



International Day of Older People 2026

The International Day of Older People (IDOP) is celebrated annually on 1 October, with a different theme each year. The theme in Leeds for 2026 is:

“What’s on your doorstep?”

Celebrating the people, places and services that help us to stay active and connected in our community

Fest for Life

This year, Leeds Older People’s Forum (LOPF) will host the ‘**Fest for Life**’, a festival celebrating older artists and creatives at Pudsey Civic Hall on Thursday, 1 October 2026. We invite you to bring along your members and spread the word.

Community grants available:

Community Grants of up to £300 are available to help groups and organisations in Leeds run events that celebrate older people and help them stay connected in our communities.

We usually receive far more applications than we can fund and, unfortunately, have a limited budget. As such, we are looking to fund approximately ten grants.

Schedule for grant applications

- Deadline for applications – **3 pm on Friday, 11 September 2026**
- Applicants will be informed as to whether they have been successful or otherwise by email on **Friday, 18 September 2026**
- LOPF produces a calendar of IDOP events to promote in Leeds. Successful applicants must supply event details no later than **Friday, 25 September 2026**
- Events should be held **1 – 9 October 2026** (where possible)



Who can apply for a grant?

We are keen to fund a range of diverse events and welcome applications from all communities of the city, including those focusing on intergenerational work or specific issues affecting older people, such as people living with dementia. We particularly welcome applications from small and medium-sized groups and organisations, and we encourage applications from organisations that want to expand their service/activities to include older people. Types of organisations that may apply include:

- Voluntary and statutory sector organisations
- Neighbourhood Network Schemes
- Theatres & theatre groups
- Faith groups (though we can't fund anything promoting a particular religion/faith)
- Art groups/organisations
- Community groups
- Care homes (not for profit)
- Day centres
- Lunch clubs

If you are unsure whether you are eligible to apply, please contact Martin Coyle (Leeds Older People's Forum) by phone (0113) 244 1697 or email: info@opforum.org.uk

What kind of events can you get a grant for?

We encourage groups and organisations to devise creative and interesting ways to celebrate IDOP in Leeds. Ideally, the application should propose a new idea or opportunity that ties in with the theme of "What's on your doorstep?", which celebrates the people, places, and services that help us stay active and connected in our community.

Here are a few examples of what you might want to do:

- Organise a walk celebrating the art, culture and heritage of older people in their area
- Visit places older people find difficult to get to independently
- Create opportunities to share memories of local neighbourhoods.

The event should also reflect the ethos of IDOP:

- To promote and celebrate the contribution of older people* to the city
- To highlight the barriers which still exist to older people's full participation

* By older, we typically mean people aged 60+ (younger for communities with a lower life expectancy).

What can we fund?

Items that can be funded include:

- Facilitators, artists, musicians
- Room hire
- Equipment (where it is used as part of the event)
- Refreshments
- Transport to attend an event or activity or to deliver resources to people's homes.
- Accessibility requirements, such as virtual or online events for people with sight and hearing loss

What won't we fund?

We won't fund:

- Activities that you usually run or work you currently receive funding or money towards.
- Commercial organisations/companies
- Political events/organisations
- Anything promoting a particular religion/faith

Who can attend IDOP events?

The audience can be the public, your service users, or staff/volunteers. We encourage the community events to be open to all.

When do events need to take place?

We request that IDOP 2026 events be held between 1 and 9 October 2026, where possible.

How to apply for a grant:

- If possible, please use the [online form](#).
- If you cannot complete the form online or need support to do so, please call Leeds Older People's Forum – 0113 244 1697 – to ask for a paper copy to be posted.

Evaluation form

Completing an evaluation form is a requirement of receiving an IDOP events grant. We do not ask for receipts, so this form is the only evidence we have to show funders how the money has been spent.

Spreading the IDOP message via social media on Facebook and Instagram

We promote and highlight IDOP events on social media, such as Instagram and Facebook. Please support us by using your own social media to report on events as they happen, where appropriate.

Please use #IDOPLeeds in all your posts.

Please ask if you would like any support on using social media.

Your application will not be affected if your organisation or group doesn't use social media.

If you have any positive images which you can let us use, please email them to: jenni@opforum.org.uk (Please ensure the subjects have given approval for the images to be used)