

We're pleased to share that our 2025 VCFSE Small Grants & Sub-regional programme have now concluded. However, we've recently launched 2 new grant schemes and we'll be announcing the successful applicants soon. We're featuring the Funding Fair hosted by LDCVS, alongside two exciting events organised by esea contemporary. You'll also find details of an Info Session on Immigration Advice Accreditation (IAA) — ideal for anyone considering a start in this field. We've included resources for BNO students and families, developed by Hong Kong Well, to support their transition into UK schools. And finally, don't miss our round-up of 15 funding opportunities available across local, regional and national levels.

### End of the 2025 VCFSE Small Grants & Sub-Regional Community Network Grants

The 2025 North West Hong Kong BN(O) VCSE Small Grants have now closed. 11 organisations from across the region were funded to support BN(O) visa holders in settling, integrating, exploring and thriving in the North West. Each group has done an exceptional job and we're proud to share that the projects have been completed.

Our **Sub-Regional Community Network Grant** has also come to an end. We awarded **four grants** to organisations covering each of the main sub-regions in the North West: **Greater Manchester** – Hong Kong Cultural Community (a consortium of 5 organisations), **Cheshire** – CHAWREC, **Liverpool City Region** – Wirral Change, **Lancashire/Cumbria**– Migrant Support & Lancashire Hongkongers CIC. These groups have been delivering direct support to BN(O) visa holders and also leading on engagement with local services to make sure support is joined up and accessible.

A big thank you to all funded groups for their brilliant work.

### Community Integration & ESOL Grants

We're sharing an update on our two recent funding opportunities aimed at supporting **Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders**, **Homes for Ukraine (HfU)** and **Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) visa holders** and **Communities for Afghans households**. These grants focused on community integration and non-accredited English language support across the North West of England. **Applications have now closed** and we will be announcing the successful organisations soon. Once confirmed, we'll share their details so you can connect, collaborate, refer or build networks with those delivering the projects.

### Lancaster District CVS Funding Fair 2025 – Morning Appointments & Afternoon Marketplace

📍 **Location:** The Trimpell Sports and Social Club, Out Moss Lane, Lancaster and Morecambe, LA4 4UP

📅 **Date:** Tuesday 23 September 2025

#### 🟡 **Morning Session: Appointments with Funders**

**Time:** 9:30am – 1:45pm

**Booking:** [Morning Session Booking Page Link](#)

Meet up to **five funders** in pre-booked one-to-one appointments. This is your chance to pitch your ideas directly to grant and trust fund representatives, ask questions about their funding priorities and get tailored advice to strengthen your applications [**places are limited**].

#### 🟡 **Afternoon Session: Open Marketplace**

**Time:** 1:15pm - 3:30pm

**Booking:** [Afternoon Session Booking Page Link](#)

Drop in and speak to funders **without appointments** in a flexible, open marketplace format. Ideal for exploring a wide range of funding opportunities, networking with multiple funders at your own pace. You can also book for two short workshops to learn how to raise funds online and use a funding search tool.

**Lancaster District CVS staff** will be on hand for general funding and organisational advice **Explore all 18 attending funders** in the event brochure via the this [link](#)

## ESEA Heritage Month Special: 'With love' – Artist Talk and Screening



**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2 - 4pm**


On the occasion of the national East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) Heritage Month, esea contemporary is pleased to present a special afternoon with artist Yan Wang Preston, centring on her new book *With Love. From an Invader. — Rhododendrons, Empire, China and Me.* Through spoken words, film, and participatory reflection, the event offers an intimate exploration of migrant identity, memory, and love across distance and discipline. The programme opens with an artist talk, sharing personal experiences of working as a multicultural artist from a migrant background, followed by a reading from her latest publication.


Reserve your spot [via the Eventbrite link](#).

## Join IAA & Refugee Action – Ask Us Anything!

Whether you're just starting out or further along your IAA journey, join us for a **friendly and informative session** to get your questions answered.

### IAA Ask Us Anything

 **Date:** Wednesday 18 September 2025

 **Time:** 10:00–11:00 AM

 **Online Event** [\[link\]](#)

### What is IAA?

The **Immigration Advice Accreditation (IAA)** – previously known as **OISC (Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner)** – is the framework that regulates and accredits immigration advisers in the UK.

This session will cover **getting started with IAA registration and raising levels and tackling more complex questions**

The event is split into two parts, so feel free to join the sections most relevant to you.

[Click the link to the event](#)

## esea ArtClub: Congee Pick n Mix




**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 11am - 1pm**

esea contemporary is pleased to present *Congee Pick n Mix*, in collaboration with Little Yellow Rice Co. — a communal, story-rich event celebrating the shared yet diverse traditions of congee across East and Southeast Asia. This event forms part of esea ArtClub created for East and Southeast Asian residents of Manchester aged over fifty.

Participants will make their own congee using chicken broth or vegan bases, explore a DIY garnish station with ESEA condiments and herbs and share personal stories about family traditions and the cultural meaning of congee—contributions will form part of an illustrated 'regional congee map' celebrating care, memory and community across East and Southeast Asia. Reserve your **FREE** spot [via the eventbrite link](#).

## Useful Resource: "Adapting to UK Schools" Video Pack by Hong Kong Well UK

Navigating the UK school system can be challenging, especially for newcomers. That's why the **Hong Kong Well UK Video Pack** titled "**Adapting to UK Schools**" is such a valuable resource. It's designed to support students and families with practical advice and emotional guidance.

 **Topics Covered Include:** School Bullying, SEN (Special Educational Needs) School Support, English Learning Support, How to Communicate with School, UK School Life: Dos & Don'ts and Chat with Teenagers among other.

[Click on the link here](#) or scan the QR code in the picture to explore the full set of videos and resources. Please feel free to **circulate this resource within your network**.

### Hong Kong Well UK Video Pack

## Adapting to UK Schools

School Bullying  
SEN School Support  
English Learning Support  
How to Communicate with School?  
UK School Life: Dos & Don'ts  
Chat with Teenagers  
Application for Local Emotional Support Services  
No Worries in UK Secondary School Life



## 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.**

<b>Stronger Communities Fund (Manchester)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support community-led projects in Manchester that strengthen local communities through early years support, tackling loneliness, improving open spaces and offering positive youth activities
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	Organisations working with communities <b>within the City of Manchester</b> only; projects must align with at least one of the fund's core themes
<b>Grant amount</b>	£4,000
<b>Location</b>	Manchester
<b>Deadline</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk">welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND   We Love MCR Charity</a>

<b>Wellbeing Matters Community Asset Fund (Salford)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Build the capacity of VCSE organisations in Salford to support health and wellbeing through social prescribing referrals from the Wellbeing Matters programme
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	VCSE organisations that are full members of Salford CVS, based in Salford or have a strong delivery track record in Salford and have a turnover under £2m
<b>Grant amount</b>	Between £2,500 and £10,000
<b>Location</b>	Salford
<b>Deadline</b>	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 12pm
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:emma.eastwood@salfordcvs.co.uk">emma.eastwood@salfordcvs.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:nosheela.rashid@salfordcvs.co.uk">nosheela.rashid@salfordcvs.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:grants@salfordcvs.co.uk">grants@salfordcvs.co.uk</a> (FAO Niamh Meehan)
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Wellbeing Matters Community Asset Fund   Salford CVS</a>

<b>Health and Wellbeing Fund (Salford)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support new and existing projects that improve the health and wellbeing of Salford residents through community-led activities.
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	VCSE organisations based in Salford: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turnover up to £10,000: eligible for up to £1,500</li> <li>• Turnover up to £300,000: eligible for up to £5,000</li> </ul>

	<b>Notes: there is an information session on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 1pm</b>
<b>Grant amount</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to £1,500 for small VCSEs</li> <li>• Up to £5,000 for medium VCSEs</li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	Salford
<b>Deadline</b>	12pm, Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:grants@salfordcvs.co.uk">grants@salfordcvs.co.uk</a> Honor Johnstone <a href="mailto:honor.johnstone@salfordcvs.co.uk">honor.johnstone@salfordcvs.co.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Health and Wellbeing Fund   Salford CVS</a>

<b>Assura Community Fund – Greater Manchester Health &amp; Wellbeing 2026 Programme (Greater Manchester)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support health and wellbeing projects for unpaid carers in Greater Manchester
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium-sized VCSE organisations</li> <li>• based and operating in one or more of the 10 GM localities</li> <li>• income between £50,000 and £250,000</li> <li>• constitution or governing document</li> <li>• minimum of 3 unrelated trustees/directors</li> <li>• own bank account or linked to a charitable entity</li> <li>• at least 50% of leadership representing the served community</li> </ul>
<b>Grant amount</b>	£5,000 per grant (20 grants available)
<b>Location</b>	Greater Manchester
<b>Deadline</b>	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 12pm
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:grants@macc.org.uk">grants@macc.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Assura Community Fund   Manchester Community Central</a>

<b>Zuto Make A Difference Fund in Partnership with Forever Manchester (Greater Manchester)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support grassroots community groups across Greater Manchester with small-scale funding to help them deliver positive local impact.
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grassroots community groups</li> <li>• based in one of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester</li> <li>• annual income less than £75,000</li> </ul>
<b>Grant amount</b>	Up to £2,500
<b>Location</b>	Greater Manchester
<b>Deadline</b>	12pm, Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:awards@forevermanchester.com">awards@forevermanchester.com</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Zuto Make A Difference Fund - Forever Manchester</a>

<b>SWEF Enterprise Fund in Partnership with Forever Manchester (Greater Manchester)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support young entrepreneurs aged 18–30 in Greater Manchester to start or grow their business through small grants.
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals aged 18–30</li> <li>• resident in or business based in one of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester</li> <li>• must be working full-time on the business</li> <li>• must have or be setting up a business bank account</li> <li>• must show evidence of business activity (not just an idea)</li> <li>• priority given to underrepresented groups</li> </ul>
<b>Grant amount</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start-Up Grant: £500 (for pre-revenue or early-stage businesses)</li> <li>• Established Business Grant: up to £2,000 (for businesses trading less than 2 years)</li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	Greater Manchester
<b>Deadline</b>	Rolling
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:info@forevermanchester.com">info@forevermanchester.com</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">SWEF Enterprise Fund - Forever Manchester</a>

<b>Ann Rylands Small Donations Programme (Liverpool City Region)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support smaller charities providing practical and emotional health and care services to people with physical or mental ill health, disabilities, and their families and carers
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	Smaller charities working exclusively in health and care services
<b>Grant amount</b>	£5,000 (unrestricted funding)
<b>Location</b>	Liverpool City Region
<b>Deadline</b>	Ongoing
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:info@julesthorntrust.org.uk">info@julesthorntrust.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Ann Rylands Small Donations - Sir Jules Thorn Trust</a>

<b>Bentley Advancing Life Chances (Crewe, Cheshire)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support projects that improve life chances in Crewe by enhancing access to services, employment, education, empowerment and quality of life.
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charitable organisations based in or delivering outcomes for Crewe residents</li> <li>• Must align with one of the four priority areas</li> <li>• Must meet Cheshire Community Foundation’s grant-making principles</li> </ul>
<b>Grant amount</b>	Up to £20,000
<b>Location</b>	Crewe, Cheshire
<b>Deadline</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2025
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:info@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk">info@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Bentley Advancing Life Chances - Cheshire Community Foundation</a>

<b>Cheshire Community Foundation Small Grants (Cheshire and Warrington)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support small, grassroots projects that address key social and environmental challenges in Cheshire and Warrington
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small, grassroots organisations</li> <li>• Projects must align with one or more priority areas: no poverty, zero hunger, reduced inequalities, good health and wellbeing, quality education and climate action</li> <li>• priority given to work in deprived areas of Cheshire and Warrington</li> </ul>
<b>Grant amount</b>	Up to £2,500
<b>Location</b>	Cheshire and Warrington
<b>Deadline</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 (final deadline for 2025 decisions)
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk">grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Small Grants - Cheshire Community Foundation</a>

<b>National Lottery Awards for All England – Environment (England)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support community-led projects that improve the environment and help people connect with and enjoy nature locally.
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary, statutory or community organisations</li> <li>• projects must benefit the environment and/or help people connect with nature</li> <li>• must be based in England</li> </ul>
<b>Grant amount</b>	£300 to £20,000 for up to two years
<b>Location</b>	England
<b>Deadline</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk">general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">National Lottery Awards for All England – Environment   The National Lottery Community Fund</a>

<b>Rayne Foundation (the UK)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support innovative work that addresses social issues and improves outcomes for specific groups through systemic change and new approaches.
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary, statutory, or for-profit organisations (UK-based)</li> <li>• community Interest Companies (CICs) are eligible</li> <li>• must benefit one or more of the following groups: children and young people (esp. 0–5, care-experienced), refugees and asylum seekers, and people in later life and their carers</li> <li>• open to arts and creative endeavours which actively encourage building community between migrants and the wider community</li> <li>• must not request funding for day-to-day services, capital or campaigning</li> </ul>
<b>Grant amount</b>	£20,000 (for up to 3 years)
<b>Location</b>	The UK

<b>Deadline</b>	Deadline for expressions of interest 12pm, Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:info@raynefoundation.org.uk">info@raynefoundation.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Where People Meet Grant Programme - Rayne Foundation</a>

<b>Financial Resilience Fund by Lloyds Banking Group and its four charitable Foundations (The UK)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Empower individuals facing financial hardship by helping them gain confidence and skills to manage their finances, reduce reliance on debt and achieve long-term financial stability
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	Charities working directly with socially excluded and disadvantaged individuals over the long term to support them with financial insecurity
<b>Grant amount</b>	Up to £30,000
<b>Location</b>	The UK
<b>Deadline</b>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:jlepoidevin@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk">jlepoidevin@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Apply for financial resilience fund   Lloyds Bank Foundation for the Channel Islands</a>

<b>The Tree Council – Branching Out Fund (The UK)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support tree-planting projects during the 2025/26 Winter planting season across the UK
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	Schools, constituted community groups, charities and CIC are eligible
<b>Grant amount</b>	Between £250 and £2,500
<b>Location</b>	The UK
<b>Deadline</b>	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:info@treecouncil.org.uk">info@treecouncil.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">The Tree Council   Working together for the love of trees</a>

<b>Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund (The UK)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support sustainable community tree planting projects that benefit local people, biodiversity and climate resilience
<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	Community groups, schools, charities and CICs are eligible
<b>Grant amount</b>	Between £2,500 and £15,000
<b>Location</b>	The UK <b>with priority for projects in North West</b>
<b>Deadline</b>	Applications can be submitted at any time
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:info@treecouncil.org.uk">info@treecouncil.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://treecouncil.org.uk">https://treecouncil.org.uk</a>

<b>Home Instead Charities Grant Programme (the UK)</b>	
<b>Focus/Aims of Fund</b>	Support the mental, physical and emotional wellbeing of ageing adults, particularly those over 55, through community-based activities and projects.

<b>Specific Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must benefit people aged 55+</li> <li>• must support wellbeing or reduce isolation/loneliness</li> <li>• must be inclusive and have a bank account in the group's name</li> <li>• CICs are eligible</li> </ul>
<b>Grant amount</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small grassroots organisations: up to £500</li> <li>• Small local registered charities: up to £1,500</li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	The UK
<b>Deadline</b>	Quarterly windows: January, April, July, October Applications processed the following month
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:charities@homeinstead.co.uk">charities@homeinstead.co.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">Apply For A Grant   Home Instead Charities</a>