

Mayor's Opportunity Fund Round 3 grantees

Briardale House Youth and Community Projects (Blyth, Northumberland)

This project will extend Briardale House's existing older people's provision by delivering regular seated fitness sessions, monthly trips and social activities for residents aged 65+ in Cowpen, Blyth. By removing barriers such as cost, transport and accessibility, the project will help older people in a highly deprived area improve their physical health, social connection and wellbeing. The application builds on a strong track record as a trusted local provider and responds directly to isolation, ill health and limited mobility among older residents.

Out North East (Gateshead)

Out North East will deliver a twice-weekly programme of inclusive peer support sessions for LGBTQIA+ people aged 65+, combining in-person groups in Gateshead with accessible online provision. The project responds to high levels of loneliness, exclusion and fear of discrimination experienced by older LGBTQIA+ people, including those ageing with HIV, disabilities or long-term health conditions. It provides a rare, targeted offer for this cohort, creating safe, affirming spaces that build confidence, improve wellbeing and reduce isolation.

Newcastle Vision Support (Newcastle)

Newcastle Vision Support (formerly Newcastle Society for Blind People) provides specialist support to people with sight loss across Newcastle, the majority of whom are older adults. The application seeks a £10,000 contribution towards the salary costs of a Vision Inclusion Officer, who delivers tailored one-to-one support following sight loss, including assessments, mobility and living skills advice, support with equipment, and referrals into wider services such as benefits advice, IT support, counselling and social groups. Demand for the service is increasing, with over 200 individuals supported in 2025 and referrals expected to grow further, reflecting the estimated 2,500 people registered as sight impaired in Newcastle. The project aligns well with the fund's priorities around social inclusion and disability support, although the application does not set out discrete delivery targets specifically for people aged 65 and over.

Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust (Durham)

The Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust supports individuals and families affected by cancer through personalised practical, emotional and wellbeing support, operating from its hub in Spennymoor and outreach across County Durham. The application requests £10,000 to provide targeted support for older people affected by cancer, including 400 hours of one-to-one staff support such as wellbeing calls, advocacy and signposting, alongside 76 specialist wellness sessions including counselling, gentle movement and relaxation therapies. The project aims to reduce isolation, anxiety and inactivity among older people living with and beyond cancer in an area of high deprivation, helping them maintain independence and social connection. While the proposal aligns strongly with the fund's aims and supports a particularly vulnerable group, the application does not clearly demonstrate how activity will be explicitly targeted at or ringfenced for people aged 65 and over.

Easington Lane Community Access Point (Sunderland Coalfield Area)

This application supports the core costs of ELCAP's weekly shopping bus service, providing door-to-door accessible transport for older people aged 65+ who cannot use mainstream public transport. The service enables residents to shop independently while also offering valuable social contact through shared trips and time spent together. In a highly deprived former coalfield area, the project plays a vital preventative role in sustaining independence, mental wellbeing and community connection.

East End Youth and Community Centre (North Shields, North Tyneside)

EEYCC will deliver twice-monthly wellbeing sessions for people aged 65+, alongside purchasing appropriate furniture to make sessions comfortable and accessible. Activities include crafts, digital help and wellbeing support, providing a safe and welcoming space to reduce isolation among older residents in one of North Tyneside's most deprived wards. The project builds directly on existing demand from current participants and extends an established, trusted service.

Boxing Well (Blyth, Northumberland)

Boxing Well will establish a new programme of non-contact boxing fitness sessions for people aged 65+, delivered four times a week in Blyth. The project supports older people facing physical health challenges, mobility issues and mental ill-health, many of whom are referred through NHS social prescribing. Combining gentle

physical activity with structured social time, the project helps participants stay active, build confidence and reduce loneliness.

Bensham Grove Community Centre (Gateshead)

This project strengthens Bensham Grove's age-friendly programme by offering weekly creative, wellbeing and gentle activity sessions for people aged 65+ from deprived communities in Gateshead. Activities such as pottery, fused glass and gentle movement are designed to reduce isolation, improve confidence and support long-term independence. The programme particularly benefits women and marginalised older people and builds on the centre's long-standing role as a trusted community hub.

Apna Ghar (South Tyneside)

Apna Ghar's "Connected & Confident" project will support women aged 65+ from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities through culturally sensitive social, wellbeing and basic digital skills sessions. The project addresses compounded barriers including isolation, language, low digital confidence and limited access to services. By providing a safe, familiar environment, the project will help older women remain active, connected and independent.

Teams & Bensham Community Care (Gateshead)

This application supports the core costs of lunch clubs held three times a week for adults aged 65+, alongside accessible transport. The clubs provide nutritious meals, activities and vital social contact for older people experiencing loneliness, ill health and limited mobility in deprived parts of Gateshead. The service is highly valued by beneficiaries and professionals alike and plays a crucial role in maintaining health, wellbeing and independence.

Justice Prince CIC (Longbenton, North Tyneside)

Justice Prince will deliver "Connect", a weekly neighbourhood-based programme for people aged 65+ living on the Longbenton estate. The project provides structured social activity, gentle movement, digital support and signposting in a highly deprived community where older residents face isolation and cost-of-living pressures. Co-designed with participants, it offers a preventative, community-led response that builds confidence, reduces inequalities and strengthens local support networks.

Friends of Eastwoods Park / Miners Lamp (Prudhoe, Northumberland)

This project will deliver community-based digital confidence support for people aged 65+, through one-to-one and small group sessions delivered at trusted local venues. Focusing on everyday digital tasks such as accessing health services and staying safe online, it helps older residents maintain independence as services increasingly move online. The outreach model ensures support reaches those least likely to attend formal classes in a deprived area.

The Glendale Gateway Trust (North Northumberland)

The Memory Lane project provides fortnightly creative sessions using music, art and movement for people aged 65+ living with dementia, alongside their carers. Delivered in a rural area with limited alternatives, the project reduces isolation, supports emotional wellbeing and offers respite to carers. It fills a clear service gap and complements wider dementia-friendly work across Glendale parish.

North Tyneside Disability Forum (North Tyneside)

NTDF will increase the hours of its Older People's Advice, Advocacy and Re-engage Worker to reach more disabled people aged 65+ who are at risk of disengagement and isolation. The expanded role enables more proactive one-to-one support while also building volunteer capacity through befriending. The project strengthens an established, user-led service that is integral to the local ecosystem of support.

Wag and Company North East Friendship Dogs (Regionwide)

This project will recruit and support 20 volunteer visiting dog teams to provide regular home visits to isolated older dog lovers aged 65+ across rural and deprived areas. The visits reduce loneliness, improve mental wellbeing and provide an additional safeguarding benefit through regular contact. Demand for the service is high, and the project extends a proven, well-managed befriending model.

Digital Voice for Communities CIC (Newcastle)

Digital Voice for Communities will deliver culturally tailored digital inclusion courses for older adults aged 65+ from Asian and Chinese communities in north and west Newcastle. The courses respond to disproportionate digital exclusion faced by older people from minoritised backgrounds as essential services move online. The project builds confidence, reduces anxiety and supports continued independence in a trusted, community-based setting.

Hexham and Tynedale Community Trust (Northumberland)

This application supports the food costs of the Warm Welcome programme, providing regular, nutritious meals and social activities for older people aged 65+ in Hexham and Tynedale. For many beneficiaries, these sessions are their only access to a home-cooked meal and vital social contact. The programme directly addresses isolation, food poverty and declining health, helping older people live independently for longer.

Blaydon Youth and Community Centre (Gateshead)

BYCC will continue a wellbeing programme for people aged 65+, including indoor walking, seated yoga and café-based social sessions. Delivered in disadvantaged parts of west Gateshead, the programme supports mobility, balance and social connection, reducing the risk of deterioration and hospital admissions. The project sustains valued, unfunded provision that demonstrably benefits older residents.

The Cedarwood Trust (North Tyneside)

This project delivers a 12-month programme of monthly day trips for residents aged 65+ living in a highly deprived community. The trips are designed to reduce isolation, improve confidence and support mobility for older people who face financial and physical barriers to participation. The project builds peer networks that extend beyond the life of the grant.

Birtley Community Aquatic Centre (Gateshead)

The project introduces weekly water-based “Aqua Socials” exercise sessions for people aged 65+, combined with transport and post-session socialising. Delivered in a supportive, accessible environment, the sessions help older people who lack confidence or experience anxiety about physical activity. The programme promotes health, wellbeing and connection following the community reopening of the pool.

Boulmer Bombers (Chester-le-Street, Durham)

The Scan and Connect project will deliver artist-led workshops enabling older residents of retirement housing to create digital content accessed via QR codes around their building. The project gently introduces digital skills while encouraging movement, social interaction and shared community space. Designed with residents, it leaves a lasting digital legacy beyond the funded period.

Fishburn Youth & Community Centre (Durham)

Funding will maintain a broad range of activities for residents aged 65+, including exercise, creative sessions, lunch clubs and intergenerational work. In a village with limited transport and high deprivation, the centre is a vital hub preventing isolation and decline among older residents. The project sustains established provision that demonstrably supports independence and wellbeing.

PACT House Stanley (Durham)

PACT House will deliver weekly craft and “cuppa and chat” sessions for people aged 65+, focused on reducing loneliness and supporting mental wellbeing. Delivered in one of County Durham’s most deprived areas, the project offers low-pressure, community-based mental health support where clinical services are stretched. Activities help maintain cognitive function, confidence and social connection.

Quebec & District Village Hall Association (Durham)

This project delivers a strengthened social club, female-only activity sessions and capital improvements to improve accessibility at the village hall. Targeting older residents in a semi-rural area with poor transport, the activities reduce isolation while promoting physical and mental wellbeing. A reduced grant reflects a 12-month delivery period.

Sacriston Community Association (Durham)

The Fulforth Over-65s project expands provision for older residents through four strands: men’s activities, bereavement support, seasonal warm space and intergenerational work. Developed directly in response to community demand, it addresses isolation, grief, fuel poverty and inactivity in a highly deprived area. The project embeds older people within a broader, supportive community network.

Teesdale Day Clubs (Durham)

Funding will sustain a Community Worker post providing one-to-one support for socially isolated older people aged 65+ across rural Teesdale. The role offers practical help, digital inclusion, home visits and signposting where transport and services are scarce. With deep local roots, the organisation provides an essential lifeline enabling older residents to remain independent and connected.