GM Early Years

Safe Start Baby Bank Network Delivery Grant 2027

Grant Guidance Notes

Background

Within Greater Manchester there is a commitment to support every child to have the best possible start in life, so they can succeed and thrive.

The VCFSE sector plays a vital part in supporting families with children in the Early Years. The GM Baby Bank Network has convened and exists to support and strengthen Baby Banks that operate across Greater Manchester **"ensuring every baby born in Greater Manchester has their essential needs met and through connection and community the support they need to thrive".**

Since October 2025, the GM Baby Bank Network has been distributing Safer Sleep bundles with funding from GMCA. Further funding has been secured for the Baby Bank Network to continue to convene and collaborate, and to be grant funded the infrastructure costs to distribute a second year of bundles. This is also an opportunity for GM baby banks currently not part of the network to join and access funding.

Aim of the Fund

The Safe Start Baby Bank Delivery Grant aims to strengthen the capacity of Baby Banks and increase the sustainability of their delivery to ensure every baby born has their essential needs met and can start life well in Greater Manchester. The fund is designed to enable GM Baby Banks to effectively deliver the Baby Bundles to families via a referral process and meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to share learning, collaborate and develop leadership within the network

Priorities

The main priorities of Safe Start Baby Bank Delivery Grant are:

- Reduce health and wellbeing inequalities of babies (under 1) across Greater Manchester through the provision of Baby Bundles via GM Baby Banks.
- Reach diverse communities, particularly those who face significant barriers e.g babies from lower socio-economic families.

The delivery grant is to be distributed to Baby Banks across all areas of Greater Manchester in proportion to need and scale of delivery, for example Baby Banks that operate across single or multiple sites.

Recipients will:

- Have capacity to be active participants of the Greater Manchester Baby Bank Network.
- Have capacity to provide Baby Bundles to families via a referral process.
- Contribute to data collection monthly to demonstrate the impact of the Safe Start offer and collectively as the GM Baby Bank Network.
- Recipients will have capacity to attend monthly online updates and quarterly face to face development sessions.

Grant Amounts:

Baby Banks can apply for:

A microgrant of £500
A small grant up to £5,000
A medium grant of up to £15,000

The mixed funding model has been developed in collaboration with the GM Baby Bank Network and informed by the data and insight collated throughout the first year of delivery. The grant amounts reflect the diverse range and size of Baby Banks that operate across Greater Manchester and the expanded offer of bundles for babies up to 1 year. We can only accept one application per organisation.

Grant Available	Criteria
Microgrant £500	Available for organisations who are not part of the Baby Bank Network to promote and support safer sleep resources.
Small Grant £5,000	Available for existing members of the Baby Bank Network and submitted data in Year 1 (2026).
Small Grant up to £15,000	Available to Baby Banks with the capacity and ambition to take on a leadership role within the Baby Bank Network, supporting shared learning, collaboration, and long-term sustainability. Desirable: • Have capacity and infrastructure to support area in GM without/or significantly reduced Baby Bank offer (e.g. Rochdale). • Have capacity, infrastructure and storage facilities to support the distribution of Baby Bundle goods/components across GM/The Baby Bank Network.

Key Dates

- All grants must be awarded before **31 January 2027**
- We will stop accepting applications on the deadline of **12 noon on 8 January 2027**
- All funding must be spent and projects delivered by **31st January 2028.**

What we can fund:

- Any infrastructure costs for GM Baby Bank Network relating to the delivery of the 'Safe Start' offer.

Who is the funding for:

- You are a Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) group locally rooted or actively working in Greater Manchester
- You have an existing referral process for professionals i.e. Midwives, Health Visitors, Early Help and Social Care
- You are formally constituted.

Decision making process:

Decisions will be made by a panel with representation from The Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Home-Start HOST, and Action Together.

Decisions will be made once the fund has closed for applications. You may be asked for further information or to redevelop aspects of your proposal.

All applications must be sent to funding@actiontogether.org.uk and you will receive the decision via email.

Please note:

- Action Together is an accredited Living Wage Funder. This means we encourage organisations that employ staff to become an accredited Living Wage Employer.

Monitoring and data collection:

The organisation will be expected to support monthly participant data collection to understand reach and scope of families supported through this work. This data will be collated and shared across the network to demonstrate impact of this funding.

In addition, the organisation will complete an end of project monitoring report for the project. The reports will include:

- The story and impact of your project
- How many people benefitted
- Stakeholder feedback
- Data, Photos, Feedback sheets, promotional materials relevant to the project.

Completing the application form

- Please ensure that ALL boxes on the application form are completed.
- When completing your budget, please clearly evidence how you have arrived at your costings and use exact figures.
- Please ensure you include information in your application about how you will measure the impact and success of your project.
- If you have any queries about the application form or application process, please contact Jayne Gibson on 0161 339 2345.
- Please note, we can only accept one application per organisation.

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

Your local infrastructure organisation will be able to guide and support with your application.

Manchester	*Welcome to Manchester Community Central | Manchester Community Central*
Bury	Bury VCFA – Enhancing the Quality of Life of local residents
Bolton	*Bolton CVS*
Salford	Home | Salford CVS
Stockport	Sector 3 Stockport
Trafford	*Thrive Trafford - Volunteering, Third Sector Funding & Social Enterprise*
Wigan	Home - Wigan Borough Community First
Rochdale	*For stronger communities in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside | Action Together*
Tameside	
Oldham	

The use of AI within your application

We recognise that AI can be a valuable tool in various aspects of project development, such as brainstorming or editing responses. However, we strongly discourage its use for the drafting of answers within funding applications, as it can compromise the integrity of the application process.

It is often clear when an organisation uses AI to draft their application, as we notice similar or identical language and content within numerous funding applications. Strong applications help us understand your organisation and your community, but when they are drafted by AI, the

generic language which is used makes it hard to understand what your organisation is planning to do and why.

AI written responses often claim to have taken certain steps to develop their project idea, such as a needs assessment, focus groups or consultation with users. Unless the group includes statistics and quotes in their bid, it raises doubt about whether these steps have actually happened. This can affect the decision-making process and an outcome of an application as the authenticity of the application can be called into question.

Where there is doubt about if your application has been drafted by AI, we will ask for some additional information to support your application.

Contact

For information regarding eligibility or the process, contact Jayne Gibson, Grants and Membership Administrator, Tameside.

Email jayne.gibson@actiontogether.org.uk

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