



## ***CultureDale Connect Fund:***

***Bringing people together through culture, nature, and the outdoors.***

**February 2026**



**Funded by  
UK Government**

**Calderdale**  
Council

 **COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
FOR CALDERDALE**

## Contents

Item	Page Number
Context	3
Funding available	4
What can you apply for?	4
What should be included in an application?	5
Who can apply?	5
Supporting documents	6
Scoring	7
Monitoring	8
How to apply	8
Help to apply	8
Timescales	9
What happens next?	9
Appendix One	10
Glossary	17

## Context

CultureDale is a vibrant celebration of what makes Calderdale unique—its history, creativity, places, and people—bringing everyone together for a memorable year of cultural expression.

While Calderdale's Year of Culture 2024 came to a close in April 2025, the memory of the fantastic events and activities and the new relationships forged through shared cultural activity, will live on for a long time. As part of leaving a legacy for Calderdale and working towards the Council's Vision for 2034, Calderdale Council are launching a second round of **CultureDale Connect Fund: Bringing people together through shared cultural activity.**

**The emphasis of this fund is to build social cohesion in Calderdale, through cultural activities.** Social cohesion happens when people from different backgrounds meet, mix and get along. The work of cohesion and integration is about developing neighbourhoods, workplaces, institutions and social spaces where difference is welcomed and celebrated. It is about creating opportunities where empathy and curiosity about people 'not like me' are encouraged. When this happens, we can move beyond 'us' and 'them' towards ideas of kindness, trust and social cohesion between groups of people.

Whilst cohesion and integration remain the core objective of the fund, this year CultureDale would like to encourage applications with nature and the outdoors in their applications.

Can you bring together people and build connections in a way that encourages experience of the amazing Calderdale landscapes, gardens, woodland, waterscapes and urban gems in our towns and communities?

### Examples of eligible approaches could include:

- **Outdoor performances or exhibitions** in parks, gardens, woodlands, town squares, or along waterways that respond to the character or history of the place.
- **Participatory walks, trails, or tours** that combine storytelling, heritage, music, or visual art with Calderdale's landscapes, canals, rivers, and urban routes.
- **Creative workshops held outdoors**, such as nature-inspired making, writing, photography, sound recording, or movement activities in green or blue spaces.
- **Community-led projects** that invite residents to co-create artwork inspired by their local environment, from shared gardens and allotments to streets, hillsides, or waterways.
- **Projects that reimagine everyday outdoor spaces**, activating overlooked or familiar places such as towpaths, courtyards, car parks, or shopping streets through cultural activity.
- **Intergenerational or cross-community activities** that use outdoor settings to bring people together who might not usually meet, encouraging connection through shared experience e.g. community gardening

- **Seasonal or place-responsive work**, such as projects responding to weather, light, wildlife, or natural cycles within Calderdale’s landscapes.
- **Low-impact, accessible outdoor activities** that support wellbeing and inclusion, ensuring people of different ages, abilities, and backgrounds can take part.

Projects should demonstrate how outdoor settings enhance participation, connection, and cultural experience, rather than simply relocating indoor activity outside. However, if your activity isn’t nature-themed, you are still able to apply for funds.

## **Funding Available**

### **How much can you apply for?**

- The maximum you can apply for is **£5000** for the period April 2026-end March 2027. There is a total of £45,000 available.

The funders hope to see a range of applications including:

- Applications made in partnership
- Community groups
- Artists
- Smaller grassroots organisations
- Collaborations

### **What can you spend the money on?**

Funding can support any costs directly related to the successful delivery of your project including core costs like staffing, transport, hiring equipment and venues, printing costs, consumables such as materials or refreshments. If you have any questions about use of funds, please contact [culturedale@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:culturedale@calderdale.gov.uk).

## **What can you apply for?**

CultureDale aims to **connect people**, foster new partnerships, spotlight local talent, and support creative development across the borough. Please share how you meet the eligibility criteria below in your application for funds:

<b>Eligibility</b>		<b>For example</b>
<b>Cultural activity</b>	<b>The theme for CultureDale this year is nature, seasons and the outdoors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enhance Calderdale with public art or murals</li> <li>➤ Provide new skills or opportunities for residents</li> <li>➤ Improve <u>access</u> to culture, heritage, sport and arts incorporating nature and the outdoors</li> </ul>
<b>Growth</b>	<b>As a Cohesion Fund, the funders are looking for applications which show clearly that groups are being more connected, expanding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Support volunteering, co-creation and active participation</li> <li>➤ Demonstrate clear partnership and collaborative working</li> <li>➤ Engage new audiences</li> </ul>

	<b>their audiences, breaking down barriers and developing. If you're applying for something you already do, you'll need to show why you need funds to develop your activity e.g. reach new audiences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Support the growth of the cultural community</li> <li>➤ Demonstrate that projects/activity could not happen without funding or that the funding will significantly enhance the scope or quality of your event/activity</li> </ul>
<b>Cohesion</b>	<b>Build integration and cohesion in our communities through cultural activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bring people from different social groups together that would not normally meet to participate in a joint creative endeavour</li> <li>➤ Provide opportunity for empathy and curiosity about people 'not like me', to be encouraged</li> <li>➤ Help foster a sense of local pride and belonging</li> <li>➤ Demonstrate a clear understanding of the needs, interests and barriers faced by audiences when engaging with creative and cultural activity</li> <li>➤ Demonstrate inclusive and accessible ways of working</li> </ul>

## ***What should be included in an application?***

At the heart of this fund is bringing people together using nature and the outdoors. Please include evidence that you can and will do this within your proposed activity. The funders are looking for activities that expand and grow your work and enhance the lives of Calderdale residents.

## ***Who can apply?***

Examples of eligible applicants include:

- Individual artists or artistic cooperatives
- Freelance practitioners
- Community groups
- Charities or trusts
- Community interest companies (CICs)
- Social enterprises
- Public sector organisations (not local authorities)
- Private sector organisations
- Organisations that are part of a local authority's direct provision will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- Applicants must live or be based in Calderdale

Partnerships are welcome to apply to this fund. Please identify a lead applicant to apply. This applicant will be responsible for funds received and monitoring on behalf of the partnership.

The fund is open to all applicants who meet the criteria. Funded activities must take place in Calderdale and be for the benefit of the communities of Calderdale.

Grants will not be made for the purposes of:

- The promotion of faith
- The promotion of political ideals
- The reinstatement of reserve funds
- Retrospective payments

The fund will not support:

- Fundraising events where there is private gain.
- Applications from students unless the project is separate from or does not form part of their studies.
- Prize money.
- Applications for support towards the cost of attending courses in Further or Higher Education.
- Purchases of large items of equipment or assets.
- Touring productions.
- Capital works, renovation, or conservation projects will not be supported by the scheme. Reasonable and proportionate materials and equipment can be supported and will need to be justified in the application.
- Projects in deficit.
- Projects which have taken place.
- Projects for commercial gain.
- School projects that are part of the school's curriculum activity. Any schools work will need to be extra-curricular.

## ***Supporting Documents***

As part of due diligence checks, **organisations** applying should supply the following **at the time of application**:

1. constitution, terms of reference, or relevant governance document.
2. a recent bank statement (within the last 3 months)
3. annual accounts and evidence of the ability to track all financial transactions
4. a written policy for safeguarding (children, young people and/or vulnerable adults)
5. an equalities and diversity policy
6. insurance certificates - public liability and employers' liability (where appropriate)
7. A list of trustees/management committee members/directors – we do not need their contact details, a list of names will suffice
8. If your project involves food preparation and handling, please supply evidence of food safety training and registration with Environmental Health

If you have applied to CFFC for funds within the last 6 months we will be able to **re-use some of your existing documents** as part of our checks e.g. policies, trustee information and constitution. We always require an **up-to-date bank statement and set of accounts** to be sent with each application for due diligence purposes.

**Please do not let the request for documentation prevent you from applying. If you are unsure about documentation, please get in touch [grants@cffc.co.uk](mailto:grants@cffc.co.uk) 01422 349700 and we will work with you to find appropriate documents to help demonstrate your reliability to hold public funds.**

**If you are not applying as an organisation, e.g. individual artist, please supply what you can to demonstrate a) financial viability, b) working practices (including safeguarding) and c) community benefit. These documents could include:**

- a) bank statement in the name of the applicant/business (from within the last 3 months)
- b) personal bank account with business transactions highlighted
- c) online presence: Facebook, Instagram, website or similar which clearly shows the business activities/promotions
- d) a tax return.
- e) safeguarding statement/policy or demonstrate a willingness to develop a statement/policy if successful in your application

**This list is not exhaustive.**

## **Scoring**

- a) **Documentation** - the documents you need to send with your application are listed above and include things like your constitution, recent audited accounts, equality & diversity policy, evidence of insurance etc. We use these documents to check applicants (or lead applicants) are eligible for funding. If you're not applying as an organisation, you can supply other information, as listed above and email or ring for support if you need to.
- b) **Project budget** – assessors will be looking to see the project budget is reasonable and based on worked-out costs. Provide any quotes/statistics as evidence for your budget if you can. Please remember that your budget will be compared to all other applicants.
- c) **Compliance** - for former applicants to CFFC, we will review your compliance with monitoring and marketing and any other agreed requirements, from previous applications.
- d) **Financial stability** – we will be looking at the financial position of the applicant/lead applicant to ensure any grants awarded from public money are not at risk

- e) **Social cohesion** – applicants who demonstrate how their work will contribute to greater social cohesion in Calderdale, will be scored higher

## ***Monitoring***

Funded projects will be asked to:

- Attend an online information session to guide you through monitoring
- Collect data that complies with funder evaluation requirements
- Monitor the equality and diversity of their project
- Provide a full breakdown of spending.
- Organisations awarded a grant will be required to complete two sets of funding monitoring: 1) an online monitoring form within 6 weeks of the end of their project and 2) Social Cohesion project monitoring – more detail and data collection forms will be made available to successful applicants for this aspect of the monitoring.
- 2026 monitoring guidance is currently being drafted following the first round of CultureDale Connect Fund. Please see appendix one for 2025 monitoring guidance to give you an idea of the type of monitoring that is required for this fund. Updated guidance will be shared with successful applicants in due course.

**Please keep all receipts and budgetary information for submission with your monitoring.**

## ***How to Apply***

This programme is managed by the Community Foundation for Calderdale, on behalf of Calderdale Council.

You can access the application form via this link: [Apply to CultureDale Connect](#)

Under certain circumstances we can accept applications by video. [Please click here for more information](#)

## ***Help to Apply***

If you have any questions about the CultureDale Connect Fund please contact [Joanna.Fullman@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:Joanna.Fullman@calderdale.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about the application process or need some help completing your application form, please get in touch with [rachelb@cffc.co.uk](mailto:rachelb@cffc.co.uk) 01422 349700

We invite all interested applicants to attend an online launch event for the **CultureDale Connect Fund** on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 11am-12pm**. Please click here to join the meeting: [CultureDale Connect Information Event](#)

[Please click here to view top tips on applying for grants](#)

## Timescales

- You can apply to the **CultureDale Connect Fund** from **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.
- The deadline for invited applications is **10am Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.
- Project delivery will be **April 2026 – end March 2027**

Please note that applications submitted at the last minute, may not meet the deadline. A surge in submissions can result in a delay in processing. These applications **will not be accepted**. As most funds are oversubscribed, priority is given to applications submitted on time. To be sure of your application arriving before the deadline, apply a minimum of a day beforehand.

## What Happens Next?

1. **Application submission online** – please submit your application to CFFC a minimum of a day before the deadline, to ensure it is received on time.
2. **Due diligence check** – the CFFC team review your policies, procedures, finances to ensure that any public funds awarded to you are in safe hands. Please send in any requested documents by the deadline. Your application can be rejected if not accompanied by the correct documents. If you are worried you don't have the right documents, contact [grants@cffc.co.uk](mailto:grants@cffc.co.uk) as we can work with you on this to find evidence to support your application. **Don't let worries about documentation prevent you from applying – get in touch!**
3. **Eligibility check** – the CFFC team perform an initial review of your eligibility and score your application to help the Panel assess your application
4. **Panel assessment** – Funders and independent CFFC Panel members review all applications to make funding decisions. This Panel uses a secure online platform to share and discuss applications.
5. **Funding panel recommendations** – the Panel sends CFFC recommendations for funding and these are reviewed and finally approved by the funders
6. **Applicants receive decision** – CFFC will email you with a decision on your application
7. **Payment** – if successful, payment will follow by BACS shortly after your notification email. If there are outstanding documents for your application, you could receive a conditional offer. This would mean payment is delayed and released only when your documents have been received and checked.
8. **Promotion** – please help raise awareness of the work you will be delivering and the funders using 'Funded by UK Government', Culturedale and Council logos. These can be supplied to you.

**Good luck with your application.**



# CultureDale Connect Fund 2025: Monitoring Guidance

*Please note monitoring guidance for 2026 is currently being drafted*

## Introduction

Congratulations on your CultureDale Connect award. As you plan your activities and events we'd like you to simultaneously build in how you monitor your impact.

The funding for your award has come from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The funds are focused on building social cohesion and they would like to capture the impact on people taking part in CultureDale activities in relation to this aim.

## Social Cohesion

The funders want to measure the impact of your cultural activities on social cohesion. This is described by the funders as:

*Social cohesion happens when people from different backgrounds meet, mix and get along. The work of cohesion and integration is about developing neighbourhoods, workplaces, institutions and social spaces where difference is welcomed and celebrated. It is about creating opportunities where empathy and curiosity about people 'not like me' are encouraged. When this happens, we can move beyond 'us' and 'them' towards ideas of kindness, trust and social cohesion between groups of people.*

## How to monitor

The funders have devised a monitoring form that participants in your funded activities can complete at the end of each activity/event.

There are two ways of collating the information:

- 1) Ask your participants to fill in a survey and hand in to you (see sample in appendix two)
- 2) Ask your participants to scan the online QR code to complete the form online:



There are some things to bear in mind when choosing which approach to take:

- There's nothing to stop you using both approaches dependent on your audiences or the type of activity you are doing.
- If you use the paper survey approach, you can add in your own questions e.g. *where did you hear about this event?* to receive valuable feedback on your activities. We would like you to collate the paper survey information and submit on the excel spreadsheet below to CultureDale. But **please keep your original completed paper surveys** as CultureDale may request them as evidence of your activity and expenditure,
- You can be creative in how you collect the information the funders are looking for e.g. use video, as long as you record using the categories in the paper survey.
- Using the online survey means the data goes directly to the council from the participant and you won't need to complete any monitoring returns to the Council (although see 'further monitoring' below for an end-of-grant online monitoring requirement from CFFC)
- Using the online survey will mean you won't see the data as it goes straight to the Council when filled in online by your participants. You therefore miss an opportunity to get feedback yourself.

- The online survey might appeal to some people. However, asking other people to fill something in on their own via a device might mean less uptake as it's a less engaged and interactive process. It also might preclude people who are digitally excluded.

## Summarising Monitoring

If you collect any monitoring outside the online form please collate it into the excel spreadsheet on page 16.

This form is structured to match how we have to upload the data to the home office reporting system. Each column has to be reported e.g. they want to know how many men or women of different backgrounds have been engaged in projects and feel more connected to others in the community.

Please send your completed monitoring to: [culturedale@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:culturedale@calderdale.gov.uk) at the end of the project or before the end of September 2026. Please retain all the monitoring you collect for a minimum of two years past the end of the grant. **CultureDale may ask to see the raw data as evidence of spend and impact.**

If you would like any help with community engagement you can speak to Lisa Roberts, Community Engagement Officer within the CultureDale Team: [Lisa.Roberts@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Roberts@calderdale.gov.uk)

## A plea from funders

Please note when sending in your monitoring, please don't double count 'volunteers' and 'beneficiaries'. Whilst volunteers hopefully do benefit from your activity, they should be recorded separately to direct participants.

## Further monitoring

**Community Foundation for Calderdale Online Monitoring:** When your project is due to complete you will receive an email from us with a special link to your project evaluation:



All you need to do is:

- click the link
- answer the questions about your activity
- attach receipts and any other relevant information
- click the button at the bottom of the page to submit

This monitoring includes case studies, feedback on the project and a financial analysis. If we do not receive your evaluation it may affect future funding of you or your group, and we may ask for the money to be returned. You can find more information about monitoring and view a sample monitoring form [here](#). Please see a sample project survey you can use and add to overleaf.

Our activities are supported with funding from the Government's Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). We are gathering some information from you so we can learn about the impact of our work.

**How to complete this survey**

- Choose **one** answer for each question.
- Mark the boxes or symbols with a tick or cross.
- Hand it in to the project worker or manager, when completed.

**1. What is the name of your project or group?** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What is your sex?**

- Female  Male  Prefer not to say

**3. What is your ethnic background?**

- Asian / Asian British  White  
 Black / African / Caribbean / Black British  Prefer not to say  
 Mixed / Multiple ethnic background  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What is your religion or belief?**

- Agnostic  Muslim  
 Athiest  No religion  
 Buddhist  Sikh  
 Christian  Prefer not to say  
 Hindu  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jewish

**Complete these questions to tell us how you feel after taking part in the project.**

"Belonging" can mean feeling safe, feeling comfortable or having friends in the local area.

**5. After taking part, I feel like I belong more in my local community. Do you agree?**



No, not at all

Not very much

Neutral / don't know

Yes, a little

Yes, a lot

When we say “people from different backgrounds” this might include:

- People with different abilities, disabilities or health conditions.
- People of different faiths or from different countries.
- People of different ages, gender or sexual orientation.

**6. After taking part in the project, I think people from different backgrounds get on well together. Do you agree?**



No, not at all



Not very much



Neutral / don't know



Yes, a little



Yes, a lot

**7. After taking part, I trust people more in my local area. Do you agree?**



No, not at all



Not very much



Neutral / don't know



Yes, a little



Yes, a lot

Good community cohesion is when people from different backgrounds get on well and understand each other.

**Some projects offer training to help people understand more about community cohesion.**

**8. Have you taken part in this sort of training?**



Yes



No

That's the end of the questions. Thank you very much for completing this survey.

## Data capture spreadsheet

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	<b>Activation Fund Data Report</b>								
2	<b>Name of project (write in box below)</b>		<b>Asian/Asian British background</b>	<b>Black/Black British background</b>	<b>Mixed/Multiple ethnic background</b>	<b>White or White British background</b>	<b>Other ethnic background</b>	<b>Not known</b>	
3		Total number of people who took part in your project overall (this column will add up automatically)	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	
4	Total number of women (insert numbers in relevant boxes)	0							
5	Total number of men (insert numbers in relevant boxes)	0							
6	Total number of people where sex is unknown (insert numbers in relevant boxes)	0							
7	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8									
9	<b>Outcome 1: number of people who have an improved sense of</b>		<b>Asian/Asian British background</b>	<b>Black/Black British background</b>	<b>Mixed/Multiple ethnic background</b>	<b>White or White British background</b>	<b>Other ethnic background</b>	<b>Not known</b>	
10		Total number for this outcome (this column will add up automatically)	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	
11	Total number of women reporting this outcome	0							
12	Total number of men reporting this outcome	0							
13	Total number of people reporting this outcome where sex is unknown	0							
14	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	<b>Outcome 2: number of people who have improved perception that people from different backgrounds get on well</b>		<b>Asian/Asian British background</b>	<b>Black/Black British background</b>	<b>Mixed/Multiple ethnic background</b>	<b>White or White British background</b>	<b>Other ethnic background</b>	<b>Not known</b>	
16		Total number for this outcome (this column will add up automatically)	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	
17	Total number of women reporting this outcome	0							
18	Total number of men reporting this outcome	0							
19	Total number of people reporting this outcome where sex is unknown	0							
20	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	<b>Outcome 3: number of people who have improved trust in their fellow</b>		<b>Asian/Asian British background</b>	<b>Black/Black British background</b>	<b>Mixed/Multiple ethnic background</b>	<b>White or White British background</b>	<b>Other ethnic background</b>	<b>Not known</b>	
22		Total number for this outcome (this column will add up automatically)	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	
23	Total number of women reporting this outcome	0							
24	Total number of men reporting this outcome	0							
25	Total number of people reporting this outcome where sex is unknown	0							
26	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	<b>Outcome 4: number of people who have taken part in training to increase awareness and capacity for</b>		<b>Asian/Asian British background</b>	<b>Black/Black British background</b>	<b>Mixed/Multiple ethnic background</b>	<b>White or White British background</b>	<b>Other ethnic background</b>	<b>Not known</b>	
28		Total number for this outcome (this column will add up automatically)	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	Write number of people engaged from this background	
29	Total number of women reporting this outcome	0							
30	Total number of men reporting this outcome	0							
31	Total number of people reporting this outcome where sex is unknown	0							
32	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33									
34									
35									

## ***Glossary***

<b>BACS –</b>	<b>Bank Transfer</b>
<b>CFFC –</b>	<b>Community Foundation for Calderdale</b>
<b>CIC –</b>	<b>Community Interest Company</b>
<b>CIO –</b>	<b>Charitable Incorporated Organisation</b>
<b>e.g. –</b>	<b>For Example</b>
<b>UK -</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>