

### VRU Community Grant Round FAQ's 2026

<b>No</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1	None of our team can make the session on 3rd June. Could you advise how we'd access the recording?	<p>We will be circulating the recording to our grant and preventing violence forum distribution lists.</p> <p>In addition, we will be aiming to publish it on our website for organisations to view.</p>
2	Can we send supporting documentation?	We are unable to accept additional documentation other than the main application form. Please ensure that the key information you wish to share is included in the grant application form.
3	Can we insert a link into the application?	Yes, you can insert a link for reference but due to the number of applications received, we cannot guarantee that panel members will be able to review links so we would recommend the information is summarised in your application.
4	What do your reserves have to be to make an application?	<p>We do not have a minimum or maximum requirement, however, as part of our due diligence process, we will consider the financial stability of all applications and may request further information if required.</p> <p>Payment terms can be individualised to each grant application.</p>
5	<p>Some of us in the network meeting Thursday were shocked to hear that the decisions about this funding will take into account the bias Youth Investment Fund research toolkit which only includes research from building based youth work and ignores the value of playwork and detached work - saying both do not have value.</p> <p>The VRU must not use that bias toolkit in isolation and must ensure the panel includes cross sector experience and research including Playwork and detached youth work research or it is not worth any of us wasting time in applying.</p>	<p>Thank you for raising this concern and for sharing your perspective following the Preventing Violence Forum. We recognise the strength of feeling around this issue and the important contribution that play work and detached youth work makes across our communities.</p> <p>The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Toolkit is designed to bring together and summarise the best available research evidence on approaches to preventing children and young people's involvement in violence. It is important to clarify that the toolkit does not state that play work or detached youth work lack value. Rather, it highlights that, at present, there is insufficient high-quality research evidence available to assess their impact against its criteria. The YEF continues to actively encourage further research and evaluation in these areas to better understand and evidence their effectiveness.</p>

		<p>We also want to reassure you that the toolkit will not be used in isolation to inform funding decisions. It is one of several tools and sources of information considered as part of a broader, balanced assessment process.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment panel brings together a diverse range of expertise and perspectives, including representation from SYMCA, South Yorkshire Police, local authorities, and the community and voluntary sector. This breadth of experience is intended to ensure that different approaches, including those rooted in play work and detached youth work, are understood and fairly considered.</p> <p>We value the insights and experience of all partners in the sector and remain committed to a fair and inclusive process.</p>
6	The Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit funding and research are about youth work (so working with 13-year-olds plus - some maybe 11+). Youth voice does not include children either it seems.	<p>The Youth Endowment toolkit will not be used in isolation to inform funding decisions. It is one of several tools and sources of information considered as part of a broader, balanced assessment process.</p> <p>We are aware that interventions targeted at younger children can be extremely effective and as a result there is no lower age range set on our funding round. We would review the evidence of need provided in the application to understand requirements and effectiveness.</p>
7	What direct communication or partnership is expected with local Police?	<p>You are expected to establish working relationships with your local neighbourhood policing teams, where appropriate, to support project participants and referral pathways.</p> <p>Ideally, such engagement will already be in place; however, contact details for local neighbourhood policing teams can be provided to successful applicants if required.</p>
8	What insurance is required and do you assist in finding property to work from?	<p>The level of insurance required will depend on the nature of your project or activity. As a minimum, you are expected to hold both Public Liability and Employers' Liability insurance. In certain cases, Professional Indemnity insurance may also be required, depending on the scope of the project.</p>

		<p>Please note that we are unable to provide direct assistance with sourcing property. While we can share links to local agencies for your reference, we are not able to engage in property searches or negotiations on your behalf.</p>
9	Can previous applicants apply and does this impact success?	<p>Previous applicants are welcome to submit a new application.</p> <p>All submissions will be assessed by our grant panel against the same established criteria to determine which applications are successful.</p>
10	What is the key focus for this grant in Doncaster?	<p>Ultimately, the grant round is focused on addressing the five key themes outlined in the application.</p> <p>While delivery in specific areas is not a requirement for successful funding, the VRU encourages projects and interventions that target areas of identified need. A detailed breakdown of this information can be found on pages 5 and 6 of the Grant Guidance Notes.</p>
11	We have various projects and pilots across South Yorkshire, is it better to apply as individual applications or place them together. The projects are a new Knife Crime awareness piece in collaboration with senior Education leads, a suite of courses with supporting work for both teachers and students on Values and Behaviours and a pilot that we tried again as a suite of courses, delivered over a four week period on Misogyny, Online Safety, Sexual Harassment and Self-defence.	<p>Groups may submit individual applications for funding of up to £20,000, which will be assessed and decided upon separately by the panel. Alternatively, a single joint application of up to £20,000 may be submitted and will be reviewed as a whole.</p> <p>The panel welcomes clear information on the proposed delivery plan and how it aligns with or complements existing, established provision, including POL-ED.</p>
12	We would welcome further clarification around the types of projects and engagement approaches the VRU is most keen to support for young people within this funding round. Much of the provision we see is centred around sports and outdoor activities, and we would be interested to understand how creative, skill-based and confidence-building approaches that engage young people in different ways fit within the programme priorities, particularly for those who may not traditionally engage with mainstream activities	<p>The VRU recognises that traditional mainstream sporting activities, such as football, may not meet the needs or interests of all individuals. Accordingly, we actively encourage and support projects that engage young people through alternative creative and skill-based approaches.</p>
13	As already funded this year, could we apply for a continuation of the work?	<p>We do accept applications for the continuation of existing work. However, it is recommended that</p>

	If no to above, could we put in a different bid?	applicants provide a clear outline detailing how the project or activity will be sustained or supported over the long term.
14	Will joint/consortium bids be accepted?	Joint or consortium bids are permitted; however, please note that the VRU will accept no more than one application per lead organisation.
15	Does being a previous recipient of an SYVRU grant (2023) in the past mean you are less likely to receive again?	<p>Previous applicants are welcome to submit a new application.</p> <p>All submissions will be assessed by our grant panel against the same established criteria to determine which applications are successful.</p>
16	How have the statistics changed in the last 3 years?	We are unclear on the context of this question – a follow up question for clarification has been sent.
17	If we applied last year and were not successful, is it worth applying for a similar project this year?	<p>You are welcome to submit another application with the same or a similar project.</p> <p>However, if you applied last year and requested and received feedback, we strongly advise that you review this feedback carefully, alongside the grant guidance notes, before submitting a new application.</p>
18	What can be funded?	Full details of eligible activities and funding criteria can be found in the grant guidance notes.
19	<p>Will the grants be made available for small charities or will the funding be for the usual big providers and charities that normally get the funding?</p> <p>Will there be support for smaller charities to enable grants or will it be the funding goes to the best bid writers?</p>	<p>Our grant funding is open to a wide range of organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered charities</li> <li>• Voluntary organisations with a clearly defined not-for-profit purpose outlined in their governing document</li> <li>• Unregistered community groups that meet our governance requirements</li> <li>• Community Interest Companies (limited by guarantee)</li> <li>• Schools and academy trusts delivering non-statutory activities that complement the National Curriculum and extend beyond the standard school day</li> </ul> <p>There is no minimum funding threshold, ensuring that smaller organisations can apply for amounts appropriate to their needs, up to a maximum of £20,000.</p>

		<p>To further support our voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, we will host a VRU funding workshop on 3 June. This session will provide applicants with practical guidance and tips for submitting a strong application.</p> <p>Additionally, our evaluation partner, Rocket Science, is delivering a free workshop for community groups. This session will support applicants not only with VRU submissions but also with wider funding applications.</p> <p>Our grant panel assesses applications using a range of criteria to determine successful applicants.</p>
20	What are the priorities for this funding round i.e. new vs existing work, if re-applicants are welcome/encouraged.	<p>Re-applications are welcome. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to include a clear and detailed explanation of how the proposed project or activity will be sustained or supported over the long term.</p> <p>Information on funding priorities and themes is available in the Grant Guidance Notes.</p>
21	Can we provide any pictures of the previous work to support the application? Will there be an option to do that on the form?	The application form does not include designated sections for images. It is therefore recommended that all relevant information is provided directly within the form itself, rather than being submitted as images.
22	Would the grant be suitable for a capital purchase of fencing to prevent off road bikes accessing a children's cycling facility?	<p>Please note that capital and building-related expenses are not eligible under this funding. This includes costs associated with renovation, conversion, fixed equipment (such as boilers and lighting), and vehicles.</p> <p>For a comprehensive list of excluded items, please refer to pages 7, 12, and 13 of the Grant Guidance Notes.</p>
23	We are hoping to continue the project that has been funded over the last 9/10 months - are we allowed to put in a proposal that continues and enhances our current project?	We do accept applications for the continuation and expansion of existing work. However, it is recommended that applicants provide a clear outline detailing how the project or activity will be sustained or supported over the long term.
24	Many vulnerable young people sit at the intersection of trauma, exploitation, school exclusion, family instability, and criminalisation. How open is the VRU to proposals that intentionally bridge those systems rather than	The VRU welcomes applications that take an integrated approach to addressing interconnected issues such as trauma, exploitation, school exclusion, family instability, and criminalisation.

	operating within a single-theme intervention model?	Funding decisions will be based on the overall quality and strength of the submitted proposal.
25	<p>Please can you clarify how survivor-led domestic abuse support will be prioritised within the Violence Reduction Fund, particularly for women and children experiencing coercive control, post-separation abuse and high-risk harm?</p> <p>I would also like to understand whether funding can support prevention-focused work, trauma-informed recovery, and community-based early intervention, rather than only crisis response.</p>	<p>Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls, with a particular focus on individuals aged under 25, is one of the five key themes for this grant round. We welcome applications that align with this theme and meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the Grant Guidance Notes.</p> <p>In line with our public health approach, we also encourage applications that emphasise prevention-focused initiatives, trauma-informed recovery, and community-based early intervention.</p>
26	I would like to find out if the grant is aimed at prevention or support during or after the crisis.	See above answer to Q25.
27	What are the eligibility criteria?	Full details of the eligibility criteria can be found in the Grant Guidance Notes.
28	What demographic is the initiative aimed at?	<p>There is no defined target demographic, with the exception of the Violence Against Women and Girls theme, which is specifically aimed at individuals under the age of 25.</p> <p>Our primary focus is on organisations that can clearly demonstrate a need for their proposed project, rather than targeting a particular demographic group.</p>
29	<p>Is there potential of support for an existing provision which engages young people and keeps them off the streets during the evenings or does it need to be for a specific project within existing provision?</p> <p>Can this fund be used for core costs of an existing charity which is engaging young people, providing them with a safe place and keeping them off the streets, or does it need to be for a new project specifically aimed at violence reduction.</p>	<p>The funding does not need to support an entirely new project; it can also be applied towards core costs associated with existing provision. However, the application will need to clearly demonstrate how covering these core costs contributes to delivering against one of the five key themes outlined in the application.</p> <p>Please refer to the eligibility criteria within the grant guidance document, which sets out in detail the types of core costs that can and cannot be funded.</p>
30	Can grant recipients deliver work in schools and upskill school staff around serious violence?	<p>Grant recipients may deliver activities within schools and/or provide professional development to school staff relating to violence prevention.</p> <p>We recognise the constraints on both school timetables and staff capacity. Accordingly, we recommend that applicants establish relationships with identified schools in advance and develop a</p>

		<p>clear delivery plan, including appropriate contingency measures should implementation not be feasible as intended.</p> <p>Furthermore, where delivery takes place in schools, we expect all content to align with recognised standards and frameworks, such as Pol Ed.</p>
31	<p>We provide trauma-informed support to children, young people and families experiencing multiple ACEs, domestic abuse, school disengagement and poor mental health. Whilst many of these factors are recognised risk factors for later involvement in violence, our work is often preventative and takes place before any violent behaviour has emerged. Would the VRU consider this type of early intervention and whole-family support to be a strong fit under the 'Coaching and Mentoring to Reduce Violence' and/or 'Diversionary Activities Away from Violent Crime' themes?</p>	<p>The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) adopts a public health approach to addressing violence, recognising that early intervention is key to preventing future involvement. Accordingly, this work would appropriately align with both themes identified.</p>
32	<p>Are there any geographical areas you want to target?</p>	<p>While delivery in specific areas is not a requirement for successful funding, the VRU encourages projects and interventions that target areas of identified need. A detailed breakdown of these areas can be found on pages 5 and 6 of the Grant Guidance Notes.</p>
33	<p>What areas of the project would the VRU like to be emphasised? e.g. the project design, participants, impact etc.</p>	<p>The grant panel will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the overall quality of the bid. This assessment will include a detailed review of the project's aims to ensure they are clear, well-defined, and aligned with the funding objectives. The panel will also consider the strength and credibility of the evidence presented to demonstrate the need for the proposed project. In addition, careful attention will be given to the anticipated outcomes, with particular emphasis on the project's potential impact, sustainability, and the extent to which it can deliver meaningful and measurable benefits to the target beneficiaries or wider community.</p>
34	<p>What is new and/or has changed for this year? - Can you help us deliver trips outside of South Yorkshire (many high quality opportunities for learning and activities are outside SY)? - When is the earliest date Projects can start?</p>	<p>The principal updates for this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisions to the key thematic priorities</li> <li>• Introduction of defined priority areas of need</li> <li>• Amendments to monitoring and payment schedules</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A maximum funding limit of £20,000 per application</li> </ul> <p>In accordance with our funding criteria, all activities supported through the Community Grants Programme must take place within South Yorkshire.</p> <p>Projects funded through this programme are expected to commence from 1 October 2026.</p>
35	What's the process of applying?	<p>The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) will open applications on 1 June, with the submission deadline set for 12:00 noon on 26 June. All applications must be completed using the official form, which can be downloaded from the VRU website: <a href="#">Violence Reduction Fund 2026   Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)</a>.</p> <p>Further detailed guidance on the application process is available from page 8 onwards in the grant guidance notes.</p>
36	We work in West Yorkshire and work very closely with their VRU and have just received funding from the people fund, can we still apply? Our project will be in South Yorkshire.	<p>Yes, you may still apply. However, if the application relates to the same project but seeks additional funding, it is important to clearly distinguish which activities will be funded by the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (SY VRU) and which will be covered by West Yorkshire.</p> <p>Additionally, if the funding request is for the continuation of an existing project, all activities must take place within South Yorkshire.</p> <p>If the application is for a completely separate project based in South Yorkshire, then it can be considered eligible.</p>
37	Is the SYVRU fund open to applications for funding of roles? We have a Psychotherapist role which aligns with the aims of the fund, but I just wanted to clarify that this would be eligible?	<p>Yes, the funding can be used to cover role costs. However, if the funding is intended for a new position, we recommend that your application clearly outlines any potential recruitment delays and the associated risks or impacts these may have on project delivery.</p>
38	Where on website are the Q&As?	<p>All key information and documentation can be found here:</p> <p><a href="#">Violence Reduction Fund 2026   Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)</a></p>
39	Is the date for the final payment correct?	<p>The final payment information is correct. The first three payments are made in advance—initially as</p>

		<p>an upfront payment, followed by subsequent payments contingent upon successful monitoring returns that demonstrate eligible expenditure.</p> <p>The final payment is based on actual costs incurred and is made upon confirmation of the final expenditure at the end of the project. This approach ensures that SYMCA does not need to recover funds from community groups, as the final payment reflects only the verified and confirmed costs.</p>
40	<p>We have a partner who is keen to share potential participants to the programme we want to run. We do not have direct access other than this as it will be our first time applying and are an arts organisation that has experience of working on similar programmes but don't have the network yet to find more people in case this partner cannot supply enough participants, where else can we look to grow partnerships please?</p>	<p>Depending on the target groups you are seeking to engage, we would expect the bid to include a clear plan for how you will connect with the relevant sectors and audiences. This should outline how your communication and engagement approach will effectively support this activity.</p> <p>We would also encourage you to present realistic projections within your bid regarding the number of participants you anticipate engaging.</p> <p>We would be happy to discuss this further following the event if that would be helpful in providing additional clarity.</p>
41	<p>What evidence do you require as proof that the Young People are at risk of committing crime?</p>	<p>This information may be informed by local intelligence, including the project locations and activities outlined in the grant guidance documentation. However, specific evidence demonstrating how a young person may be at risk of committing crime should be articulated within the bid narrative.</p>
42	<p>Is this fund aimed at young people under the age of 25 only?</p>	<p>Only the Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls theme is specifically aimed at individuals under the age of 25. The other four themes do not have any age restrictions.</p>
43	<p>Would the VRU consider an application from a newly constituted CIC with all relevant pre requisite documentation completed, bank account in place and with the individual behind the CIC having a demonstrable history of relevant activity similar to that which make up the priority areas of this fund?</p>	<p>As long as the CIC has the appropriate governance arrangements in place, as outlined on page 4 of the grant guidance document, we would be able to consider an application.</p> <p>If there are any areas where these requirements are not currently met, we would be pleased to discuss these with you and explore any acceptable alternatives for approval.</p>
44	<p>I work with men seeking asylum, is there scope for any work on supporting victims of hate crime or also preventative work regarding retaliation,</p>	<p>Further information and a response will be provided shortly.</p>

	we do a lot of diversionary activities with successful outcomes but would be very interested in building on this work.	
45	Will there be any separate funding pots for capital projects?	<p>This represents the first round of bids being administered by SYMCA, specifically under the VRU programme. Additional Community Grant funding rounds are planned later in the year from SYMCA, which may provide opportunities to support further projects, should the current criteria not fully align with your requirements.</p> <p>At this stage, we are unable to confirm whether future funding streams will include provision for capital projects.</p>
46	This funding is for 25 and under but can activities include parents or guardians to attend with children?	<p>Only the Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls theme is specifically targeted at individuals under the age of 25. The remaining four themes do not impose any age restrictions.</p> <p>If your project focuses on the Violence Against Women and Girls theme, the proposed intervention must clearly demonstrate, within the narrative, its relevance and connection to children and young people, as well as to their parents or guardians. Demonstrating these linkages will not prevent an application from being considered.</p>
47	If 3 or 4 organisations combined their bid would that mean the upper max bid would rise to £60/80k accordingly?	<p>Each bid may be submitted for up to £20,000. If three or four organisations apply individually for this amount and later choose to collaborate, this could present a viable option. However, if organisations apply collectively as a consortium, the maximum available funding remains £20,000 in total.</p> <p>Submitting separate applications does carry the risk that one or more bids may not be successful. Therefore, the most appropriate approach will depend on the specific funding requirements and priorities of the project.</p>
48	Are the areas of focus likely to change with further rounds?	<p>The priority areas outlined in the application form and grant guidance are currently under review through the Commissioning process. We understand that these areas may differ for the community grant round. Therefore, we recommend carefully reviewing all relevant guidance documentation for each grant round to ensure that your application meets the specified criteria.</p>

49	How do we find out about the other upcoming rounds and what these might be and when they will be announced? I'd like to be added to any lists that we may be eligible for as a CIC.	<p>Upcoming community grant funding rounds are currently under discussion with the Deputy Mayor and are awaiting formal approval. Once confirmed, details will be shared via our grants distribution list, the Preventing Violence Forum distribution list, and through the VRU and Deputy Mayor's social media channels.</p> <p>If you are not currently subscribed to our distribution lists, please contact us at <a href="mailto:Grants@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk">Grants@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk</a>. We will ensure you are added and kept informed of future funding opportunities.</p>
50	When assessing applications, does the VRU limit funding to one organisation per geographical area (e.g. village, town, or ward), or would multiple organisations from the same area be considered for funding where the proposed projects offer different activities, target different groups, or address different ?	The VRU has previously funded more than one organisation within the same geographical area; therefore, there are no restrictions on the number of areas or organisations that can be funded within this funding round.
51	Do you have evidence of fees acceptable for hiring practitioners for the course etc? Just trying to work out how best to budget in a way that will not feel overstated and aligns with previous budgets accepted	This is down to individual organisations and bids and how best to cost out activities within the process, dependent on how much you are looking to bid for.
52	For project need - if we are looking to make the project not area specific how do we make it quantitative? We have done research for need with SHU - collecting evidence to support the need.	<p>The approach to evidencing need will depend on the metrics used for measurement. For instance, if the focus is on diversion outcomes or crime reduction, you could analyse participant engagement and apply mapping or other relevant methodologies.</p> <p>We are hosting a workshop on 10 June with our evaluation partner, Rocket Science, focused on developing a Theory of Change. I would strongly recommend attending, as it could provide valuable insight into this process.</p> <p>If the project is not area specific but there is also national recognised data that you could provide that would be beneficial.</p>
53	Would Focussed Deterrence qualify within methodology even though the evidence base is still being evaluated to a large extent?	Upon reviewing the YEF Toolkit for focused deterrence, it is evident that this approach is currently classified as a high-impact methodology. As such, it would be well-positioned to meet the criteria for funding within this grant round.

		See link directly to the toolkit below: <a href="#">Focused deterrence   YEF Toolkit</a>
54	We have previously been in receipt of funding and have worked extensively with directed Doncaster schools and colleges based on the list provided by the VRU. We found that even with funding some schools were mission impossible to get into. Can the VRU offer any help and support with this?	<p>The VRU has an updated list of schools that can be shared. We are also keen to engage further to better understand any barriers you may be experiencing, as well as to support relevant connections. Please do not hesitate to reach out following the session or as part of the grant application process.</p> <p>Where possible, we recommend that any existing partnerships or links with schools are clearly established and documented within your application. This will provide reassurance to the assessment panel regarding the feasibility and potential success of your project.</p> <p>Additionally, the local Well Doncaster Officer holds contacts with most schools. You can submit an enquiry via their website, and they will connect you with the appropriate officer.</p>
55	For continuity are there preferred partners that the VRU hold in the employment, education and training space or are these pathways based on existing or creation of new partnerships?	The VRU maintains connections through SYMCA's Skills and Employment Team; however, it does not operate a list of "preferred partners," ensuring opportunities remain open to new and innovative partnerships and approaches.
56	I work for a national Charity, and we have three separate Centres in Doncaster working in specialist areas, Migration, Criminal Justice Women and Rough sleepers. Can we apply separately?	The funding criteria permit only one application per organisation or project lead. Therefore, only a single application can be submitted unless each centre is registered separately.
57	Doncaster college has two campuses, one in Doncaster and one in Scunthorpe, would we be able to deliver in Scunthorpe for Doncaster college	Unfortunately not, all activity and delivery must be in South Yorkshire only
58	If you work with 16–25-year-olds for the VAWG area would this be ok? Where projects are delivered from an organisation's own premises, are organisations permitted to include a proportionate contribution towards venue and running costs associated with delivering the project, or are these costs considered ineligible as core organisational expenditure?	<p>The Violence Against Women and Girls theme is intended for beneficiaries under the age of 25; therefore, 16-25 is within the eligible age range.</p> <p>Please note that ongoing operational costs—such as rent, insurance, and utility expenses—may be eligible for funding. For further details, please refer to page 9 onwards of the grant guidance document.</p>
59	When you state that project management budget can only be 10% does this include let's say weekly delivery of sessions for the diversionary	This funding request is intended to cover administrative components of the project only.

	project or is this just the administrative elements?	<p>We would expect the delivery of weekly sessions to be incorporated within the employee costs section and clearly itemised accordingly.</p> <p>Where both project management and delivery costs are being requested, the total for project management costs must not exceed 10% of the overall project costs. For example, if the total project costs amount to £18,000, no more than £1,800 may be allocated to project management but you can still have separate costs for delivery as well.</p>
60	So no evaluation costs can be covered?	We are unable to cover evaluation costs, as a separate budget is allocated for evaluation services, which are tendered annually. If your project is successful and selected for formal evaluation, arrangements can be made to facilitate this process.
61	Would an element of peer support within the project be educational, or would it sit outside of that remit?	Peer support would be permitted within the criteria of the grant.
62	Would you consider a scaled application? e.g. Request for £XX to deliver 4 rounds of activities, but also happy to accept £XX to provide 2 rounds?	We would be open to considering a scaled application. This approach would allow time during the grant management process to review and determine what is feasible based on the prevailing circumstances. Please ensure that this is clearly and comprehensively outlined within your application.
63	What might a suitable sustainability plan look like? Where projects can only run with such funds available?	A sustainability plan can be demonstrated by incorporating a clear communication strategy that outlines and shares the outcomes of the project. This should include identifying ways to evidence and showcase the positive impacts achieved, which can support efforts to secure additional funding, as well as foster the development and maintenance of strong, long-term partnerships.
64	Is it permissible to work with both young people and adults provided measures are in place for safeguarding etc? As in, is there an age limit on the beneficiaries here?	<p>Only the Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls theme is specifically targeted at individuals under the age of 25. The remaining four themes do not impose any age restrictions so can cover young people and adults.</p> <p>If your project focuses on the Violence Against Women and Girls theme, the proposed intervention must clearly demonstrate, within the narrative, its relevance and connection to children and young people.</p>

		Regardless of whether you are working with young people or adults we would expect safeguarding policies to be in place.
65	What type of evidence do assessors find most persuasive when demonstrating behaviour change or violence reduction?	To demonstrate behaviour change or reduction in violence, please provide evidence that includes a combination of quantitative (data-driven) measures as well as qualitative insights. Qualitative evidence may include participant quotes, case studies, local feedback, or stakeholder comments.
66	Would a theory of change come through the evaluation process with Rocket Science or would that be down to the organisation if this was felt to be helpful?	<p>We encourage organisations to have a clear understanding of their current theory of change, which can be further strengthened by incorporating the Rocket Science evaluation framework.</p> <p>Our current evaluation partner, Rocket Science, is delivering a free online workshop for voluntary and community sector organisations on developing your Story of Change on 10 June.</p> <p>A Story of Change is a practical tool for articulating the impact your work seeks to achieve. It helps demonstrate the connection between the needs or challenges you are addressing, the activities you deliver, and the outcomes you aim to create for the individuals and communities you support. We strongly recommend registering for and attending this session to support and strengthen future applications.</p>
67	Can just check this in regards to the subheading reducing violence for women and girls or is every subheading such a mentoring under 25?	Only the Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls theme is specifically targeted at individuals under the age of 25. The remaining four themes do not impose any age restrictions so can cover young people and adults.
68	In terms of partnership bids, how would you like us to approach the budget where costs could be occurred across two organisations?	Please ensure that, where possible, costs are itemised per organisation. For example, within the employee costs section, provide a detailed breakdown of hourly rates by organisation, making it clear how each cost is attributed.
69	What is the youngest age bracket?	There is no minimum age requirement for funding eligibility. However, the rationale for your project and the proposed target demographic must be clearly outlined and supported within the application, particularly in the “evidence of need” section.

70	<p>What are the most common reasons otherwise strong applications fail to receive funding?</p>	<p>There are several reasons why an otherwise successful application may not be awarded funding, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget-related concerns, such as insufficient justification for costs or lack of alignment with funding criteria.</li> <li>• Insufficient detail regarding referral pathways, including unclear identification of referral partners or lack of defined strategies for engagement with schools, where applicable.</li> <li>• Failure to fully adhere to the guidance documentation, including not thoroughly reviewing or following the application requirements.</li> <li>• High volume of applications within a specific local authority, for example, there is historically strong demand within the Sheffield region, which can increase competition for available funding.</li> </ul>
71	<p>How do we best mitigate not being hit by applications from the area restrictions, we have had one area that I believe may be less busy than Sheffield in Clifton, Rotherham that are keen to apply with us, but not as good fit for what we want to do, how do we know which areas are more likely to be funded?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, we are unable to confirm which project would be the most suitable at this stage. Until applications are received, we cannot determine the number of submissions per location. We therefore recommend that you apply based on where you feel your application is strongest, ensuring that it aligns clearly with the key themes.</p> <p>If you are planning to work with another organisation in Clifton, Rotherham, you are welcome to have them apply as the lead applicant while you submit your own application in Sheffield. You may be involved in more than one application; however, you may only act as the lead applicant on one.</p>
72	<p>We are a relatively new organisation, so all of this information is really helpful and appreciated. I was also wondering whether, if I drafted an application, someone might be able to have a quick look over it before submission to make sure I am heading in the right direction. I am still fairly new to external funding applications, so</p>	<p>We are glad the information has been useful for you.</p> <p>For impartiality we are unable to support reviewing applications before submission.</p> <p>However, depending on your location the following groups may be able to support:</p>

	<p>any advice or guidance would be greatly appreciated. Not sure if you offer this support.</p>	<p>Sheffield Voluntary Action Sheffield - <a href="http://www.vas.org.uk">www.vas.org.uk</a></p> <p>Rotherham Voluntary Action Rotherham – <a href="http://www.varotherham.org.uk">www.varotherham.org.uk</a></p> <p>Doncaster Voluntary Action Doncaster – <a href="http://www.voluntaryactiondoncaster.org.uk">www.voluntaryactiondoncaster.org.uk</a></p> <p>Barnsley Barnsley CVS – <a href="http://www.barnsleycvs.org.uk">www.barnsleycvs.org.uk</a></p> <p>South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau – <a href="http://www.syfab.org.uk">www.syfab.org.uk</a></p>
73	<p>Can I ask though if we may provide supplementary information? The application form is very small and restrictive with not much availability to get across the 'real stories' behind what we do. I fear that this is where we lost out last time in regards 'who writes the best scoring bid' rather than the panel having full transparency of where the funding will have the biggest impact. Under the old structure (when VRU was part of the Police) people came out to see what we were proposing in advance of application forms being filled in. While we sit on boards with Sheffield Politicians who are aware what we do and passionate about the unique reach we have, I fear that this all gets lost if the panel is just reading a mere 2000 words.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any supplementary information beyond what is included in the application form. This requirement was communicated to all applicants during the workshop on 3 June and is also outlined in the FAQs, in order to ensure a fair and consistent process for everyone.</p> <p>I am not aware of any precedent for conducting visits specifically to support individual applications, aside from our general visits carried out throughout the year. Arranging visits on a case-by-case basis would create an imbalance, and to remain equitable, we would need to offer the same opportunity to all applicants. Given the expected volume of applications, this would not be feasible.</p> <p>I appreciate that it can be challenging to fully convey the scope of your activities within the application; however, we are unable to amend the process or format for individual organisations.</p>
74	<p>Thank you so much for putting on the Rocket Science workshop yesterday, it was really useful.</p> <p>I wondered if you could please share more information around the VRU monitoring form/requirements? I'm keen to understand what these are as most of our data is</p>	<p>We are currently in the process of streamlining our monitoring forms, so we do not have a final version available to circulate at this time.</p> <p>However, I can confirm that we do not request confidential or sensitive information, as safeguarding the privacy and wellbeing of the</p>

	<p>sensitive/confidential and want to be sure that we can meet the expectations.</p> <p>Thank you so much for all your help.</p>	<p>vulnerable individuals supported by our community groups is a priority. We will ask questions about the number supported and sessions etc but we do not ask for any information that will identify any particular individuals.</p> <p>Further details on monitoring and evaluation can be found from page 14 onwards in the grant guidance documentation.</p>
75	<p>Hello, we are finding the word count very restrictive, only enough to provide headline overview rather than evidence of impact/need/knowledge. Could the commissioners please consider doubling the word count restrictions to allow for richer narrative and in turn inform better decisions around which initiatives should be funded?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, we are unable to increase the word count beyond the current limits.</p> <p>As we have already received applications and provided guidance on the format to organisations during the workshop on 3 June, it would not be appropriate to make changes at this stage. We will, however, take this feedback into consideration for future rounds.</p> <p>If you are finding it challenging to convey the impact of your project within the word count, there are tools available that may help you present your information more concisely.</p>