

In this issue, we share an update on the Earned Settlement Consultations. We also reflect on the tragic Tai Po Apartment Complex fire in Hong Kong and share details of a local memorial gathering to support the affected community. We look back on the success of our recent funding workshop and outline plans for the next one. Our Community Spotlight features Caritas Salford and their inspiring work. Plus, discover 15 funding opportunities. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year ahead!

Earned Settlement Consultation

Two weeks ago the [Home Secretary announced major reforms](#) to the immigration system and the pathway to settlement in the UK, including an increase to the qualifying residence period in the UK in order to apply for settlement, as well as new mandatory requirements around English language and contribution. While the Home Secretary's announcement that BN(O) visa holders will automatically receive a 5-year reduction to the qualifying residence period will be welcomed, we also understand that other proposed changes will be causing anxiety and uncertainty within the BN(O) community. These proposed changes are being consulted on by the Government, and we **strongly encourage BN(O) residents, VCSE groups and others to [respond to the consultation](#)**. The Welcome Hub continues to engage with Government to understand the potential impact on the BN(O) community of the proposed changes.

Tai Po Apartment Complex Fire

We have all watched with horror and deep sadness at the tragic events in Hong Kong last week, and the thoughts of the North West RSMP are with the Hong Kong community in the UK and with all those in Hong Kong who have been affected by this incident. We understand that community groups across the region have been organising spaces and events to bring the community together during this difficult time.

A community memorial and gathering will take place at Parsonage Gardens in Salford on Sunday 7th December 13:00-16:00 to remember the victims of the fires and to provide strength to the community during this time.

Community Spotlight: Caritas Salford

Caritas Salford's RSMP-funded project at the Lalley Centre uses its community allotment to bring Afghan, Hong Kong and Ukrainian communities together, fostering inclusion and cohesion through gardening, cultural sharing and social activities. The project offers open allotment sessions every Tuesday and Thursday, plus themed monthly activities like nature walks, crafts and food sharing. Everyone is welcome to join without pressure to attend every session. For full details on outdoor gardening, cultural walks and volunteering opportunities that help people integrate and build skills, click here: [Strengthening community cohesion with new allotment project | Caritas Salford](#)

✓ Funding Workshop: "Getting Started with Funding"



We're delighted to share that our recent Funding Workshop: "Getting Started with Funding",

commissioned by RSMP and delivered by Sector 3 Stockport, was successfully organised. A big thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to making this session so valuable!

MISSED THIS ONE? DON'T WORRY! We're planning to organise another workshop early next year. Expressions of Interest (EOI) will be sent out soon—so stay tuned!

This workshop was designed to support VCFSEs working with migrant communities in the North West, especially smaller or newly established groups working with Hongkong BN(O), Afghan and Ukrainian communities.

Funding Opportunities in the North West and Nationally

In the following section, we will share new **external** funding opportunities available across different regions in the Northwest and nationally that may be useful and worth considering. Please note that some of the funding opportunities from the newsletter I sent previously are still open. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Please Note – the funding below is external to the RSMP and is shared with you after researching funding across the region and nationally. The RSMP has no role in the drafting, commissioning or awarding of funding. Please ensure you read all eligibility criteria associated with each funding opportunity.

Manchester City Council International Women's Day 2026 Funding (Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support local groups in Manchester to run events celebrating women and girls aligned with the theme 'Give to Gain', promoting kindness, sharing and collaboration.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups, voluntary organisations, faith groups, social enterprises • must be based in Manchester and pay council tax or business rates to Manchester City Council • must have a group bank account or an organisation to receive funds • events must benefit at least 10 people, be inclusive and not be religious or political • safeguarding policy required if involving children or vulnerable adults.
Grant amount	Up to £500 per group
Location	Manchester
Deadline	5pm, 5 th January 2026
Contact	international.womens.day.info@manchester.gov.uk
Website	Apply for funding for International Women's Day 2026 International Women's Day 2026 Manchester City Council

Achieve Asset Fund (Salford and Trafford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support activities and engagement for people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, challenge stigma and help bridge towards normal living
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constituted VCSE organisation based in Salford or Trafford or strong delivery track record there • experience or strong interest in recovery • if delivering in Salford, must be a full member of Salford CVS • maximum turnover: £1.5m • organisational bank account with 2 unrelated signatories
Grant amount	Up to £7,500
Location	Salford and Trafford (priority areas: Eccles, Irlam, Partington)
Deadline	12pm on Friday 9 th January 2026
Contact	grants@salfordcvs.co.uk

Website	Achieve Asset Fund Salford CVS
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Older Adults Wellbeing Grants (Trafford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support Trafford-based VCFSE organisations in creating health and wellbeing for people aged 65+, focusing on the 5 Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Get Active, Take Notice, Learn, Give
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trafford-based VCFSE organisation • activities delivered from community spaces • must demonstrate impact on wellbeing for people aged 65+ • priority for projects that are collaborative (2+ organisations), targeting unpaid carers, LGBT+, ethnically minoritised groups or other at-risk groups and reducing social isolation, loneliness, alcohol and drug use
Grant amount	Up to £5,000
Location	Salford
Deadline	Sunday, 14 th December 2025
Contact	grants@traffordcollective.org.uk
Website	Older Adults Wellbeing: Grants for Trafford's VCFSE sector - Trafford Community Collective

One Oldham Fund – Let's End Hate Crime Grants 25-26 (Oldham)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support projects that contribute to the priorities of the GM Hate Crime Plan (2024–2028), including: improving education around hate crime, prevention and early intervention, bringing communities together, increasing communication and awareness, increasing confidence to report hate crime and improving support for victims.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects/events aligned with GM Hate Crime Plan priorities • activities ideally held during GM Hate Crime Awareness Week (Feb 2026)
Grant amount	Up to £1,000
Location	Oldham
Deadline	Thursday, 8 th January 2026
Contact	development@actiontogether.org.uk
Website	One Oldham Fund - Let's End Hate Crime Grants 25-26 Action Together

One Oldham Fund – Community Regeneration Partnership Capital Grants Programme (Oldham)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support capital expenditure on physical community spaces in Oldham that bring people together and improve residents' lives. Projects should align with Oldham Plan priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great place to live • Healthier, happier lives and support District Priorities

Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCFSE group locally rooted or active in Oldham • member of Action Together CIO (free registration), formally constituted, at least 3 unrelated board/committee members and bank account with 2 unrelated signatories • incorporated and registered with Companies House or Charities Commission • parish Councils in Oldham also eligible • projects must be community-led and benefit local community • <i>funding can be used for facilities, equipment or spaces that promote social cohesion</i>
Grant amount	Up to £75,000 and over £75,000
Location	Oldham
Deadline	Monday, 19 th January 2026
Contact	funding@actiontogether.org.uk
Website	One Oldham Fund Community Regeneration Partnership Capital Grants Programme Action Together

Bolton's Fund: Small Grants (Bolton)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support micro and small community groups and charities delivering activities that benefit Bolton residents. Projects must address one or more of Bolton's Fund priorities
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary groups, community groups, charities or other constituted not-for-profit organisations • based in Bolton or delivering activities in Bolton • annual income over £10,000 but under £1 million in the last full financial year.
Grant amount	Up to £5,000
Location	Bolton
Deadline	No fixed closing date; fund closes when all allocated funding is spent
Contact	info@boltoncvs.org.uk
Website	Bolton's Fund - Bolton CVS

Forever Manchester Awards (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support grassroots community groups in Greater Manchester to run activities that bring people together and strengthen communities
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally managed community groups based in any of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester • annual income less than £25,000 • must be small, community-based and locally controlled • activities must not promote political or religious beliefs, cover statutory services or fund past activities, major appeals or salaries.
Grant amount	Up to £1,000
Location	Greater Manchester

Deadline	Midday, Thursday 18 th December 2025
Contact	awards@forevermanchester.com
Website	Forever Manchester Awards - Forever Manchester

Greater Manchester Equality Alliance Micro Grants for Dispersed Communities (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support small, community-led activities that help people connect, create and improve wellbeing across Greater Manchester. Projects should explore “How do we Live Well together?”.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Geographically dispersed and intersectional communities – groups that often struggle to access locality-based funding
Grant amount	Up to £1,000
Location	Greater Manchester
Deadline	15 th December 2025
Contact	Ayisatu.emore@vsnw.org.uk
Website	Apply now: GM=EqAl Micro Grants for Dispersed Communities

PH Holt Foundation Action on Abuse Fund (Merseyside)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Provide grants to Merseyside-based charities supporting victims and survivors of domestic abuse, delivering long-term support (1–5 years)
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity based in Merseyside • specialist domestic abuse support organisation • primary purpose: supporting those affected by domestic abuse • registered with Charity Commission • at least one year of independently examined or audited accounts published on Charity Commission website
Grant amount	£1,000 – £10,000 (larger/recurrent grants considered in exceptional cases)
Location	Merseyside
Deadline	Rolling Programme (quarterly rounds: 1 st January, 1 st April, 1 st July, 1 st October)
Contact	Email Lifa Zvimbande: administrator@phholtfoundation.org.uk
Website	PH Holt Action on Abuse Fund

Mark McQueen Foundation (Merseyside)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support young men struggling with emotional and mental health issues, aiming to reduce male suicide rates in Merseyside
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects prioritising young men • rapid, immediate and early intervention for suicidal ideation • minimum 3 unrelated Trustees/Directors • must provide safeguarding policies and relevant governance documents

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot fund individuals, statutory responsibilities, private businesses, political/religious activities
Grant amount	Up to £3,000 (plus options for match funding)
Location	Merseyside
Deadline	Monday, 22 nd December 2025
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	Mark McQueen Foundation - CFM

Mark McQueen Foundation (Lancashire)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support young men struggling with emotional and mental health issues, aiming to reduce male suicide rates in Lancashire
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects prioritising young men rapid, immediate and early intervention for suicidal ideation minimum 3 unrelated Trustees/Directors must provide safeguarding policies and relevant governance documents cannot fund individuals, statutory responsibilities, private businesses, political/religious activities
Grant amount	Up to £3,000 (plus options for match funding or underwriting shortfalls)
Location	Lancashire
Deadline	Monday, 22 nd December 2025
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	Mark McQueen Foundation - CFL

SWEF Business Grants (Cheshire and Warrington)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support young entrepreneurs aged 18–30 in Cheshire and Warrington to start or grow a business
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aged 18–30 (all shareholders must also be 18–30) live in Cheshire or Warrington sole trader or limited company trading for less than 2 years and 6 months must have a business bank account evidence of significant steps taken to start the business
Grant amount	Up to £500 (Start-Up Grant) or £2,000 (Business Grant)
Location	Cheshire and Warrington
Deadline	Ongoing
Contact	grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk
Website	SWEF - Cheshire Community Foundation

Weston Charity Awards (North of England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Provide transformational support packages for charities to strengthen leadership, plan for sustainable growth and build long-term resilience
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered charity (charity number required) income under £5 million per year

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least two years of service delivery • at least one full-time paid leader • working in Community, Welfare, Youth or Environmental sectors
Grant amount	£6,500 in unrestricted funding + Pilotlight 360 support programme worth £16,000 (total package value over £22,000)
Location	North of England, Midlands and Wales
Deadline	9 th January 2026
Contact	enquiries@pilotlight.org.uk
Website	The Weston Charity Awards

Bernard Sunley Foundation (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support capital projects under the categories of Community, Education, Health and Social Welfare
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charities or CIOs registered in England and Wales • annual income under £10 million • projects costing between £10,000 and £5 million
Grant amount	Small: £5,000 and under Medium: Up to £20,000 Large: £25,000 and above
Location	England
Deadline	Applications accepted all year round
Contact	office@bernardsunley.org
Website	Grants - Bernard Sunley Foundation

WCIT – IT4Good Grant Programme (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support IT projects and activities that promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Inclusion • Tech for charities • Public understanding of technology
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered charities or formally constituted not-for-profit organisations (e.g., CICs) • must provide proof of charitable status, most recent audited annual accounts, current safeguarding policy, PSC Register (for CICs/companies limited by guarantee) • additional requirements for grants over £5,000 and £15,000 (external referees, annual report/minutes)
Grant amount	Up to £15,000 (larger grants considered in exceptional cases)
Location	The UK
Deadline	Friday 6 th February 2026
Contact	charity@wcit.org.uk
Website	Home - WCIT Charity