

VCFSE Funding Newsletter April 2026

In this issue, we highlight our 3rd free funding workshop, with expressions of interest now open. We're also sharing details of a vibrant community celebration with Migrant Support, bringing together culture, food and performances. We spotlight big news for Greater Manchester's VCSE sector, as well as a venue request for a one-day RSMP event in July. In addition, we highlight the latest funding opportunities locally, regionally and nationally 😊

🌿 Shared Future Festival



Join **Migrant Support** for a vibrant celebration of culture, community and our shared futures. Enjoy performances by the Ukrainian dance group Orlyk, the Chinese fan dance and the Colibri Mexican dance group, plus great food and a chance to connect with others. Celebrate togetherness – we'd love to see you there. **Saturday 18th April from 10.30am to 2.30pm at Preston Methodist Church, PR1 2NL**

To register, please click on the link:
<https://forms.gle/uyFjAa5Enznuosig6>. For more info, please email:
info@migrantsupport.org.uk

Venue required for one-day event in July

The North West RSMP are currently looking to hire a venue for one event only between 1 and 11 July. The space would need to accommodate up to 150 people, with breakout options if possible. If you are, or know of, a community organisation with a suitable venue, we'd really appreciate hearing from you. Please get in touch with us via email:

RSMP@manchester.gov.uk

Thank you 😊

🌱 Upcoming 3rd Funding Workshop



Following the success and positive feedback from the two funding workshops delivered by **Sector 3 Stockport CVS** and commissioned by **RSMP**, we're delighted to confirm that our **3rd Funding Workshop** will take place on **Tuesday 21st April 2026** from **12pm to 3pm** via **Microsoft Teams**.

This **FREE** interactive session is designed to support **VCFSE organisations working with refugees, asylum seekers and forced migrant communities across the North West**. The workshop aims to help groups improve their confidence and chances of success when applying for funding. **Priority will be given to smaller or newly established organisations**, especially those who are new to funding or the application process.

If you would like to attend, please complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) form here:
[Expression of Interest Form: 3rd Funding Workshop – Getting Started with Funding – Fill in form](#)

EOIs will close at **11:59pm on Tuesday 14th April 2026**.

💡 Big news for Greater Manchester's VCSE Sector!

Live Well: Spaces of Hope and Connection – 10GM has secured a major £16.5m investment in community-led spaces

10GM are thrilled to share that thanks to National Lottery players, 10GM, on behalf of Greater Manchester Live Well, will receive £16.5 million over four years from The National Lottery Community Fund, the UK's largest community funder.

This investment in Live Well Spaces of Hope and Connection will create a network of 100+ inclusive, community-led and owned spaces across Greater Manchester where people can meet, belong and find everyday support.

Prioritising communities facing the greatest inequalities, the investment will strengthen social infrastructure and grow community action, power and wealth. Powered by the Live Well movement, VCSE organisations, public services and residents will come together to share power, change systems and shape healthier, fairer, more connected places.

To find our more, please visit **10GM website: [Live Well Spaces of Hope and Connection - 10GM](#)**

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.

GM Refugee Welcome Programme (Rochdale)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Strengthen voluntary-sector-led integration, work, skills and wellbeing support for people seeking asylum and new refugees living in Rochdale. The fund aims to improve access to ESOL, digital inclusion, employability, community integration and wellbeing, using culturally- and trauma-informed approaches that support long-term settlement and meaningful employment.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Applicants must be a VCFSE organisation based in and working in Rochdale Borough, with experience of supporting refugees and people seeking asylum. Projects must meet one or more priority areas, address identified gaps in provision and reach residents not currently accessing other support. Applicants must agree to quarterly monitoring, data collection and sharing outcomes with the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Forum and GMCA.
Grant amount	Up to £5,000 for 6-month projects or up to £10,000 for 12-month projects
Location	Rochdale
Deadline	Friday 24 th April 2026
Contact	RRWP@rochdale.gov.uk
Website	Rochdale Refugee Welcome Programme (RRWP) Action Together

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Small Grants Scheme (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support one-off purchases or short activities that help people walk, wheel or cycle more often. Designed to remove everyday barriers to active travel and make practical improvements within local communities.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to community groups, schools, NHS organisations and not-for-profit organisations. Projects must support active travel (e.g., cycling, walking, wheeling).
Grant amount	Up to £5,000
Location	Greater Manchester
Deadline	20 th April 2026
Contact	wheelsandwalks@tfgm.com
Website	Wheels and Walks TfGM Bee Active

Answer Cancer Fund (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support Greater Manchester VCSE organisations to increase communities' knowledge of cancer, raise awareness, promote NHS breast, bowel and cervical screening, and encourage people to attend screening appointments.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to Greater Manchester-based VCSE organisations . Projects must focus on awareness-raising, engagement around NHS screening programmes and encouraging uptake of cancer screening. Organisations should read the full guidance to confirm eligibility. First-time Salford CVS applicants are advised to read the introductory blog.
Grant amount	Up to £4,000
Location	Greater Manchester
Deadline	12pm on Friday 1 st May 2026
Contact	grants@salfordcvs.co.uk
Website	Answer Cancer: Round 8 Salford CVS

DF Capital Foundation – Open Fund (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support grassroots, community-based, locally controlled groups in Greater Manchester to deliver activities that benefit their local community. The fund is flexible and allows groups to request support for a wide range of community activities.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally managed grassroots community groups • based in one of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester • annual income must be less than £25,000 • groups should involve volunteers and be locally led • cannot fund activities already completed, major appeals, salaries, political or religious activities or work that should be delivered by statutory services
Grant amount	Up to £2,500
Location	Greater Manchester
Deadline	13 th April 2026 at 12pm <i>closing soon!</i>
Contact	awards@forevermanchester.com
Website	DF Capital Foundation - Forever Manchester

Lead the Change (Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, Blackburn or Preston)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support young people to lead positive change in their communities by strengthening relationships, building understanding and fostering a sense of belonging. The fund prioritises youth leadership, community connection, digital literacy, challenging harmful narratives and creating skills and leadership pathways.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must have an annual income of less than £2 million • projects must be delivered in only one location: Liverpool (Liverpool City Council area only), Southport, Blackpool, Blackburn or Preston • organisations must demonstrate strong youth leadership and voice, relevance to young people impacted by xenophobia, racism and Islamophobia, safeguarding and trauma-informed practice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capacity to deliver and sustain impact, and a commitment to the six principles of high-quality youth social action • organisations may already be funded by BBC Children in Need or a community foundation but cannot apply for work already funded and can only hold one Lead the Change grant
Grant amount	£123,353 total paid over three years
Location	Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, Blackburn or Preston
Deadline	22 nd April 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	Lead the Change - CFM

Marsden Building Society Charitable Foundation (Lancashire)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community organisations in Lancashire delivering projects that improve financial well-being, promote social inclusion (particularly for people aged 50+), or help make Lancashire a great place to be through environmental and community regeneration activities.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Applicants must be permanently based in Lancashire and their project must meet at least one of the fund priorities: financial well-being, social inclusion (with a focus on people over 50), or environmental and area restoration. Applications are accepted from all areas of Lancashire, with priority given to organisations based in Burnley; Barrowford, Colne and Nelson; Clitheroe; Lytham; and Poulton and Garstang. Organisations must have at least three unrelated trustees/directors/management committee members and demonstrate appropriate governance and safeguarding arrangements.
Grant amount	Grants of up to £3,000
Location	Lancashire
Deadline	6 th May 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	Marsden Building Society Charitable Foundation - CFL

LCVS Community Impact Fund (CIF) (Liverpool City Region excluding Halton)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support local VCFSE organisations delivering community projects aligned with one or more of the following priority areas: Health and Wellbeing, Education, Income Stability and Arts and Culture.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Applicants must be a VCFSE organisation (not based in Halton) with a minimum of three trustees/directors/committee members and an annual income of £800,000 or less. Organisations must meet the updated eligibility criteria for this round, even if previously funded.
Grant amount	Grants of up to £3,000
Location	Liverpool City Region (excluding Halton)
Deadline	5pm on Friday 17 th April 2026
Contact	Stephanie.Gregory@lcv.org.uk or Becky.Lazare@lcv.org.uk
Website	LCVS Community Impact Fund (CIF)

Skelton Trust (Skelton Charity) (Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside including Blackpool, Blackburn, Warrington and Halton)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support registered charities delivering direct benefit to local communities, with a particular interest in equipment, small capital projects and work supporting older people, people with disabilities and young people.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Applicants must be legally constituted and registered charities that have been operating for at least 12 months. Charities must deliver services directly benefiting people living in Greater Manchester, Lancashire or Merseyside, including the unitary authorities of Blackpool, Blackburn, Warrington and Halton.
Grant amount	Typically £500 to £3,000 (in exceptional cases, grants of up to £5,000 may be awarded)
Location	Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside, including Blackpool, Blackburn, Warrington and Halton
Deadline	1 st May 2026
Contact	grants@skeltoncharity.com
Website	Homepage Skelton Charity

Cycling UK – Big Bike Revival Fund (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Fund free, entry-level cycling activities for adults such as learn-to-ride sessions, led rides, and basic bike maintenance aimed at increasing cycling for everyday journeys. The programme focuses on adults with social, economic or health needs, those from diverse backgrounds and individuals facing complex challenges.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to organisations delivering adult-focused cycling activities in England. Activities must support adults to start or return to cycling by addressing common barriers and encouraging short, everyday journeys. Projects must be delivered between 3 April and 30 October 2026 .
Grant amount	Up to £3,500
Location	England
Deadline	31 st May 2026 (rolling until end of May)
Contact	gosia.polanska@cyclinguk.org
Website	How to deliver our grant funded programme The Big Bike Revival Cycling UK

Skipton Charitable Foundation (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support charities helping people experiencing hardship and/or underserved groups to access a safe place to call home and/or improve their financial wellbeing , with a focus on people living in areas of higher deprivation.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must be UK-registered charities (England & Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) that have been established for at least three years with three years of published accounts charities must support people living in the top 50% most deprived areas according to the UK Index of Multiple Deprivation and deliver direct benefit within the UK applications must be for defined funding needs and meet the Foundation's reporting requirements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>can be used for core costs, project costs and/or small capital contributions</i>
Grant amount	Up to £5,000
Location	The UK
Deadline	Rolling
Contact	charity@wcit.org.uk
Website	www.skiptoncharitablefoundation.co.uk

WCIT Charity – General Funding (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support IT-focused projects that create positive social impact, particularly within education, inclusion, tech for charities and public understanding of technology. Eligible activities include developing digital solutions, new services, training, apps, data/analytics, AI, robotics and accessibility-related tools or hardware.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to educational establishments and constituted not-for-profit organisations across the UK. Projects are more likely to be funded if WCIT is a material or sole funder of the IT element, or if the applicant could benefit from pro bono support. Applications must demonstrate innovative use of IT, potential for wider replication, and long-term sustainability.
Grant amount	Up to £15,000
Location	The UK
Deadline	20 th May 2026
Contact	charity@wcit.org.uk
Website	Home - WCIT Charity