



# Area Partnership Funding Proposal Form



Before completing this form, please ensure that:

- ◆ You read the appropriate Area Plan prior to submitting your request.
- ◆ You select the appropriate Area Partnership(s)
- ◆ You complete this form fully. We will only consider the information contained within this form.
- ◆ If any changes occur after you send in your application, you must notify the Area Manager.

## Area Partnerships

Please indicate the area where people will benefit from this proposal by selecting the box(es) next to the appropriate Area Partnership(s)

### REFERENCE NO (Internal only):

All Area Partnerships (please use the links below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dunbar and East Linton <a href="#">(Please click on the link to view the Area Plan)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fa'side <a href="#">(Please click on the link to view the Area Plan)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Haddington and Lammermuir <a href="#">(Please click on the link to view the Area Plan)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Musselburgh <a href="#">(Please click on the link to view the Area Plan)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Berwick Coastal <a href="#">(Please click on the link to view the Area Plan)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preston Seton Gosford <a href="#">(Please click on the link to view the Area Plan)</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Organisation Information

### 1. Details of Organisation

**Name:** Stronger Together for Autism and

Neurodivergence SCIO: SC052228 (known as STAND)

**Address:** Unit 4, Satellite Park, Macmerry Business Park, East Lothian

**Post Code:** EH33 1RY

**Daytime Telephone No:** 07432680982

**Mobile No:** 07432680982

**Email:** info@standuk.co.uk

**Website Address** (If applicable):

### 2. Main Contact for this Application

**Name:** Dani Cosgrove

**Position Held:** Operations Manager

**Address** (If different from above):

**Post Code:**

**If this person has specific communication needs, please provide details:**

**Daytime Telephone No:** 07432680982

**Mobile No:** 07432680982

**Email:** dani@standuk.co.uk

### 3. Type of Organisation

Community Group

☐

Public Sector

☐

Voluntary/3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Organisation

☒

Other (Please Specify):

Charity No: (if applicable): SC052228

### 4. What is the main aim, objectives and activities of your organisation?

Max 500 Words

This organisation started out as a group of parents of autistic children who got together to support each other, and who wanted to extend that support to other people. We had our first Information and Consultation Evening in early October 2022, during which we set out our ambitions of inclusion, support and empowerment for neurodivergent children and their parents and carers.

STAND became a registered charity in January 2023 and its core values of Inclusion, Support, and Empowerment, all stem from the various challenges shared from our group. At its very core, STAND exists to ensure neurodivergent / potentially neurodivergent children and their families never feel they are alone, always feel welcome, know to fight for their rights.

The broad aim of the inclusion pillar is to promote an inclusive society that cherishes our autistic or otherwise neurodivergent children.

Specifically, we aim to ensure all neurodivergent (or potentially neurodivergent) children are included and cherished within their local communities and wider sociality, and raise awareness of the challenges faced by such children and their parents, families and carers.

Projects under this pillar include our inclusive Stay and Play groups for ALL children but with specific accommodations and adaptations for neurodivergent children. Another example would be our plans to develop an awareness scheme for businesses to sign up to (trialling in East Lothian but potentially then Lothian and Scotland wide), which will demonstrate their ability and willingness to accommodate neurodivergent children in their premises but also to have a more inclusive outlook generally in relation to all children.

#### Support

The broad aim of this pillar is the provision of support to families and carers of neurodivergent children.

Specifically, we aim to provide emotional and practical support to parents, families and carers of neurodivergent (or potentially neurodivergent) children.

Examples of the projects under this pillar include the support groups for parents/families/carers, e.g. whatsapp groups coordinated by location or age etc. We are also about to kick off a befriending project - for parents, families and carers of children on a diagnostic pathway, recently diagnosed or otherwise going through/having been through a diagnostic process for autism. Another project in this category, would be "Caring for the carer" services, e.g. providing short term childcare and "treats" for parents/families/carers who are struggling with the challenges related to caring for neurodivergent children.

## Empowerment

The broad aim of this pillar is the empowerment of families and carers to enforce the rights of neurodivergent children, including within the education system.

Specifically we aim to advocate for the rights of neurodivergent (or potentially neurodivergent) children and their parents, family and carers, and educate them in how to exercise those rights and access available support. This could include a signposting service both when placed on pathway and on diagnosis with autism or other neurodivergence, assistance in applying for benefits, blue badges, exceptional needs funding etc and awareness sessions/training on disability rights, e.g Equality Act duties, GDPR, education rights and how to enforce these rights.

### 5. Title of Project Proposal and Project Summary max two lines (to be used in publicity)

Neurodivergent Dance Class

To hold accessible dance classes for neurodivergent children and their siblings.

3 classes

2-4 years

4-11 years

12+ years

These classes provide a fun, no pressure and no judgement environment for neurodivergent/potentially neuro divergent children and their families to attend. These are hosted by professional dance teachers in a safe environment.

In the adjoining room there will be tea, coffee etc set up so parents can support each other or children can have a break from the class.

### 6. Project Outcomes

Please identify up to three outcomes you will achieve from your project.

Outcomes are the **difference your project will make**

i.e. 10 young people will be able to access a sports bursary scheme which will **develop their skills and/or improve their wellbeing**

20 vulnerable people will receive meals and befriending which will **reduce their social isolation**

Outcome 1 - 30 children per month will be able to access a dance class

Outcome 2 - families will meet other families in a similar situation and exchange support and advice

Outcome 3 - improve mental and physical well being of neurodivergent children.

**7. To which of the Area Partnership Plan priorities does your proposal contribute? Please outline how your application will address inequalities?**

**Max 400 words**

**FAIR - Making PSG Inclusive**

**14. Improve access to the places, spaces and facilities for everyone.**

One of our three pillars is inclusion which ties in with the above priority for the Area Partnership Plan.

This project covers two of our pillars - inclusion and support.

It includes the community's neurodivergent children by allowing them to access a class which many of them would not be able to do when presented in a neurotypical way. These classes are provided within Port Seton Community Centre, we provide STAND volunteers to man fire exits to minimise risk of children escaping, provide sensory and OT equipment to allow for regulation, both dance teachers involved have experience with neurodivergent children there for ensure there is no judgement and parents are reassured.

We also provide support for the parents, providing them with free tea, coffee and biscuits to allow them to relax and chat with other parents and carers who have found themselves in similar situations.

Our facebook group currently holds over 2.1k members and our whatsapp support groups around 436 parents/carers. We receive a lot of feedback around children being excluded from classes that are aimed at neurotypical learning. This is due to many of them not understanding instruction and struggling with sensory challenges. We ran two classes as a pilot project and the feedback we have received already shows what a great impact it has made on the community.

**8. How does your project support communities recovering from COVID?**

**Max 200 words**

**12. Our communities are better able to make healthy choices, reduce isolation and access the services they need in order to maintain a positive level of physical and mental health**

This project reduce's isolation to families of neurodivergent and potentially neurodivergent children.

COVID had a massive effect on many of these children and their families. Change of routine, lack of visits from speech therapists, occupational therapists etc.

This has left many families isolated and anxious to return to the community. These classes allow the families to come somewhere guaranteed they will not receive any judgement. It gives them a space to meet other people and have a chat.

## 9. How does your proposal help meet the East Lothian Plan outcomes?

(Please click on the link to view the East Lothian Plan 2017 - 27) [Summary of East Lothian Plan 2017-27](#)

### Theme - Prosperous

**Outcome 1.1:** East Lothian people are working, are free from in-work poverty and are able to develop and improve their work skills

**Outcome 1.2:** Local businesses are thriving and the business base is expanding.

**Outcome 1.3:** People and businesses in East Lothian have better access to digital infrastructure and the digital skills they need.

### Theme - Community-minded

**Outcome 2.1:** East Lothian has strong resilient communities where people respect and support each other.

**Outcome 2.2:** East Lothian People can live affordably and contribute to a thriving community life in a high-quality environment.

### Theme - Fair

**Outcome 3.1:** We tackle the causes and effects of poverty in East Lothian and we reduce the gap between the richest and the poorest people.

**Outcome 3.2:** People in East Lothian are enjoying healthier lives.

## 10. Proposal Description

❖ What evidence do you have that demonstrates the need for this proposal [click to see Area Partnerships](#)  
How the local community has been involved in the development of this proposal?

**Max 100 words**

Examples from our feedback forms below:

- Gemma was amazing and super engaging! I loved how she would give them children an option to join in if they wanted to, but there was no pressure. Great to have the side rooms for kids if they needed a break.
- Everyone is so friendly and our little one had the best time. Something we would definitely consider doing for her on a regular basis.
- Nice venue, lovely small group which helped with anxiety levels.
- We're really keen to get J\*\*\* into some activities with other kids with ASN, there are a lot of water activities and outdoor stuff available but feel this is the sort of thing that might work better for J\*\*\*

❖ How will you ensure that this proposal reaches those in your community who need it most?

**Max 100 words**

We have an East Lothian STAND facebook group and Whatsapp Support groups to spread the word. We also have meetings with school, social work departments and local authorities which we use to signpost the relevant people to events.

❖ How will you promote and publicise your proposal?

**Max 100 words**

Social media, flyers and emailing education and local authorities.

❖ How will this proposal be sustained, if applicable?

**Max 100 words**

If we decide to continue this project past the first year we would hope to apply for more funding to continue it. We would also look to fundraise for it as the feedback has shown how much it is needed in the community.

❖ What the funding will be used for i.e. what you intend to do, where it will take place and which other organisation(s) would be involved, if applicable?

**Max 100 words**

For 1 class per month for 3 different age groups -

Payment for dance teachers

Snacks and refreshments

Venue Hire

Equipment - pompoms, wands, ribbons, rubber mats and scarfs.

## 11. How will you monitor, measure and evaluate the proposal outcomes?

We will send out feedback forms after each class to discover what went well and what can be improved.

### 11.1 How many people will

#### a. directly benefit from the funded project?

Children	<b>30 per month</b>	Young People	
Adults		Elderly People	

#### b. indirectly benefit from the funded project? (i.e. families members or wider community)

Children		Young People	
Adults	30/60 per month	Elderly People	

### 11.2 How will you evaluate and measure the impact for local people? (e.g. what evidence will you gather?) – [Click here](#) for Evaluation Support Scotland website

We will send out feedback forms after each class to monitor what is going well and what can be improved.

We will monitor the improvement of children's mood within classes and if they choose to engage. Some children may stand in the corner during the first class but by the 3rd class choose to be involved.

### 11.3 How will you know the outcomes have been achieved? (e.g. the difference you want to make?)

**Outcome 1:** Keep records of the number of attendees and if they have returned.

**Outcome 2:** If the ratings on the feedback forms are 4 stars or above

**Outcome 3:** To gather anonymous feedback from parents and carers as to if they felt supported

### 12 What are your key milestones or indicators of success? (e.g. what do you plan to do and when?)

The pilots we ran in May and June 2023 were successful therefore we would like to start this project within the next 12 weeks. We have all plans in place from the pilot and will be able to go ahead when we have funding.

### 13 When will it happen?

Expected Start Date:  
(Month/Year) 09/2023

Expected End  
Date: (month/year) 09/2024

## Finance

14. Amount Requested £ 1034.74

15. Total Cost of the Proposal £ 1034.74

### 16. If you have secured or requested any other funding for your proposal, please provide details

Funder	Amount	Confirmed/Pending - decision date
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	



	£	
	£	
<b>17. Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure to be incurred on this proposal.</b>		
<b>Items to be purchased or activity to be supported with workings i.e. 10 pots of paint £2 x 10</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Knight Fever Dance (Dance teacher) £30 per month		£360
Billie Morton (Dance teacher) £30 per month		£360
Refreshments		£60
Venue Hire (£15 per month)		£180
Pompoms	Amazon	£13.99
Wands	Amazon	£13.98
Ribbons	Amazon	£16.59
Rubber Mats	Amazon	£23.18
Scarfs	Amazon	£6.99
<b>Total Cost of Proposal:</b>		<b>£ 1034.74</b>
<b>18. Governance/Supporting Documents (If you are an existing group/charity or organisation).</b>		
<p><b>Please tick the box(es) below to indicate that you have included the following documents with your completed Funding Proposal Form.</b> (Please refer to guidance note before completing this question)</p>		
Most recent Annual Accounts		<input type="checkbox"/>
Most recent Bank Statements for all accounts (past 3 months)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the organisation have a bank account with at least 2 unrelated signatories	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Constitution, Memorandum or Articles of Association		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Equalities policy/statement or your commitment to equalities?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you are a new group or just forming, please provide some information about your organisation. (This could include a letter of support from a constituted body such as community council, trusts, charities, schools, church, TRA's etc.)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other supporting documents (if applicable) – :		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Declaration</b>		
❖ I/we confirm that the information set out in this Funding Proposal Form, any appendices and any enclosed accompanying documents are correct.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
❖ I/we confirm that if funding is awarded, the funds will be used in accordance with the purposes set out in this proposal.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
❖ I/we confirm if there are any significant changes to the proposal or the project/initiative, the Area Manager will be informed immediately.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
❖ I/we confirm that any funds not used for the purpose outlined in this proposal will be returned immediately to the Area Partnership.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

