



Ward Flexibility Funding Application Form

Thank you for your interest in Stockport Council's Ward Flexibility Fund. To give your group the best chance of success please read the guidance notes and the questions on the application form carefully.

Please ensure that all boxes on this form are completed. You must also include all additional information that is requested.

1. About Your Organisation

1. Name of Organisation/ Group

Friends of Shahnameh

2. Organisation/Individual Address

3. Main Contact Details (for correspondence)

Title:

Name:

Role: Treasury

Address:

Postcode:

Home Phone Number:

Mobile Phone Number:

Email Address:

Return to:
Democratic Services
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE
democratic.services@stockport.gov.uk

4. Please provide your bank account details

Account Name:

Account Number:

Sort Code:

5. What is the status of your Organisation/ Group?

Please Tick

A New Group	☐	Voluntary Organisation	☒
A Registered Charity No.	☐	Company Limited by Guarantee No.	☐
Applying for Charitable Status	☐	Unregistered Association	☐
Friendly Society	☐	Other (Please specify)	☐
Housing Association	☐		

6. Please describe the main activities of your Organisation/ Group

We are a voluntary local community group focusing on education and Persian poetry. The group formed in 2011. We meet up weekly, through Zoom, and have occasional in-person meetings to visit galleries, libraries and exhibitions. We also get together once a year for our annually session.

We mostly read Shahnameh (the book of Kings) or other poems or stories with humanity and discuss how the subject affects us and makes us feel. The sessions are run in English and Persian, depending on people who join us in each session.

Shahnameh is a book of poetry written over 1000 year ago. Shahnameh as well as stories from the past contains universal human values that are still relevant. Shahnameh's stories contain some women, people of mixed race and refugee characters that had to move to new countries to survive. These and topics such as the importance of good deeds, helping others and kindness are aspects that a lot of our members can relate to. In our group we pause on stanzas particular referring to the harm of revenge and war, topics that unfortunately are still timely. Since the pandemic our role changed to include support role as well. Increasingly we found ourselves required to deal with problems of isolation and mental health issues. We sometimes invite professionals to talk to our members about the importance of looking after yourself mentally and physically. These professionals are Persian speaking members of our community. Since having our website and regular Zoom sessions we are in constant dialogue and aware of each other's' well-being and health.

7. When was your Organisation/Group established?

15th May 2011

8. Does your organisation have the following policies and procedures in place?

If you are awarded a grant you will be required to send copies of all relevant documents as part of the grant agreement.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A governance/management committee | ☒ |
| A Constitution/governing document/set of rules | ☒ |
| An Equal Opportunities Policy | ☒ |
| A Child Protection Policy (where necessary) | ☐ |
| A Health and Safety Public liability | ☐ |

2. About Your Application

9. Please give us a brief description of your proposed/planned project or activity

You may wish to include details of what activities will take place, where will it happen, how often and who will take part. If you are applying for equipment you can tell us what will it be used for and why is it needed.

We run regular weekly and monthly meetings including poetry workshops and visits to cultural venues (such as galleries, libraries and museums). We help members of Persian speaking communities have access to the Persian literature e.g. by running poetry workshops and book exchange programmes. We run book clubs where we read together as well as providing opportunity for people to recommend further readings and share their knowledge. We have sessions in English and Persian so English speaking community members who would like to join us can do so. In this way we help with integration in the society.

In our annual celebration we collaborate with academics, local artists and other local cultural groups to celebrate diversity and to learn from each other. This year our annual celebration falls in the 12th May and will be held at Rethink Rebuild Society Discovery House, SK4 5BH.

We run our sessions for free and rely on members who can pay to cover some of the costs for those who are unable to pay by asking people to donate. In the past we have worked with Sahba (a music academy based in Manchester), Commonword (a writing organization based in Manchester), Doosti (a support group for refugees and migrants based in Salford), Sheba (a women-led community arts organisation based in Manchester working with refugee and migrant communities). We have also worked with academic such as Professor Charles Melville, Dr Firozeh Melville and Dr Mahmood Kavir who have offered their supports in kind. We also collaborated with publishers from London to showcase their Persian books in our event.

Since 2021, when we first had our Zoom accounts, we ran 127 free poetry workshops and 20 annual or larger free public meetings most of our activities were full to the capacity.

Most of our costs include:

- The cost of running our annual events:
 - Advertising, designing and printing leaflets
 - Hiring a venue for annual session
 - Refreshments
 - Expenses for our speakers
 - Technical support for sound and PowerPoint
 - The cost of running our on-line events:
 - Annual subscription of zoom
 - Annual domain cost for website
 - Annual subscription for hosting website
- .

10. Who will benefit from this grant?

We are a unique group running sessions in English & Persian, so language barrier issue in Persian speaking communities is addressed. Local residents interested in exploring other

cultures, Persian speaking communities of migrant and refugee backgrounds (ie, Afghan, Tajik, Arab and Iranian), adults of all ages, families, second generation migrants who want to learn about their heritage are all examples of community members likely to join us and benefit from this grant.

10(a) How Many Stockport residents will benefit?

We are sending the leaflet to over 300 people in Stockport area. In the past most of our activities were full to the capacity. We even had sessions where over 200 people attended. Last year we hired a smaller venue to keep the cost down. Many people were disappointed not to be able to join us. This year we can accommodate 130 people.

10(b) Are there any restrictions on who will benefit from the funding?

No.

11. Your Project's Budget

Please provide a breakdown of cost for your project including VAT where applicable and submit any estimates for the purchase of equipment or work to be done.

Subscription for zoom	150
Web domain and hosting	200
Hiring a hall	200
Refreshments	85
Rail ticket London – Manchester for the academic speaker	150
Expenses a local artist	25
Photography	70
Sound and PowerPoint technician	130
Designing and printing leaflets	110
Musicians	100

11(a) How much will the project/activity cost in total?

The cost of our events through the year including our annual event, without the in kind contributions, would be estimated to £1220

11(b) Tell us about other any other sources of income you have already applied for or raised so far in relation to this project

Around £200 in donations from members and £165 from other community members.

12. How much are you applying for from the Ward Flexibility Budget?

£855.

12(a) If the amount you are applying for covers only part of the project/activity, then please tell us how do you intend to fund any shortfall?

Donations from friends and community members

13. What is the planned timescale for spending this grant?

Start	May 2024
Finish	July 2024

3. Which Wards are you Applying to?

You may tick more than one box. Please note that no grant of more than £1,000 in totality will ordinarily be made.

Please tell us for each ward you wish to make an application to:-

- (a) how many people will benefit in that ward; and
(b) what proportion of funding from your overall application you are seeking from each ward.

		Number of beneficiaries	How much funding you are seeking
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee			
Bramhall North	☐	40	£120
Bramhall South & Woodford	☐	40	£120
Cheadle Hulme South	☐	40	£120
Central Stockport Area Committee			
Brinnington & Stockport Central	☐		£
Davenport & Cale Green	☐		£
Edgeley	☐		£
Manor	☐		£
Cheadle Area Committee			
Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North	☐	40	£120
Cheadle West & Gatley	☐	50	£140
Heald Green	☐	30	£70
Heatons & Reddish Area Committee			
Heatons North	☐	20	£45
Heatons South	☐	20	£45
Reddish North	☐		£
Reddish South	☐		£
Marple Area Committee			
Marple North	☐		£
Marple South & High Lane	☐		£
Stepping Hill Area Committee			
Hazel Grove	☐	35	£75
Norbury & Woodsmoor	☐		£
Offerton	☐		£
Werneth Area Committee			
Bredbury & Woodley	☐		£
Bredbury Green & Romiley	☐		£
Totals			£855

This total should add up to
the figure you provided in
Question 12



4. Application Checklist and Declaration

1. I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the above organisation ☒
2. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct ☒
3. If the information changes in any way I will inform Democratic Services accordingly. ☒
4. I give permission for Democratic Services to contact my organisation and/or myself by phone, mail or e-mail with information about its activities and funding opportunities. ☒
5. I/ we agree (if required) to attend an Area Committee meeting to explain how the proposal will improve the environmental, economic or social wellbeing of the area and to answer any questions. ☒
6. Our details can be used for promotional purposes should this request be successful ☒
7. I/We will use this grant for the proposed project/activities stated in our application. ☒
8. I/we will not use the grant for any other purpose prior to contacting Democratic Services in order to seek authorisation. ☒
9. I/we will provide appropriate proof of expenditure to Democratic Services, within 12 months from the Grant being made. ☒
10. I/we will highlight the support of the Area Committee in recent publicity material. ☒
11. I/we agree to providing information to assist in the future monitoring of the effectiveness of the funding including reporting back to the Area Committee on how the grant has been spent and what difference it has made. ☒
12. I/we agree that the content of this completed application form and any supplementary information provided may be published on the Council's website and other publications as part of the application process. ☒

Print your name:

Signature:

or if submitted electronically tick this box to signify your agreement to the above terms ☐

Date: 25.03.2024

Return to:
Democratic Services
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE
democratic.services@stockport.gov.uk