

Start up a Care Micro-Enterprise with a Cultivate Cambs grant

Care Micro-Enterprises are very small organisations set up by people looking to provide care and support. Some are run by one person, working on their own, while others employ a small number of staff.

Cambridgeshire County Council welcomes [Cultivate Cambs](#) grant applications to set up Care Micro-Enterprises in communities across Cambridgeshire, and we are especially interested in applications from East Cambridgeshire. You can apply for up to £2,000 over 2 years to start up a new scheme.

What is a Care Micro-Enterprise?

Care Micro-Enterprises help adults and older people to have greater choice and control over how their care needs are met. These could be people who pay for their own support (self-funders), as well as those whose care and support are funded by the Council.

Cambridgeshire County Council is keen to stimulate and support the development of a range of locally based Care Micro-Enterprises that can offer:

- Flexible and localised care and support (particularly home care)
- More choice and control over the support local people get
- An alternative to more traditional services

To be a micro-enterprise you must have eight or fewer paid or unpaid workers and be totally independent of any larger organisations. Examples of Care Micro-Enterprises could include:

- Local provision of care and support at home including delivering personal care
- Support to keep well, socialise and remain independent
- Support for people to live independently in their own homes for longer e.g., cleaning or gardening.
- Short breaks (carers respite)
- Support to access opportunities that help people remain engaged in life such as further skills or learning or leisure pursuits
- Day support and help around the home

What makes a Care Micro-Enterprise suitable for this fund?

Care Micro-Enterprises help people to stay safe and independent within their own homes and can help build well-supported communities. These initiatives have the potential to support residents to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes, such as:

- Reducing loneliness and isolation
- Improving mobility
- Acting as a helping hand to stop deterioration of health and wellbeing through early intervention
- Providing co-ordination and support from other services delivered by the community and voluntary sector

Care Micro-Enterprises can help reduce pressure on County Council services by offering alternatives to council funded social care services, including respite care for carers, home care, and reablement packages, and delaying the need for council funded residential care.

What do you need to start a Care Micro-Enterprise?

A good understanding of the needs of adults and older people in your community: Before applying for funding, you need to work out whether a Care Micro-Enterprise is needed in your local area and whether it would be successful. You should engage with residents to determine need and you should also consider what local projects, groups and community initiatives already exist in your community. You can also learn more about your community from the Parish and Ward Profiles on Cambridgeshire Insight: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/>

Support: We would expect Cultivate Cambs funded Care Micro-Enterprises to become part of the Small Good Stuff Network facilitated by Community Catalysts Cambridgeshire. This network can offer a carer or micro-enterprise profile, peer-to-peer support, training, and information through a friendly network of like-minded individuals.

Funding: You will need to think about funding your Care Micro-Enterprise. Care Micro-Enterprises rely on client fees and external funding to sustain them. Care Micro-Enterprises funded through Cultivate Cambs are expected to evidence that they will be financially sustainable beyond the funding period. Funding may also be available from sources such as your District, Town or Parish Council, local businesses, and charitable grants. For funding opportunities please see: <https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/supportcambs>

What we can provide:

Funding: You can apply for a maximum of £2,000 over 2 years from Cultivate Cambs. Please see below for a guide to costs that can be funded through Cultivate Cambs.

Support: A package of support from Community Catalysts to help get your Care Micro-Enterprises started, including access to resources to help build the business and make it sustainable, links with other local businesses and national organisations that can help with advice and training, and the opportunity to join a network of other local care providers and small enterprises.

How much does it cost?

Running costs vary considerably depending on the size and nature of your Care Micro-Enterprise. The estimated annual costs below are a guide to what can be funded through Cultivate Cambs.

Item	Description	Annual costs
Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks	Enhanced DBS	Up to £50 per person
Training and Membership of Professional bodies	Dependent on experience. Examples of training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Safeguarding • MCA (Mental Capacity Act) • DoLs (Deprivation of Liberties) • Alzheimer's Awareness • Dementia Support • First Aid 	Up to £250 Decreases in subsequent years
Travel	Dependent on size of area	Up to £500
Safety equipment	e.g. PPE	£300
Communications	e.g. mobile phone, ICT, postage	Up to £350 Decreases in subsequent years
Promotion	Schemes launch promotion, leaflets, webpage development	£300 Decreases in subsequent years
Governance including Insurance	Public liability and employee and volunteer insurance	Up to £250

What do I need to do next?

Every community is different, so we recommend doing some research to see if starting a Care Micro-Enterprise is right for you and your community before you apply for funding. You should also seek advice from **Anna Tuck**, Community Catalyst (Cambridgeshire) **Office:** 01423 503937, **Mobile:** 07881 297330

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Website: www.communitycatalysts.co.uk

Facebook Local Profile: [\(5\) Community Catalysts Cambridgeshire | Facebook](#)

Pre-application advice is offered by county council officers before each funding round. You will need to make an appointment to discuss your application proposal before submitting. The grant application form and further details about the fund, including application deadlines and pre-application advice appointments, may be found at <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/cultivate-cambs>