



# SEATON SMALL SPARKS

## *Small grants: big possibilities*

If you live or work in Seaton and have an idea that will involve others and make the community a better place to live, learn, work or play, a small sparks grant could help!

### **What is a small spark?**

A 'small spark' is a grant to help local people who might have an idea to do something to make their community better and bring people together. By involving other local people, small sparkers can make real connections in their community and do things that benefit everyone.



### **How much is a small sparks grant?**

A small sparks grant is a maximum of £250 and you would be expected to match this amount, not necessarily with money, but perhaps with 'in kind' support such as your time, or other people's time, donated materials or venues etc.

### **Who can apply?**

Anyone who lives or works in Seaton or the surrounding area of Aberdeen can apply.

## Who decides if I can get a small sparks grant?

A small panel of local people who have volunteered to take on this role will decide on the grants along with Louise Farmer, the local Community Facilitator employed by In Control Scotland.



## How do we decide?

There are few simple criteria we will consider:



Does it make Seaton a better place to live, work or play?



Does it involve other local people?



Is it fun and interesting?



Is there some matching support or help from others involved?



Can it start to happen within 8 weeks?

*If you can answer yes to these questions it sounds like you are well on your way to a small spark!*

## How do I apply?

Just fill in an application form. You can pick up one up from the **S.T.A.R. Flat** on Seaton Drive, download a copy from the In Control Scotland website-[www.in-controlscotland.org](http://www.in-controlscotland.org) or contact Louise Farmer to get one.

Once you have completed the application, drop it back in to the S.T.A.R flat or e-mail it to: [louise.f@in-controlscotland.org.uk](mailto:louise.f@in-controlscotland.org.uk)  
If you need any help completing the application form let us know.

### **What will happen next?**

We will contact you as soon as possible with a decision on your application and if you are successful, we will find out the best way to get the money to you. We might ask to meet you to find out a little more information about your idea.



### **What else do I need to do?**

We want to know what people do with their small spark grants and what difference they make. We will ask you to share something with us that tells us about you using your small spark grant. This could be a photograph, a short paragraph, or scrapbook or anything else you want to share. We will also ask you to commit to attend a small sparks celebration event to meet with other local people who have used a small sparks grant.

**Small sparks can make a big difference!**

## Some examples of small sparks from other areas:

Set up fortnightly singing group aimed at people who don't have the confidence to sing in a choir

A storytelling event took place on a local beach

Set up a new running group for local people

High school pupils developed a sensory garden

A mother and her son started a 'walking wagon', visiting neighbours on a weekly basis with a trolley of magazines to share and exchange with others

## Thanks!

*Small Sparks was an idea which started in Seattle in the US and was brought to the UK by Carl Poll, pioneer and community builder. In Carl's memory, his friends and family have started 'Carl's Small Sparks' and they kindly supported us in developing Small Sparks in Seaton. You can find out more at <http://smallsparks.org.uk/>*

*Thanks also to Tim Keilty who shared his small sparks stories and paperwork with us.*

## Interested?

**Contact:** Louise Farmer, Self-directed Support Community Facilitator, Tel: 07786 041802

Email: [louise.f@in-controlscotland.org.uk](mailto:louise.f@in-controlscotland.org.uk)

