

# Community Chest Application Summary 2017/2018

Local Authority	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Organisation	<b>Multicultural Women's Group Bury St Edmunds Ltd</b>
Amount Requested	<i>£2,500 for two years - £5,000 total</i>
Total Project Cost	£5,515
Match Funding	£515
Partnerships	St Edmundsbury Borough Council – officers and councillors and other partners.
West Suffolk Bid?	No

## Key Points

- The MWGBSE is a non-political and non-religious not-for-profit company that pro-actively engages with and meets the needs of 'hard to reach' vulnerable women. Funding for:
- Expanding our meetings to provide four social evenings each year, so women who cannot attend in the day can benefit from the group.
- Providing training on topics of benefit to our members, such as language, IT, interview/presentation skills and self-confidence. Several of our management team are PTLLS qualified, experienced trainers.
- Holding four public multicultural events per year, including events targeted at West Suffolk College and West Suffolk Hospital: we currently hold a popular annual Taste of Culture event.
- Hosting three outings per year for our members to places and exhibitions of cultural interest and learning.
- Project start: **01 April 2017**; Project end: **Ongoing**

**St Edmundsbury Borough Council**  
**Community Chest Grant Application Form**  
**Part A**



Community Chest funding supports voluntary and community groups who make a contribution to improving the quality of life for people in West Suffolk. The information you provide will help us consider your application. If you have any questions, please give us a call on 01638 719763. Before completing this form, we ask you to please read the guidelines, which are available on:

<http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants.cfm>

Please return your completed, signed form and supplementary documents to:

[richard.baldwin@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:richard.baldwin@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

1. Name of your organisation(s):

Multicultural Women's Group Bury St Edmunds Ltd.

2. Organisation address details

Address Ln1	14 Runnymede Green		
Address Ln2			
Address Ln3			
City/Town	Bury St Edmunds	Postcode	IP33 2LH
Main phone	01284 747419	E-mail	
Website			

Main Contact Person		Second Contact Person	
Title	Mrs	Title	Mrs
Forename	Sandra	Forename	Faith
Surname	Attolini-Nicotera	Surname	Stabler
Role	Director	Role	Director
Daytime Tel No.	01284 747419	Daytime Tel No.	
Mobile No.		Mobile No.	
Email		Email	
Address Details (if different from Org address)		Address Details (if different from Org address)	
Ln1		Ln1	
Ln2		Ln2	
Town		Town	
Post Code		Post Code	

## About your organisation

3. What local authority area(s) does your organisation work in?

St Edmundsbury

\*Community Chest funding is offered by both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils. As the decision making process is different any projects applying for funding across West Suffolk, must apply separately.

4. What is the status of your organisation?

Registered charity		Charity number:
Applying for charitable status		
Company limited by guarantee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Company number: 08105851
Community Interest Company		
Part of a larger regional or national charity (Please state which one)		
Constituted Community Group		
Social Enterprise		
Other (Please specify)		

5. How many people are involved in your organisation?

Management committee	5	Service users	21
Full Time staff / workers	0	Volunteers and helpers (non-management)	6
Part Time staff / workers	0		

6. What is the purpose of your organisation? Please briefly describe why your organisation was set up, its aims and objectives and who primarily benefits from your organisation.

The Multicultural Women's Group Bury St Edmunds (MWGBSE) was formed 4 years ago by a group of women who wanted to continue and expand on the valuable social, personal and community work undertaken by the International Women's Group that was based at the Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre before its closure.

The MWGBSE is a non-political and non-religious not-for-profit company that pro-actively engages with and meets the needs of 'hard to reach' vulnerable women who experience disadvantage and isolation through lack of language skills, cultural differences, lack of support networks and/or personal circumstances.

MWGBSE was formed to provide:

- a welcoming, non-judgemental and safe place in which women of all nationalities in and around Bury St Edmunds can find a network of support and solidarity in which to learn and thrive while developing self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of control over their lives
- learning, information and volunteering opportunities to develop skills and knowledge and the confidence to participate in community activities
- opportunities to break down cultural barriers, build understanding and sympathetic social networks and participate in community events and activities
- awareness-raising of different cultures and the building of positive relationships across cultures within the wider community
- work in partnership with relevant voluntary and statutory organisations to further multiculturalism and break down barriers and prejudice

These aims are delivered through monthly informal, warm and welcoming meetings and a series of community events throughout the year.

The primary beneficiaries of MWG BSE are the women of all ages, cultures and religions in and around Bury St Edmunds. At present the following nationalities are represented in MWGBSE:

- Russian
- Chinese
- Romanian
- South African
- Peruvian
- Indian
- Bangladeshi
- Italian
- Estonian
- Polish
- Brazilian
- Japanese
- Kurdish/Iraqi
- English

*Maximum of 300 words*

7. What was your organisation's total income for last financial year? £2,230
8. What was your organisation's total expenditure for last financial year? £908
9. Does your organisation have more than six months running costs? Yes
10. What are your organisation's current unrestricted reserves or savings? £1,230

11. West Suffolk prioritises building resilient families and communities that are healthy and active. Please indicate which of the following areas your project contributes towards:

- A thriving voluntary sector and active communities who take the initiative to help the most vulnerable.
- People playing a greater role in determining the future of their communities.
- Improved wellbeing, physical and mental health.
- Accessible countryside and green spaces.

**About your project – why are you applying for this funding?**

12. What do you want the funding for? Please be specific. Please note that 'project' is meant to describe the project for which you are seeking funding, and not your organisation.

We are applying for funding to continue and expand the work of MWGBSE so we can reach and benefit more women, offer improved learning and social opportunities and build our work in the wider community.

At the present time, our solely volunteer workforce is primarily occupied with raising funds, often small amounts from various sources, to keep current activities going. We need to use this energy to develop our services.

The funding we are requesting will enable us to meet our aims through:

- Providing free membership for the first year to new members to encourage engagement, particularly amongst low income households. We currently have to charge membership to meet our costs.
- Running our current 2 hour monthly meetings. Each meeting will have a special guest (including members themselves) speaking on a matter of interest to our members, either cultural, health/wellbeing or community-related topics. All meetings have an element of language development, with listening and speaking skills a key focus.
- Expanding our meetings to provide four social evenings each year, so women who cannot attend in the day can benefit from the group.
- Providing training on topics of benefit to our members, such as language, IT, interview/presentation skills and self-confidence. Several of our management team are PTLLS qualified, experienced trainers.
- Increasing our participation in a wider range of community events: we currently take part in the annual One Billion Rising and International Women's Day events.

- Holding four public multicultural events per year, including events targeted at West Suffolk College and West Suffolk Hospital: we currently hold a popular annual Taste of Culture event.
- Hosting three outings per year for our members to places and exhibitions of cultural interest and learning.
- Make links and partnerships with individuals and groups across St Edmundsbury.
- Create and distribute publicity materials to raise awareness of MWGBSE.
- Purchase of some small items of equipment to aid our work.

The above developments have been suggested by our members during meetings and through our Annual Review form, and by contacts and potential members we have engaged with.

Maximum of 300 words

13. How has the project been developed out of the community's desire to improve the lives of local people? What evidence do you have that there is a need for this project? Please include sources of evidence, including any public/user/community consultation.

St Edmundsbury's percentage of White (Eng/Welsh/Scot/NI) people was 91.6% in 2011 (Census 2011), compared to 95.2% across Suffolk as a whole. That equates to nearly 10,000 people not of White British ethnicity, a number that has increased over the last five years and more if you include the cultural differences across the White British population.

There is no other multicultural group within St Edmundsbury (or indeed West Suffolk) and the nearest international women's group is in Ipswich.

Our members and contacts tell us that a women-only environment provides greater safety, support and encouragement than a mixed gender environment. This is particularly true of women from a dominant patriarchal society, where freedom to socialise and share is limited.

The non-judgemental ethos of our work also means that women feel free to express themselves, their fears and concerns, and receive support around sensitive issues including domestic and sexual abuse, often for the first time.

Our expertise has been recognised across St Edmundsbury and this is something we are keen to build on. Examples of our work so far include St Nicholas Hospice, who requested our advice and assistance in supporting women for minority groups and West Suffolk College, who approached us to join them in celebrating International Women's Day so they could reach a more diverse population of their female students. Partner organisations we have worked with have truly appreciated the expertise and empathy our group can

bring to enhance their work. We are keen to expand this.

Members of MWGBSE are renowned for championing the group within their communities and new members are often women who heard about us through a member. We would like to widen this recruitment to benefit as many women as possible.

With regards member retention, we only lose members when they either move away or their circumstances change and they cannot attend meetings. Many members have been with us over two years now. We would like to expand our offer, including offering evening social events, more public events and an increased social media presence to enable more women to become and remain engaged with us.

Maximum of 300 words

14. How will the project help local people to support one another?

MWGBSE is all about local people supporting, helping and informing each other. The organisation is run solely by volunteers who are also group members and our work will continue to help local people to support one another through:

- Providing peer support during and in between meetings through forming strong friendships and a real support network within our membership
- Helping women and their families become more easily and quickly integrated into their local communities in St Edmundsbury through information, support and skill and confidence building
- Enabling communities to be more aware of the barriers faced by women from different cultures moving into the area and, through this, more able to assist them
- Raising awareness of different cultures within our community, challenging prejudices and fears and increasing acceptance and understanding. This will be delivered to the public through our events.
- Increasing the chances of women from different cultures finding rewarding work through improving language skills, increasing confidence, helping them find their way in their communities and offering volunteering opportunities
- Working with statutory and VCSE organisations to cascade information about multiculturalism and foster tolerance and understanding
- Promoting active citizenship and civic engagement with women from different cultures by supporting them to prepare for and be confident about volunteering in their communities and having a voice on issues that affect their lives

Maximum of 300 words

15. Are you working with any other organisations on this project? Yes

If yes, please state the names of these groups and the nature of the relationship.

As well as giving support to Bury St Edmund's Women's Refuge, St Nicholas Hospice and West Suffolk College, we have actively sought guest speakers who can make links with and continue to benefit our members after their talk. These organisations, which we continue to have positive relationships with, include:

- St Edmundsbury Borough Council – officers and councillors
- Jeannie Bloomfield - campaigner - Domestic Abuse
- Kamilla Coleman - exercise / dance programme
- Police Community Safety Officers
- Karen Cannard – The Rubbish Diet
- Gill Jones - Health Watch
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Age UK Suffolk
- Jenny Gibbs - Turkish Talks
- Pakenham Flour Mill Talk and Visit

It is our intention, with the capacity this funding will give us, to extend the partnership working we undertake and through this to benefit as many multicultural families and possible.

Maximum of 300 words

16. When will the project start?

1 April 2017

17. When will the project finish?  
project ongoing?

ongoing

or is the

If this is an ongoing project, how will it be funded and continue going when the funding ends?

Once the funded period has ended the project will remain sustainable through:

- Charging a membership fee of £15 per year after the introductory year. With an expanded membership base this will provide a significant income for the group
- Charging a small, affordable entrance fee/donation to public events and increase events to four per year
- Seeking sponsorship and support for events from shops and restaurants, for example our Taste of Culture event would fit very well with the growing multicultural restaurant scene in St Edmundsbury
- Developing partnerships with compatible community organisations, enabling us to develop innovative projects and jointly seek grant funding and commissioning opportunities



- Seeking sustainable grant funding in the longer term, moving away from our current 'hand to mouth' existence

Maximum of 300 words

18. Which years funding are you applying for? 2017-18 and 2018-19
19. How many people do you expect to benefit directly from the project on either a weekly, monthly or annual basis?

By the end of the funding period we would expect to directly benefit over 100 women through engagement with the group and over 200 community members through engagement with our public events. We will also benefit many women and their families through informing and supporting our partner organisations.

20. What results (including targets/numbers) do you expect to see as a result of the funding and how do these relate to the Community Chest funding criteria? If your project is health related how does it improve health outcomes for residents within community networks and beyond?

The results we expect to see as a result of the funding include:

- 100 women directly benefiting through engagement with the MWGBSE through membership and/or attending evening social events
- 200 community members attending our public events
- 22 monthly coffee morning meetings being held, including guest speakers and skills training
- 10 (five per year) external guest speakers being engaged and linked with our members
- 10 (five per year) member speakers building their confidence and skills and sharing cultural knowledge by addressing the group
- Eight (four per year) evening social events being held for women who cannot attend our daytime meetings, making our group as accessible as possible
- Eight (four per year) public events being held, including those targeted at West Suffolk College and West Suffolk Hospital to engage with the maximum number of multicultural women moving into the area
- Six (three per year) cultural outings for members

We will also seek to hold another event with partner agencies to examine the issues faced by women from different cultures in our community in light of recent political events and how we can best manage these changes.

Through these outputs we expect to see:

- Greater engagement with and support provided to and given by women from different cultures in St Edmundsbury in a safe, accepting and non-judgemental environment
- Improved awareness and acceptance of different cultures within the group and the wider community, with new links being formed and people coming together
- Women from different cultures being empowered to advance their lives and take a full part in both their communities and determining their own futures
- Innovative partnerships being formed with other organisations to forward multicultural acceptance and integration

Maximum of 300 words

21. What is the total cost of the project? £5,515

Please provide a full breakdown of the total cost of this project, including VAT if applicable along with any in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours.

Item or activity	Cost (£)
<u>Funding for two years</u>	
Room hire – monthly coffee morning meetings @ £30 x 22	660
Venue hire – social and public events @ £100 x 12 (we would expect two per year to be free of charge)	1,200
Refreshments and ingredients @ £150 x 2	300
Publicity design and print @ £500 yr 1, £300 yr 2	800
Pull up banner design & print (for internal and external events)	300
Arts & crafts materials	150
Invited speakers – paid for @ £150 p.a	300
Cultural outings @ £200 x 6	1,200
Projector (currently rented) for presentations	70
Insurance	175
<b>Total cost of items listed above:</b>	<b>£5,155</b>

22. How much funding are you applying to us for?

£2,500 per year -  
£5,000 total

23. What funds have you raised so far for this project?

Source	Amount (£)
We would expect to realise around £300 in membership fees over the funding period. We could also use a small proportion of our reserves.  We also have a huge amount of in-kind support through volunteer hours. This includes management meetings, sub-committees, event and meeting planning, booking and management, external meetings, administration, fundraising, publicity and social media	£515
<b>Total fundraising:</b>	<b>£515</b>

24. What other funders have you applied to for further funding for the project?

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>	<b>Timescale for decision</b>
We have not applied to any funders at this time		
<b>Total:</b>		

25. What other grants and contracts has your organisation received over the past year from either Forest Heath District Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council?

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>	<b>Reason for funding</b>
Cllr. J Wakelam – Locality Budget	£188.50	Celebration of International Women’s Day
<b>Total:</b>	£188.50	