

# Let's Stand Together – Alliance Fund Guidance



The **Let's Stand Together Alliance Fund** is a targeted investment programme designed to support collaborative, community-led projects that promote safety, cohesion, and wellbeing across Bury. Delivered by Bury VCFA in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership, this fund focuses on strengthening the VCFSE sector's capacity to respond to complex social challenges particularly those affecting **women and girls** and **victims of domestic abuse**.

This fund is not just about delivering impactful projects, it's about building partnerships, developing sector skills, and preparing VCFSE organisations for future funding opportunities and competitive tenders. It encourages cross-sector collaboration and supports organisations to grow their confidence, capacity, and influence.

## Funding Priorities

There are two funding pots, focused on:

- **Domestic Abuse:** Supporting survivors, raising awareness, and preventing harm.
- **Women and Girls' Lived Experiences:** Addressing safety, empowerment, and inclusion.

Projects should:

- Promote **community safety and cohesion**.
- Address **local inequalities**, including gender-based violence and exclusion.
- Use **creative, cultural, or community-led approaches** to build resilience and safe spaces.
- Be **community-based**, using local venues and engaging residents in co-designed solutions.

## Examples of eligible projects

<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<b>Women and Girls Safety (non-domestic violence-related)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'By-and-for' provision of support for victims of domestic abuse</li><li>• Community-led campaigns to raise awareness of, and challenge coercive control, including within family settings.</li><li>• Peer support groups for survivors</li><li>• Empowerment programmes for survivors (e.g. confidence, employment skills).</li><li>• Culturally sensitive workshops tailored to diverse communities in Bury to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the available support.</li><li>• Family support initiatives to prevent escalation including safe spaces for women, children, or other affected groups.</li><li>• Programmes working with young people around healthy relationships.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community-led campaigns addressing harassment and (non-domestic) violence</li><li>• Creative workshops exploring safety, empowerment, and identity</li><li>• Storytelling and oral history projects capturing women's experiences</li><li>• Collaborative safety audits and walkabouts</li><li>• Safe space initiatives for women and girls</li><li>• Intergenerational projects promoting safety and solidarity</li><li>• We are particularly interested in youth-led projects and / those supporting young people in Bury (under 25 years)</li></ul>

We appreciate that some projects may have connectivity between the thematic areas, but each project can only apply for one funding pot (Domestic Abuse or Women and Girls).

Projects must be a new activity or significantly enhance current provision, by providing new opportunities, increasing the number of participants or reaching new people and/or communities.

### How much can you apply for?

Maximum applications £20,000, but we will not fund more than 50% of the lead organisation's annual turnover.

### How many organisations will be successful?

- Maximum application: £20,000, capped at 50% of lead organisation's annual turnover
- Total Funding pot: £60,000. £30,000 for Domestic Abuse and £30,000 for Women and Girls' Lived Experiences.
- We anticipate funding 2-4 projects per theme. As this is a new funding approach, we do not have prior data on the success rate of applications.

## Who can apply

All applications must be in partnership (two organisations minimum) and have a lead organisation constituted as a voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) organisation. The applicant must also:

- Be based in Bury, OR have a proven strong track record of delivery in Bury
  - Have an organisational Bank Account with 2 signatories who are not related to each other OR have a supporting organisation that can provide a holding account
  - Be fully up to date with grant reporting to Bury VCFA
  - Have the relevant safeguarding policies in place
- Funding is for VCFSE organisations only; it cannot go directly to publicly funded schools or activities that should already be funded by them. (This also includes private enterprises)

## What is an eligible partnership?

As detailed above, the application must be submitted in partnership (minimum two organisations). The lead organisation must be constituted as a VCFSE organisation.

Private businesses or organisations are not eligible to receive any funding via this programme.

Partnerships can include educational establishments, but they cannot receive funding for services or activities that is part of the curriculum or their statutory provision. The funding is intended for supplementary community-based services, not for activities that should already be provided.

Organisations can be partners in more than one expression of interest but can only lead one submission.

## Is there anything I can't apply for?

There are a few things that can't be funded. These include –

- Funding for individuals. This would include individual grants/bursaries as well as personal equipment (excluding personal protective equipment needed for group activities)
- Activities that have already taken place
- Contributions to major appeals or general appeals
- Any activities promoting political or religious beliefs
- Project where the primary beneficiaries are animals
- The purchase of alcohol
- Any activities where there is a statutory duty to undertake them or where another source has funded them.
- Projects that take place as part of the school curriculum.
- Large capital appeals, including building works, CCTV and minibuses
- Day trips and excursions, unless you can provide evidence of a significant impact on the lives of individuals (broader health and wellbeing).
- Fines, financial penalties, debts or organisational liabilities.

- One-off events are not eligible for this funding. An event may be part of a project or programme, but it must feature a meaningful and relevant lead-in and/or post activity.

Core costs can be included in the application, and partnerships are encouraged to consider full cost recovery; however, please remember that bids must still align with the funds' priorities. The priority is for new activity or significantly enhancing current provision, by providing new opportunities, increasing the number of participants or reaching new people and/or communities.

### What policies / other documentation are required?

All organisations will be expected to have the following policies in place at the time of application:

- a) Public Liability Insurance
- b) Risk assessments
- ...and if applicable to project activities:
- c) Safeguarding Adults policy
- d) Safeguarding Children policy

We expect all organisations to have relevant policies in place at the time of application. Please note that [Public Liability Insurance](#) costs can form an element of your bid. If you need advice or support on developing policies, see the 'What support is available to applicants?' section below.

**Please note:** If your project involves working with children or vulnerable adults you **must** submit a copy of the Safeguarding Policy with your application.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

As a minimum, we will require:

- End of project evaluation form -
- Details of funding spent against the budget
- How many people are involved/supported
- Intended outcomes and impacts – what difference has the project made?
- Key Learnings – What went well? What would you do differently?
- At least one case study linked to the funding

Projects and delivery must be completed within 12 months of the award, and we may conduct a site monitoring visit to see how your project is progressing.

### What support is available to applicants?

If you have any questions or concerns about completing the expression of interest form, or you would like to discuss your application with a member of the team, please contact [grants@buryvcfa.org.uk](mailto:grants@buryvcfa.org.uk)

Accessibility - We want our programmes to be accessible to everyone. If any part of our application process is a barrier to applying, please contact the Grants Team at [grants@buryvcfa.org.uk](mailto:grants@buryvcfa.org.uk)

### Broader support to organisations

The Bury VCFA Capacity Building Team provides practical support to VCSE organisations with developing policies, accessing volunteers, and accessing wider funding. For further information, visit our website at: [www.buryvcfa.org.uk/funding-and-development](http://www.buryvcfa.org.uk/funding-and-development).

You can also contact the team via - [fundinganddevelopment@buryvcfa.org.uk](mailto:fundinganddevelopment@buryvcfa.org.uk) / **0161 518 5550**

### How to apply

Organisations that wish to apply will need to complete the expression of interest form and submit it by email to [grants@buryvcfa.org.uk](mailto:grants@buryvcfa.org.uk)

### When is the closing date for expressions of interest?

The deadline for expressions of interest is **1<sup>st</sup> February 2026**

### What happens next?

This is not a traditional grant process; we did not want groups to spend excessive energy on full applications when only a few projects will be successful.

1. Applications will be checked for basic due diligence and eligibility and shared with a shortlisting panel (made up of members of the Bury Community Safety Partnership).
2. Shortlisted organisations will be given feedback and offered support from the team to further shape their bid. The second stage will ask for further information on their initial EOI, including areas expressed by the panel, social value questions as well as a finalised budget.
3. A final panel will take place, facilitated by Bury VCFA and comprising of members of the community alongside the Bury Community Safety Partnership where the updated project outlines are shared and decided upon.

### Provisional Timescale

Meet the Funder Events	January 6 <sup>th</sup> 2026
EOI Close	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2026
Notified of Outcome	WC 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Application - Conversations	Until 21 <sup>st</sup> March
Applications Close	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Grant Notifications	WC 27 <sup>th</sup> April

Grants Paid	By WC 4 <sup>th</sup> May
Activity	May 26 – April 27
Latest Deadline for all end-of-project monitoring	End of May 27

## Form Guidance

This guidance will help VCSE groups, and their partners complete the **Expression of Interest (EOI)** form, the first step in applying for funding through this programme.

### Question 1)

Please give the full name and registered address of your organisation. If you don't have a registered address as such, please provide the address of your Chair.

Please give your organisation's turnover for the last full financial year.

Please tell us how your organisation is constituted. Examples are provided below:

- Unincorporated Association or Community Group
- Company Limited by Guarantee
- Registered Charity
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Community Interest Company
- Community Benefit Society
- Cooperative Society
- Other (give details)

Please note:

- All lead organisations must be not-for-private-profit
- Companies limited by guarantee must have an 'asset lock' to prevent the transfer of assets to individuals
- Some charities might also be a company limited by guarantee.

**Question 2)** – Please give the details of your partner organisations – continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

**Question 3)** – We expect all organisations to have relevant policies in place at the time of application. Please note that [Public Liability Insurance](#) costs can form an element of your budget

Please note that you will need to submit copies of the following documents along with your application:

- Safeguarding Adults Policy (only if applicable to your project)
- Safeguarding Children Policy (only if applicable to your project)

**Question 4) Where will your project be based?**

**Question 5) Which funding priority will you focus on?** Please only tick one. We appreciate that projects may overlap, but please pick your priority focus. Each project can only apply for one funding pot.

**Question 6) Your Proposal** – Please provide an outline of the activity you will deliver. What do you want to do? Please describe:

- What activities or events will you deliver (number and duration)
- Who the target audience is and potential numbers / caseload
- Who will be responsible for planning and delivering the project
- Timescales and key milestones
- Any partners you are working with
- What this grant will pay for

**Question 7) Community Connectivity** – One of the key reasons our funding exists is to support groups and organisations in responding to what matters to people in your local community. You know there is a need for this project, but this section asks how do you know? What evidence have you collected from the community? You might have gathered feedback from your members or people who use your services, had group discussions with your local community, or noticed a gap because of increasing demand for what you offer / the requests you have been getting.

**Question 8) Your strengths and experience** - Provide details of your strengths and expertise that will enable the project to deliver the funding priorities, including any relevant experience.

**Question 9) Impact and Monitoring** – Please briefly explain how your proposed work will make a difference and how you will measure its impact? Do you consistently monitor demographics and equal opportunity information? Do you utilise surveys or similar tools to record distance travelled? Or periodic feedback sessions/focus groups with participants? Do you utilise other methods such as journals, end-of-session reflections or something else?

**Question 10) Finance** - Please give an overview of what your project will cost by describing each item and breaking down your calculation so we can see how you've arrived at the cost for each item. See some examples below.

#### Example 1

**Acceptable:** Venue hire @ £200/day x 2 days/wk x 6 wks = £2,400

**Not acceptable:** Venue = £2,400

#### Example 2

**Acceptable:** Art Materials (textiles & fabric paints) = £750

**Not acceptable:** Materials = £150

#### Example 3

**Acceptable:** Project co-ordination – 5hrs/wk @ £30ph (inc on-costs) x 10 weeks =£1,500

**Not acceptable:** Staff support = £1,500

The item cost figure may be the same as the amount you're requesting. If you have other sources of money (match-funding), it may be you're only looking for a contribution (see the example below)

Description of item	Breakdown of calculations	Total cost	Amount requested
Venue Hire	£200/day x 2 days/wk x 6 wks	£2,400	£1,200

Therefore, the total cost of the project may be more than the amount you're requesting from this fund. If this is the case, please include the other sources of funding which will support this project (e.g. unrestricted funds, other grants etc.) and whether the money has been secured or whether an application is pending.

Such match funding is desirable but not essential. Only match-funding (cash) directly related to project delivery can be included.

#### **Please attach**

Please confirm you are attaching the relevant safeguarding policies

#### **Declaration**

Please confirm that you have read the guidance and are able to apply on behalf of your organisation.