

F:A:O: Norfolk & Relevant Suffolk Parish Councils
Date: 12th February 2018
Subject: **Funding for Rural Residents of Norfolk & Relevant Suffolk Areas**

Dear Sir/madam,

With recent government cuts to rural transport and community support, rural social networks are breaking down with a consequent increase in social isolation being experienced amongst many young people residing across Norfolk and Suffolk. Statistics show that the lack of transport is proving to be a major barrier that is preventing individuals from moving forward with their lives, this is due to their inability to attend appointments, engage in community led activities or secure provisions such as employment, education or training.

Kickstart Norfolk and members of the 5 Local Action Groups (LAGs) have recognised this and we are delighted to state that funding has now been secured via the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, to provide a dedicated Rural Scheme for unemployed individuals residing across rural Norfolk and relevant Suffolk areas. As a charity, Kickstart Norfolk can now provide individuals with the opportunity to be issued with their own moped for a period of up to 6-months, and this will allow them to seek and secure the provisions they need to move forward towards employment. It may be the case that an individual requires specialist support and therefore, the transport can be used to attend appointments or to socialise.

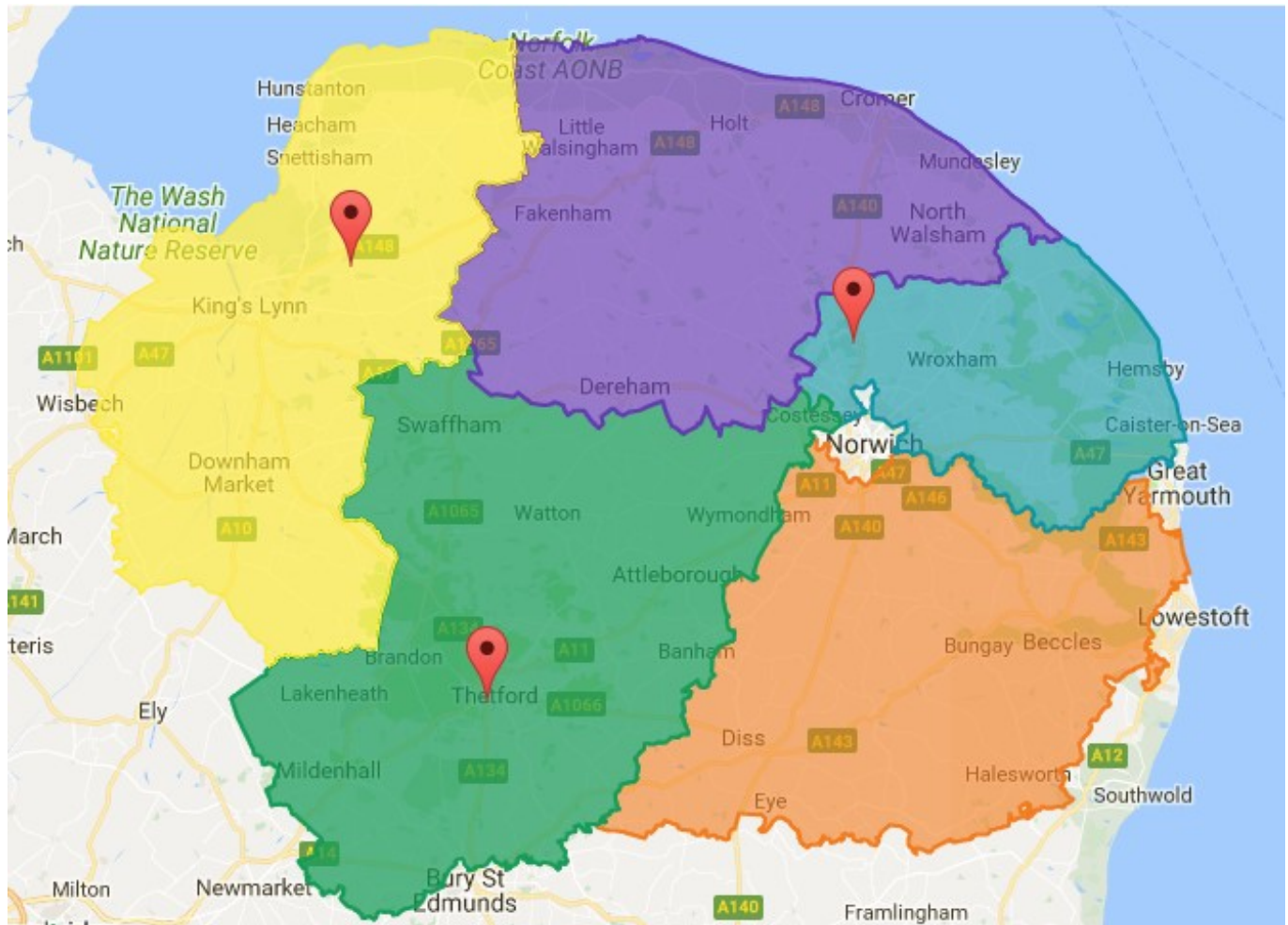
Whilst on the Rural Scheme, a dedicated Communication Officer will mentor each individual for up to a period of 2-years, this will provide much needed support to the service user whilst they participate on education or training courses, engage with support provisions or secure employment. Kickstart Norfolk understands that a clients' needs are best met by having access to a strong and diverse network of experts and over the years, we have forged excellent working relationships with many organisations, foundations and trusts. Should referrals be required to secure the service user additional specialist support, referrals will be made with the consent of the service user.

The aim of the Rural Scheme is to:

- contribute towards improving the environment and the quality of life for individuals residing in rural areas
- strengthen the rural economy by helping micro and small businesses to sustain employment by providing employees with the transport they need to travel to and from their place of work
- assist individuals to move closer to the labour market and improve their lives

Geographical Area of Funding:

The Kickstart Norfolk, Rural Scheme will cover all 5 Local Action Group Areas, as highlighted below:



Promotion:

A parish council provides effective, efficient and accountable local government for the parish, enabling residents to be involved in the life of the community and its future development. Parish councils are the centre hub of the community and we would very much like your support to ensure the Rural Scheme is promoted to your residents. I attach a flyer containing the relevant information and respectfully ask if you could display this in areas of the community you feel best suited to reach the maximum number of individuals.

Further Information:

As a charity, Kickstart Norfolk seek and secure funding to ensure we can provide much needed transport to individuals at an affordable cost and to ensure you are provided with other funding opportunities I attach a Kickstart Norfolk document, providing this information.

Summary:

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Kickstart Norfolk can provide a much-needed transport provision to the residents of your community, removing a major barrier faced by rural residents without transport. The Rural Scheme will enable service users to make a positive move forward with their lives, whether this be by engaging in employment, education or training provisions or engaging on programmes to address personal issues such as mental health or addiction.

To achieve our aim, details of the Rural Scheme needs to be promoted to as many people as possible and working together with parish councils can achieve this. Your help in promoting the scheme is crucial to its success.

If you would like a member of the Kickstart team to deliver presentations or you have any questions, queries or concerns, please contact me using any of the following details:

Email: matthew.page@kickstartmopeds.org.uk

Telephone: 01362 699923

Mobile: 07387 268632

On behalf of Kickstart Norfolk, I thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Page

Matthew Page
Partnership Manager
Kickstart Norfolk