

VRU Community Grant Round FAQ's 2026

No	Question	Answer
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"> • Registered charities • Voluntary organisations with a clearly defined not-for-profit purpose outlined in their governing document • Unregistered community groups that meet our governance requirements • Community Interest Companies (limited by guarantee) • Schools and academy trusts delivering non-statutory activities that complement the National Curriculum and extend beyond the standard school day <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?	<p>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.</p>
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?	<p>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.</p>
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	<p>The VRU welcomes applications that take an integrated approach to addressing interconnected issues such as trauma, exploitation, school exclusion, family instability, and criminalisation.</p>

	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	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?	We are unclear on the context of this question – a follow up question for clarification has been sent.
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 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>The XXXXXXXX provides 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"> ● Revisions to the key thematic priorities ● Introduction of defined priority areas of need ● Amendments to monitoring and payment schedules ● A maximum funding limit of £20,000 per application <p>In accordance with our funding criteria, all activities supported through the Community Grants Programme must take place within South Yorkshire.</p>

		Projects funded through this programme are expected to commence from 1 October 2026.
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: Violence Reduction Fund 2026 Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).</p> <p>Further detailed guidance on the application process is available from page 8 onwards in the grant guidance notes.</p>
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