

Being a critical friend – reviewing funding applications

CeeBee Gold Foundation



CeeBee Gold Foundation is a Black-led charity based in Openshaw. Registered as a CIO in 2017, their aim is to bring people from different backgrounds together, reduce isolation and improve quality of life.

They run a range of welcoming activities for local people, including a foodbank, yoga sessions, coffee mornings, walking groups and light exercise sessions. Their work creates safe spaces where people can connect, feel supported and stay active.

CeeBee Gold Foundation are active members of Manchester Community Central. They regularly attend our networking events and training sessions, find funding opportunities through our newsletters, and contact our Capacity Building team for advice and support.

Over time, we have developed a strong relationship with the group. We have previously supported them with business planning, advice on securing a permanent venue, and general funding support.

In the past year, the group accessed our support offer by asking us to review several draft funding applications. We agreed clear and realistic timescales, allowing space for feedback and for the group to make changes before submitting applications.



We supported CeeBee Gold Foundation by:

- Carrying out funding searches using our Funding Portal
- Sharing new and relevant funding opportunities
- Reviewing multiple funding applications, including:
- OMVCS
- Common Group Award
- Comic Relief
- Hate Crime funding
- Live Well funding

We acted as a 'critical friend', offering honest, practical feedback to strengthen their applications while building confidence and skills.

As a result of this support, the group have developed stronger application writing skills and successfully secured funding from several sources. Their services continue to grow and thrive, providing vital support and connections to the community.

Now that CeeBee Gold Foundation has increased its income the next step is for us to provide more in-depth support working with the group to develop a longer-term funding plan, including applications for larger, multi-year funding to ensure future sustainability for the group.

"I am so happy to let you know that both the Hate Crime and Live Well applications you checked for me have been approved. I honestly don't know what I would have done without your help.

Before I started sending applications to you to review, many of mine were declined. Since working with you, two out of three applications have already been approved, and I am truly grateful.

Thank you so much for your time, encouragement and belief in our work."

January 2026

