our number one priority.

Plan

New Applicants

We are still 'open for business'. Providing funding from £100 upwards but would rarely exceed £20,000 per annum for new projects. Funding is available until July 2021.

We want to encourage innovation in safely reaching vulnerable communities in Newcastle Gateshead. We welcome new applications that build in the requisite public health requirements for social distancing and shielding; for example, co-designing home based creative ways to support health such as virtual choirs or exhibitions. We are aware too, that many disadvantaged people and communities have little or no access to the internet and digital technology, so we will also welcome proposals that are cognisant of these issues.

Existing Projects

We are of course aware that existing projects plans were put in place before COVID-19 and the related restrictions. We want to engage in a helpful and constructive dialogue with project leads on the impact this is having on aims and objectives. For example:

- Should/can the project be delayed – if so, how do we ringfence funding?
- Can we increase flexibility on costs within a project?
- Can you achieve your outcomes in a different way by amending how you allocate existing funding?
- Would a relaxation of some conditions of the grant, and flexible use of contingency funding allow you to continue with your project?

Please get in touch with Mark Mulqueen, the Well Newcastle Gateshead Programme Director if you have an idea for a new project or want to adapt your current project.

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