

Happy New Year! In this issue, we highlight the Hong Kong & Ukraine Pathways Celebration Event, marking achievements from our Employment Support Programme. We announce VCFSEs funded to deliver English Language Support for young people. With Lunar New Year approaching, share your events; we'd love to feature them! Plus, join our VCFSE Network meeting, submit your EOI for our upcoming funding workshop, explore open ESOL classes, see an update on the Home Office Earned Settlement consultations and check out the latest funding opportunities locally, regionally and nationally 😊

HK & Ukraine Pathways Celebration Event



Join us and celebrate the amazing achievements from the HK & Ukraine Pathways Employment Support Programme.

The dedicated employment support programme for Hong Kong BN(O) and Ukraine Scheme Visa Holders in the North West is coming to an end. We want to invite you to celebrate the amazing achievements and hard work of the Hongkongers and Ukrainians that have been on the programme, as well as the fantastic employment support providers that have aided them along the way. Please **join us on 26th February from 9:30am to 1pm in central Manchester** to hear about the outcomes, meet Hongkongers and Ukrainians that have been on the programme, hear from the organisations that supported them and from employers and businesses that are seeing the benefits to hiring Hongkongers and Ukrainians in their organisations. [Please register for tickets here](#)

👉 **Announcement: Funded VCFSE Organisations Delivering English Language Support for Young People**

We're delighted to announce that 12 VCFSE organisations have been awarded funding to deliver non-accredited English language support for young people aged 16 and over. These projects will benefit individuals from Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Holders, Homes for Ukraine (HfU) and Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) Visa Holders and Eligible Afghan Households under Communities for Afghans (CfA). This initiative aims to help young people from these communities improve their language skills and supporting integration and access to opportunities across the North West

Funded Organisations:

[Al Abbas Institute](#) | [Andalucia Learning Centre](#) | [Kind Communities](#) | [Maxtrax](#) | [Let's Talk Today CIC](#) | [All in One Learning CIC](#) | [Refugees Welcome](#) | [Cycle of Life](#) | [Wirral Change](#) | [Step to Empower CIC](#) | [NASSEA/Fair Futures](#) | [Warrington Hongkongers](#)

For more information on which communities they support and where they are delivering, please visit our website: [Funded VCFSE Organisations Delivering English Language Support for Young People - Northwestsmg](#)

🌸 **Lunar New Year Events** 🌸

As the Lunar New Year is approaching, we'd love to hear from you! If you or your group are planning any activities or events to celebrate, please get in touch. We'll be happy to feature them in our upcoming newsletter so others can join or learn more.

☑ **VCFSE Network** ☑

Join Our Bi-Monthly North West VCFSE Network Meeting

This is an **online Teams call** for organisations supporting Hong Kong, Ukraine & Afghan communities. It's a great opportunity to connect with other VCSEs working with these communities, share challenges, best practices and showcase your work. **If you'd like to join, just let us know and we'll send you a Teams invite!**

💡 Upcoming Funding Workshop – Expression of Interest Now Open

Following the positive feedback and success of our first workshop delivered by **Sector 3 Stockport** and commissioned by **RSMP**, we're excited to announce plans for another **online Funding Workshop** in **mid or late February 2026** (exact date to be confirmed). This **FREE**, interactive session is designed to help **VCFSE organisations working with migrant communities in the North West** improve their chances of successful funding bids. Priority will be given to smaller or newly established groups supporting **Hongkong BN(O), Afghan and Ukrainian communities**, especially those new to funding or applications.

If you or someone in your network would like to attend, please complete the **Expression of Interest (EOI) form** here: [Expression of Interest: 2nd Funding Workshop – Getting Started with Funding – Fill in form](#)

Places are limited, so early submission is encouraged! The workshop will cover:

- Key funding terms
- Where to find grants
- How to answer essential application questions
- Practical tips for success

Home Office 'Earned Settlement' Consultation Open

On the 20th November, the Home Office Published [A Fairer Pathway to Settlement: statement and accompanying consultation on earned settlement \(accessible\) – GOV.UK](#)

The Home Office is seeking views to help shape proposed reforms to the UK's immigration settlement policy. The consultation is open to anyone who wishes to share their views, including individuals, organisations and other stakeholders who may be affected by or have an interest in the proposed changes. **The consultation closes 11:59pm on 12th February 2026 and can be completed online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/earned-settlement>**

External organisations, including the VCFSE community, have shared their views of the proposed government changes, and examples of these can be found on websites including [Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit](#) and [Free Movement: immigration law news, analysis and training](#).

In our VCSE network meeting tomorrow at 1pm, we'll be discussing this topic in detail. You can join us using this link: [NW Resettled Communities VCFSE Network Meeting | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Migrant Support ESOL Classes

Migrant Support is offering ESOL classes for:

- Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Holders
- Homes for Ukraine (HfU) and Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) Visa Holders
- Eligible Afghan Households under Communities for Afghans (CfA)

Classes will be available in **Manchester** and **Lancashire**.

For more details and to register, please refer to the two posters below

ESOL CLASSES IN MANCHESTER 🗺️

RSMP NORTH WEST REGIONAL STRATEGIC MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP
MIGRANT SUPPORT
SETTLE WELL THROUGH EDUCATION PROJECT
ENGLISH CLASSES
MANCHESTER
BRITISH CULTURE & COOKING
METHODIST CENTRAL BUILDING
OLDHAM STREET M1 1JQ
FROM 23RD JANUARY 2026 - MARCH 2026
FRIDAYS 10:30 - 1:30 PM
PLEASE REGISTER HERE OR CONTACT US: INFO@MIGRANTSUPPORT.ORG.UK
ESOL E1+

The poster features a light blue background with various educational icons like paper clips, a pencil, and a notebook. It includes a QR code and a small photo of people in a kitchen setting.

ESOL CLASSES IN LANCASHIRE 🗺️

RSMP NORTH WEST REGIONAL STRATEGIC MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP
MIGRANT SUPPORT
SETTLE WELL THROUGH EDUCATION PROJECT
ENGLISH CLASSES
BLACKPOOL & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
BLACKPOOL NEW CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH; 18 ADELAIDE ST. FY1 4SR
FROM 24TH JANUARY 2026 - MARCH 2026
SATURDAYS 10:30 - 1:30 PM
PRESTON
PRESTON METHODIST CHURCH
LUNE STREET PR1 2NL
FROM 20TH JANUARY 2026 - MARCH 2026
TUESDAYS 10:00 - 1:00 PM
PLEASE REGISTER HERE OR CONTACT US: INFO@MIGRANTSUPPORT.ORG.UK
ESOL E1+

The poster features a light blue background with various educational icons like paper clips, a pencil, and a notebook. It includes a QR code and a small photo of people outdoors in a field.

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 Work Club Grant Funding Programme 2026–2028 (Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Help Manchester residents move into employment through collaboration, inclusivity, holistic support and community impact. Delivery should improve skills, confidence and employability while addressing practical and wellbeing needs.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Applicants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be VCSE organisations, not-for-profit entities or social enterprises • be based in the City of Manchester • currently deliver employability support to Manchester residents • have strong local connections and networks • demonstrate partnership working • provide inclusive, trauma-informed, person-centred support and integrate/signpost to essential services
Grant amount	Up to £10,000 per year (for two years)
Location	Manchester
Deadline	4 th February 2026 (application window: 15 January – 4 February 2026)
Contact	work.skills.admin@manchester.gov.uk
Website	Work Club Grant Funding Programme 2026–2028 Manchester Community Central

Salford Creative Fund (Salford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support Salford-based freelance creatives, artists, musicians and performers with small, one-off grants for professional development (CPD).
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Applicants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a Salford postcode (home or business) • be freelance or sole traders (not organisations) • not have received a Salford Creatives Fund grant in 2025

Grant amount	£250 – £500
Location	Salford
Deadline	6 th February 2026 (12pm)
Contact	grants@salfordcvcs.co.uk
Website	Salford Creatives Fund Salford CVS

Family Hubs Fund (Salford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support VCSE organisations in Salford to pilot and deliver Family Hub activities for families with under 5s (or up to 25 with SEND).
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Applicants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a constituted VCSE organisation • if delivering or based in Salford, be a full member of Salford CVS • have income under £2.5m in the last financial year • have an organisational bank account with two unrelated signatories • be up to date with grant reporting to Salford CVS
Grant amount	Micro Grants: £500 – £1,000 (pilot activities) Investment Grants: £2,000 – £5,000 (delivery until Dec 2026)
Location	Salford
Deadline	Rolling basis (applications accepted until funds are allocated)
Contact	grants@salfordcvcs.co.uk (Micro Grants) kiah.hamilton-adams@salfordcvcs.co.uk (Investment Grants)
Website	Family Hubs Fund Salford CVS

Impact Fund: Tackling Health Inequalities (Wider Determinants of Health) (Salford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support VCSE-led projects tackling health inequalities by addressing wider determinants of health (e.g., poverty, housing, education, climate, transport, digital connectivity)
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Applicants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a constituted VCSE organisation • be a full member of Salford CVS • be based in Salford or have a strong delivery track record in Salford • have turnover between £100,000 and £5m • have an organisational bank account with two unrelated signatories • be up to date with grant reporting to Salford CVS.
Grant amount	Up to £30,000 for 12-month projects
Location	Salford, Greater Manchester
Deadline	13 th February 2026 (12pm midday)
Contact	grants@salfordcvcs.co.uk
Website	Impact Fund: Tackling Health Inequalities (Wider Determinants of Health) Salford CVS

Football For Change (Merseyside & Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Invest in young people facing social and economic barriers, supporting social mobility projects in education, employment and sport. Projects do not need to be football-related
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charitable organisations based in Merseyside or Greater Manchester • projects that remove barriers and inspire disadvantaged young people • focus on those not in employment, education, or training and BAME communities • minimum of three unrelated Trustees/Directors • must have safeguarding policies and relevant governance documents
Grant amount	Up to £10,000 per project
Location	Merseyside & Greater Manchester
Deadline	Friday, 30 th January 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	Football For Change - CFM

Our Voice, Our Community! - A Westminster Foundation Youth Panel Grants Programme (Chester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support activities that give young people positive things to do, help them feel safe, build skills and prevent or reduce anti-social behaviour in their communities.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations working with young people in Chester or Ellesmere Port • must meet Cheshire Community Foundation's Minimum Standards for Grantmaking • experience working with young people • able to manage grant funding responsibly • partnership applications allowed (with a lead organisation) • projects shaped by young people's voices and needs • activities for ages 14–18 (or up to 25 for those with additional needs)
Grant amount	Up to £10,000 per project
Location	Chester
Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of Interest (EOI): Wednesday, 28th January 2026 (11:59pm) • Full Application: Sunday, 1st March 2026
Contact	Email: grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk
Website	Our Voice, Our Community! - Cheshire Community Foundation

Arts Council – Theatre Breakthrough Fund (North) (North England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support Black, Asian and ethnically diverse theatre makers in the North of England to create ambitious new work and provide audiences with ground-breaking, high-quality theatre
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black, Asian or ethnically diverse-led organisations, individuals or consortia • must have at least 3 years’ track record in professional theatre making with creative ambition, risk-taking and innovation • projects must be created in the North but can tour regionally, nationally and internationally • public performances must start between 1 October 2026 and 31 March 2028
Grant amount	Minimum £100,000; no upper limit. Total fund approx. £2,000,000
Location	North of England (projects created in the North)
Deadline	- Stage 1: 27 th January 2026 (12pm) - Stage 2: 23 rd June 2026 (12pm)
Contact	https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/contact
Website	Theatre Breakthrough Fund (North) Arts Council England

The National Lottery Solidarity Fund (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support organisations in England tackling the root causes of inequality (poverty, disadvantage, discrimination) through long-term, systemic change led by people with lived experience
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<p>Applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a constituted voluntary/community organisation, registered charity, CIO, not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, CIC, community benefit society or co-operative society • have at least 2 unrelated board/committee members (or directors for companies) • demonstrate work led by lived experience and focused on systems change • be able to manage large, long-term funding. Partnerships allowed if previously collaborated on similar projects
Grant amount	£1,000,000 – £5,000,000
Location	England
Deadline	Open (applications assessed; decision in approx. 35 weeks)
Contact	general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk
Website	The Solidarity Fund The National Lottery Community Fund

Another Way Women's Foundation (AWWF) (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support sustainable, cooperative, community-led initiatives addressing the root causes of gender inequality (system change), particularly in under-represented communities and under-funded areas.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Applications must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • align with AWWF's charitable purpose (relief of need, education, empowerment, advancement of women) • be not-for-profit and not for self-benefit • have a positive, measurable and sustainable impact on women and/or the community • be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Based)
Grant amount	£1,000 (seed funding) or £5,000 (larger projects)
Location	The UK
Deadline	31 st January 2026
Contact	hello@anotherwaywf.org
Website	anotherwaywf.org

A B Charitable Trust – Migrants and Refugees Priority (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Create a fair immigration system where migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed, treated with dignity and supported to maximise their potential. Funding supports work that addresses systemic challenges and promotes rights, dignity and agency.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK registered charity delivering work in the UK • mission aligned with one of A B Trust's four priority areas (must be main focus) • annual income between £150k and £1.5m • operated for at least one year with audited/independently examined accounts • must provide governing document, safeguarding policy, and financial information
Grant amount	£10,000 – £30,000 (most grants fall within this range)
Location	The UK
Deadline	Next deadline: 30 th January 2026
Contact	Email: mail@abcharitabletrust.org.uk
Website	The A B Charitable Trust, an independent grant-making organisation