

## **Grant summary**

### **Organisation**

Disability Information Bureau

### **Funding request**

DIB needs interim funding to maintain service continuity until long-term grants are approved, preventing disruption for staff and vulnerable residents who rely on their support.

### **Funding request**

£5,683.38

**1. Your legal name, registered address and Charity number if applicable.**

Disability Information Bureau

Pierce Street Macclesfield

Cheshire

SK11 6ER

Charity Registered number 1124371

**2. What you want to deliver**

The DIB supports disabled people, those with long-term health conditions, vulnerable adults, and carers, to enhance their lives and wellbeing. We offer information and advice on welfare rights, helping with benefit applications such as Personal Independence Payment, Carer's Allowance, and Disability Living Allowance. Our support coaches assist with CV writing, job searches, training, mental health services, social activities, and developing IT skills. We also operate Macclesfield's Shopmobility scheme, providing wheelchairs and mobility scooters for those who might otherwise struggle to access the town centre, ensuring greater independence, inclusion, and opportunities for all who use our services.

We are seeking funding to maintain and enhance our frontline advice and support services for disabled people, carers, and their families in Cheshire East, the largest percentage of whom are in the Macclesfield area. We are coming to the end of a three-year grant from the National Lottery which has proved extremely successful and they encouraged us to apply for a continuation grant for a further five years. We have been successful in phase one of this application and will be submitting phase two at the end of December.

We are confident that the application fits very well with the priorities of the National Lottery, but we cannot of course be certain of success, as there are a lot of applications for the fund. There is also the issue of the funding pot for 2025-2026. As it stands, the application will be judged in March and if it is successful, funding may not be available until April, the new fiscal year, because the total amount of funding available for this financial year may have already been spent. If this is the case and we are successful, we are told that the project will be funded in April from the new funding pot, but that leaves us with a funding issue.

**3. The geographical area the activity/service will take place**

DIB works across Cheshire East, but the majority of its beneficiaries live in Macclesfield as the main office is located there. Year 2 of the project showed 71% of all beneficiaries (472 out of 666 total) living in Macclesfield, with the next largest percentage of 24% living in Crewe and the remaining 5% from other parts of Cheshire East. This year's figures to date shows a 10% increase in numbers.

**4. How long will the project/service last?**

The bridging grant will support the continuation of services for the month of April, allowing us to sustain operations until new funding streams are confirmed.

## **5. How it fits with the Macclesfield Town Council Strategy**

This project supports the Town Council's strategic priorities by:

- Promoting wellbeing and inclusion, enabling disabled residents to live more independently and access the support they need.
- Strengthening community resilience by supporting vulnerable residents through advice and volunteering opportunities.
- Encouraging fairness and equal access by helping to remove barriers to participation in community life.
- Supporting the local economy, by assisting residents to access employment and benefits.

## **6. How many people you will help**

The financial year 2024-225 saw the DIB assist 666 people in Cheshire East to complete benefit forms, and/or wraparound support in terms of social isolation, food insecurity, issues with paying bills, rent and council tax, housing issues and general advocacy support. This year's figures to date show an increase of 8% requiring support, equating to 719 people in Cheshire East, 510 of which would live in Macclesfield.

## **7. Who will benefit?**

- People living with physical, sensory, and learning disabilities
- Carers and family members seeking advice and respite support
- Individuals facing social isolation or digital exclusion
- Local organisations benefiting from our disability awareness and accessibility advice

## **8. How will you monitor the service/project to show impact and value for money?**

We will measure outcomes through:

- Client records and anonymised case data (number of clients, issues resolved, benefits gained).
- Feedback forms and satisfaction surveys from service users and volunteers.
- Monitoring of volunteer hours and training delivered.
- Quarterly reports demonstrating financial accountability and key performance indicators.

We will also calculate social return on investment by tracking benefits outcomes and reduced reliance on statutory services.

**9. A detailed budget and your organisation accounts**Budget for grant (1 month)

## Salaries:

Welfare officer	£2,150.74
Support coach	£1,538.99
Admin assistant	£793.65

## Office Overheads:

utilities, insurance, IT, staff travel etc £1,200.00

Total £5,683.38

*(Audited accounts for the most recent financial year are attached to this application).*

**10. An explanation of why the circumstances are exceptional**

DIB is currently experiencing a short-term funding gap due to delays in national and regional grant decisions. Despite a strong track record and continued demand for our services, transitional funding has been delayed beyond our control. Without this bridging support, we risk temporary service interruption, which would have a significant impact on our staff members as well as vulnerable residents who rely on our assistance daily. The grant will ensure service continuity while long-term funding is finalised.

The Disability Information Bureau faced a funding crisis at the beginning of 2024 and went as far as holding an EGM in order to close the charity down in May 2024. Fortunately, CVS Cheshire East stepped in to offer support and the charity was kept open and still remains so. However, the charity had spent its reserves on the CEO salary and then redundancy costs which left the DIB with no reserves and a deficit. It is very likely that the DIB will have reduced that deficit to zero by the end of this financial year, due to the reduction of overhead costs, a reduced number of staff, a number of small grants and the introduction of a donations scheme which brings in regular amounts each month. But the lack of reserves means that there are no core funds to pay the salaries of the three members of staff that are part of the National Lottery grant application, after March 2026. There are three possibilities for the end of March:

- a. The National Lottery approves the application in the March panel and there are sufficient funds to pay the grant in April, so no grant is requested from Macclesfield Town Council.
- b. The National Lottery approves the grant but cannot pay it until the next financial year and that might be April or May, therefore the DIB requests a grant from Macclesfield town Council to pay the salaries/oncosts of the three members of staff for a month, totalling approximately £5,680.
- c. The DIB is not successful in its application to the National Lottery and closes due to a lack of funding.

**11. Evidence that you have sought funding from other sources**

The National Lottery - We have applied for and are awaiting outcomes The National Lottery Community Fund. This funding is for five years.

Lloyds Bank Community Foundation – we were invited to apply for a non-restricted grant of £25k for three years and are awaiting the outcome.