

North West Healing, Mental Health and Wellbeing grant for adults who are seeking asylum - 26/27

Programme Specification and Application Process: [Open Grants Programme](#)

What is this document?

- This document outlines the 26/27 delivery of the North West Healing, Mental Health and Wellbeing grant for adults who are currently seeking asylum.
- This document provides guidance relating to the *Open Grants Programme* within the wider grant including the process by which applications can be made.
- Please follow the application process outlined in [Application questions](#) and do not send any additional documents unless these have been requested.
- You can ask for support and advice if you are having trouble preparing your application and make any requests for adjustments to support you with this process to: amy.robinson@manchester.gov.uk

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About the North West Healing, Mental Health and Wellbeing Grant

The 12 regional/devolved nation Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) have been funded by the Home Office to deliver a *Mental Health Grant for adults who are seeking asylum*. An initial 6-month pilot in 25/26 has been extended for a further 12-months covering the 26/27 financial year. This funding is to be focused on the care of people who are seeking asylum and comes with three Home Office main aims:

1. To improve mental health and wellbeing.
2. To increase social connection and inclusion.
3. To support greater use of mainstream mental health provision and wider services.

In 2025, the North West SMP (RSMP) worked with colleagues across different sectors in the region to inform an initial grant delivery plan that was based on localised need and priorities, gaps in existing care and current evidence in supporting healing, mental health and wellbeing in people who are seeking asylum.

Radically varied geographies, socioeconomic contexts and histories of welcoming different migrant communities, as well as factors relating to the accommodation estate for people within the asylum system, mean that barriers and opportunities for healing, good health, and in accessing appropriate mental health care varies considerably across the region.

The 26/27 grant will continue to be delivered flexibly to take account of these local variations. The new delivery plan has drawn on previous scoping work, learning from the 25/26 pilot and a programme of work undertaken with people with personal experience of the UK immigration system who formed a programme steering group (a report and output from the group is forthcoming).

RSMP Objectives

The overall RSMP objectives of the 26/27 grant are to build on localised support with a focus on:

1. securing early community connections and consistent face-to-face support in **trusted, safe environments** and
2. strengthening the **integration of mental health and wellbeing support that is responsive to the specific experiences of individuals who are seeking asylum** into wider multi agency and multi sector local health systems.

The RSMP will be delivering eight projects as part of the grant. This document relates to **Project 4. Open Grants Programme**. A list of other projects can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

Open Grants Programme (Project 4)

This programme includes three flexible funds to support ideas and projects at different stages of development:

- Accelerator Network Grant
- Small Grants Programme
- Grassroots Expenses Grant

Please only apply for one of these grants (unless you have multiple projects that each meet the different criteria).

The aim of the funds

We would like the Open Grants Programme to support work that helps to:

1. build knowledge amongst new communities of rights and entitlements to care and understanding of local systems, and help to **build confidence to navigate** local health and wellbeing services and resources;
2. **create safe spaces** for LGBTQI+ communities in areas where these do not already exist or are currently not accessible to people seeking asylum;
3. provide activities that **support people to move forward with their lives**. This could include a focus on supporting people to continue or re-engage in activities which are meaningful to them and could be linked to future study, employment, or community involvement;
4. **strengthen faith- and/or diaspora voices or connection** within service design and delivery. This can include within statutory services;
5. create opportunities for **building strong connections between existing and new communities**;
6. support people to be in a **stronger position to navigate next steps** when they receive a decision on their asylum application;
7. **support people who are pregnant** while seeking asylum.

We would like to fund projects that can meet one of these aims alongside the overall [RSMP objectives](#).

Key information about each grant:

ACCELERATOR NETWORK GRANT

OBJECTIVE	<p>Delivery should consider strengthening the longer-term sustainability of an existing project or proven pilot and include the integration of the programme or partnership with the work of at least <u>one public sector</u> and <u>one VCFSE</u> organisation.</p> <p>This could include but not be limited to work that looks at care pathways and joining the dots, co-locating support and sharing assets, joint activities, or new communication or networks.</p> <p>Projects will also need to be able to show how they meet one or more of the aims of the Open Grants fund.</p>
AMOUNT	Up to £5,000 (two grants available)
DURATION	Up to 10 months
WHO CAN APPLY	Constituted groups and organisations (non-profit)
DEADLINE	2 nd July (11:59 pm)

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

OBJECTIVE	<p>This grant will be available to support the development of new ideas and programmes of support that meet one or more of the aims of the fund.</p> <p>Groups and organisations applying should have a strong understanding of the different experiences of displacement and of the context of seeking asylum in the UK.</p> <p>Maintenance of existing activities will be considered where a clear longer-term plan for funding is described.</p>
AMOUNT	£1,500 to £3,000 (up to 8 grants)
DURATION	Up to 10 months
WHO CAN APPLY	Constituted groups and organisations (non-profit)
DEADLINE	2 nd July (11:59 pm)

GRASSROOTS EXPENSES GRANT

OBJECTIVE	<p>This funding is for grassroots unincorporated groups or individuals who have a strong idea or vision of the sort of support that could improve the mental health or wellbeing of people who are currently within the asylum process.</p> <p>This funding should allow an idea to be tested in practice.</p>
AMOUNT	<p>Up to £500 (two grants available) will be awarded to cover the costs of expenses only. Expenses could include delivery costs, training and resources but not salaries. Costs will need to be agreed in writing with the RSMP ahead of expenditure with payments made directly between the RSMP and the provider of the requested goods or services.</p>
DURATION	<p>Up to 10 months</p>
WHO CAN APPLY	<p>Individuals who have personal experience of seeking asylum or coming to the UK as a refugee and unincorporated or new groups led by people with experience of seeking asylum or coming to the UK as a refugee.</p>
DEADLINE	<p>2nd July (11:59 pm)</p>

What you need to know

Monitoring and reporting

- **Quarterly reporting** You will need to meet our funders requirements on reporting. This is a quarterly report that captures the following information:
 - No. of unique recipients of support
 - No. of practical resources provided
 - No. of referrals made to formal services
 - No. of times a person was signposted to or provided information about another service
 - Recipients' gender
 - Local Authority in which a recipient lives
 - Primary reason a person has sought support
- **RSMP and Service specific outcomes**
 - These will be agreed between providers and the RSMP but will seek to capture how well the project has met the programme [objectives](#) around community connections and multi sector health systems and,
 - the specific aims of your project.
- **RSMP Grant Holder meetings**
 - We would like to meet with you early in the project to explore any support you may like from us which would benefit your project goals.
 - A near-end project meeting to explore learning and sustainability of your project.
 - Other meetings will depend on the length of your project and the level of support that you would find helpful.
- **Impact engagement and learning with the Lived Experience Steering Group** Details tbc.
- **End of project reporting** This will include a:
 - A Statement of Spending
 - A final report to help the RSMP understand more about your project and delivery, and to capture learning.

Due diligence

Where funding is agreed we will ask you to provide evidence to support your delivery proposal. Evidence requested could include:

- Your governing document or constitution.
- Minutes of a recent meeting.
- Recent bank statements.
- Your safeguarding policy.
- Pathways and/or frameworks for managing risk.

- A short character statement from a registered charity or other VCFSE organisation or public service provider (Grassroots Expenses fund only).

Decisions

We anticipate grant decisions to be made on or before 9th July 2026.

Payment

If you have not received funding from Manchester City Council within the last two years, please be aware that processes may be slow and it could take up to 30 days for your organisation to be set up on our system, and for us to be able to request an invoice. Please consider this when making your application. Payment will otherwise be expected to reach you within 30 days of your invoice reaching the Council's payments team.

Application questions:

These funds are to support communities resident in the North West. Please use the appropriate link for the fund which you would like to apply to. Please do not attach or refer to other documents and please keep within the specified word counts.

ACCELERATOR NETWORK GRANT - APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Application Link [Accelerator Network Grant Application Form – Fill in the form](#)

1. Your name.
2. Name of your group/organisation.
3. Contact email.
4. Contact telephone.
5. Registered address of group/organisation (including postcode).
6. Website (if applicable).
7. Please provide a brief description of what your organisation does, where you usually work and who you usually work with (including client groups and partners) (max 250 words).
8. Please tell us which of the fund's aims you will seek to meet.
9. Please tell us about the existing project (or proven pilot) that you would like to strengthen with this grant, how the project meets your selected aim, and how the funding will help you to develop the projects longer-term sustainability (max 300 words).
10. Please tell us about the public sector and VCFSE organisation you will work with as part of your project. Please include your rationale for working with these partners and tell us how you will develop those relationships and integrate your services (max 300 words).
11. Please tell us in which Local Authority area(s) you will deliver support.
12. Please tell us about any cultural, linguistic, therapeutic, or other expertise that you have within your group/organisation that will help you to deliver the project (max 100 words).
13. Please tell us how you will ensure that communication practices will meet the needs of those you support (max 100 words).
14. Please tell us about the main impact you hope to see from this project and how this will be measured.
15. Please tell us the total amount of funding that you are applying for.
16. Please tell us how you expect to spend this funding.
17. Please tell us how many people you hope to support during this project.
18. Please tell us when you would expect to start delivery if your application is successful. Please include any barriers you can foresee in delivering to this timeframe.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME - APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Application Link [Small Grants Programme Application Form – Fill in the form](#)

1. Your name.
2. Name of your group/organisation.
3. Contact email.

4. Contact telephone.
5. Registered address of group/organisation (including postcode).
6. Website (if applicable).
7. Please provide a brief description of what your organisation does, where you usually work and who you usually work with (including client groups and partners) (250 words).
8. Please tell us which of the fund's aims you will seek to meet.
9. Please tell us about your ideas and why you believe this will support you to meet one or more of the aims of the fund (max 300 words).
10. Please tell us where you see this project fitting into the wider cross sector local health system (max 150 words).
11. Please tell us in which Local Authority area(s) you will deliver support.
12. Please tell us about any cultural, linguistic, therapeutic, or other expertise that you have within your group/organisation that will help you to deliver the project (max 100 words).
13. Please tell us how you will ensure that communication practices will meet the needs of those you support (max 100 words).
14. Please tell us about the main impact you hope to see from this project and how this will be measured (max 150 words).
15. Please tell us the total amount of funding that you are applying for.
16. Please tell us how you expect to spend this funding.
17. Please tell us how many people you hope to support during this project.
18. Please tell us when you would expect to start delivery if your application is successful. Please include any barriers you can foresee in delivering to this timeframe.

GRASSROOTS EXPENSES GRANT – APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Application Link [Grassroots Expenses Grant – Fill in the form](#)

1. Your name.
2. Name of your project.
3. Contact email.
4. Contact telephone.
5. Your address.
6. Please confirm that you or your group/organisation is able to bring insight from first-hand experience of displacement to this project (yes/no).
7. Please tell us which of the fund's aims you will seek to meet with your idea.
8. Please tell us about your idea and why you believe this will help to improve the mental health or wellbeing of people who are currently seeking asylum (max 300 words).
9. Please tell us where you would like to deliver your project and which town or city this is in.
10. Please tell us how you would like to use the £500 budget available for this project.
11. Please tell us how many people you hope to support during this project.
12. Please tell us when you would expect to deliver your project if your application is successful.
13. Please tell us how you will be able to tell if your project has been a success (max 200 words).
14. Please tell us how you would like to see this project develop after the end of this funding (max 200 words).
15. Please provide contact details of someone who is able to provide you with a character reference. This should be someone from a registered charity or other VCFSE organisation or public service provider.

APPENDIX 1 Overview of all grant programmes

	PROJECT	SUMMARY	PLACE
1	Mental health pathways and wraparound support	Models and projects that increase opportunities for coordinated, wraparound and flexible mental health and wellbeing support are being developed in several areas. These are looking at developing or enhancing pathways and integrating care across different sectors.	Cumberland, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, and Liverpool
2	Creating trauma-informed family environments	Tbc.	Cheshire
3	Responding to patient and community engagement	Tbc.	Westmorland & Furness
4	Open grants programmes	Three flexible grant programmes: - Accelerator Network Grant - Small Grants programme - Expenses grant for grassroots unincorporated groups and individuals	North West
5	Under 25's programme supporting young people seeking asylum	Tbc.	North West
6	Lived experience steering group and projects	The group will: - support delivery of a 'Connections' roundtable to share learning from the 25/26 review of resources, explore what this means for practice and opportunities for local action - support the grants panel for the open grants programme - support impact engagement for the overall North West Healing, Mental Health and Wellbeing grant.	Members currently reside within Greater Manchester. We will explore the inclusion of members from other areas in the North West
7	Training and communities of practice	This will function alongside funded programmes to support delivery partners and practitioners within wider local health systems in their work with people who have experienced displacement.	North West
8	Access to support in rural areas	Working to address isolation and disconnection related to rurality, phone and internet connectivity and local access to services.	Rural areas in the North West