Gateshead VCSE Fund Frequently Asked Questions

1. Fund Criteria

Can we apply for work that will start before April 2027?

No, this funding round is for work that begins on 01 April 2027.

Is there an income limit for applicant organisations?

No, there is no upper income limit in this round but 30% of the main grant funding is ring-fenced for organisations with an income of less than £100k.

We deliver activities within Gateshead but we are not based there; can we apply?

Yes, but priority will be given to organisations based in Gateshead. Organisations based outside but working in Gateshead can apply but must demonstrate a compelling case for funding.

We are not Gateshead based but have specific experience of meeting the needs of a specific community elsewhere in England; how should we explain this?

If you are not yet based in Gateshead then your application must demonstrate the links you have made with the relevant communities in Gateshead, your understating of them, and how you will work with them and the overall locality.

Do all participants of our funded project need to reside in Gateshead?

Yes. We know projects can sometimes attract participants from outside Gateshead but this fund is about supporting Gateshead residents, so you need to outline how a grant will do this and your objectives will need to be about Gateshead residents.

We're a Community Interest Company (CIC); can we apply?

Yes, CICs can apply, subject to our standard eligibility criteria for CICs and other Social Enterprises, which can be found here.

Will you prioritise organisations that include increased beneficiary numbers as a key outcome?

Not necessarily; the panel will support applications that demonstrate the best use of the funds available to have the strongest impact.

Is there an average expected grant size?

No. You should apply for the appropriate amount to deliver the work you are proposing, up to the fund limit.

2. Adult Social Care

We were previously contracted by Gateshead Council to deliver Adult Social Care work and have a current grant for this work which is higher than the fund maximum; can we apply for more than £30,000?

No. Grants from the previous VCSE Adult Social Care funding round were to help transition contracted organisations into a new grant funding-based approach with aligned outcomes, and subject to the main fund limit.

We deliver Adult Social Care work but have never been directly contracted or funded by Gateshead Council; can we apply?

Yes, you can apply but your application must explain how your work is currently funded, including whether your service is paid for through a direct payment and if it is meeting eligible social care needs assessed under the Care Act.

Can we apply for a main fund grant and an Adult Social Care grant?

Yes, but each application should clearly focus on the relevant fund criteria. Where we receive two applications from the same organisation, they will be considered together, as part of the assessment process, to ensure a fair and equitable approach to distributing funding.

3. Partnership applications

Do you accept partnership applications?

Yes, partnership applications are welcome, provided that governance is clear and there is a single lead organisation.

Would you require letters of support to demonstrate and evidence partnerships?

No, but If you are applying as a delivery partnership we will need to see strong evidence of the partnership being in place and which organisation is the lead. If you simply working with other organisations as part of your own delivery we do not need that evidence.

4. General

Can we get support with our application?

Yes. Connected Voice is contracted to support VCSE organisations in Gateshead and can help with drafting applications, updating Safeguarding and other policies, or proof reading. Please e-mail connect@connectedvoice.org.uk with “The Gateshead VCSE Fund” in the subject line, or call 0191 232 7445

If we secure a grant from the Gateshead VCSE Fund will this negatively impact us being considered for other Community Foundation funds?

If you have not previously applied to Community Foundation North East, we will consider the level of funding we will give you as a first grant and may take a VCSE grant into consideration. Applications to other Community Foundation funds will be assessed based on eligibility and requirements of the relevant fund.

Who will be on the panel?

The panel is made up of representatives of Gateshead Council and Connected Voice.