



HM Government



COMMUNITY  
FUND



# COASTAL SOCIAL ACTION GRANTS PROGRAMME

*Applicant Guidance 2026*

Funding youth-led ideas that make a visible difference across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre.

## GRANT SIZE

£3,000 to £25,000

## LAUNCH

20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

## DEADLINE

21<sup>st</sup> August 2026 at 5pm

## DECISIONS

1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

## At a glance

The Coastal Social Action Grants Programme supports organisations to work alongside young people to design and lead meaningful social action. Grants are for new or additional activity rooted in the priorities of young people and their communities.

| Requirement                                                                                                    | Yes                      | No                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Your organisation delivers youth work or youth provision on the Fylde Coast.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Your proposal will directly benefit young people aged 11-20, or young people aged 19-25 with additional needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Young people will have genuine influence over design, decisions, delivery and evaluation.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Requirement                                                                                                              | Yes                      | No                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Activity will take place in, or primarily benefit communities in, Blackpool, Fylde or Wyre.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| You can start only after a grant agreement is in place and can complete the work within the period stated in your offer. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Key dates

|                                       |                                           |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Programme launch                      | 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2026                |
| Application deadline                  | <b>21<sup>st</sup> August 2026 at 5pm</b> |
| Young Persons Grant Application Panel | 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2026              |
| Grant confirmation notification       | 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026            |

# 1. What we mean by youth social action

Youth social action is practical action that young people take to make a positive difference to others, their community or the environment. It should create a double benefit: positive change for the community and meaningful development for the young people involved.

## The six principles of high-quality youth social action

**Youth-led:** Young people shape priorities and have real decision-making power.

**Progressive:** Young people can deepen their skills, responsibility and leadership over time.

**Reflective:** Young people regularly consider what is working, what is changing and what to improve.

**Embedded:** Social action becomes part of the organisation's ongoing practice, not a one-off add-on.

**Challenging:** Young people take on stretching, safe and supported responsibilities.

**Socially impactful:** The work produces a clear, positive benefit beyond the participants themselves.

## The Five Themes

Your application must fall within one of the following themes to be eligible

### Wellbeing – Happiness, Sport & Health:

Improving wellbeing through larger artistic projects and increased access to sports and physical activities. This could include supporting sports teams beyond football for young men, lowering barriers to participation (such as transport and playing costs), and creating sports clubs that do not need to be competitive. Projects could also explore the links between physical activity and mental health through activities beyond football, yoga & walking. Healthy eating and cooking skills.

### Education & Learning:

Supporting cultural competency development, political education and awareness (e.g. understanding what government does, how it works, the different political parties, and what votes at 16 means). Projects could also focus on life skills, online safety, and improving support systems and social clubs for home-educated young people. NEET young people being re-engaged.

### **Crime & Safety:**

Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls, improving public transport safety, and reducing knife crime. This could also include projects that redirect young people involved in offending behaviour into positive social action, helping them refocus through meaningful community involvement and engagement.

### **Environment:**

Projects focused on gardening and growing, including planting trees, flowers, crops, and other greenery. Activities could include litter-picking and beach clean-up projects, as well as education about the local landscape, wildlife, and environmental impacts (e.g. littering, the environmental impact of AI, and transport-related emissions). Bee pollination and biodiversity projects are also encouraged.

### **Lack of Support Services:**

Increasing SEND support through local facilities, groups, activities, and opportunities. This could also include improving access to youth-focused mental health and wellbeing support services that are easy for young people to access and engage with. Supporting young people moving from education into the working world.

### **Programme outcomes**

- Young people design and lead impactful social action campaigns.
- Communities experience clear, identifiable change from youth-led action.
- Young people build relationships with decision-makers and influence longer-term change.
- Young people gain confidence, wellbeing, agency and transferable skills.
- Projects use youth-led evaluation to understand individual and community outcomes.
- Partners share learning and grow their capacity to embed high-quality youth social action.
- Community perceptions of young people improve as their leadership and civic contribution become visible.
- More organisations commit to the Power of Youth Charter and the emerging Coast of Social Action.

## **Who the programme particularly wants to reach**

We welcome universal and targeted work, but proposals should explain how they will include young people who are less likely to access social action opportunities. This may include young people experiencing rural isolation, poverty, homelessness or risk, young carers, LGBTQ+ young people, disabled young people and young people with additional needs, and young people not currently involved in groups or civic activity.

## 2. Who can apply

Applicants must be suitably constituted, financially sound and not-for-private-profit, with appropriate governance and a bank account in the organisation's name. This may include registered charities, constituted voluntary or community organisations, and community interest companies or social enterprises. Funding must create a clearly defined community benefit with no private gain.

### Essential organisational requirements

- Active delivery of youth work or youth provision for children and young people on the Fylde Coast.
- A clear social purpose linked to young people's wellbeing, learning, leadership or community contribution.
- A strong local connection to Blackpool, Fylde or Wyre.
- Commitment to the Power of Youth Charter, or willingness to sign up and work within the key principles.
- Membership of, or active partnership with, the relevant Youth Provider Partnership, or willingness to participate.
- Willingness to collaborate, avoid duplication, share learning and expertise, and take part in reflective practice.
- Willingness to attend at least three Youth Provider Partnership network meetings each year and relevant development/evaluation sessions.

**Check first:** If you are unsure whether your legal structure or partnership status is eligible, contact UYA before applying. Do not wait until the closing day.

### Due diligence

Shortlisted applicants will be asked for proportionate evidence of:

- Financial health, recent accounts or a suitable financial forecast, and sound financial controls.
- A bank account in the organisation's name with appropriate unrelated signatories.
- suitable governance, management and accountability.
- Current safeguarding and child protection, health and safety, and equality, diversity and inclusion policies.
- Safe recruitment, appropriate DBS arrangements, risk assessment and insurance.
- The staff, volunteers, systems and practical capacity needed to deliver the proposal safely.

- Evidence of youth led participation and young people involved in this application and associated project

### **One application**

Unless UYA confirms otherwise, submit one application per organisation. Partnership and consortium proposals are welcome, but one organisation must act as the accountable lead.

### **3. What can be funded**

- Staff or sessional costs that directly support young people's campaigns and social action.
- Materials, equipment and goods needed to deliver the project.
- Venue hire and activity costs.
- Transport, reasonable refreshments and travel for young people.
- Accessibility and participation costs, including communication support.
- Training, evaluation and communications costs directly related to the proposal.
- A reasonable contribution to project management or overheads where clearly calculated and proportionate.

### **What cannot be funded**

- Activity outside the Fylde Coast or without a clear benefit to its young people and communities.
- Activity that does not build youth social action or young people's influence.
- Costs incurred before a grant agreement is in place.
- Profit or private gain, including projects that specifically benefit a private business.
- Religious activity, although faith organisations may apply for inclusive community activity without religious content.
- Party-political activity, lobbying, or campaigning for a political party or candidate.
- Alcohol, loan repayments, topping up reserves, building maintenance, or activity replacing a statutory responsibility.
- Projects mainly benefiting an individual rather than a wider community.

## 4. What a strong application looks like

The Young Persons Grant Application Panel will read the same information you submit. Use plain language, be specific, and show what young people have said or done - not only what adults plan to do.

| Assessment area                        | What the panel will look for                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Youth leadership and power</b>      | Young people have shaped the idea and will influence meaningful decisions, resources, delivery and evaluation. |
| <b>Need and local insight</b>          | The proposal responds to an issue young people identify and is grounded in local evidence or lived experience. |
| <b>Quality of social action</b>        | The approach reflects the six principles and creates both community benefit and development for young people.  |
| <b>Reach, equity and accessibility</b> | The project removes barriers and reaches young people who may not ordinarily participate.                      |
| <b>Outcomes and learning</b>           | Changes are clear, realistic and measured with young people, not only through attendance totals.               |
| <b>Deliverability and safeguarding</b> | The plan, timetable, team, partnerships, risk controls and safeguarding are credible.                          |
| <b>Value for money and legacy</b>      | The budget is proportionate and the work can leave skills, relationships or practice that last.                |

### How decisions will be made

1. UYA checks applications for completeness, eligibility and proportionate due diligence.
2. A trained panel of young people reviews and scores eligible applications and contributes recommendations as UYA's Shadow Grant Board.
3. An authorised professional oversight group checks safeguarding, financial and legal requirements without diminishing the integral role of young representatives.
4. UYA's Board of Directors, or a sub-committee formally authorised by the Board, approves all awards. UYA records the purpose, amount, expected outcomes and decision in writing.



5. UYA confirms awards, any conditions and the payment schedule.

**Be available:** The timetable is intentionally short. UYA may contact you for a quick clarification or evidence check, so make sure the named contact is available between 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026.

## 5. Planning your project

### Young people’s role

Explain what decisions young people have already made and what remains open. Strong applications distinguish between consultation, co-design and genuine youth leadership. Describe how young people will be supported, recognised and kept safe while retaining real influence.

### Activities, outputs and outcomes

Activities are what you do; outputs are what you deliver; outcomes are the changes that follow. For example:

|                                                                 |                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACTIVITY</b><br>Youth-led community research                 | <b>OUTPUT</b><br>30 interviews and a public event                   |
| <b>YOUNG PERSON OUTCOME</b><br>Greater confidence and influence | <b>COMMUNITY OUTCOME</b><br>Decision-makers change a local response |

### Monitoring and learning

Use proportionate methods such as youth-designed surveys, interviews, creative reflection, observation, focus groups, case studies, blogs, podcasts or living libraries. Include starting points where possible, review progress during delivery, and show how young people will interpret and communicate findings.

### Safeguarding, inclusion and accessibility

- Name the safeguarding lead and explain reporting routes, supervision, consent and information-sharing arrangements.
- Use safe recruitment, role-appropriate DBS checks, risk assessments and suitable staff-to-young-person ratios.

- Plan for physical, sensory, digital, financial, language and confidence barriers from the start.
- Explain how young people can participate safely online and how images, stories and personal data will be handled.
- Build accessibility and young people's travel/refreshment costs into the budget where needed.

## 6. Budget and grant management

Ask for the amount needed to deliver the proposal well. Show calculations, distinguish the amount requested from other income, and explain why every cost is necessary. Include VAT only if your organisation cannot recover it.

### If your application is successful

- You will sign a grant agreement and meet any award conditions before payment.
- Payments may be made in two or three instalments linked to milestones and satisfactory reporting.
- You must keep invoices, receipts, payroll records and other evidence of expenditure.
- You must tell UYA promptly about material changes, delays, safeguarding concerns, underspend or delivery risks.
- Funding may be paused, reduced or recovered if conditions are not met or funds are misused.
- You will provide progress information, take part in proportionate visits or learning sessions, and complete a final outcomes and expenditure summary.

**Important:** Do not incur costs or make commitments on the assumption that an award has been made. Wait for written confirmation and a completed grant agreement.

## 7. How to apply

- Download and complete the application form. Keep within the word limits and answer every required question.
- Gather the supporting documents listed in the application checklist.
- Optionally prepare a short video that helps the panel understand the proposal. The video supports the written form; it does not replace it.
- Submit the completed form and supporting documents through via email to [grants@uyacic.org](mailto:grants@uyacic.org) by 5pm on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2026.
- Keep a copy of everything submitted and watch the named contact's inbox for any clarification request.

## Optional video

A video may be particularly useful for sharing young people's voices, showing the place or issue, or explaining a creative idea. Keep it concise, accessible and focused on the proposal. Obtain informed consent from everyone featured; do not include sensitive personal information. Provide captions or a transcript where possible. Upload using a file transfer service such as [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) under the same email address used for your grant submission.

## Final check

| Requirement                                                                     | Yes                      | No                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Every question is answered and word limits are met.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The amount requested is between £3,000 and £25,000 and the budget totals agree. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Young people's role is specific and credible.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Individual and community outcomes are measurable.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Safeguarding, inclusion, delivery risks and accessibility are addressed.        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Required supporting documents are ready.                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The application is authorised by the organisation.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The form will be submitted before 5pm on 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2026.          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Questions and accessible support

UYA wants the process to be accessible. If you need the information in another format, reasonable adjustments, or help understanding a question, use the contact details published on the Coastal Social Action Grants Programme webpage.

**Document status:** This guidance should be read alongside UYA's Public Grant Making Principles and Procedures policy, the grant agreement and any FAQs published for the programme. If documents conflict, UYA will confirm which requirement applies.