

Live Well Communities Fund

Empowering Leaders: social action grants and leadership support for North Manchester

Small grants and leadership workshops for individuals aged 18-35 from Global Majority communities who live in North Manchester that are leading, or seeking pilot, grassroots social action activities in their communities.



LIVE WELL
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY WITH
GREATER MANCHESTER'S COMMUNITIES

Background

The Live Well Communities Fund is a community-led grants programme delivered by Manchester Community Central as part of Greater Manchester's wider Live Well initiative.

The fund is designed to address health and racial inequalities in North Manchester by supporting grassroots, resident-led activity. Co-designed with local residents and VCSE partners, the programme enables communities to shape the support they need.

During the first phase, the programme awarded grants, alongside tailored capacity-building support, to 18 local groups. We are now launching phase two.

Feedback from the State of the Sector survey and 2025 community consultations highlighted that much of North Manchester's social action is driven by individuals and sole traders who may not identify as formal community 'groups'.

Many individuals are already contributing positively within their neighbourhoods but face barriers to accessing funding or formalising their activity. Young adults were also under-represented in the first round.

Phase two therefore reframes the idea of a "new community group" to include individuals leading informal social action, enabling the programme to reach emerging community leaders earlier in their journey.

About

Fifteen grants of £1,500, are available for individuals aged 18-35 from Global Majority communities who live in North Manchester that are leading, or seeking pilot, grassroots social action activities in their communities over 6 months.

This funding round will deliver a targeted programme of social action and community leadership support.

This phase maintains the fund's existing priority themes—while placing explicit emphasis on supporting individuals as emerging community leaders who contribute to the long-term wellbeing and resilience of North Manchester communities.

The core outcomes of the Live Well programme are:

- Stronger, Healthier Communities: to create communities where people can live as healthy and happy as possible by providing the right support within the community.
- Economic and Social Inclusion: to ensure people can gain skills and move into employment or volunteering, reducing economic inactivity.
- Community Power and Leadership: to shift power and resources to communities, empowering local people and anchor organisations to shape decision-making and support.
- Prevention-Focused Services: to pivot to prevention to reduce complex and costly future demand on public services.
- Tackling Inequalities: to tackle health, social, and economic inequalities across Greater Manchester.

Aim of the fund:

The aim of this fund is to support young people aged 18-35 from Global Majority communities living in North Manchester to:



Reduce health and racial inequalities by supporting grassroots social action led by and working with Global Majority communities.



Support young individuals in North Manchester to pilot new ideas, test approaches, and build confidence, skills and leadership capacity.



Invest in people not just projects to build community power and leadership

Through small grants and tailored leadership support, the fund aims to strengthen community power and enable individuals to test new ideas, pilot approaches, and take on stronger leadership roles within their communities.

Though our funding targets individuals between 18 and 35 years old, the projects themselves may benefit people of all ages.

What's on offer

Individuals are invited to apply for a one-off grant of £1,500 to deliver a new or continue an existing social action project. The grant will be accessed with support via our partner Nurturing Foundations — a North Manchester based, global majority led organisation.



Leadership Training:

By taking part, you will have the opportunity to grow your skills, build your confidence, and connect with other young adults who share your experiences and ambitions.

You will be expected to attend sessions, engage with activities, and bring your voice, ideas, and lived experience to the programme.

In addition, across three interactive workshops, you will:

- Strengthen your voice as a leader, and communicate your ideas clearly, even in challenging environments
- Handle difficult conversations with confidence, whether with partners, stakeholders, or within your own team
- Build trust and influence bring others with you without losing your message
- Lead with intention under pressure, stay grounded and focused when the stakes feel high
- Turn insight into action, apply what you learn directly to your project and community

There will be three in-person sessions in North Manchester. You must commit to all three:

- **Tuesday 22 September**
- **Tuesday 20 October**
- **Tuesday 17 November**

About the trainer

Sharon Amesu

Sharon Amesu is a multi award winning Professional Speaker who started her career in Law. She was a Criminal Barrister for 16 years with a successful practice across the Northwest of England.



Sharon now runs SA Consultancy that supports organisations with Leadership Communication. As a Professional Speaker, Sharon is invited to speak at global events on Women in Leadership and Courageous Leadership.

As co-founder of She Leads for Legacy, an organisation that has a community of over 2500 people supporting Black women and Allies with personal and professional development. She is a TEDx speaker and a published instructor on the LinkedIn platform with over 70,000 students having completed her course on Courageous Leadership.

Who can apply?

We are looking for people who:

- ✓ Live in North Manchester
- ✓ Are from the Global Majority community
- ✓ Deliver services and activities for public benefit
- ✓ Are aged between 18-35

You must live in at least one or more of the North Manchester wards:

- Ancoats & Beswick
- Charlestown
- Cheetham
- Clayton & Openshaw
- Crumpsall
- Harpurhey
- Higher Blackley
- Miles Platting & Newton Heath
- Moston

By global majority community, we mean all ethnic groups apart from white British ethnic minority. More specifically it refers to Black, Asian and mix ethnic groups that have previously been described as ethnic minorities.

What we can fund

Funding will support activity aligned to one or more of the following themes:

- Mental Health – initiatives that support wellbeing, tackle isolation among older people, and improve positive opportunities for young adults.
- Healthy Eating – projects that improve access to affordable, nutritious food and build cooking and food skills, particularly in the context of poverty.

- Health Awareness – activities that raise awareness, provide education, and support prevention and management of long-term conditions (e.g. diabetes, high blood pressure).
- Physical Activity – opportunities that encourage active lifestyles and improve overall health and wellbeing.

We can fund any activity relating to the fund themes, mentioned earlier. This might include; wellbeing activities, raising awareness campaigns, cooking classes etc. This list is not exhaustive.

What we cannot fund:

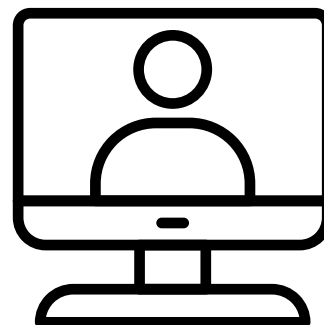
- ineligible individuals, i.e. those that do not fit the criteria under ‘Who can apply?’
- anyone not living in North Manchester
- any proposal that does not relate to the fund themes or Live Well outcomes
- costs incurred before a grant offer is received, or that you do not plan to incur by February 2027
- any activities involving the promotion of a particular political party or religion.

All funded activities must take place within North Manchester, and you must have **spent all funding by February 2027** and submit a completed monitoring form no later than March 2027.

Grantees must keep full records of all costs funded by this programme. However, we will not ask for evidence of this unless i) adverse issues emerge in the delivery of your funded activities, or ii) the programme becomes subject to external audit.

Support Available

Join us for a meet the funder webinar, your chance to ask questions.



Thursday 28 May 12pm-1pm

Book your place [here](#).

Applicants are also invited to attend an **optional in - person workshop on Saturday 13th June** designed to provide guidance and support on your application.

This is a great opportunity to ask questions, gain a clearer understanding of what is required, and receive practical assistance in putting together a strong application.

For more information, and book a place please click [here](#).

To apply, please respond to the questions on the application form which can be found via the Manchester Community Central website, [here](#).

To request an alternate version of the form, please email grants@macc.org.uk or call 0333 321 3021.



Application deadline: **29 June at 12:00 midday**

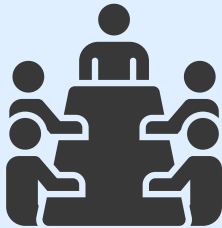
For support please contact: grants@macc.org.uk

Decision Making

Manchester Community Central operates a comprehensive, fair and transparent grant making process. In line with our policies, our staff will help manage and advise the selection process though explicitly not in the role of assessors.



A **community design panel**, consisting of residents from North Manchester, local VCSE representatives, and young people will assess expression of interest forms.



Application's will be scored using a criteria, followed by **panel discussions to decide** who will receive funding.

Your application will be scored on the following:

- Who and where will benefit
- Clarity in what you want to do and why
- Your motivation and fit with 'who can apply'
- Realistic budget, timeframe and delivery locations
- Connection to the Live Well outcomes and themes

We will **notify you of the panel's decisions by August 2026.**

We will provide brief feedback from the assessment panel to unsuccessful applicants.

What we'll review before awarding funding

Before we pay funding to successful applicants, you will need to assist us in carrying out some checks.

We will ask you to provide the following information:



Show us evidence of your name, age and postal address (e.g. driving license, passport or other document we can discuss)



Provide contact details for two referees (people you have worked alongside or someone who knows you and is connected to the local community)

In strict accordance with The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018, Manchester Community Central will store all personal and financial information confidentially.

Our Information Commissioner's Office reference is Z9595019 and we re-register annually on 10 September.

Upon request, Manchester Community Central can provide our data protection and information security policies.

If you require more detailed information, please let us know.

Use of AI in your application

We recognise that AI tools are increasingly used in everyday working life, including in the preparation of funding applications.

Funding decisions are made on the strength of your work and the difference it makes to the people you serve. A well-written application matters, but we are far more interested in the human story behind it — who you are, what you're trying to do, and why it matters to your community. AI won't be able to tell us the unique story of you or your project.

If AI has been used in preparing your application, you do not need to declare this formally. We will not reject an application just because AI was used. **We do ask, however, that you use AI with caution, double check the final version and stand behind everything you submit as accurate and true.**



Accessing your funds

Upon receipt of an award letter from Manchester Community Central, successful applicants will need to complete and return an 'Acceptance of Grant Form' together with any checks needed as stated above.

We are really pleased to be partnering with **Nurturing Foundations**. As part of this funding programme, you will work alongside Nurturing Foundations to access and manage your grant.

This means that rather than receiving the money directly, your fiscal partner will hold the funds on your behalf and make payments as you plan and agree on how to spend your grant. This ensures you have the right support in place to make the most of your funding.

How long will you have to spend on the grant?

You must have fully spent your grant within six months of receiving the funds, and no later than February 2027

How will your project be evaluated?

We will provide a monitoring form along with your grant offer letter, to be completed and returned no later than March 2027

How to contact us



grants@macc.org.uk



0161 834 9823
