

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Pathways to Work Community Fund 2026

#### What is Pathways to Work?

Please read the separate document which explains Pathways to Work in more detail. We are looking for applications from groups who are providing support or activities that already involve working age adults. We are particularly looking for groups working with adults who are not currently in employment, either as participants or as volunteers, or both.

This funding is for informal, community-based engagement to help people take a first step towards Pathways to Work.

It is not for delivering employment support, training or structured programmes.

#### Who can apply for a grant from the Pathways to Work Community Fund?

This funding is for “not for profit” organisations such as (but not limited to):

- Registered charities of any size
- Community groups or voluntary organisations
- CICs (Community Interest Companies)
- Social enterprises (with an asset lock)

If you are not a registered charity, you would need to be a group or organisation that has a bank account in the group’s name, (as long as that bank account requires 2 signatures), has a charitable constitution and has three unrelated trustees or committee members.

Given the timescales, we believe that groups who are already established and delivering activities in Barnsley will have the best chance of successfully making the expected referrals to the Pathways Hub. However, applicants who are not currently delivering activities in Barnsley, but plan to replicate successful activities from other places will also be considered. If this is the case, please be very specific about how you will find people in communities that you’re not already working in.

#### 2. What kind of projects will you fund?

This funding is for informal engagement and preparation, not delivering employment support. VCSE organisations will help people take a next step, including referring into Pathways to Work when they’re ready.

We know that community groups and charities have a unique place in building trusted relationships and that they provide a wide range of support to local people.

**So, existing activities can be funded**, as long as you build in some additional capacity to spend time supporting people before, during and after the referral process. **Projects or activities that are currently supporting local people living with poor mental or physical health, people who are socially isolated, those who are struggling financially and people with caring responsibilities may be a good match for this fund. However other kinds of activities and support could be great too.**

As long as you will have regular personal contact with people of working age who are not currently in employment, your project may be suitable. You would be working with people who you believe would consider being referred to Pathways to Work for tailored one to one support from the Pathways Team. For example, you might refer someone in who currently needs some basic IT training, or to get their English GCSE, or for some help getting their CV together and support preparing for interviews. You do not need to provide any employment support or training for them yourselves. If you are unsure, please contact [funding@barnsleycvs.org.uk](mailto:funding@barnsleycvs.org.uk) and ask for a chat before starting on an application.

### **3. Which costs can be included?**

This list gives examples of the most common requests we receive. If you want to spend money on something and you are not sure if you can include it, please contact us to check

- Applicants can include up to 13% of overheads in their application to cover things like the cost of heating, phone calls, IT support, insurance, accountancy support etc. We actively encourage you to build this in to your budget.
- Salary costs for people working on the project can be funded
- Project costs such as hall hire, materials needed for sessions, volunteer expenses etc can be included.

### **4. What will you NOT fund?**

We will not fund:

- Individuals or for-profit businesses
- Organisations in the statutory sector, (for example, schools may not apply) or statutory services or activities that are already publicly funded
- Activities promoting religion or politics
- Any costs that are incurred before 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026
- Capital costs (for example, paying for new equipment or spending money on improving a building) can NOT be included

### **5. How much funding can we apply for?**

Grants are for any amount from £500 up to £7,500. All grants are for 8 months and the total grant include overheads. If you think you will only work with a small number of people who are not currently in employment in the timescales, then it's absolutely fine to apply for a smaller grant amount to support them.

Successful applicants will receive the grant payment in August and can start spending on their projects from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026. All activity and expenditure must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.

### **6. Do we need match funding?**

No, match funding is not essential, but we welcome projects that show value for money or have support from other sources (in-kind or financial).

## 7. How do we apply?

Applications must be submitted using our application form which is available to download from our website from 4th June 2026. If you require a paper form or help with accessibility, please contact us.

## 8. What information do we need to provide?

**You MUST stick to the word counts given in the different sections of the application form. You can highlight the text in Word and click on “Review / Word count” to check it.**

You will need to provide:

- Details of your proposed plans (see application form for specific questions)
- Project budget
- Details of your organisation and governing documents
- Bank account details in the group’s name and a recent bank statement

## 9. When is the deadline?

The deadline is **10am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026**. Any applications received after this time will **not** be accepted.

## 10. How long will it take to get a decision?

We will notify applicants at the end of July for a project start date of 1<sup>st</sup> August. Please do not start your project until you have a funding decision. Please note that we understand August may be a time of preparation, ready for full delivery from 1<sup>st</sup> September onwards.

## 11. If successful, what will we need to do?

Someone from your organisation will need to be available **on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September** for a meeting with all the other grant holders. We will outline the requirements for monitoring at this meeting, but it will include:

- providing some basic statistics at the end of November 26 and at the end of March 27 and a summary of how it’s going
- providing an end of project report explaining how the funds were used, how successful it was in making a difference, and any lessons learnt. We would also like at least one case study as part of this reporting.
- providing some photos which showcase what you have been doing, that you have permission to share
- using the Pathways to Work logo and the Barnsley CVS logo as requested
- being part of a group run by Barnsley CVS to engage with other grant recipients, to help promote what the others are doing and signposting people to those activities too
- welcoming funders to visit your activity during the project to see how it’s all going

## 12. What support is available during the application process?

You are welcome to email or phone to ask questions during the application process. Please email [funding@barnsleycvs.org.uk](mailto:funding@barnsleycvs.org.uk) or phone 01226 448796 and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

### **13. How can I improve my chances of my application being successful?**

Before you send in your application, please get someone else to check that:

- You have clearly explained what you plan to do and why you think it's needed. Perhaps you could ask someone to read it who knows very little about what you do and see what questions they have about it.
- The figures in your budget all add up correctly and it's clear what you're planning to spend the money on
- You have not written more than the word limit in any section
- You have submitted all of the documents requested with the application
- You have sent everything in before the deadline of 10am on Mon 20<sup>th</sup> July

We look forward to reading about your plans!