

VCFSE Funding Newsletter July 2026

In this issue, we are pleased to share details of our 4th free funding workshop taking place on 14th July, with EOIs closing today 7th July. We also highlight an upcoming online North West learning event from World Jewish Relief, exploring key learning from its Specialist Training and Employment Programme (STEP). In addition, we feature *Two Improvisations*, a new exhibition at esea contemporary by artist and filmmaker Chris Zhongtian Yuan. As always, we highlight the latest funding opportunities locally, regionally and nationally 😊

📅 Upcoming 4th Funding Workshop | EOIs Close Today



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 on Tuesday 14th July 11am – 2pm.**

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: 4th Funding Workshop – Getting Started with Funding – Fill in form](#)

🔔 STEP Programme Learning Event (North West England)

📅 08th July 11am-12:30pm

World Jewish Relief is inviting organisations to an online regional learning event focused on the North West. Since 2016, its Specialist Training and Employment Programme (STEP) has supported refugees and forced migrants into sustainable employment through personalised employment, language and training support.

With funding from MHCLG and in partnership with the British Council, World Jewish Relief expanded the programme to support Ukrainians and Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders, with more than 4,000 participants enrolled. The event will share key learning from the programme, including successes, challenges and regional case studies, while providing an opportunity to discuss good practice and future collaboration.

Content includes operational Framework of STEP Programme| Regional Data and Performance for Employment Service and English Class| Success Stories or Case Studies| Learnings and Findings| Q&A with discussion

Please join here:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/351105107273653?p=TIPJadj4UUT8V5Bb66>

🎨 Chris Zhongtian Yuan: Two Improvisations



📅 13 June – 13 September
2026

esea contemporary is presenting *Two Improvisations*, the first UK institutional solo exhibition by London based artist and filmmaker Chris Zhongtian Yuan. Working across film, sound, performance and sculpture, Yuan explores how personal histories, subcultures and marginalised communities connect to wider social and political narratives.

At the heart of the exhibition is *Two Improvisations: A Punk Musical* (2026), a newly commissioned film inspired by the Yě rén, a legendary ape-like figure from Chinese folklore. Using storytelling and improvisation, the work reflects on creativity, identity and the changing role of artists in contemporary society.

For full details, please click the link here: [esea contemporary](#)

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.

Trauma Responsive Greater Manchester Fund (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Help VCSE organisations move beyond basic awareness of trauma and embed trauma responsive practice across their services, systems and spaces. The fund supports safer, more supportive and empowering environments for individuals and communities affected by trauma.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	- Projects must align with at least one priority: improving physical spaces to be more welcoming and safer; trauma responsive training for staff or volunteers with clear impact; reviewing and improving policies and procedures; learning, reflection and evaluation to improve practice - projects must go beyond basic trauma awareness, show clear understanding of trauma informed principles and include outcomes that show improvements in wellbeing and resilience
Grant amount	£5,000 to £10,000
Location	Greater Manchester
Deadline	12pm (midday) on 7 th August 2026
Contact	grants@salfordcvs.co.uk
Website	Trauma Responsive Greater Manchester Fund - 10GM

The Renew Community Fund (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community projects that help people keep items in use for longer through repairing, reusing, sharing, lending and redistributing. The fund aims to reduce household waste, build community skills and confidence and support local people, especially those most in need.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	- Repair workshops, reuse and redistribution schemes, tool or toy libraries, clothes swaps, furniture projects, upcycling projects, sharing libraries and community sharing events - community based projects and organisations delivering activities that help mend, fix, share, borrow or pass on household items and reduce waste within local communities
Grant amount	£2,000 to £20,000
Location	Greater Manchester
Deadline	6 th August 2026
Contact	Contact us Recycle for Greater Manchester
Website	Renew Community Fund Recycle for Greater Manchester

Lifestyle and Wellbeing Grant Programme (Liverpool)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Fund community wellbeing activities that support people experiencing severe mental illness to take part alongside others in non-clinical, inclusive settings
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Key priorities include reducing loneliness and social isolation, supporting people affected by the cost-of-living crisis and supporting carers and those they care for • Liverpool registered VCFSEs • must deliver activities in or accessible to postcodes: L1, L2, L3, L6, L7, L8, L13, L14, L15, L17 • activities must support at least one core priority • must provide inclusive community-based support (not clinical only)
Grant amount	Up to £10,000
Location	Liverpool (specific postcode areas listed above)
Deadline	Friday 24 th July 2026 at 5 pm
Contact	grants@lcvs.org.uk
Website	OPEN Lifestyle & Wellbeing Grant Programme Round 1

Youth Guarantee Trailblazer Community Grants Round 2 (Liverpool City Region)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support young people aged 18 to 21 who are not in employment, education or training to build confidence, overcome barriers and move into work, education or training. Focus on targeted support such as mental health, SEND, neurodiversity, youth offending, homelessness, skills and confidence building and those facing multiple disadvantages.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to legally constituted not for profit VCFSEs based in the Liverpool City Region. Must have a governing document, at least two unrelated trustees or directors, a bank account with two unrelated signatories and have been operating for at least 12 months. Projects must benefit Liverpool City Region residents only
Grant amount	£10,000 to £40,000 (total pot £450,000)
Location	Liverpool City Region
Deadline	19 th July 2026
Contact	YGT@volamerseyside.org.uk
Website	Youth Guarantee Trailblazer – volamerseyside

BHP Billiton Endowment Fund (Merseyside, including Halton)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support projects that enhance or conserve the local physical environment while benefiting the wider community and improving people's lives.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Funding priorities are greening urban areas, nature conservation, tackling pollution and aiding recycling • must be based in Merseyside, including Halton • must have a minimum of three unrelated Trustees, Directors or Management Committee members • must demonstrate local governance and autonomy if part of a larger organisation • priority given to organisations working in disadvantaged areas and involving local communities • examples of eligible projects: nature trails promoting, access to wildlife and plants, tree planting and creation of

	wetlands, protection of existing wildlife habitats, clean up campaigns etc
Grant amount	Up to £2,000
Location	Merseyside including Halton
Deadline	31 st July 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	BHP Billiton Endowment Fund - CFM

Lancaster Community Fund (Lancaster District)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support local charities and community groups to deliver projects and activities that benefit people living in the Lancaster District. The fund prioritises projects that increase community involvement and resilience, support carbon reduction and sustainability and improve individual and community wellbeing.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to volunteer led organisations, local charities and community groups based in the Lancaster District. Applications are particularly welcomed from grassroots organisations, projects supporting disadvantaged communities and organisations that have not recently received funding from this fund
Grant amount	Up to £1,000
Location	Lancaster District
Deadline	Multiple rounds: 1 st November 2026, and 28 th February 2027
Contact	sharonphillips@lancastercvs.org.uk
Website	https://lancastercvs.org.uk/funding-opportunities/

Democratic Engagement Fund by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support projects that help people understand, engage with and participate in democracy through politically neutral, place-based activities. Focus on groups that are less likely to be engaged, including young people, ethnic minorities and those facing social or economic barriers and to build evidence on what works to increase participation
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to civil society organisations in England, including charities, CIOs, CICs, companies limited by guarantee, community benefit societies and wider VCSE organisations. Must deliver politically neutral, community-based projects. Partnerships are allowed, with one lead accountable organisation. Local authorities cannot apply directly
Grant amount	Around £25,000 (up to £50,000 maximum)
Location	England
Deadline	31 st August 2026
Contact	Democratic Engagement Fund: Prospectus - GOV.UK
Website	democraticengagement@communities.gov.uk

Tree Council and Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund (England, Scotland and Wales)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community tree planting projects that deliver clear community benefit, improve biodiversity and promote wellbeing through activities such as volunteering, education and environmental enhancement. Strong focus on sustainable planting, right tree in the right place, and long-term care.

Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to local authorities, charities, community groups, education institutions, and individual landowners. Projects must demonstrate community involvement, biodiversity benefits, suitable sites, use of UK sourced trees, and a commitment to maintain trees for at least three years, including monitoring and evaluation
Grant amount	£2,500 to £10,000
Location	England, Scotland and Wales
Deadline	19 th July 2026 (midnight)
Contact	grants@treecouncil.org.uk
Website	Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund - The Tree Council

The Step Forward Fund The National Lottery Community Fund (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	A £4 million fund co designed by The National Lottery Community Fund and The Phoenix Community Trust to support grassroots organisations led by Global Majority and racially minoritised communities. The fund aims to help organisations move from small project funding to larger, longer-term investment, grow their organisation, strengthen community advocacy and sustain the positive impact of their work.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Organisations must: • have received a National Lottery Community Fund grant of £20,000 or less between April 2023 and March 2026 • have applied to the Reaching Communities programme between April 2023 and March 2026 and been unsuccessful • have a board or leadership team where the majority of members are from Global Majority and racially minoritised communities • primarily deliver services and activities for Global Majority and racially minoritised communities • have an annual income of less than £300,000, based on a three-year average • be an organisation led by people with lived experience of structural racism and oppression • organisations supporting communities including, but not limited to: Black, African and Caribbean communities, Asian communities, Arab communities, Jewish communities, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and People from mixed or multiple ethnic backgrounds To understand whether this programme is a good fit for your work, please click on the link below • webinar on Monday 13 July, 2-3pm
Grant amount	100,000 to £225,000 total. Funding available for 2 to 3 years: • Minimum: £50,000 per year for 2 years (£100,000 total) • Maximum: £75,000 per year for 3 years (£225,000 total)
Location	England
Deadline	No application deadline specified. The fund is currently open to applications.
Contact	general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk
Website	The Step Forward Fund The National Lottery Community Fund

Welcome for Newcomers Fund (Henry Smith Foundation) (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Strengthen organisations and partnerships that support refugees, people seeking asylum and other migrants to rebuild their lives, feel at home, and become active members of their local communities. The fund supports a combination of specialist support, activities that build belonging, and work that improves local conditions for welcoming newcomers.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Registered charities, charitable organisations and eligible partnerships (with a lead organisation) supporting newcomers to the UK. Applicants must have at least 18 months' experience delivering welcome support, access to suitable service delivery space, one year of audited or independently examined accounts, and a proven track record in specialist support, community belonging activities, and influencing local policy and practice
Grant amount	£200,000 over three years (around 20 grants available).
Location	The UK
Deadline	• Application Opens: 15th July 2026 • EOI Deadline: 26th August 2026, 5:00pm • Full Application Deadline: 16th October 2026
Contact	Contact - Henry Smith
Website	Welcome for Newcomers - Henry Smith

Henry Smith Foundation – Equity in Justice Fund (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Invest in specialist support for racially minoritised young men aged 18 to 25 who are in contact with the criminal justice system. Focus on person centred, holistic and long-term support that meets specific needs and includes lived experience
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Open to registered not for profit organisations with a charitable purpose (such as charities, CICs or community benefit societies) delivering direct services in the UK. Must have at least 18 months' experience supporting racially minoritised young men and demonstrate specialist provision. Strong emphasis on embedding lived experience across services, organisation and governance
Grant amount	£200,000 (over 3 to 5 years)
Location	UK wide
Deadline	5 August 2026, 5pm (Expression of Interest)
Contact	Contact - Henry Smith
Website	Equity in Justice Fund - Henry Smith