



# Tameside Communities Fund

Supporting Communities to Live Well

## Tameside Communities Fund

### Guidance Notes

#### About this grant

The Tameside Communities Fund is the strategic investment fund for the VCFSE sector in Tameside. It brings together internal and external funding to invest in community led prevention, that is locally rooted across neighbourhoods and supports communities to Live Well.

Live Well is Greater Manchester's commitment to ensuring great everyday support is available in every neighbourhood. It is the catalyst for delivering long held prevention and reform ambitions and aims to transform how systems are set up and enable community led health and wellbeing to flourish and grow.

There are an estimated 1,289 Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations making a difference in Tameside, tackling inequality, reducing hardship, and enriching people's lives.

The Tameside Communities fund aims to strengthen new and existing community led prevention, with a focus on activity which is locally rooted, reduces health, social and economic inequalities and supports local people to live healthier and happier lives.

## Fund Priorities

The Tameside Communities Fund will support wider system priorities by tackling the health, social and economic inequalities that exist across Tameside, and invest in locally rooted, community led prevention to reach those most marginalised and vulnerable across communities.

The [Tameside's Locality plan](#): Building Back Fairer, Stronger, Together, sets out the ambition to improving the health of Tameside residents and prioritises the following themes:

- Best Start In Life
- Opportunity to Learn & Earn
- Safe, Green and Supportive Communities
- Healthy & Active Lives

## What do we mean by Health, Social and Economic Inequalities?

Too many people across our communities in Tameside face barriers that make it harder to Live Well, for example: being short of money; what's available in their local area; ethnicity or disability. Inequalities are avoidable and we believe communities have the knowledge, skills and assets which mean they are well placed to identify and understand what is needed to resolve challenges they face and help to achieve better outcomes for local people.

## Fund Principles

The Community-led Wellbeing principles have been co-designed with Tameside's VCFSE sector and describe the behaviours, hopes and values that are intrinsic to community led prevention.

1. We work with people one life at a time – on their terms, at their pace for as long as they need us.
2. People trust in us, to work alongside them consistently with compassion, and without judgement. We don't give up on people.
3. We are safe open spaces where everyone can feel connected and feel they belong.
4. We are peers and facilitators within communities who can spot the signs of what is really going on with others and encourage them to make informed choices.
5. We are the trusted voice within communities and the link to everything else, advocating for the most vulnerable and those in crisis.
6. We offer positivity and hope - opportunities for people to gain a sense of purpose and grow their skills, confidence, and resilience.
7. We are our communities. We grew out of our communities; we are committed to being here for the long term.



## Fund Principles

We have produced a video outlining the community-led wellbeing principles, which can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/T0ArXPVx1jg>

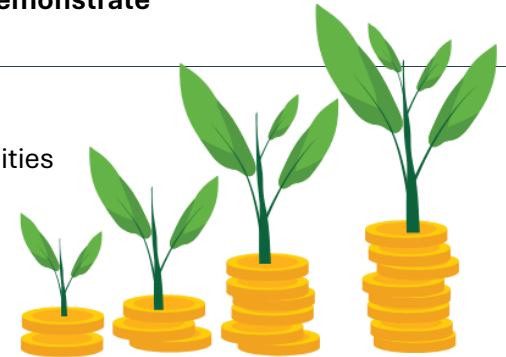


## What makes a successful application?

Each application will be assessed on its own merits, but preference will be given to those applications that demonstrate the following features:

Applications should be for projects that meet one or more of the following priorities:

- Clearly identifies and aims to address **health, social and economic inequality(s)** within Tameside Communities
- The project and organisation / group embody the principles of the fund.
- Involves people with lived experience in co-producing the proposal and in delivery
- Supports sustainability and self-funding activities beyond the lifespan of the grant
- Brings diverse people together to build more resilient communities
- Is open to people living anywhere in Tameside.



## Application Support

Action Together have Community Development Officers assigned to local areas who support local people and organisations to build capacity in local communities in an asset-based way. We strongly encourage you to speak with your local Development Officer before making an application.



Dawn Acton |  
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07480 991 556 or 0161 339 2345



Jonathan King |  
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## Who is the funding for?

You can apply for a microgrant of up to **£1,000** or a small grant of up to **£11,000** if you:



- Are a voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) group locally rooted or actively working in the borough of Tameside; *and*
- Are a member of Action Together CIO (you can register for free to become a member [here](#)); *and*
- Are formally constituted; *and*
- Have at least three people on your board or committee who are not related; *and* have a bank account in your organisation's name requiring at least two unrelated signatories

**Please note:**

- You may not apply for a grant if you are an organisation that can pay profits to directors, shareholders or members.
- To receive this funding, any outstanding monitoring information required by us, relating to other grant funding must have been completed.
- Action Together is an accredited Living Wage Funder. This means we encourage organisations that employ staff to become an accredited Living Wage Employer.

## What can the money be spent on?

| What can the money be spent on? |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| We CAN fund                     | The costs of funded activity on a full cost recovery basis including:                                                               |                                                                                                                               |
|                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equipment</li><li>• One-off events</li><li>• Staff costs</li><li>• Training costs</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organisation running costs</li><li>• Transport</li><li>• Volunteer expenses</li></ul> |



## What can the money not be spent on?

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| We CANNOT fund: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest</li><li>• Paying someone to write your bid for you.</li><li>• Profit making or fundraising activities.</li><li>• VAT you can reclaim.</li><li>• Statutory activities.</li><li>• Expenses that have already been incurred – retrospective costs.</li></ul> |  |
|                 | This list is not exhaustive, so if you are not sure please contact us (contact details below)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |



## Key Dates

Deadline for applications:  
**Monday 09 November 2026**

- We will launch applications on 29 September 2026
- We will stop accepting applications on 09 November 2026
- All grants must be awarded before 31 December 2026
- All funding must be spent and projects delivered by 30 January 2028



## Grant Amounts

**The Tameside Communities Fund offers different levels of funding to ensure local investment is available to strengthen the whole sector. From local community groups to larger organisations. The VCFSE sector ranges in size, type and function and this funding model reflects the diversity of the sector.**

### Micro grant up to £1,000

Up to £1,000 is available to support community-led health and wellbeing projects or activities that tackle health, social and economic inequalities across communities in Tameside. This fund is available to informal social action groups and constituted VCFSE groups operating in neighbourhoods.

Action Together will oversee the micro grant via our internal schemes of delegation. Micro grant funding decisions will be made up to **4 weeks** following receipt of applications, unless further information is required.

### Small grant up to £11,000

Up to £11,000 is available to build the capacity of VCFSE groups and organisations who deliver community led health and wellbeing activities that tackle health, social and economic inequalities across communities in Tameside. This fund is available to constituted VCFSE groups and organisations.

The Live Well Leadership group will form the decision-making panel for the **small grants**. It is our ambition, wherever possible that decisions about funding priorities are made closest to those that have the skills, experience and local insight to make the best decisions. The Live Well leadership group includes VCFSE leaders, Tameside Council Population Health and Action Together.



Small grant funding decisions will be made within **6 weeks** of receipt of applications, unless further information is required.

*\*A community anchor is a multi-purpose, independent, community-led organisation. They will have a recognised purpose to lead on either a geographic focus for service design and delivery; have a specialist area of expertise; or represent a particular community of identity. These anchors will have a recognised function within the VCSE sector, will have a leadership role in place-based working, with and on behalf of communities.*

## Supporting Documents

Along with your completed application form you will need to submit the following documents:



- Governing document (e.g. Constitution, Memorandum of Articles of Association)
- Community bank account in organisation's name with at least two unrelated signatories
- Public Liability Insurance (if applicable)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Project Risk Assessment/s

## Completing and sending the Application Form

Please ensure that **ALL** parts of the application form are completed.

- We have not included word count limits in the application form as we want you to be able to tell us about your ideas without having to worry about the amount of words you are using – as a general guide we are only looking for brief summary and 2 or 3 paragraphs for each answer should be enough for you to be able to tell us about your plans.
- We encourage you to send a short video, quote or audio clip from the people who will directly benefit from this project. If you wish to send a video, please contact [funding@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:funding@actiontogether.org.uk)
- We have thought carefully about the questions in the application and only ask for information that we need to. Please read the questions carefully and only provide the information that we have asked for. Don't be tempted to add lots of other information about your organisation – if we need to know anything else we will contact you.
- If you are using an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tool to help you to write your application, please be aware that whilst it can be a very useful tool, it often produces generic and inaccurate content. Using AI can be a helpful starting point, but please review content that has been generated using AI to ensure that it reflects your organisation's unique experiences, skills and community and that it is accurate.

If you have any queries about the application form or application process, please contact Jayne Gibson on 0161 339 2345



## If you are successful



If your project involves the purchase of capital items, we may ask you for such further information as we feel is necessary such as quotes and, for example, if contributing towards the purchase of a vehicle we may ask to see evidence of an up-to-date MOT certificate and insurance. To help us understand the impact of this funding, successful applicants will:

- be offered further support from one of our community development workers throughout and beyond the project,
- be asked to provide a report and case study to Action Together at the end of their project. You will receive an example of the questions that we will be asking with your grant agreement so that you can plan how to capture the story of your project as soon as it starts.; and
- be offered the opportunity to participate in networks of groups and organisations to be able to share expertise and experience.

If you do not already have an up to date [Quality in Action Award](#) from Action Together or have not yet worked through a [Health Check](#) with your community development worker, you may be asked to work towards completing one with our support, as a condition of your grant.

## If you are unsuccessful



You will be offered further support from one of our Community Development Workers, and the funding team would be happy to discuss your application and give you feedback about your application.

## Monitoring and evaluation



The aim of monitoring is:

- Assurance that the project has been completed and funds have been spent as agreed
- Capturing the learning, impact that funding has made and insight from the project to enable Action Together to champion the VCFSE sector and advocate for more investment into communities
- Developing the skills of groups to provide monitoring and share learning and impact in order to further their own development
- Monitoring will also be proportional to the size of grant, and we will offer support and training on monitoring impact and submitting monitoring in different formats. Where submitted monitoring is inadequate, groups will be expected to meet with their Community Development Worker to discuss their learning and impact throughout the project before resubmitting.
- For medium grants, groups will be expected to develop metrics and collect qualitative and quantitative data to demonstrate impact.

## Storytelling

We believe stories have the power to connect and create change, and we have invested in story telling training for the VCFSE sector so they can continue to tell their own stories, to grow and build understanding of the role of the VCFSE sector in community led prevention.

We will encourage all grant holders to share stories gathered through projects funded by the Tameside Communities Fund.

You can access our free Storytelling Toolkit [here](#) as well as on our website.

[Storytelling Toolkit | The Saltways | Action Together](#). To view the toolkits through our website please ensure you have a login to access this, if you need to set up one up, please email [jayne.gibson@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:jayne.gibson@actiontogether.org.uk)



## Contact us

If you need **help completing the application** or [becoming a member](#) please contact your Community Development Worker. If you are not sure who that is please email [development@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:development@actiontogether.org.uk) or call **0161 339 2345** and ask to speak to a member of the Tameside Development Team.

If you have any questions about the application process or whether you are eligible to apply please contact [funding@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:funding@actiontogether.org.uk) or call **0161 339 2345** and ask to speak to a member of the Tameside Funding Team.

Please email your application to [funding@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:funding@actiontogether.org.uk)



## Submitting your application

Please email your completed application to: [funding@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:funding@actiontogether.org.uk)