**Section A: Funding Guidance**

**A.1 Fund Purpose, Beneficiaries and Objectives**

**A.1.1 Purpose**

Enhance local provision and deliver on the ambitions within the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework that target issues of mental wellbeing and emotional distress. It is based around prevention and early intervention.

**A.1.2 Priority Activities**

Supports should:

* Deal with issues of mental and emotional distress and wellbeing
* Be aimed at **additional level**
* Be aimed at children and young people aged 5-24. Can also support families and carers of any child or young person receiving support from CAMHS, school, community supports or elsewhere
* Be aimed at an additional level, targeting specific needs as identified within the cluster
* Have flexible delivery if possible – not solely 9-3 or weekdays
* Be flexible and adaptive to need and changing circumstances
* Consider the physical environments in which services are delivered, particularly by creating safe, non-clinical environments

Children and families should receive support and services that are appropriate to their needs. Support and services should be provided to children and young people, who will benefit from additional help to promote, manage and improve their mental health and wellbeing and to help them develop coping strategies and resilience. This support may be required for a variety of reasons and circumstances, recognising that children and young people may have a number of difficulties.

**A.1.3 Priority Needs**

* Anxiety
* Attendance
* Emotional based school avoidance
* Mental health
* Neurodiversity

**A.1.4 Beneficiary Groups**

* Care experienced children or young people
* Children or young people who are struggling with their mental health or wellbeing
* Children or young people who have experienced trauma
* Children or young people with additional support needs
* Families who require parental or whole family support
* Lone parents

**A.1.5 Fund Objectives**

Projects should meet at least one of the following objectives:

* Improved mental health and wellbeing
* Children, young people & families become more resilient
* Family relationships are strengthened

**A.2 Fund Specific Guidelines**

**A.2.1 What Can’t Be Funded**

* Counselling
* One-to-one intensive supports
* Universal or intensive level supports
* Interventions as an alternative to traditional education

**A.2.2 Duration of Project**

Project delivery should be completed by end of June 2026, in line with the school holidays.

**A.2.3 Eligible Expenditure**

You can apply for funding to cover the following types of expenditure:

* Staffing costs directly relating to project delivery
* Equipment relating to project delivery
* Staff and volunteer travel expenses directly relating to deliver projects
* Venue hire
* Any other costings relating to project delivery, which are not included below

You cannot apply for funding to cover expenditure on the following:

* Loans, endowments or interest
* Electricity generation and feed-in tariff payment
* Political or religious campaigning
* Profit-making/fundraising activities
* Any Value Added Tax (VAT) reclaimable by the Grantee
* Statutory activities
* Overseas travel

Organisations may include organisational overhead costs totalling a maximum of 10% of the application subtotal.

**A.3 Monitoring & Evaluation**

Evaluation will be coordinated by the CIILs.

**A.4 Applicant Guidance**

Any community and voluntary sector organisation serving the people of North Lanarkshire can apply for this fund as long as they can demonstrate in their application how their project would comply with the fund’s purpose, beneficiaries and needs.

Organisations must apply using the fund’s application form.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact [claire.stewart@vanl.co.uk](mailto:claire.stewart@vanl.co.uk).

Applicants will receive an auto-response email confirming receipt of their application. If you don’t receive this, please contact [claire.stewart@vanl.co.uk](mailto:claire.stewart@vanl.co.uk) within 48 hours, as there may be a slight delay in the auto-response being sent.

**Section B: Background**

**B.1 Empowering Clusters Integrated Model**

The fund is delivered via the Empowering Clusters Integrated Model. This approach will deliver tailored support to children and young people in their local communities, via the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework.

The framework is intended to be used to help partnerships to design and build services and supports that are in line with GIRFEC, national priorities and principles, relevant to local developments and are based on local needs assessment and responsive to the needs of local communities. In line with the GIRFEC approach, it is vital that community mental health and wellbeing supports and services are integrated with and contribute to a whole system approach. This should include use of the wellbeing indicators (SHANARRI) and the national practice model to identify, describe and evaluate needs.

**B.2 Our Approach**

Please read North Lanarkshire’s Children Services Partnership ‘Our Approach’ plan. The plan lays out the principles and values on delivering shared priorities and improving outcomes in relation to children, young people and families.

