



Start up a Mobile Warden Scheme with a grant from the Innovate & Cultivate Fund

Mobile Warden Schemes support older people to live independently in their own homes and communities. There are already several mobile warden schemes across Cambridgeshire. Each is run by either a Parish Council, a team of volunteer trustees, AGE UK or a combination of these management models. They can be set up by a new or existing community organisation, such as a community group, voluntary organisation, or a Parish or Town Council.

Cambridgeshire County Council would particularly welcome applications to the [Innovate & Cultivate Fund](#) to set up Mobile Warden Schemes in communities across Cambridgeshire. You can apply for up to £12,000 over 2 years to start up a new scheme.

What is a Mobile Warden Scheme?

Mobile warden schemes help elderly, infirm and disabled residents to live independently in their own homes by offering regular contact and support through home visits, phone calls and practical assistance. Wardens check in with clients on agreed weekly schedules to ensure they're well, and can help to collect prescriptions or small items from local shops, make appointments, fill in forms, provide information and guidance and connect clients with other support services (e.g. statutory services, local voluntary provision, lunch clubs, befriending schemes, etc). Wardens can also act as links between clients, health care providers and their family members. Mobile wardens ensure the safety and wellbeing of clients but it is important to note that they do not offer domestic help or personal physical care.

The schemes are available long-term or on a short-term basis following illness or hospital discharge to help get people back on their feet. Clients must sign up to the warden service and pay a small fee (average of £7/week per household for independent schemes and £9/week for Age UK schemes).

There are three main models for operating a mobile warden scheme.

1. **Independent Scheme:** A local charity is set up which employs the warden. This requires committee members/trustees and other volunteers to raise funds, manage the scheme and run the charity.
2. **Parish scheme:** The scheme is fully managed by a single Parish Council or a group of parishes.
3. **AGE UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough scheme:** The scheme is fully managed by Age UK with support from the Parish Council and a committee of local volunteers. AGE UK already manages several mobile warden schemes in Cambridgeshire. Age UK provides employment contracts, runs the payroll, provides training and safeguarding, and liaises with the warden and local committee of volunteers. AGE UK charges an annual administration fee for this.

What makes Mobile Warden Schemes suitable for this fund?

Mobile warden schemes help people to stay safe and independent within their own homes in well supported communities. These schemes have the potential to support residents to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes such as:

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

Mobile warden schemes can reduce pressure on county council services by diverting people away from 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 Mobile Warden Scheme?

- A good understanding of the needs of older people in your community:** Before applying for funding you need to work out whether a Community Warden Scheme is needed in your local area and whether it would be successful. You could survey residents to determine need and you should also consider what local projects, groups and community initiatives already exist in your community. Talk to them about how a warden scheme could complement and add value to the great work they do. You can learn more about your community from the County Council Parish Profiles <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/parish-profile/>
- Committee:** Establishing a management committee or steering group, made up of unpaid volunteers during the planning stages. Once evidence of need for a warden scheme is established, the committee will be responsible for deciding on policy and management practice, creating a constitution and developing rules, aims and procedures for the scheme.
- Warden:** You will need to hire one or more paid mobile wardens to meet the needs of clients. Most wardens are employed on a part time basis and will need to be recruited and managed by either the local council, management committee or Age UK.
- Funding:** You will need to think about funding your Mobile Warden Scheme. Warden schemes rely on client fees and external funding to sustain them. Schemes funded through the Innovate & Cultivate Fund are expected to provide match funds. We will also wish to see evidence that your warden scheme will be financially sustainable beyond the Innovate & Cultivate Fund period. Funding may 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/supportcamb>

What we can provide:

- Funding:** You can apply for a maximum of £12,000 over 2 years from the Innovate & Cultivate Fund. Please see below for a guide to typical annual costs of average mobile warden schemes
- Support:** A package of support from Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough to help get independent warden schemes started, including a toolkit, training, advice and shadowing.

How much does it cost?

Typical costs for year 1 of a new Mobile Warden Scheme that supports 15 clients with one employed warden. These costs can be adapted for your Innovate & Cultivate application. An established scheme supporting 15 clients would expect to generate income of approx. £4,000- £5000 per year in client fees.

Independent Warden Schemes

Item	Description	Annual costs
Age UK Support Package for independent warden schemes (compulsory)	14 hours or two full days of start-up support from AGE UK including toolkit, training, advice and shadowing.	£650 First year only. Should be added to grant application budget.
Warden's salary	15 hours per week	£8420 including on-costs
Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks	Enhanced DBS	£40 per person
Training	Dependent on warden's experience. Examples of Training: Adult Safeguarding MCA (Mental Capacity Act) DoLs (Deprivation of Liberties) Alzheimer's Awareness Dementia Support First Aid	Up to £200 Decreases in subsequent years
Travel	dependent on size of area	Up to £1000
Safety equipment	e.g. PPE	£200
Communications	e.g. mobile phone, ICT, postage	Up to £400 Decreases in subsequent years
Promotion	Scheme launch promotion, leaflets, webpage development	£500 Decreases in subsequent years
Activities	Social events, lunch clubs	£200
Volunteer costs	Travel, ID badges, training	£200
Insurance	Public liability and employee and volunteer insurance	£250
Total		£12,060

Age UK Managed Warden Schemes

Item	Description	Annual costs
Warden's salary	15 hours per week	£8420 including on-costs
Age UK Support Services	Includes: warden recruitment and management, training, insurance, Warden DBS check, and holiday, training and illness cover.	£5232
Contribution to Age UK team leader costs	Shared between all Age UK schemes in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	Up to £2748
Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks	Additional DBS checks for holiday cover and volunteers	£100 (likely to reduce in year 2)
Extra Training		£200
Travel	dependent on size of area	Up to £1000
Safety equipment	e.g. PPE	£200
Communications	mobile phone, postage, etc	£200
Advertising & Promotion	Scheme launch promotion (first year only)	£500
Activities	Social events	£200
Volunteer costs	Travel, ID badges, training	£100
Total		£18,900

What do I need to do next?

Every community is different so we recommend doing some research to see if starting a Mobile Warden Scheme is right for you and your community before you apply for funding. You should also seek advice from Age UK by contacting Sarah Thomson, Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Warden Services Manager on sarah.thomson@ageukcap.org.uk or 01354 691891 / 07445 151635.

Pre-application advice sessions are held before each funding round. You will need to make an appointment to discuss your application proposal with a county council adult social care advisor before submitting. Full details for registering are available on the ICF webpage <http://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

We are also encouraging applications for Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia Friendly Communities, Timebanks, Community Youth Workers, Digital Inclusion Projects and Men's Sheds, and the fund is open to applications for any projects that reduce pressure on Council services and/or offer direct savings for the Council.

The Innovate & Cultivate Fund application form and further details about the fund may be found at <http://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

Further information and resources:

Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Community Wardens

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough/our-services/community-wardens/>

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Warden Schemes

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-development/mobile-warden-scheme/>