

Southport Together Mental Wellbeing and Community Cohesion Small Grants Fund 2025

Introduction

As part of the Southport Recovery Programme Sefton CVS, in partnership with Sefton Council, are providing small grant funding of up to £1,500 for Southport based VCF sector organisations and community groups. The fund aims to support the delivery of new or additional mental health and emotional wellbeing focused activities.

Activities funded through the grant must;

- Support positive mental health and emotional wellbeing

AND address one or more of the following themes:

- Community Cohesion
- Inter-generational Activities
- Inter-faith Activities
- Inter-community Activities

Organisations and community groups **must** be delivering services directly to residents of Southport.

The funding aims to:

- Support small, community-based groups to access funding for local projects.
- Improve residents' access to local community activities, increasing engagement and knowledge of opportunities in the area for social interaction and health outcomes.
- Provide activities that promote connection across generations and dialogue between faiths and cultures.
- Through activities, increase sense of belonging in the community, enhancing mental health and wellbeing.
- Strengthen relationships within communities, particularly among groups at risk of exclusion or isolation, contributing to better mental health.
- Ensure fair and transparent distribution of funds to maximise impact across the community that maximise health and wellbeing impact.
- Strengthen trust and create lasting cohesion in the Southport community

Application Process

1. Application Form- completed fully with a breakdown of the costs, signed and dated
2. Documents you will need to provide:
 - Governing Documents – Constitution, Memorandum & Articles of Association
 - Safeguarding – Policy
 - Bank account details
 - Annual accounts statements

Applying

To apply for the small grant fund please visit:

seftoncvsvs.org.uk/southport-together-mental-wellbeing-and-community-cohesion-small-grants-fund-2025

A word document application is available upon request.

Closing Date for applications: 5pm Monday 3rd November 2025

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible organisations must:

1. Be a constituted voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise organisation, operating on a not-for-profit basis.
2. Eligible legal structures include:
 - Registered charities, including charitable incorporated organisations (CIO's)
 - Constituted organisations and non-registered charities
 - Community interest companies (CIC's) limited by guarantee and community benefit organisations (where there is a minimum of three unrelated directors)
 - Community Groups
 - Faith based groups
3. Have a bank account in the name of the organisation which requires at least two unrelated people to sign cheques and make withdrawals.
4. Have a robust Child/Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy & Procedure where applicable and evidence that staff and volunteers are DBS checked.
5. Be a VCF organisation based in and supporting residents of Southport or Formby if supporting people affected by events last year.

Who is not eligible?

- Public sector bodies (for example NHS trusts)
- Schools
- Private sector organisations and businesses
- Organisations where their registered or operating address is outside of Southport area

What is not eligible?

- Expenditure not considered to support two or more of the above themes
- Grants that are considered to be revenue based e.g. staffing or ongoing such as a contribution to running costs
- Start-up costs for new organisations
- Retrospective funding: costs that have already been incurred
- General building work or repairs
- Activities taking place outside of the Southport or Formby area

Examples of what could be funded:

- Mindfulness workshops across 6 weeks.
- Weekly sessions across 12 weeks working with children of primary school age and people of retirement age to share stories and life experiences of Southport.
- A series of multi-cultural cooking classes across 6 weeks, delivered to adults who do not have English as a first language, hosted by different faith venues.

Monitoring and Evaluation

If successful you will need to:

- Complete your activities by 31st March 2026
- Complete a short end of project report evidencing the benefits of the grant and impact on the community, by end of April 2026
- Provide a minimum of one short case study
- Details of expenditure such as receipts or invoices

What Happens Next

Applications will be considered by a grants panel and will be assessed on the impact that the project will have on the key themes.

The closing date for applications to this round of funding is: **5pm, Monday 3rd November 2025.**

Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted. This includes applications that do not include the required supporting documentation. Please refer to the eligibility criteria, guidance notes and FAQ's sheet carefully before completing your application.

If you are unsure or have any questions about the supporting documents required, please contact Lauren Jones before submitting the application.

If we can be of any help, or you would like to talk to us about your project, then please email communityoutreach@seftoncvss.org.uk with your contact details and we will arrange for a member of the team to get in touch.