

Grant Application: Community Cohesion Fund - Large Grant Application (up to £25,000)

Project Name:
Name of Organisation:
Legal Status:
Charity no. (if applicable):
Contact Name:
Contact Email:
Contact Number:

**Closing date for receipt of completed documents:
Monday 13th July at Midnight**

About the Wyre Community Cohesion Fund

The Wyre Community Cohesion Fund is a fund established to build community relationships and social trust and to promote cohesion between communities.

Cohesive communities are places that:

- offer a common vision and a sense of belonging for all
- positively value diversity
- provide equal opportunities to people from different backgrounds and
- provide an environment where strong and positive relationships can be developed between people from different backgrounds.

The fund and associated grant administration process will be administered by Community First Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde on behalf of Wyre Council.

Launching on 18th May 2026, applications will be open for an 8-week period, closing at midnight on Monday 13th July 2026.

Applications are welcome from local organisations within the VCFSE sector based in or delivering work in Wyre. Projects should align with one or more of the following themes:

- A focus on creating community cohesion and a sense of togetherness
- Improving local partnership approaches to supporting community resilience by funding projects that strengthen social capital.
- Initiatives that strengthen community connections, promote unity and shared values.

Examples of likely eligible expenditure for the Wyre Community Cohesion Fund include projects that:

- improve community cohesion and understanding between individuals, communities and groups from different backgrounds, beliefs and cultures in Wyre.
- bring people together from different groups, including those of different faiths, around a shared goal/objective, such as volunteering, befriending or mentoring schemes.
- connect young people from different backgrounds in safe spaces.
- activities that bring different parts of the community together to listen, share and interact e.g. events/workshops where individuals can hear directly from people who are 'different' from them e.g. refugees directly sharing their experiences.
- inter-community projects aimed at connecting people of different backgrounds and improving community connections, for example activities that support mental health through gardening, art, singing or sports projects.
- build communication pathways between communities that promote ongoing dialogue and a shared identity, for example sessions providing English Language provision or improving English language skills.
- build partnerships with the aim to work collectively on projects
- increase personal confidence interacting with others or build trust in others.
- enable communities to build networks and deliver projects/ activities that foster greater cohesion.
- Increase safety and respect for individuals and communities
- reduce the risk of hate crime, macro/micro-aggressions and radicalisation

Eligibility

The funding is available to organisations that are:

- A voluntary and community constituted group with a volunteer management committee with a minimum of three unrelated members that meets on a regular basis (at least three times per year) or
- A registered charity, with a board of trustees, or
- A registered Social Enterprise Community Interest Company (CIC) operating on a not-for-profit basis. (Applicants may be asked to produce copies of their Community Interest Statement, details of the Asset Lock included in their Memorandum and Articles of Association and copy of their latest annual community interest report.)

Applicant organisations must also:

- Provide local community activities or services within the borough which benefit Wyre residents
- Have a formal constitution or a governing document
- Have a bank account requiring at least two unrelated signatories
- Operate with no undue restrictions on membership
- Have a safeguarding policy for children, young people and vulnerable adults where appropriate.

Assessment criteria

As well as meeting the priorities and aims, the project must also:

- Take place in the Wyre Borough
- Involve local communities
- Demonstrate a need for the project
- Be a new project or show how it adds value to an existing project

An organisation may only submit one application per grant round.

Any award must be spent and claimed within 12 months of the offer letter date.

Applications should also try and demonstrate:

- The group/organisation's previous experience/expertise etc
- Engagement with the local community
- Lasting impact
- Any volunteer contributions

Timetable

Funding Open	18th May 2026
Deadline for Applications	13th July 2026 Midnight
Scoring	W/C 13th July 2026
Award Notification	W/C 20th July 2026

Pass / Fail Questions:

	It is an essential requirement of this contract that the successful bidder is able to demonstrate the criteria below:	Pass / Fail
a)	<p>Insurance Levels (required at the contract Commencement Date)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer's (Compulsory) Liability Insurance = £5m • Public Liability Insurance = £5m <p>*It is a legal requirement that all companies that employ staff hold Employer's (Compulsory) Liability Insurance of £5 million as a minimum. Please note this requirement is not applicable to Sole Traders or organisations that don't employ staff.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
b)	Please confirm that you have in place, or that you will have in place by contract award, the human and technical resources to perform the contract to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation and to ensure the protection of the rights of data subjects.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
c)	Please confirm your acceptance of the Terms and Conditions attached.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Please respond to all information included below.

Quality questions will be scored on a 0-5 basis

0	No response provided/ does not address any of the issues
1	Very poor response with minimal issues addressed
2	Poor response with few issues addressed
3	Satisfactory response with majority of issues addressed
4	Good response with all issues satisfactorily addressed
5	Outstanding innovative response

About your organisation

Please tell us about your organisation, its aims and describe your experience delivering similar work.

Your response should include details of what activity was undertaken, why it was chosen and how successful outcomes were achieved. Where possible, include an example that could be considered a sensitive community topic.

Assessment Criteria:

- Organisational objectives are relevant to funding objectives.
- Example of previous delivery showcases evidence of building community cohesion.

Respond below in no more than 750 words:

Project proposal

Please describe your project idea.

Your response should include the aims and objectives of the activity, the communities you plan to work with, outputs you aim to achieve, timeline and how many people you aim to work with.

Assessment Criteria:

- Identification of target community and understanding of that community reflected within the project proposal.
- Design of proposal/activity.
- Identification of community barriers and relevant mitigation.
- Clear project aims.

Respond below in no more than 1000 words:

Community Cohesion

Please explain how your project will strengthen relationships, trust and connection between different groups within the community. Your response should describe which groups you intend to bring together, why they have been chosen, and any existing tensions, barriers or divisions that affect how these groups currently interact. Outline the practical steps your project will take to address these barriers, build understanding and create meaningful opportunities for positive interaction. You should also explain the long-term outcomes you are working towards, how success will be measured and reported, and how you will ensure equalities and inclusion are embedded throughout delivery.

Assessment Criteria:

- Clear identification of the groups involved and why they have been selected
- Understanding of existing tensions, barriers or divisions between these groups
- A credible plan for how the project will reduce barriers and strengthen cohesion
- Evidence that the approach is sensitive, inclusive and grounded in community insight
- How success will be measured and reported, including qualitative and/or community-led insight
- Consideration of equalities, inclusion and accessibility throughout

delivery Prompts to guide applicants:

- Which groups are being brought together through this project
- What tensions, barriers or misunderstandings currently exist between them
- What specific actions, activities or approaches you will use to address these barriers and build cohesion
- What long-term cohesion outcomes you expect to achieve and how you will measure them

Please respond below in no more than 1,000 words

Evidence of Need

Your response should clearly explain the specific issue your project aims to address, demonstrating why this work is necessary at this time. Describe the scale and nature of the need using relevant data such as local statistics, community surveys, consultations, or other credible evidence. You should also outline how this need was identified, showing whether it emerged directly from community voices, lived experience, or organisational insight.

Assessment Criteria:

- Clear articulation of the issue or challenge the project seeks to address
- Use of relevant evidence, data or insight to demonstrate the scale and urgency of the need
- Evidence that the need is community-led or informed by meaningful engagement with those affected

- Strength of rationale for why this project is the appropriate response

Respond below in no more than 1000 words:

Clear Outcomes

Your response should set out the specific changes, benefits or improvements that will result from your project, rather than simply listing the activities you plan to deliver. Clearly define the outcomes you expect to achieve and explain how you will measure them, including methods that go beyond basic attendance figures (e.g., changes in confidence, cohesion, wellbeing, skills or connection). You should use the table provided to outline each outcome, how it will be measured, the target you aim to reach, and the timeline for achieving it.

Assessment Criteria:

- Clear distinction between activities delivered and the impact they are expected to create
- Well-defined, realistic and meaningful outcomes
- Appropriate and credible measurement methods, including qualitative and/or community-led insight
- Targets and timelines that demonstrate planning, feasibility and accountability

Respond below in no more than 1000 words:

Price Evaluation

Please respond to all information included below.

Activity	Price (£)

Total Price (to be evaluated)	

Full Budget Breakdown & Justification

Your response should provide a detailed, line-by-line breakdown of all project costs, including staffing, materials, venue hire, equipment, travel, marketing, evaluation and any other relevant expenditure. For each cost, you must explain why it is necessary, how it supports delivery of your outcomes, and how the amount has been calculated. Budgets should be realistic, good value for money, and clearly linked to the activities and impact described in your proposal.

Assessment Criteria:

- Comprehensive and itemised budget covering all project costs
- Clear justification for each cost, demonstrating necessity and value for money
- Costs that directly align with project activities, outcomes and timelines
- Transparent calculations (e.g., hourly rates, quantities, unit costs)

Guidance for applicants:

- Provide a separate line for each cost (e.g., “Sessional Worker – 120 hours @ £20/hr”)
- Explain why each cost is required and how it contributes to project delivery
- Ensure staffing, materials and venue costs are proportionate to the scale of the project
- Include evaluation, accessibility and contingency costs where appropriate

Respond below in no more than 1000 words:

Monitoring & Evaluation

Your response should explain how you will track progress, measure change and assess whether your project has achieved its intended outcomes. Describe the methods and tools you will use to collect data (e.g., surveys, interviews, observation, case studies, feedback forms), who will be responsible for gathering and analysing this information, and how often monitoring will take place. You should also outline how learning will be reported, shared and used to improve delivery throughout the project.

Assessment Criteria:

- Clear and realistic plan for collecting data linked to stated outcomes
- Identification of who is responsible for monitoring and evaluation activities
- Appropriate tools and methods for measuring change, not just participation
- A reporting schedule that demonstrates ongoing reflection and accountability
- Evidence that learning will inform project delivery and future practice

Prompts to guide applicants:

- How will data be collected and recorded throughout the project
- Who will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation tasks
- How frequently you will review progress and report findings
- What tools or methods you will use (e.g., surveys, interviews, focus groups, observation, case notes, digital tracking)

Respond below in no more than 1000 words:

Safeguarding, Equality & Inclusion

Your response should demonstrate how you will actively create safe, inclusive and equitable environments for everyone involved in your project. Beyond simply holding policies, you should explain how safeguarding, equality and inclusion will be embedded in day-to-day delivery. Describe the steps you will take to ensure meaningful participation from marginalised groups, people who face additional barriers, and those who do not speak English as a first language. You should also outline how you will manage conflict or tension between groups, and how you will maintain safe, respectful spaces throughout all activities.

Assessment Criteria:

- Clear, practical safeguarding measures that protect all participants, staff and volunteers
- Evidence of proactive inclusion strategies for marginalised groups and non-English speakers
- A credible, trauma-informed approach to managing conflict or tension between groups
- Demonstrated commitment to creating safe, accessible and respectful spaces

- Alignment between safeguarding practices, equality duties and project

delivery **Prompts to guide applicants:**

- How you will ensure inclusion of marginalised groups (e.g., disabled people, LGBTQ+ communities, people experiencing poverty, isolated residents)
- How you will support non-English speakers (e.g., interpreters, translated materials, visual communication, simplified language)
- How you will manage conflict or tension between groups safely and fairly
- How you will ensure safe spaces (e.g., trained staff, clear boundaries, risk assessments, accessible venues, reporting routes, supervision)

Respond below in no more than 1000 words:

Signposting Consent

The nature of your project will, from time to time, require referrals and partnership working. Please sign here to give permission to share your given details with relevant third parties, only in connection with your project/group activities.

Signature

Date:

Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

Name of Organisation

Location of Activities

The above-named organisation is set up to develop and promote voluntary/community/faith sector activities. We recognise that, in our society, both groups and individuals have been, and continue to be, discriminated against. Therefore, we aim to secure genuine equality of opportunity in ALL aspects of its activities. The following statement aims to ensure that no group or individual receives less favourable treatment or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements that cannot be shown to be justifiable.

The above-named organisation opposes discrimination on the grounds of age, race, gender, status, sexual orientation, religion, disability, marital status, income or circumstances, language, HIV or other health related issues, and ALL forms of direct or indirect discrimination that restricts or hinders the promotion of equal opportunities. The organisation is committed to achieving equal opportunities in all aspects of its existence, by compliance with, and in the spirit and ethos of equal opportunities legislation.

Signature

Date

WYRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY COHESION

DECLARATION, please ensure **two non-related people authorised to sign on behalf of your group sign the application form.**

I confirm that the information contained in this form is accurate.

Name (in block capitals)		
Signature		
Position in group		
Date		

Application Checklist

Have you included the following with your application?	Yes	No
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A fully completed application form

Your group's rules or constitution or Charity or Social Enterprise registration.		
Your group's annual accounts/financial breakdown/forecast		
Your bank account has at least two unrelated signatories		
A copy of your group's Safeguarding policy		
All other relevant documents		

Please return your completed application form to:

Matt Winder

Community First Blackpool Wyre & Fylde

95 Abingdon Street, Blackpool, FY1 1PP

E-Mail:

matt@communityfirstbwf.org

Tel: 01253 301004