

VCFSE Funding Newsletter August 2026

In this issue, we are pleased to share that our VCFSE Funding Videos are now live. These have been designed to help VCFSEs strengthen their funding applications. We also highlight the Immigration & Asylum Bill: Call for Evidence, inviting individuals and organisations to share their views with Parliament. In addition, we feature Manchester Village Pride & Chester Pride 2026, celebrating inclusion & community across the North West. As always, we highlight the latest funding opportunities locally, regionally and nationally 😊

VCFSE Funding Training Videos – Now Live on Our Website



We are pleased to share that our VCFSE Funding Training Videos are now live.

Developed in partnership with Sector 3 Stockport CVS, these videos are designed to help VCFSE organisations feel more confident when applying for funding. They cover the full funding journey, including where to find funding, how to describe your organisation and project, how to reach service users and top tips for developing strong applications.

While some examples focus on 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 click the link below to access all videos:

[Introduction to funding mini course - Trailer - Northwestrsmp](#)

Immigration and Asylum Bill: Call for Evidence



The House of Commons Public Bill Committee is inviting written evidence on the Immigration and Asylum Bill, which is currently progressing through Parliament. The Bill proposes significant changes to the UK's immigration and asylum system, including the creation of an Independent Immigration Appeals Authority, reforms to modern slavery legislation, a new 'core protection' model for asylum and humanitarian protection claims, and measures relating to child protection and asylum support. Individuals and organisations with relevant expertise, experience or an interest in the Bill are encouraged to submit evidence as soon as possible, as the Committee may conclude its scrutiny before the expected deadline. Written submissions should be emailed to scrutiny@parliament.uk.

For more information, please click the link: [Immigration and Asylum Bill: call for evidence - UK Parliament](#)

Manchester & Chester Pride 2026



This August, two major Pride events will bring communities together across the North West. Chester Pride takes place on 15 August at Castle Square, featuring a parade, live entertainment and community stalls across Chester, Cheshire and North Wales. Manchester Village Pride follows on 29 August with its colourful parade themed No Place Like Home, celebrating Manchester's long-standing commitment to inclusion, diversity and belonging. Both events offer opportunities to celebrate, connect and show support. For more information, event details and how to get involved, please visit the relevant event websites.

[Manchester Village Pride](#) and [Chester Pride | LGBTQ+ Events, Support & Community in Chester - Chester Pride](#)

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.

Whose Art, Whose Culture? Small Grants Programme (Salford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community-based arts, culture and heritage projects that celebrate and document arts, culture and heritage in all its forms. The fund prioritises public facing activities that bring people together in accessible community spaces and contribute to vibrant, welcoming neighbourhoods
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Salford based VCSEs • organisations with an annual turnover (income) of under £100,000 • projects must be delivered between September 2026 and March 2027. • activities should be community based and publicly accessible • priority will be given to projects that engage the wider public and make use of public spaces such as parks, high streets, town centres, civic spaces and community facilities
Grant amount	Up to £2,500 per organisation
Location	Salford
Deadline	21 st August 2026
Contact	grants@salfordcvs.co.uk
Website	Whose Art, Whose Culture - Small Grants Salford CVS

Whose Art, Whose Culture? Large Grants Programme (Salford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community based arts, culture and heritage projects that celebrate and document culture and heritage in all its forms. The fund prioritises public facing activities that bring people together in accessible public and community spaces and help create vibrant, welcoming neighbourhoods across Salford
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Salford VCSEs • organisations must have a minimum turnover of £10,000 in their most recent financial year • the grant requested must not exceed 50% of the organisation's annual turnover • projects must be delivered between September 2026 and March 2027 • activities must be community based and publicly accessible. • priority will be given to projects that engage the wider public and utilise public spaces such as parks, high streets, town centres, civic spaces and community facilities
Grant amount	£5,000 to £20,000

Location	Salford
Deadline	21 st August 2026
Contact	grants@salfordcvs.co.uk
Website	Whose Art, Whose Culture? - Large Grants Salford CVS

L&Q Young People's Programme (Trafford)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support projects that create positive opportunities for young people and help build safer, stronger communities. The programme focuses on youth engagement, reducing anti-social behaviour and improving outcomes for young people
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Open to VCFSEs • must deliver activities for young people in the Tamworth Estate, Old Trafford (M15 5 postcode area) • organisations should have experience of improving outcomes for young people • projects should engage young people, respond to local needs, work with residents and partners and contribute to safer neighbourhoods
Grant amount	£5,000 to £10,000 encouraged for Trafford projects
Location	Old Trafford (M15 5 postcode area), Trafford
Deadline	14 th September 2026 at 9am
Contact	youngpeoplesprogramme@lqgroup.org.uk
Website	The Young People's programme L&Q Group

The Halton Foundation (Halton: Widnes and Runcorn)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support people experiencing need, hardship or distress across Halton by funding voluntary and community organisations delivering charitable projects that benefit local residents
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Voluntary and community organisations working in the Halton area. Beneficiaries must be from Halton • organisations must have at least three unrelated trustees, directors or committee members • funding is for specific projects and activities rather than core salaries or general running costs, although sessional worker costs and an element of full cost recovery may be considered • additional funding is available for education projects supporting young people under 25 in Widnes
Grant amount	Up to £1,500
Location	Halton (Widnes and Runcorn)
Deadline	14 th September 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	The Halton Foundation - CFM

Christal Foundation (Lancashire)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support charities and community groups that improve the lives of people in Burnley. The fund particularly supports new ideas, test and learn projects, feasibility studies, gaps in local provision and projects that may struggle to secure funding from other sources
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Must benefit Burnley residents

	- open to charities and community groups, including those based outside Burnley if beneficiaries are Burnley residents - priority for small grassroots organisations. - projects should support new ideas, feasibility studies, test and learn activity, or unmet local needs - must have at least three unrelated trustees, directors or committee members
Grant amount	Up to £3,500
Location	Burnley, Lancashire
Deadline	11 th September 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	Christal Foundation - CFL

Bentley Advancing Life Chances (Crew)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Improve life chances for vulnerable, disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in Crewe through projects that improve access, empowerment, quality of life or a better future for local people.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	- Charitable organisations delivering projects in Crewe - organisations based outside Crewe must demonstrate they are best placed to deliver locally - projects must align with one of four themes: Access, Empowerment, Quality of Life, or Better Future - previous grant holders may apply if they can demonstrate strong outcomes - organisations funded for three consecutive years are not eligible for a fourth year
Grant amount	Up to £20,000
Location	Crewe
Deadline	18 th September 2026 (5pm)
Contact	office@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk
Website	Bentley Advancing Life Chances - Cheshire Community Foundation

Energy Resilience Fund (ERF) (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Help charities and social enterprises improve their energy resilience through energy efficiency measures, renewable energy generation, and the purchase of energy efficient vehicles or equipment. The fund aims to reduce energy costs, lower carbon emissions and improve environmental sustainability
Specific Eligibility Criteria	- Charities, CICs, Community Benefit Societies and eligible social enterprises in England - minimum 2 years' operating history - minimum annual turnover of £100,000 - fewer than 250 employees and turnover not exceeding £40 million - must be unable to access mainstream bank lending for the project - funding must support energy saving measures, energy generation technology or energy efficient vehicles/equipment

Grant amount	£25,000 to £250,000 through a blended package of 40% grant and 60% loan
Location	England
Deadline	Rolling programme (currently open)
Contact	loans@sibgroup.org.uk
Website	Energy Resilience Fund for Charities & Social Enterprises

Lloyds Bank Foundation Good Place to Live: New Beginnings Fund (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Prevent homelessness by supporting organisations that work with people at key life turning points where the risk of homelessness is highest. The fund focuses on providing early, person centred support before individuals reach crisis point
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Priority groups include orgs supporting people leaving prison, the care system, abusive relationships (domestic abuse survivors), the asylum system after securing leave to remain in the UK. • applicants must be a registered Charity, CIO or CIC, based and working mainly in England, Wales or the Isle of Man, have an annual income between £25,000 and £2 million, have at least one year of frontline service delivery and currently provide services to the target groups, primarily support ex-offenders, care experienced young people, domestic abuse survivors, asylum seekers or refugees • applicants must have at least three unrelated trustees/directors, safeguarding policies, a Designated Safeguarding Lead and Public Liability Insurance
Grant amount	• £100,000 (£25,000 per year for four years) for organisations with income below £100,000 • £200,000 (£50,000 per year for four years) for organisations with income between £100,000 and £2 million
Location	England, Wales and the Isle of Man.
Deadline	5pm, Wednesday 9 th September 2026
Contact	enquiries@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk
Website	Good Place to Live: New Beginnings

The King's Fund: GSK IMPACT Awards 2027 (The UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Recognise and support established charities that are delivering outstanding work to improve health and wellbeing across the UK. The programme provides unrestricted funding, leadership development, training, national recognition, publicity support and pro bono assistance.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Registered UK charity, at least three years old, working in a health-related field and with an annual income between £150,000 and £3 million. • organisations led by and supporting underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply • charities with annual income between £20,000 and £150,000 should instead consider the GSK Community Health programme
Grant amount	• Up to 10 winners receive £50,000 unrestricted funding • Up to 5 runners-up receive £5,000 unrestricted funding

	• Additional training and development support valued at approximately £13,500 per organisation. • Includes access to the GSK IMPACT Awards Development Programme, Network membership, publicity support and up to 12 months of pro bono legal support
Location	The UK
Deadline	19 th August 2026 (Stage 1 application deadline, 5pm)
Contact	gskenquiries@kingsfund.org.uk
Website	How To Apply GSK IMPACT Awards The King's 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	• EOI Deadline: 26th August 2026, 5:00pm • Full Application Deadline: 16th October 2026
Contact	Contact - Henry Smith
Website	Welcome for Newcomers - Henry Smith

Hilden Charitable Fund – UK Programmes (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support small charities working with asylum seekers and refugees or delivering penal affairs projects, including support in prisons and post-release resettlement
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Registered charity, CIO, charitable company or excepted charity • annual income of £200,000 or less • project must support asylum seekers and refugees or prisoners/ex-offenders • preference for established small organisations with lived experience and strong track records • must hold less than 12 months' spending in reserves
Grant amount	Usually £5,000 to £7,000 per year, for up to two years
Location	UK wide
Deadline	27 th August 2026 (3pm)
Contact	Contact - Hilden Charitable Fund
Website	UK Funding - Hilden Charitable Fund