

## Westminster Foundation Community Grant Programme

### Applicant Guidance

#### Overview

The Westminster Foundation's Community Grant Programme supports small to medium-sized organisations working with children and young people (aged 0–25) in Westminster, Chester and surrounding rural areas, Ellesmere Port, Northern Lancashire, and Sutherland. For further information please refer to maps on our [website](#).

Grants of up to £15,000 per year are available for up to two years, with applications accepted year-round and reviewed quarterly.

#### Key Dates:

**Deadlines for 2026:** You can find the latest dates here: [Community Grants – Westminster Foundation](#)

**Decision notification:** Within one week of the Community Grants Panel meeting.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

Before applying, ensure your organisation meets all of the following criteria:

- Registered charity or has exclusively charitable objectives
- Operates in one of the eligible geographic areas
- Works with children and young people aged 0–25
- Has at least three trustees or directors
- Holds one full set of annual accounts
- Has appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures

#### Themes:

Your project or work must align with at least one of the following strategic themes:



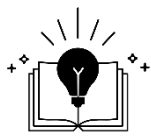
**Sport & Physical Activity:** We support projects that help children and young people get active and enjoy the benefits of movement. This could be through sports clubs, informal play, dance, or group activities—especially those that are welcoming to everyone, including girls, disabled young people, or those who might not usually join in.

- Activities should build confidence, teamwork, and friendships.
- We encourage projects that are designed with input from young people.
- Making activities affordable or free, and involving parents/carers, is a plus.
- Programmes that help reduce stress and support emotional health are encouraged.



**Land & Nature:** We fund projects that help children and young people connect with nature and the outdoors, whether in parks, gardens, or rural spaces.

- Activities might include outdoor learning, gardening, nature walks, or environmental projects.
- We welcome ideas that make green spaces safer and more accessible, and that encourage young people to care for their environment.
- Projects can help bridge the gap between urban and rural experiences, and support well-being, especially for those who may feel isolated.
- We support work that helps young people understand the link between land, food systems, and sustainability, inspiring future careers in green industries.



**Education & Career Readiness:** We support projects that help children and young people build skills for life, education, and future work.

- This could include support to improve school engagement, attendance or attainment, mentoring, career advice, workshops, or practical skills sessions.
- Projects should help children and young people feel confident about their next steps—whether this is starting school, moving up a school year, starting college, a job, or learning new skills.
- We value programmes that offer role models, broaden horizons, and support those facing barriers to opportunity or at risk of disengagement.
- Partnerships and creative approaches to learning are welcome.



**Healthy Diet:** We fund projects that help children, young people, and families learn about healthy eating and improve access to nutritious food.

- Activities might include cooking classes, food education, community meals, or support for families struggling to afford healthy food.
- We welcome projects that make healthy eating practical, affordable, and culturally relevant.
- Programmes that work with schools, community groups, or local businesses to improve food options are encouraged.
- We value approaches that address the influence of advertising and social norms and promote behaviour change.

#### What can we fund:

- **Direct project costs:** These support the aims and delivery of a specific piece of work. This work will usually be time-limited, and based on a defined set of activities, such as staffing, materials, volunteer expenses, and travel-related costs. Project-related expenses may also include venue hire, line management, training etc.
- **Core costs:** These are the running costs of your organisation, the money you need to make its work happen. Also referred to as overheads, running costs or operating costs. E.g. core staffing roles such as admin, CEO salary, HR & payroll or general office expenditure.
- **Full cost recovery:** This refers to a method for securing funding for all the costs involved in running a project. It allows you to request funding for direct project costs and a proportionate share of your organisation's overheads. This can often be presented as a percentage. The Westminster Foundation will fund up to 20% of organisational overheads.
- **Repeat funding:** Available for up to three years consecutively, followed by a one-year break.

#### What criteria is used when we consider applications:

We consider the need for the project or work, how this relates to the delivery proposed, and whether the expected outcomes for the application address this need. We also take a portfolio approach, this means we approach our grant funding not as isolated transactions, but as a strategic collection of investments aligned with our mission and impact goals. Each grant is considered within the context of a broader portfolio—grouped by theme, geography, or outcome area—to ensure balance, coherence, and cumulative impact.

This approach enables us to:

- Track progress across related initiatives.
- Identify gaps and opportunities for deeper engagement.
- Adapt funding strategies based on learning and evidence.
- Maximise impact by fostering synergies between grant holders, themes or geographies.

We conduct due diligence checks on all applications assessing finance, governance and safeguarding.

- **Disadvantage / Need:** Is it clear who the organisation will be working with, and that they understand the issues and barriers these specific children and young people experience?

- **Does the proposal feel achievable and realistic? Is the application child / young person-focussed?**
  - If it's a project application, does the work seem to be an appropriate response to the need the organisation have outlined?
  - If it's a core application, has the applicant demonstrated how this grant will strengthen their organisation in order to meet the needs of children and young people?
- **Youth led:** Are children and young people empowered to lead on elements of the project and/or the organisation's work (as appropriate for their age, ability and project/organisation type)?
- **Outcomes:** Do the outcomes described clearly reflect both the challenges children and young people face, and the planned activities?
- **Is the organisation well placed to deliver the proposed work? This includes:**
  - being suitably connected to local networks
  - being embedded into the local community
  - having suitable knowledge and experience

### Application Form Guidance

The form is divided into eight sections. Below is a breakdown with tips and rationale for each:

#### 1. General Information

Basic organisational details and contact information. This helps the Foundation identify and communicate with your team.

#### 2. About Your Organisation

Vision and mission: Clarifies your purpose and alignment with the Foundation's goals.

Geography and age group: Ensures your work fits the Foundation's place-based strategy and is reaching children and young people aged 0-25

Themes: Choose one that best fits your work (e.g., Healthy Diet, Education and Career Readiness, Sport and Physical Activity and Land and Nature).

#### 3. Governance

We ask about your senior management and Trustees to understand the leadership, skill and experience of those that manage and govern your organisation.

**Tip:** we are looking for appropriately skilled and experienced leaders with an interest if there is any lived experience.

#### 4. Safeguarding

We ask a series of critical questions which form the minimum standards for any work with children and young people.

These include policies, training details, designated leads, and incident reporting.

**Tip:** Be clear about how safeguarding is embedded in your organisation.

## 5. Finances

Attach annual accounts and budget templates (single or multi-year).  
Provide income, expenditure, and reserves.

**Tip:** Please use space available to comment on your budget and make sure the budget lines correspond to what you are seeking funding for.

## 6. Communication

Share your website, social media, and key partners.  
Helps assess your visibility and collaborative networks.

**Tip:** We look for signs of regular activity and engagement, please let us know if there are any issues with your website for any reason.

## 7. Delivery

- Needs and gaps: Explain the issue your project addresses.
- Target population: Be specific about who benefits and how.
- Youth involvement: Highlight how young people shape your work.
- Staff qualifications: Demonstrate capacity to deliver effectively.

**Tip:** Make sure you have fully described the need you have identified and how the delivery or work addresses this need.

## 8. Impact

Define outcomes, themes, and success indicators.  
Describe how you'll measure impact (e.g., surveys, focus groups).

**Tip:** Align outcomes with the needs you have identified that your beneficiaries face.

## Best Practice Tips

- ✓ Be clear and concise: Avoid jargon and keep answers focused.
- ✓ Show evidence of need: Use data or your own organisation's understanding of the specific barriers and issues the target beneficiaries experience.
- ✓ Demonstrate youth involvement: how have young people been leading on or designing the project or organisational direction?
- ✓ Explain your capacity: Why is your organisation best placed to deliver this work?
- ✓ Include realistic outcomes: Ensure they match your activities and resources.

### Support and Contact

You can save your application progress and return via a link sent to your email.

What you can expect from us:

- Open communication and support from our team with any queries you may have
- Support in promoting your project and news of the funding
- Opportunity for funder plus support
- Be part of the Westminster Foundation funding family

*If you require further support, please contact: [westminster.foundation@grosvenor.com](mailto:westminster.foundation@grosvenor.com)*