**Knowledge is Power guidance for applicants**

**Guidance for question 4)** *Tell us about your group, how is it organised, what is its purpose and in what way is it community-led?*

Groups must be able to demonstrate that they are community-led. By this we mean organisations which are managed by and accountable to community members, which take action on issues identified by the community, and which work to benefit the whole community.

We are also interested in hearing about your group’s size, it’s activities and how it is organised (e.g. whether you are formally constituted, have a board etc).

**Guidance for question 5)** *Tell us about your community, e.g. where it is, and the shared issues experienced by people in the community.*

Groups must represent a clearly identifiable community. This might be a community of place (e.g. a neighbourhood, village) or a community of identity (people who share similar experiences such as disabled people, minority communities, fathers), or a community of interest (people who have a common social, cultural, environmental or recreational interest).

In particular, we want to support community groups working with, and consisting of, people from marginalised and excluded communities. These could be people living in a neighbourhood experiencing poverty or people who face barriers relating to protected characteristics[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Guidance for question 6)** *Tell us about your community-led action research project*

Start with the **action** - there might be a pressing issue in your community that you want to take action on; and/or it might be an action, project, service or intervention that you are currently undertaking (or planning to undertake) that would benefit from an action research approach.

The **research** should help you to achieve this action. Furthermore, what you choose to research should either not have been researched before or require ‘new knowledge’ or information.

Overall, your project must aim to improve outcomes for the community – for example, getting a public body to take action on an issue or developing your own solution.

You might want to look at the heading ‘**What type of project can we undertake?’** in our Frequently Asked Questions (see <https://www.knowledgeispower.scot/apply>) to think about where in the ‘action research cycle’ your project might sit.

Note: The support is not suitable for groups looking to challenge decisions or to evaluate programmes and activities. In general, we don’t think this support is well suited to projects that want to consult people on an issue.

**Guidance for question 7)** *Why do you think community-led action research will help you to address this issue?*

**In your response to this question you should focus on:**

* **what you are trying to achieve;**
* **what is preventing you from achieving this; and**
* **how community-led action research will help.**

**This could mainly be about addressing any gaps in knowledge but could also be related to other benefits of community-led action research such as building the skills, confidence and resilience of your group. Please be as specific as you can in describing this.**

**Guidance for question 8)** *What new knowledge will a community-led action research process generate on this issue?*

This is your opportunity to be specific about what you are hoping to research. For instance, your group may want a deeper understanding of the issue identified in q6. You may want to focus on the knowledge you require to fill any gaps identified in your response to q7.

**Guidance for question 9)** *Have you done any research or taken action on this issue before? Do you know of anyone else in your community who is researching or acting on this issue? Please give details.*

This will be important in establishing how valuable any new research on the issue will be, and also in helping to identify possible partners in the work.

**Guidance for question 10)** *Do you / does the group have knowledge or skills around community-led action research already? Please give details.*

The Knowledge is Power support programme has limited resources. Therefore, we are looking to support groups that have some skills and experience in this area. It may be that one or more group members have experience of community-led action research. Perhaps people in your group have other research skills and experience. Other work you carry out with your community may also be relevant, particularly if it helps community members to participate and to build their skills and confidence.

**Guidance for question 11)** *Do you have a group of volunteers/ community activists who are ready to take on the project with you and do you have a shared understanding of the aim of the project? Please give details.*

You should be able to demonstrate that your group has adequate capacity to participate fully in the programme. Group members will need to take part in training and workshops and carry out tasks in-between. See the selection criteria for more details on what is expected.

The support through the programme lasts for approximately 18 months and we would like you to carry out your community-led action research process within this time frame. The length and pace of the project will depend on you, however we would like projects to start as early as possible within that period.

**Guidance for question 12)** *Do you have access to a dedicated staff member (or other support) to support your involvement in this programme over the life of the project? Please give details.*

Participating groups should have access to dedicated support, either within their organisation (e.g. development officer) or from elsewhere (e.g. from your local authority’s Community Learning and Development team). This support person will provide a key role in helping the group deliver their community-led action research project.

**Guidance for question 13)** *Can at least 3 people attend the training day on 14th November 2019 and do you have commitment from the group to participate throughout the life of the project? Please give details.*

This could include board members, staff, volunteers and community members.

**Guidance for question 14)** *Please give an indication of any support costs your group will require in order to take part in this programme.*

Support costs are available to help you to deliver your community-led action research project. This might include running costs such as venues and research materials. It might also include the cost of making sure people can take part, such as translation, childcare, travel and personal assistance.

The support costs are limited, but if you have an idea at this stage of the types of support costs you would need to cover, please tell us. This will not affect our assessment of your application but will help us to identify how we can best support you to participate. If you don’t know what type of support costs you would need covered at this stage, don’t worry. Please feel free to contact us to discuss your requirements.

1. The Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination because of a protected characteristic, which are as follows: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation [↑](#footnote-ref-1)