

In this issue, we share updates on the Home Office's statement to SMPs regarding ILR consultations and BN(O) visa implications. We spotlight the Hong Kong & Ukrainian Pathways Autumn Jobs Fair and announce recipients of our VCFSE Community Integration & ESOL Grants. Also featured: Bonham Tree Aid and Cantonese Reading Playground activities, plus our "Getting Started with Funding" workshop. We're excited to extend our bespoke Pathways employment support programme to Ukraine Scheme visa holders. The Young People's English Language Support Grant is now open! Finally, explore the Home Affairs Committee's new ILR inquiry and 15 funding opportunities across local, regional & national levels.

Home Office Statement to SMPs on ILR Consultations and BN(O) Visa Implications

The Home Office has reiterated to the North West RSMP that a consultation on "earned settlement", including the extension of the qualifying residency period in the UK to obtain ILR to 10-years as well as which visa and migration routes it will impact, will take place later this year.

Contrary to recent reports in the media and those being shared within the Hong Kong community that the UK Government has exempted people on the BN(O) route from these changes, no decision has yet been made on which routes the changes will apply to. The Home Office has confirmed that **the BN(O) visa route will be part of the consultation planned for later in the year.**

The Home Office confirmed that the Government's position, [as set out in Parliament on 8th September](#), has not changed despite recent media reports.

As soon as the consultation is open for responses, we will ensure that this is shared as widely as possible and strongly encourage BN(O) visa holders to respond to the consultation on the potential impacts to them and their families from the proposed changes.

Please [click the link](#) for a statement from the Home Office to the North West RSMP, and Strategic Migration Partnerships across the UK.

Hong Kong & Ukrainian Pathways Autumn Jobs Fair!

Date and time

Fri, 21 Nov 2025 13:00 - 15:00.

Location:

The Gateway

89 Sankey Street Cheshire WA1 1SR

Join us at The Gateway for an exciting in person event where you can explore various job opportunities. Whether you are looking for work or just curious about different career paths, this fair is the perfect place to connect with potential employers and learn about different industries.

Also the opportunity to register for expert employment guidance on the HK / Ukrainian Pathways Programme and information on ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) training programmes.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to network and gain insights! Book your free ticket now! [Click on the link to register](#)

Announcement: VCFSE Community Integration & ESOL Grants

The North West RSMP is thrilled to announce 25 VCFSE organisations who have been funded to support Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Holders, Ukraine Scheme Visa Holders, and Eligible Afghan Households right across North West England with integration, English Language and more.

Please [click the link](#) for a list of the organisations funded, where they are delivering, who they are supporting and what their project is.

Several Activities Organised by Bonham Tree Aid:

Echoed Futures: Colours of Speech Telling Strokes (After-School Art Club)

Let your kids explore colours, stories and creativity!

A fun free of charge art club for ages 6-12, using mixed media to express feelings and imagination

Dates: 19th & 26th Nov and 3rd & 10th Dec | **Days:** Wednesdays | **Time:** 4:30-5:30pm | Priority for Ukrainians & Hongkongers

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/Mo3jwycx8Jvbuc119>

Echoed Futures: Cups & Voices

Looking for a chill space to practice English while meeting new friends?

Join our free of charge relaxing group English conversation sessions at Harbour Bonham & The Waiting Room Cafe!

Dates: 12th & 26th Nov | **Days:** Wednesdays | **Time:** 2-3pm (Cafe open till 7pm, feel free to stay!) | Open to all adults

(Priority for Ukrainians & Hongkongers)

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/xm27zvHcKN7xB6jFA>

Echoed Futures: Bridged Words

Starting 15th October, join our 1-to-1 English chat sessions in Altrincham — free and friendly conversations with native speakers! Ideal for those preparing for the B1 English Test or wanting to improve fluency and confidence.

Dates: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th Nov | **Days:** Wednesdays | **Time:** 3-7pm

• Each session: around 20 mins

(HK & Ukrainian communities welcome, age 55+ priority)

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/DBqPA457Zno1Uzup6>

Echoed Futures: SCREEN ECHOES

Join our English film screening and guided discussion!

Improve your listening, conversation and critical thinking skills through movies and cultural sharing.

Register now to get a free hot snack! (Walk-ins welcome)

Date: 23rd Nov | **Days:** Sunday | **Time:** Section A 10:00am-11:15am; Section B 11:30am-12:45pm (Priority for Hong Kong & Ukrainian participants)

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/5cVgAkizt1jhg8Kw5>

Location: All activities are taking place in Harbour Bonham, A4 Studios, 30 Grosvenor Rd, Altrincham WA14 1LE

Funding Workshop: “Getting Started with Funding”

We would like to let you know about an upcoming Funding Workshop, “Getting Started with Funding” commissioned by RSMP and delivered by Sector 3 Stockport. It’s taking place on **Tuesday 25th November 2025 from 10am to 1pm** on Microsoft Teams.

This free, three-hour interactive session is designed to support **VCFSE organisations working with migrant communities in the North West**. Priority will be given to **smaller or newly established organisations** working with **Hongkong BN(O), Afghan and Ukrainian communities**, especially those that are fairly 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: Funding Workshop – Getting Started with Funding – Fill in form](#)

While EOIs are open to everyone, places are limited, so early submission is encouraged. **EOIs will close at 11:59pm on Tuesday 11th November**. If you’re unable to secure a place this time, don’t worry there will be another workshop in the new year. Invites will be sent out later.

Here’s a bit more about the workshop:

This three-hour interactive workshop aims to help you find funding and improve your chances of successful funding bids. We’ll cover the entire process, from what you need before you apply to how evaluators score applications. You’ll learn:

- Key funding terms
- A better understanding of what you need to have/do before applying for grants
- Where to find grants
- Knowledge on how to answer key questions for every funding application
- Top tips to put into practice
- What else you need to consider after you've applied

This workshop will be a mixture of presentation, interactive activities, and group discussion. Our workshop is suitable for any VCFSE group, whether you are brand new to funding and bid writing, or if you have experience but want to learn more!

The North West RSMP is thrilled to announce the extension of our bespoke employment support programme for Hong Kong BN(O) Visa holders – Pathways employment support programme, and the expansion of the programme to support Ukraine Scheme Visa Holders.

Please note sign-ups to the programme will end on 30th November

Phase 3 of the Pathways employment support programme will help Ukrainians and BN(O) visa holders in Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Liverpool City Region, and will be delivering support until 31st January 2026. We are excited to continue working with two great providers who have been supporting migrant communities with employment from the very beginning:

- Torus Foundation – delivering in Cheshire and Liverpool City Region
- Breaking Barriers – delivering in Greater Manchester.

Both providers are delivering a dedicated, person-centred programme that will support BN(O) visa holders and Ukrainians throughout the entire process of training, searching, and securing employment, including:

- One-to-one information, advice and guidance.
- CV & Cover Letter support.
- Job searching and application support.
- Interview skills and confidence building
- Referrals for training and language support.
- Partnerships with local Hong Kong groups.
- Bespoke partnerships with employers across a range of sectors.
- In work support once employment has been secured.

For a referral to either programme please head to their website:

- [Torus Foundation Website – Home](#)
- [Breaking Barriers Website Contact](#)

Please click the link below

[Employment Support for Ukrainians & Hong Kong BN\(O\) Visa Holders - Northwestsmmp](#)

to see posters in English, Ukrainian and Traditional Chinese for each provider.

Now Open!

Young People's English Language Support Grant Funding



The North West Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP) are pleased to announce that grant applications are **now open** for English Language Support for Young People in the North West of England

The funding through this grant programme will be to deliver projects focused on non-accredited English language to young people, **aged over 16** that are:

- Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders
- Homes for Ukraine (HfU), and Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) visa holders
- Communities for Afghans household's

The amount available to apply for through this grant is £10,000, with funded activity to end no later than 31 March 2026.

Follow the link to download the guidance on eligibility and the conditions of this funding: [Young Peoples English Language Support Grants SPECIFICATION AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENT \(67kb\)](#)

Please ensure that you have read and understood the funding guidance **before completing the application**.

Applications close at **23:59 (11:59pm) Tuesday 11th November 2025**.

For further info, please visit:

[Now Open! Young People's English Language Support Grant Funding - Northwestsmmp](#)

NEW New Inquiry: Routes to Settlement

The Home Affairs Committee has launched a new inquiry to examine the Government's proposals to reform the eligibility criteria for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR).

The proposed changes include extending the standard period for qualifying for ILR from 5 to 10 years and introducing a points-based system for faster settlement based on work, volunteering, and contributions.

Other proposals include requiring higher English fluency and considering the impact on the economy, integration and migrant households.

Deadline for evidence submissions: 2 December 2025


For further info, please click the link: [New inquiry: Routes to Settlement - Committees - UK Parliament](#)

Cantonese Reading Carnival



A Fun-filled Family Day for BN(O) Children & Parents



Cantonese Reading Playground invites Hong Kong BN(O) families in Manchester to join our Cantonese Reading Carnival — a joyful celebration of stories, language and creativity for children aged 3–10.

 **Featured Show: The Invisible Wings**
A 45-minute interactive Cantonese puppet theatre about a touching father-and-son journey — from dreams of the sky to a warm reunion under the lighthouse. The show invites young audiences to join in through movement, imagination and emotion.

 After the show, enjoy a range of creative family activities:  Language game stalls – Learn Chinese through play |  Tang Poetry Singing – Sing and discover ancient poems |  Story Craft Workshop – Make simple crafts inspired by the story |  Book Swap – Exchange traditional Chinese picture books and let stories travel

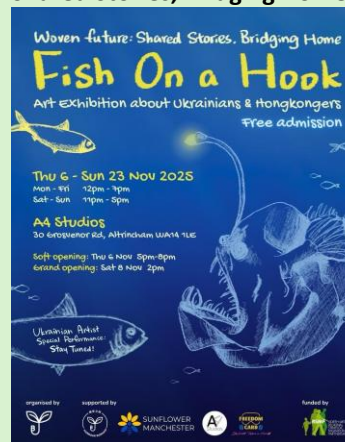
 **Date & Venue: Sunday, 16 November 2025 | Stretford Public Hall, Manchester** |  Time: Morning Session 10:45–13:45 | Afternoon Session 14:30–17:30 |  Limited Offer: £9 per ticket (Free for under 2s) |  Book now! (Please find the QR code)

This all-Cantonese event is designed to support BN(O) children's cultural confidence, wellbeing and bilingual identity through stories and play.

Supported by: Arts Council England | Organised by: **Cantonese Reading Playground CIC** | Co-organised by: Joyful Theatre & Trafford Hongkongers CIC

Fish On a Hook Art Exhibition

About Ukrainians & HongKongers Woven Future: Shared Stories, Bridging Home



Driven by the desire to escape war and get freedom, Ukrainians and HongKongers alike came to the UK. To find refuge, we sought shelter; to earn a living, we equipped ourselves; to put down roots, we sought common ground while respecting our differences. Yet, we all seemed to be at the mercy of fate, like fish destined to be entangled in a hook, unable to control our own destiny.

But we persevered, striving relentlessly for a stable future. Fate bound our two nations together, subtly weaving our own unique experiences along the way. We sincerely invite you to this art exhibition to experience the stories of HongKongers and Ukrainians embarking on new lives in the UK.

Exhibition Date: 6 - 23 Nov 2025 | **Time:** 12pm - 7pm (Mon - Fri) | 11am - 6pm (Sat - Sun) | **Venue:** A4 Studios, 30 Grosvenor Road, Altrincham, WA14 1LE | **Soft Opening:** 6 Nov 2025 5pm - 8pm | **Grand Opening:** 8 Nov 2025 2pm | Organised by **Bonham Tree Aid** and funded by RSMP

Bamboo Ceiling

Lessons for integration based on the East Asian Experience hosted by Eileen Wada Willet and RSMP.



Online event
Wednesday, 19th November 2025, 11am - 12:15pm

Eileen, a Japanese Canadian founder of East Asian Girl Gang, trained in fashion in Paris and San Francisco before working at Billboard Tokyo and Nicole Farhi London. She co-founded multi-award-winning Cucumber Clothing in 2017.

During the pandemic, she formed East Asian Girl Gang as a supportive sisterhood increasing community visibility. Shortlisted for 2020 Asian Woman of Achievement Awards, she is an REM #ChangeMaker, a regular speaker on ESEA topics and serves as trustee/director for multiple charities.

This webinar is about employment in the East Asian gaze. Eileen will be exploring internal and external barriers such as culture and employer's perceptions. It is open to all genders and migrants from a forced migrant background.

Please click the link below to register and access the webinar: [Bamboo Ceiling: Lessons for integration based on the East Asian Experience Tickets, Wed, Nov 19, 2025 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

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.

Hate Crime Awareness Fund 2025–26 (Salford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Increase understanding of hate crime, encourage reporting through Hate Crime Reporting Centres/Ambassadors and promote support services for victims
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to organisations delivering community activities that promote cohesion, kindness, tolerance and awareness of hate crime during Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week or throughout February
Grant amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to £500 for activities during Hate Crime Awareness Week (2–6 February 2026) • up to £750 for activities throughout February 2026
Location	Salford
Deadline	12pm on Monday 24 th November 2025
Contact	grants@salfordcvs.co.uk
Website	Hate Crime Awareness Fund 2025-26 Salford CVS

Women and Girls' Empowerment Fund (Salford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community-led projects that empower women and girls of all ages in Salford, focusing on poverty, safety and voice/participation
Specific Eligibility Criteria	VCSE sector groups and organisations based in Salford, delivering projects that address one or more of the following priority areas: Women and poverty, Women's safety and Women's voice and participation
Grant amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small grants: up to £1,000 • medium grants: up to £5,000
Location	Salford
Deadline	12pm on Monday 17 th November 2025
Contact	grants@salfordcvs.co.uk honor.johnstone@salfordcvs.co.uk
Website	Women and Girls Empowerment Fund Salford CVS

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 aligned with Oldham Plan priorities.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCFSE groups locally rooted or active in Oldham • must be Action Together CIO members, formally constituted, have a board of at least 3 unrelated members, a bank account with two unrelated signatories • must be registered with Companies House or the Charities Commission
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

Rochdale Communities Fund – Micro Grants (Rochdale)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support individuals, families and communities in Rochdale Borough through projects that challenge poverty, promote equality and improve health and wellbeing
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be a voluntary, community, faith or social enterprise (VCFSE) group • locally rooted or actively working in Rochdale Borough • annual turnover under £25,000
Grant amount	Up to £1,000
Location	Rochdale
Deadline	Rolling programme
Contact	laura.augustine@actiontogether.org.uk
Website	Rochdale Communities Fund – Micro Grants for up to £1,000 Action Together

The Manchester Guardian Society Charitable Trust (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support small charitable organisations in Greater Manchester delivering community-based projects, especially those benefiting young people, the sick or disabled, the elderly and disadvantaged groups
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered charities or community organisations operating in Greater Manchester, established for at least three years. • only one application per organisation every two years
Grant amount	Typically up to £3,500; larger grants may be awarded in exceptional cases.
Location	Greater Manchester
Deadline	Rolling Programme
Contact	grants@manchesterguardiansociety.org.uk

Website	Application & Guidelines — Manchester Guardian Society
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Together Energy Fund (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community centres and hubs across Greater Manchester in coping with rising energy costs
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community centre or hub run by and for charities or VCSE organisations • located in one of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester. • must host a range of community activities and be used by multiple local groups • centres run by statutory bodies or housing associations are not eligible
Grant amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to £2,500
Location	Greater Manchester (any of the ten boroughs)
Deadline	Thursday 13 th November 2025 at 12pm closing soon!
Contact	awards@forevermanchester.com
Website	https://forevermanchester.com/fund/together-energy-fund/

Energy Grant for Third Sector Organisations (Liverpool)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support small to medium third-sector organisations in Liverpool with increased energy costs during the winter months
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a small/medium third sector non-profit organisation with income under £1m, based in Liverpool, operating a community hub. • must have energy bills in the organisation's name and increased by 50%+ since 2021 • must have a governing document and active business bank account.
Grant amount	One-off grant of £500
Location	Liverpool
Deadline	Tuesday 31 st March 2026 or until the fund is spent
Contact	smallgrants@liverpool.gov.uk
Website	Energy grant for third sector organisations - Liverpool City Council

High Sheriff and Merseyside Police Charitable Fund (Merseyside)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community safety, crime prevention and security initiatives in Merseyside through voluntary bodies and community groups
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups must be constituted for at least 12 months • minimum of three unrelated Trustees/Directors/Committee members • must hold relevant policies (e.g. safeguarding, health & safety). • cannot fund certain items (e.g. vehicles, CCTV, statutory responsibilities, commercial ventures)
Grant amount	Up to £2,500

Location	Merseyside
Deadline	Monday 10 th November 2025 Closing Soon!
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	High Sheriff and Merseyside Police Charitable Fund - CFM

Lancashire Environmental Fund (Lancashire)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community and environmental projects in Lancashire, including improvements to facilities, habitats, parks, open spaces, biodiversity and recreational areas.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and environmental groups based in Lancashire (excluding Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen) • projects must not include management fees unless previously agreed
Grant amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Grants: up to £3,000 for standalone projects with no other funding sources • Main Grants: up to £30,000 (max 75% of capital project costs).
Location	Lancashire (excluding Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen)
Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Grants: Applications close 31st December 2025 • Main Grants Round 109: EOI deadline – 5pm, 2nd December 2025; Application deadline – 5pm, 19th February 2026
Contact	general@lancsenfund.org.uk
Website	Apply - Lancashire Environmental Fund

Common Ground Award by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support VCSE organisations in building social cohesion and bridging social capital through investment in facilities, equipment or spaces
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCSE organisations operating in England with charitable, benevolent or philanthropic aims • CICs are eligible • Funding can be used for facilities, equipment or spaces that promote social cohesion
Grant amount	Up to £10,000 per organisation (exceptional cases may receive more)
Location	England
Deadline	21 st November 2025
Contact	CGA@communities.gov.uk
Website	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-ground-award-prospectus/common-ground-award-prospectus

National Lottery Community Fund Health Inequities Partners (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Fund and collaborate with organisations tackling health inequities in England caused by structural racism and discrimination, through community-led initiatives and shared learning
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK-based organisations working with racialised communities (Black, Gypsy/Roma/Traveller, Jewish, Middle Eastern/East Asian, South Asian) • must be led by people from these communities (at least 3 out of 4 staff/trustees) • must have experience in tackling structural racism, involving lived experience and addressing health inequities. • Must be a constituted non-profit or statutory body with at least 2 unrelated board members • CIC are eligible
Grant amount	£250,000 to £5,000,000
Location	England
Deadline	26 th November 2025
Contact	HealthInequities.EnglandPartnership@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk
Website	Health Inequities: Structural Racism and Discrimination Partnership The National Lottery Community Fund

Schroder Charity Trust (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	<p>Supports charitable activities under two objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enabling children and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive in education and employment 2. Strengthening communities through services and opportunities that enhance wellbeing and life outcomes of vulnerable and disadvantaged people
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK registered charities only (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) • annual income between £150,000 and £1,000,000 • must provide a full year of audited accounts • cannot have received a grant from Schroder Charity Trust in the past 24 months. • cannot have applied unsuccessfully in the past 12 months • must align with one of the stated objectives and priorities
Grant amount	Up to £5,000 (for core or project/restricted costs)
Location	The UK
Deadline	30 th November 2025
Contact	info@schrodercharitytrust.org
Website	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - Schroder Charity Trust

Matthew Good Foundation – Grants for Good (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Provide unrestricted funding to small UK-based charities, voluntary groups or social enterprises making a significant impact on communities, people or the environment.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK-based local community group, charity voluntary group or social enterprise • annual income under £50,000; bank account in organisation's name • CIC are eligible
Grant amount	Quarterly awards: 1 st place £5,000; 2 nd place £3,500; 3 rd place £2,500; 4 th and 5 th place £2,000
Location	The UK
Deadline	15 th December 2025
Contact	info@matthewgoodfoundation.org
Website	Grants for Good - Small Charity Funding up to £5,000

The Fore – Unrestricted Funding (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Provide transformational support to small charities and social enterprises, helping them grow, become more sustainable, efficient or structurally sound.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK registered charities, CIOs, CICs (limited by guarantee) • annual revenue under £500,000 • organisations working with underserved communities • applicants from any sector or location in the UK • not eligible: CICs limited by shares
Grant amount	£30,000 to £45,000 over one to three years
Location	The UK
Deadline	Registration open: 12pm on Wednesday 26 th November to 12pm on Wednesday 3 rd December 2025 Application deadline (for confirmed applicants): 5pm, Monday 12 th January 2026
Contact	info@thefore.org
Website	https://thefore.org

W.G. Edwards Charitable Foundation (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support UK charities that promote the physical and mental wellbeing of people aged over 65, through capital and innovative community projects
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK registered charities • 90% of beneficiaries must be aged 65+ • projects must be established for at least one year • capital or innovative projects only (e.g. refurbishment, equipment, exercise classes) • not eligible: CICs
Grant amount	Typically between £1,000 and £1,500
Location	The UK

Deadline	Application window: 8–12 December 2025 For consideration at the January 2026 Trustees' meeting
Contact	wgedwardscharity@icloud.com
Website	https://wgedwardscharitablefoundation.org.uk