

Comic Relief Core Strength – Local Communities Fund
Comic Relief Core Strength – Local Communities grants are available from
£1,000 up to £5,000 for projects based in Kirklees



 **PROVIDING CORE COST FUNDING.**

This is a 12-month programme that is responding to the growing need of small locally led groups to cover their day to day costs. The aim is to provide funding for groups' core costs - meaning expenditure that is not connected to delivering projects but focusing on investing in the organisation as a whole such as basic running costs.

Criteria

The Grant is to support groups that can evidence a sustained beneficial impact on people's lives who are excluded or disadvantaged this may be through low income, rural or social isolation, age, disabilities, race, sexuality or gender. Priority is to be given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community and are undertaking actions as a means of addressing these needs.

Who Can Apply?

You must be a locally led and based organisation:

- Constituted voluntary and community groups
- Charities
- Social enterprises
- Co-operatives
- Community interest companies

Your organisation will need to have been running activities for a minimum of 12 months. Your annual income must be £100,000 or under for your last full financial year. You will need to provide your accounts to prove this.

To be considered for funding you will need to:

- Be working in a disadvantaged or deprived area
- Have limited access to other sources of income
- Clearly define the need you are addressing
- Clearly demonstrate the benefit of your activities to local people
- Illustrate how you aim to deliver social outcomes
- Provide clear evidence that your services provided are inclusive to all

Outcomes

The Core Strength - Local Communities fund sits under the Comic Relief programme of Building Stronger Communities. The work and main focus of your organisation should fit one of the Comic Relief following priorities:

1. **Connected communities** - Organisations who work to improve inclusion and cohesion in their neighbourhoods; working to help people find common interests, overcome fear and misconceptions and connect people together.
2. **Productive communities** - Organisations who help create flourishing communities, where people feel they are personally thriving, whilst sharing a sense of purpose and prosperity – rather than just 'making ends meet'.
3. **Empowered communities** - Organisations that focus on building the confidence of local people to tackle the issues they face and empower them to make changes as they need; building the skills and ability of local people to campaign and take action, or for single issue groups to improve their circumstances through awareness raising for example.

Each organisation must choose one of the above outcomes to report against. Your organisation may be working under one or more of these outcomes, in which case you should choose the one where the majority of your work is focused.

Priorities

We are expecting this to be a very competitive programme so setting priorities helps the grant panel to make difficult decisions when a fund is oversubscribed. Priority will be given to locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community and are undertaking actions as a means of addressing these needs.

Examples of what we will fund

Overheads

- Rental costs
- Heating, lighting, water rates
- Core staff costs (this could be any member of staff for time spent doing the day to day running of the organisation or taking time to do planning for the future for example – this cannot cover any time spent delivering activities – for example we could fund a youth worker to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the organisation but not to deliver the weekly youth club).
- Stationary, small capital items, internet
- Any volunteer costs if your organisation is purely volunteer led OR if you have paid staff then we will cover volunteer costs who help the day to day running of the organisation (i.e. a volunteer receptionist)

Organisational Development

- Staff training
- Trustee training

- Volunteer training
- Fundraising
- Business planning and development
- Developing monitoring and learning
- Marketing and communications

This list is not exhaustive just remember is the funding cannot be used for direct project delivery.

What we would not fund

- A youth worker delivering a weekly drop in for young people (service delivery).
- Any project within your organisation engaging directly with beneficiaries.
- Any large capital building work, though small pieces of equipment may be considered
- Trips abroad

Who cannot apply

- Organisations who are in receipt of a grant directly from Comic Relief (excluding funding from the Comic Relief Community Cash programme)
- Individuals
- Statutory organisations, including schools, universities or hospitals
- Private limited companies
- National organisations, unless the application is submitted by a local office with a separate management committee, bank account and governing documents
- Organisations whose purpose is to promote party politics or religion.

What you need to apply

You need to provide the following supporting documents with your application:

- A copy of your governing document (e.g. constitution, memorandum & articles or set of rules).
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or management accounts if these are unavailable.
- A copy of a bank statement no more than 3 months old. The bank account must be in the name of the organisation applying.
- Copies of your safeguarding and equal opportunities policies, if you need support with safeguarding we suggest seeking guidance from the Safe Network.
http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/resources/Pages/policies_and_procedures.aspx
- A list of the names and addresses of your management committee. You need a minimum of three unrelated management committee members to be eligible for the grant.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Can organisations apply for both the Comic Relief Local Communities Core Strength Fund and a One Community grant at the same time?

Yes – but please note that any application One Community must be made to support project activity costs (i.e. not for core costs). This should be submitted using our online application form. If you are unsure about eligibility please contact the Grants Team who will advise you.

Will there be a further call for applications to the Comic Relief Local Communities Core Strength Fund in Kirklees?

No.

Is an organisation already in receipt of a Comic Relief grant eligible to apply for the Comic Relief Local Communities Core Strength Fund?

If a group wishes to apply for a Local Communities Grant they cannot be in receipt of another Local Communities Grant or a large Comic Relief Grant.

Are Community Interest Companies (CICs) eligible to apply to the Comic Relief Local Communities Core Strength Fund?

Yes – in line with the general guidance as follows:

- We are able to accept applications from social enterprises, CICs and Companies Limited by Guarantee carrying out charitable activities. However, these organisations must have:
- Demonstrable public benefit and clear protection against private benefit
- A minimum of 3 directors, the majority of whom are not paid either as directors or for delivering the activities of the organisation
- A majority of non-executive directors approving the salaries and benefit of any paid directors, which should be reasonable and proportionate to the work they do and the financial position of the organisation
- An asset lock (in the case of CICs) with objectives which are charitable and similar to the CIC

Are there any particular organisational requirements which applicants should be aware of?

Broadly speaking these are in line with the normal requirements for applying to One Community for grant funding, and for this fund are documented earlier in the guidance note. However, please bear in mind applications to the Comic Relief Local Communities Core Strength Fund cannot be accepted from organisations which have been operational for less than 12 months. In addition applicants will be required to submit copies of both safeguarding and equal opportunities policies as part of the application process.

Do you need more information?

If you have any other queries about this Fund please contact the Grants Team on (01484) 468397.

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