

VCFSE Funding Newsletter May 2026

In this issue, we introduce our new VCFSE funding training videos, coming very soon, developed with Sector 3 Stockport CVS to support organisations across the full funding journey. We also share early news of our 4th free funding workshop taking place in July and updates on Refugee Week 2026. As always, we highlight the latest funding opportunities locally, regionally and nationally 😊

🎥 VCFSE Funding Training Videos – Coming Soon



💡 We're excited to share that a new set of **VCFSE funding training videos** is coming very soon.

✅ Developed in partnership with **Sector 3 Stockport CVS**, these videos are designed to help VCFSEs feel more confident when applying for funding. The videos cover the full funding journey, including where to find funding, how to describe your organisation and your project, reaching service users and top tips for making strong funding applications. While some examples relate to English language support, the content is relevant to all types of VCFSE funding.

📄 Each video is supported by clear, downloadable step by step resources

👉 **Please see the trailer and click the link here.** [Introduction to funding mini course - Trailer - Northwestrsm](#)

We'll be sharing the full video links very soon so watch this space 😊

🚀 4th Funding Workshop on the Way



Following the great feedback and strong engagement from the first three funding workshops delivered by **Sector 3 Stockport CVS** and commissioned by **RSMP**, we're pleased to confirm that a **4th Funding Workshop** will be taking place in July.

📅 **Date and time will be confirmed shortly** and an **expression of interest will be shared soon**, so please keep an eye out and spread the word to colleagues who may benefit.

This **FREE** interactive workshop is designed to support VCFSE organisations working with **refugees, asylum seekers and forced migrant communities across the North West**

The session will help organisations build confidence and improve their chances of success when applying for funding.

Priority will be given to **smaller or newly established organisations**, particularly those new to funding or the application process.

💡 Theme of Refugee Week 2026: Courage



Refugee Week, 15–21 June 2026

For refugees around the world, courage is often a daily necessity. It is the courage to face unknown journeys, learn new languages, navigate unfamiliar systems, or simply to wake up each morning and step into an uncertain world. Refugee Week 2026 calls us to come together and share the courage to welcome, to stand for what we believe in, and to celebrate culture and community – to be joyful, imagine new possibilities, dream, heal, and connect.

Courage isn't always loud or bold. It can be found in **simple acts**: opening your door to a neighbour, trying new food, reading a book, or watching a film that changes your view of the world. It can be speaking up, asking for help, sharing your story – or simply having the courage to be yourself. Promote your event by adding it to the [Refugee Week calendar](#) and help reach your local community and connect with new audiences.

To find our more, please visit the RSMP website: [Theme of Refugee Week 2026: Courage - Northwestrsm](#)

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 Grants Programme (Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support event based activities that raise awareness of hate crime and tackle hatred and discrimination across Manchester, with a focus on improving understanding, reporting, prevention, community cohesion and victim support.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must be VCSE or public sector organisations that are based in and working exclusively within the city of Manchester organisations must be able to deliver an eligible activity linked to one or more of the six priorities in the Greater Manchester Hate Crime Plan, hold a bank account in the organisation's name (or have an accountable partner), have appropriate safeguarding arrangements where relevant, public liability insurance and agree to complete monitoring after the activity.
Grant amount	£1,000 exactly per organisation. Ten grants available.
Location	Projects must be delivered entirely within the city of Manchester, and applicant organisations must also be based in Manchester.
Deadline	22 nd May 2026
Contact	grants@macc.org.uk
Website	Hate Crime Awareness Summer-Autumn 2026 £1000 Grants Manchester Community Central

Manchester Neighbourhood Sports Fund 2026–27 (Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support Manchester residents to be more physically active by funding local sports clubs and community organisations to deliver new or existing sport and physical activity initiatives, with a focus on increasing participation and removing barriers to access.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority themes include low or no cost activities, women and girls' participation, early years activity, walking cycling and running and retention and growth of participation applicants must be sports clubs or community organisations based in the City of Manchester projects should benefit Manchester residents and support people to move more
Grant amount	Grants between £250 and £3,000, depending on funding level
Location	Manchester
Deadline	Rolling programme from April 2026 to March 2027. Application review dates: 11 May 2026, 6 July 2026, 28 September 2026, 7 December 2026 and 1 March 2027.
Contact	grants@mcractive.com

Website	Manchester Neighbourhood Sports Fund 2026-27 Manchester Community Central
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J T Blair's Charity Grants Programme (Manchester and Salford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support projects and activities that improve the lives of older people, particularly older people experiencing financial hardship, by reducing social isolation and promoting inclusion, wellbeing and participation in community life.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to registered charities and voluntary organisations supporting older people who live within the 32 wards of Manchester or the 20 wards of Salford • applicant organisations must have an annual income of £100,000 or below • funding must benefit older people directly and cannot be used for staff salaries, volunteer expenses, IT for staff or volunteers, or retrospective projects
Grant amount	Grants of up to £2,000
Location	Manchester (32 wards) and Salford (20 wards)
Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications received 14th Feb 2026 to 15th May 2026 will be considered at the 3rd June 2026 meeting • applications received 16th May 2026 to 14th Aug 2026 will be considered at the 2nd Sept 2026 meeting • applications received 3rd Sept 2026 to 13th Nov 2026 will be considered at the 2nd Dec 2026 meeting
Contact	jtblairs@gmail.com
Website	J T Blair's Charity - Grants available

23 Foundation Grant (Sefton, Everton and Anfield)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support projects that help children and young people overcome disadvantage through sport and education. The fund aims to improve young people's skills, confidence, health and future opportunities, including progression into further education or employment. The fund will also consider projects addressing homelessness and real poverty.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to voluntary and community organisations delivering projects in Sefton, Everton or Anfield only • summer 2026 applications should focus on youth group holiday projects centred on sport and education, with part of the budget used to provide food for young people • organisations should have at least three unrelated trustees or committee members and demonstrate local governance. • applications are encouraged to include staff costs paid at the Real Living Wage (£13.45 per hour).
Grant amount	Grants of up to £2,500.
Location	Sefton, Everton and Anfield
Deadline	1 st June 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	23 Foundation - CFM

Merseyside Community Investment Fund (Merseyside)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support projects addressing urgent social issues and local community needs, particularly those that struggle to access other funding, and to collectively improve communities across Merseyside.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority focus are projects tackling disadvantage or deprivation; supporting young people, older people and people with disabilities; encouraging proactive community action; ongoing (not one-off) activities; innovative projects; organisations with small but viable reserves. • community and voluntary organisations with at least three unrelated trustees/directors; locally governed organisations with a permanent base in Merseyside
Grant amount	Grants of up to £3,000
Location	Liverpool City Region: Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral
Deadline	16 th June 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	Merseyside Community Investment Fund - CFM

The Ellie Trust 2026 Grant Programme (Merseyside)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support the protection, physical health and mental wellbeing of women and children in Merseyside who have experienced domestic abuse. The fund recognises the increased cost-of-living pressures on specialist domestic abuse services and aims to sustain and strengthen vital support provision.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to registered charities (excluding exempt charities) that are registered and based in Merseyside, provide specialist domestic abuse or domestic violence support to women and children, and have an annual income of £500,000 or below • organisations must clearly demonstrate need, align with the Ellie Trust's priority areas, and show how the grant will benefit women and children most in need
Grant amount	No minimum or maximum grant amount. Grants are awarded for a 12-month period and are proportionate to the size and capacity of the organisation.
Location	Merseyside
Deadline	5 th June 2026
Contact	grants@lcvs.org.uk
Website	Open The Ellie Trust Grant Programme

James Bond / Henry Welch Trust (Lancaster District)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support people with chest or lung conditions to live better lives by providing funding for equipment or services that improve health, wellbeing and daily living. The fund focuses on practical support for people who cannot afford these costs themselves.

Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to individuals who live in the Lancaster district and have a chest or lung condition of any kind, including conditions such as asthma, COPD, tuberculosis, pneumonia or lung cancer • applicants must demonstrate financial need and a clear benefit from the requested equipment or service • applications can be made by the individual themselves or by someone applying on their behalf • preference is given to people living in the city of Lancaster, but applications from across the Lancaster City Council area are considered
Grant amount	No minimum or maximum grant amount. Individuals can receive support more than once.
Location	Lancaster district
Deadline	Open on a rolling basis with no closing date. Decisions are usually made within four weeks of application.
Contact	jbhw@lancastercvs.org.uk
Website	Funding Opportunities - LDCVS - Lancaster District Community & Voluntary Solutions

Cheshire Community Foundation Open Grants Programme – Round 3 (Cheshire and Warrington)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community-led projects that address issues most important to local people.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority themes include tackling poverty and disadvantage; building stronger and more resilient communities; improving mental health and wellbeing; developing education, skills and employment; building awareness of climate change • open to organisations meeting Cheshire Community Foundation’s grant making principles and minimum requirements, working with people in eligible areas. • micro-grants prioritise smaller organisations that have not previously received funding and usually have an annual turnover under £50,000
Grant amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro Grants up to £1,000 • Small Grants up to £2,500 • Main Grants up to £15,000 for salary costs or up to £10,000 for non-salary costs
Location	Cheshire and Warrington
Deadline	Monday, 20 th May 2026
Contact	office@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk
Website	Open Grants Programmes - Cheshire Community Foundation

CRH Charitable Trust (North West)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support children, young people and adults in North West England who are experiencing mental illness and mental disabilities. The Trust provides a small number of grants each year to organisations delivering direct support and improving mental health and wellbeing.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to registered charities working in North West England • projects must support people experiencing mental illness or mental disabilities
Grant amount	No minimum or maximum grant amount specified

Location	North West
Deadline	27 th May 2026
Contact	grants@thecrhcharitabletrust.org
Website	https://www.thecrhcharitabletrust.org/

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@cyclinguks.org
Website	How to deliver our grant funded programme The Big Bike Revival Cycling UK