



Glasgow Communities Fund

April 2026 – March 2029

Fund Overview

CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Section 1 – Glasgow Communities Fund</u>	
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Challenges	2
1.3 The Fund	3
1.4 Aims of the Fund	4
1.5 Principles of the Fund	4
1.6 Outcomes of the Fund	5
1.7 Priorities of the Fund	5
1.8 The Council’s Strategic Plan – Grand Challenge One	6
1.9 Themes of the Fund	7
<u>Section 2 – Applying to the Fund</u>	
Eligibility	
2.1 Who can and can’t apply?	8
2.2 What can and can’t be supported?	8
Budget	
2.3 How much is available?	9
2.4 How much can we apply for?	9
2.5 If successful, will we be awarded the amount we’ve applied for?	9
2.6 How many years funding can we apply for?	10
Application	
2.7 How do we apply?	10
2.8 What is in the application pack?	10
2.9 Before completing an application	10
2.10 How many applications can we submit?	11
2.11 When is the deadline for applications?	11
<u>Section 3 - Assessment</u>	
3.1 How we assess your application and make funding decisions	13
3.2 When will funding decisions/recommendations be approved?	14
3.3 When will we hear if our application has been successful?	15
3.4 How will the grant be paid?	15
3.5 When will projects be expected to start?	15
<u>Section 4 – Additional Information</u>	
4.1 Data Protection and Freedom of Information	16
4.2 Equalities	16
4.3 Fair Work Principles	16
Appendix 1	17

Section 1 – Glasgow Communities Fund

1.1 Introduction

Glasgow is Scotland's largest, most diverse city, with a vision to have a world class city with a thriving, inclusive economy where everyone can flourish and benefit from the city's success. In recent years, Glasgow has made progress towards achieving this vision. We have increased our business base, developed our economy to being one of the largest in the UK and improved our educational attainment through initiatives.

1.2 Challenges

Despite these improvements progress is not happening quickly enough for the poorest and most disadvantaged people in the city, especially those with protected characteristics or additional support needs who face specific barriers and disadvantage.

- Glasgow has the highest proportion of deprived areas of any local authority in Scotland.
- Unemployment is higher in Glasgow than the British average with 25.6% of the population being Economically Inactive.
- 1 in 3 children in Glasgow live below the poverty line.
- Life expectancy in Glasgow remains low compared to the Scottish and British averages.

Glasgow City Council is committed to responding to these challenges. The Council's [Strategic Plan \(2022-2027\)](#) sets out the Council's priorities and commitments to tackle poverty and inequality and increase economic growth, supporting our city to be –

“a fair and sustainable city where everyone gets to contribute and all can benefit from a flourishing Glasgow”.

1.3 The Fund

The Council's Glasgow Communities Fund is one of a number of support programmes delivered by the Council to respond to these challenges. The Fund aims to make a positive difference to people and communities, supporting residents of Glasgow to share in, and benefit from, the opportunities in the city.

First introduced in October 2020, the Glasgow Communities Fund (referred to as the 'Fund') provided a 30-month programme of grant funding to almost 300 community and third sector organisations. Organisations were supported to deliver diverse programmes of activity at a city-wide and local level to the value of over £47m to March 2023.

The second phase of the Fund runs from April 2023 until March 2026. The Fund supports close to 240 organisations to deliver a range of activities across the city to the value of over £55m. Within this budget, over £6.5m of funding has been allocated to support Financial Inclusion and Legal Support activity delivered by organisations within the Glasgow Advice and Information Network (GAIN), over the three-year funding period.

Glasgow City Council is planning to deliver a third phase of the Fund during 2026-2029, delivering on the same core principles of the previous two phases. Applications are invited from eligible community and third sector organisations during February until April 2025. The Council's budget allocation for the Glasgow Communities Fund 2026-2029 will be confirmed later in 2025 as part of the budget setting process.

You can find more information on the Fund on the [website](#).

1.4 Aims of the Fund

The Fund aims to tackle poverty and inequality through:

- Building the skills, capacity and resilience of individuals and communities;
- Supporting activities and services that will enable and empower communities to become involved in the social, economic and cultural life of the city; and
- Removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people with additional support needs and/or protected characteristics.

1.5 Principles of the Fund

In delivering these aims, the Fund is guided by the following principles:

- Communities are best placed to identify and deliver solutions that meet their needs; and
- Community led organisations are vital to creating, empowering and sustaining resilient communities.

These are further underpinned by a focus on: **early intervention and prevention; innovation** and initiatives that respond to emerging areas; improved outcomes and a recognition of full cost recovery.

1.6 Outcomes of the Fund

The Fund has the following overarching outcomes:

People and communities have access to services, support and opportunities that improve their lives and well-being.

People and communities are more self-reliant and are better able to identify ways to improve and take control of their lives and well-being.

People are better able to gain the skills, capacity and confidence to play an active role in their communities.

People and communities are better able to influence and participate in decision making and service development.

People and communities are better able to identify and deliver solutions that meet their needs.

People and communities are better able to participate in the social, economic and cultural life of Glasgow.

1.7 Priorities of the Fund

Recognising that reducing poverty and inequality relies on many forms of interventions, the Fund is underpinned by two priority areas: Improving Communities and Resilient Communities.

We wish to support initiatives that contribute to one or more of the Fund's outcomes through these priority areas.

(i) Improving Communities

Through this priority we want to provide opportunities for communities and individuals to improve their lives by addressing the impact of barriers such as deprivation, disadvantage, exclusion, inequality and isolation.

We want to support services and activities that improve the health, well-being, social and/or economic position of communities and individuals, enabling them to reach their full potential and play an active role in the city.

For example by:

Promoting access to health related services and activities that enable people to make better choices in improving their health and well-being including mental health.

Tackling health inequalities and social isolation or exclusion.

Supporting those at risk of vulnerability through early intervention and prevention.

Promoting equality of access to services and reducing barriers to engagement particularly for Protected Characteristic Groups that enables them to access opportunities to improve their health, well-being, social and economic position.

Promoting access to support and advice that enables people to develop and improve their financial capability.

Developing people's skills so that they are able to take advantage of opportunities and reach positive destinations.

Through this priority we want to provide opportunities for communities and individuals to actively participate within their local communities and empower them to identify and deliver solutions that meet their needs.

We want to support services and activities that strengthen resilience, encourage learning and skill development, increase aspirations and confidence of communities and individuals, enabling them to reach their full potential and play an active role in the city.

For example by:

Developing people’s capacity, confidence, resilience and skills through learning empowering them to actively participate and contribute in their community.

Supporting activities that address barriers to engagement which prevent people, particularly those with Protected Characteristics, from participating equitably in their community.

Enabling communities to have a greater say in the decision making process and service development to deliver solutions that meet their needs.

Assisting local groups and organisations to develop responsive services that meet the needs of local communities.

Promoting social inclusion and community cohesion through cultural and creative activities.

1.8 The Council’s Strategic Plan – Grand Challenge One

The services and activities supported through the Fund will be expected to directly support the Council’s Strategic Plan, specifically Grand Challenge One: “Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities”. The plan sets out four missions which underpin this challenge. The Fund will only support applications which demonstrate clear alignment with the missions of grand challenge one: -

Grand Challenge one: Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities	
Mission 1.1	End child poverty in our city using early intervention to support families
Mission 1.2	Meet the learning and care needs of children and their families before and through school
Mission 1.3	Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities
Mission 1.4	Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant

1.9 Themes of the Fund

Five Fund themes have been developed in collaboration with strategic lead partners from across the Council family which support the missions of Grand Challenge One above, and related partner strategies which are available on the [website](#).

The five themes are designed to help organisations to demonstrate how their funded project aligns with the overall aims and objectives of the Fund. The themes are:

- Theme 1 - Supporting Children, Young People and Families
- Theme 2 - Promoting Culture and Creativity
- Theme 3 - Developing Community Infrastructure
- Theme 4 - Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Theme 5 - Challenging Violence Against Women and Girls

Applicant organisations will be required to select one Primary theme which aligns closest to their proposed project and to select relevant theme specific outcomes. Organisations will also have the option to select a Secondary theme and related outcomes if they are unable to fully represent their project within the Primary theme. Additional details on each theme, including the types of activities and related specific outcomes can be found at **Appendix 1** to this document.

Section 2 – Applying to the Fund

Eligibility

Please note that if you fail to meet the eligibility criteria your application **will not** be considered.

2.1 Who can and can't apply?

This Fund is open to community and third sector organisations that deliver locally within Glasgow and engage local people and communities in the design and development of services to meet their needs. These can be new or established services.

We will accept applications from the following types of organisation:

- Company Ltd By Guarantee
- Community Interest Company (CIC) – (in line with other funders, we would expect CICs to have a minimum of three Directors who are not related).
- Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)
- Constituted Charity/Voluntary Sector Organisations (including unincorporated)
- Housing Associations
- Colleges

We will not accept applications from the following:

- Individuals or Sole Traders
- Organisations that generate profit for private distribution
- Statutory/Public Bodies such as Glasgow City Council and its Arm's Length External Organisations, Community Councils, NHS, Police Scotland etc

2.2 What can and can't be supported?

Applicants can apply for some or all project costs including:

- Employee costs including staff salaries which may include annual inflationary increases and training costs
- Activity and programme costs
- Running costs including premises, utilities, equipment
- Event costs
- Professional fees including audit costs
- Full Cost Recovery

Applicants cannot apply to the Fund for the following:

- Capital costs
- Management fee
- Religious or political activities
- Costs already funded by someone else
- Costs incurred before the activity starts
- Alcohol or drugs
- Recoverable VAT
- Loans or interest
- Mortgages
- Activities out with Glasgow

Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

Budget

2.3 How much is available?

The total value of the Fund from 2026-2029 will not be confirmed until later in 2025, after the Council's formal budget setting process.

As in previous years, it is anticipated that the available budget in each financial year will be notionally allocated on a City-wide / Sector split basis in accordance with the Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) calculations. This will be confirmed later in 2025.

The information provided in the application form at Question 37 will be used to help determine which geographical area(s) applications may be funded from.

2.4 How much can we apply for?

You can apply for a minimum award of £20,000 and a maximum of £200,000 each year.

It is anticipated that demand for funding will be high so please only apply for what you need.

2.5 If successful, will we be awarded the same amount we've applied for?

If successful in your application you may not be offered the total amount of grant applied for. Grant awards will take account of the costs applied for, the available budget and the demand on the Fund. In the second phase of the Fund (2023-2026), most successful applicants were offered grant funding amounts lower than applied for

and were then invited to submit revised delivery proposals to reflect the reduced award.

Applicants should be aware that the Council may apply a formula to the assessment process that enables investment in as many priority proposals as possible.

2.6 How many years funding can we apply for?

You can apply for 1 year, 2 years or 3 years funding. Applicants should carefully consider how many years they require funding for.

Application

2.7 How do we apply?

To apply to the Fund, you need to read the application pack and associated guidance found on our website at the following link: [GCF Application Pack](#)

2.8 What is in the application pack?

Included in the Application pack is:

- Link to the on-line application
- Microsoft Excel Budget Template
- Step-by-Step guide to the application form
- Microsoft Word version of the online Application Form (**not for submission** – intended to help you prepare your application)
- An example of a completed Application Form
- An example of a completed Budget Template

In addition to the application guidance noted above, there is further support available including:

- Online Information Sessions to guide you through the application form
- Live Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the website
- Support from Glasgow Council for Voluntary Services (GCVS) including 'Making Better Applications' workshops
- Assistance from members of the Grants Team with application related enquires, including technical queries via cesgrants@glasgow.gov.uk.

Further details on how to access the support available, including the on-line workshops and support from GCVS can be found [here](#).

2.9 Before completing an application

The application form is in the format of a smart survey. **Before completing the application, we STRONGLY recommend that you read the 'Step-by-Step Guide' available on the [website](#).** We recommend that you have this document to hand while you complete the application form, it will help you complete each part of the application form and will hopefully answer any questions you might have.

You will also need to have the following documents to hand:

- A signed, where appropriate and dated copy of your Governing Document (e.g. Constitution, Mem & Arts)
- A copy of your most recent signed annual accounts or income and expenditure statement
- A copy of the Minute from your last Board/Management Committee meeting
- A copy of your latest bank statement dated within 3 months of the application
- A completed Budget Template which is part of the application pack

A Microsoft Word version of the application form is available on the website and may be used to help you to prepare for completing the online form.

Please note, we cannot accept an application in Word format, you must complete and submit the online application.

2.10 How many applications can we submit?

You can only make **one application per organisation**.

2.11 When is the deadline for applications?

Applications and required documentation (see above 2.8) should be submitted using the online application form. Applications must be submitted no later than:

- **Monday 7 April 2025 at 12 midday**

We cannot accept applications submitted after the deadline.

Once you press submit, the screen will say 'Thank you for your submission'. You will then be sent a PDF copy of your application within 24 hours for your records.

Please double check your application before submitting.

Due to the number of applications we expect to receive, we will not be able to contact you about the content of your application. Applications will be assessed on the basis of the information submitted so it's important you thoroughly check your application before submitting it.

Please make sure that any documents you upload with your form are the correct ones. If we find that you have attached an incorrect document, then we will endeavour to contact you.

Section 3 - Assessment

3.1 How we assess your application and make funding decisions

Once you submit your application, the Grants Team will carry out initial assessment including technical and eligibility checks. Applications will then be considered by a collaborative of 'strategic lead' officers from across the Council family.

Fund applications will be categorised and assessed on the basis of the Primary Theme selected. All themes will be assessed equally with no one theme prioritised over another. The themes are –

- Supporting Children, Young People and Families
- Promoting Culture and Creativity
- Developing Community Infrastructure
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Challenging Violence Against Women and Girls

The Assessment process will be designed in collaboration with 'strategic leads' officers from across the Council family during February–May and shared with applicants later in 2025.

Through collaboration with strategic lead colleagues we aim to maximise the impact of the Fund by identifying any opportunities for joint funding, any duplication of funding and any over provision or gaps in provision. This approach will enable clearer strategic alignment of the Fund with Council family priorities and outcomes.

An outline of the indicative assessment criteria and scoring levels are set out below. **Please note assessment criteria and weightings are indicative only at this stage** and subject to consultation with Council family strategic leads:

- **Project outcomes** – this includes evidence of directly delivering on the overall Fund aims and objectives and the missions supporting Grand Challenge One of the Council's Strategic Plan. Clear evidence of the intended outcomes, how these will be measured and the difference the project will make.
- **Project impact** – evidence of project need in terms of SIMD data, ward/local data, demographics and service gaps. Alignment with wider Council family priorities and consideration of equality impact.
- **Project delivery** - this includes assessment of what will be delivered, including where, when and who will benefit. Whether the plans are realistic and deliverable. Evidence of partnership working and collaboration. Consideration of involvement of communities in planning and decision making and of innovative approaches to project delivery.
- **Project Finance** – this includes an assessment of the budget and whether the project costs appear reasonable and realistic.
- **Organisation Governance** – this includes an assessment of the governance and financial stability to ensure the organisation can support delivery of the project, with a clear indication of the aims of the organisation. This will also

include consideration of the capacity of the organisation and previous experience.

- **Sustainability** – this includes assessment of plans for how the funded activity can be sustained in the longer term.

Tables 1a and 1b below show the indicative score key and weighting given to the assessment criteria.

Table 1a: Assessment Score

Score	Score Assessment	Key	Interpretation
5	Excellent		Satisfies and demonstrates exceptional understanding of criteria required. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added value
4	Good		Satisfies the requirement with some additional benefits
3	Acceptable		Satisfies the requirement with no reservations
2	Minor reservations		Satisfies the requirement with minor reservations and limited evidence to support the response
1	Serious reservations		Some attempt has been made to provide information but lacks detail
0	Unacceptable		Does not meet the requirement. Insufficient information provided

Table 1b: Assessment Criteria Weighting

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Project Outcomes	25
Project Impact	25
Project Delivery	25
Project Finance	10
Organisation Governance	10
Sustainability	5
Total	100

A maximum score of 5 against all criteria would result in a weighted score of 100, whereas a score of 1 for all criteria would result in a weighted score of 20.

The information provided in your application and subsequent score will be used to inform a funding recommendation.

Please note that a high score does not guarantee funding. Scores will be considered alongside available budget and demand on the Fund at a geographical level.

Further information on the assessment process will be made available to organisations later in 2025.

3.2 When will funding decisions/recommendations be approved?

It is anticipated that funding decisions will be made by November 2025. Applicants to the Fund and relevant stakeholders will be notified of the decision arrangements and dates later in 2025.

Funding recommendations are normally published on the Council's website one week prior to the decision meeting/s taking place. You will be notified when these will be available.

Please be aware that the information made public on the Council's website will contain information on applications received including name of organisation and project description, as included in your application, and the amount of funding requested.

Please note that all decisions made are final and there is **no appeal process**.

3.3 When will we hear if our application has been successful?

Following approval of applications, it is our intention to confirm awards and to outline the practical and administrative arrangements, including performance monitoring, by December 2025. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified in December 2025.

We aim to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants as soon as possible, by early 2026.

3.4 How will the grant be paid?

Information on the grant payment process and schedule will be made available as part of the award process.

3.5 When will projects be expected to start?

Successful projects would typically be expected to start from 1 April 2026 and no later than 1 October 2026.

Section 4: Additional Information

4.1 Data Protection and Freedom of Information

Applicants to this Fund should note that Glasgow City Council, as a Scottish public authority, is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and Data Protection Act 2018.

Therefore, please note that information provided will be held, published and disclosed in accordance with this legislation.

Further information is available on our [website](#) and on the Scottish Information Commissioners [website](#).

4.2 Equalities

The Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. All organisations that submit an application to the Glasgow Communities Fund must satisfy themselves that they are compliant with the relevant equalities legislation.

Find out more about who is protected from discrimination, the types of discrimination under the law and what action you can take by visiting the [UK Government's guide on the Equality Act 2010](#).

4.3 Fair Work Principles

Glasgow City Council is committed to working with third sector partners on the delivery of high-quality public services that are supported and delivered by a well-managed, motivated and properly remunerated workforce with access to appropriate opportunities for training and development. As part of that commitment, the Council requires all organisations funded from the Glasgow Communities Fund 2026-2029 to commit to the criteria set out in [the Fair Work Framework](#). As a minimum, the Council requires that all staff posts funded from the Glasgow Communities Fund in 2026-2029 are paid the real Living Wage and that gender equal pay is in place.

Further information on the real Living Wage can be found [here](#).

APPENDIX 1

Theme 1: Supporting Children, Young People and Families

This theme focusses on addressing the challenges faced by children, young people and their families, particularly those caused by poverty, inequality and social isolation.

We recognise that families can face a variety of challenges that can exacerbate inequalities and that when a child's or parent/carer's needs are left unaddressed, it can impact the whole family.

We also understand that the needs of individuals or families accessing support are often complex, interlinked and require collaboration between multiple services.

We acknowledge that **early intervention and prevention, holistic support for the whole family** and **organisations working collaboratively** are crucial to effectively addressing these challenges. This approach recognises the strength of services that are responsive, inclusive and seamless, enabling children, young people and their families to have access to the right support at the right time.

To support this, we are looking to fund services that are person centred, trauma informed, strengths-based and rights based. To fund activities that empower **families** to overcome challenges and improve their quality of life; and activities that foster learning, enhance well-being, offer new experiences and promote leadership within **children and young people** to support them to remain inquisitive, feel safe, valued, connected and happy.

Funded activity could include but not be limited to:

Support for Children and Young People

- **Pre/post School Support:** activities provided outside of school hours
- **Support for Learning:** homework/tutoring, vocational classes, positive pathways for those not in education
- **Physical Activities:** play, dance, sports, physical fitness, games
- **Youth Engagement:** youth work, diversionary activities, outreach programmes
- **Youth Health:** activities that support positive mindset and enhanced well being
- **Youth Leadership:** activities fostering youth voice, youth leadership
- **Skills Development:** volunteering, mentoring, befriending, coaching
- **Support for Inclusion:** tailored activities or services within this theme for those with additional support needs and/or protected characteristics who experience additional barriers and exclusion

Support for Families

- **Parenting Support:** pre/perinatal and parenting related activities
- **Childcare:** wraparound or respite care for the most vulnerable families

- **Therapeutic Activities and Support:** advice/info/groups tailored to family support needs, peer support, counselling
- **Family learning:** activities that promote family learning
- **Support for Inclusion:** tailored activities or services within this theme for those with additional support needs and/or protected characteristics who experience additional barriers and exclusion

Theme specific Outcome(s)

1. Families have equitable access to services that are holistic, trauma informed and rights-based.
2. Families are better equipped to manage challenges, increase resilience, stability and independence.
3. Children are protected from the adverse effects of living in poverty.
4. Children and young people report enhanced mental, emotional and/or physical wellbeing.
5. Children and young people are supported to grow, build confidence, develop new skills, broaden their perspectives and aspirations to enhance their future opportunities.
6. Children and young people feel more connected, supported, valued and heard within their families, schools and communities.

Theme 2: Promoting Culture and Creativity

This theme aims to ensure that Cultural diversity across all Glasgow's communities is recognised, celebrated and supported to enhance wellbeing, practice our cultures, engage and collaborate.

We recognise the vital role Culture and Creativity play in reducing inequality, combating social isolation, improving individual wellbeing and promoting diversity and inclusion within communities.

To support this theme, we are looking to fund activities that widen access and participation, enhance well-being and celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of our citizens, through fostering engagement and collaboration in communities.

Funded activity could include but not be limited to:

- **Wellbeing Activities:** making workshops, arts therapy, family and intergenerational sessions
- **Creative Engagement and Participatory Arts:** activities that encourage active participation and artistic expression
- **Creating places and spaces for culture and creativity:** performance and exhibitions, community events, heritage events
- **Skills Development:** arts development, training, volunteering
- **Support for Inclusion:** tailored activities or services within this theme for those with additional support needs and/or protected characteristics who experience additional barriers and exclusion

Theme specific Outcome(s)

1. Individuals develop skills, economic potential, capacity and confidence through the use of accessible community led arts and crafts.
2. Marginalised individuals have equitable access to arts and creative activity to improve health and wellbeing, increase communication, widen participation and support re-integration.
3. Marginalised individuals are better represented as participants, artists and collaborators to lead cultural activity in their own way.
4. Communities are more cohesive and collaborative through shared cultural experiences.

Theme 3: Developing Community Infrastructure

This theme emphasises a **place-based** approach to supporting **individuals** and **communities** experiencing poverty and inequality while further addressing the needs of those who identify with and/or as communities of **interest, identity** and **circumstance**.

We understand the importance of creating spaces and places where people can access essential services, share resources, socialise and connect with others, learn, volunteer and take active roles within their communities.

Additionally, we also understand the importance of equipping community organisations and groups, that provide these local spaces and places, with tools to support their capability and capacity to grow, become sustainable and remain responsive to local need.

Through the use of locally accessible and inclusive community spaces, places and services, we are looking to fund activities that aim to bring people together, promote well-being, develop skills, build capacity, foster community cohesion and empowerment.

Funded activity could include but not be limited to:

- **Community Spaces:** halls, centres, hubs, cafes, gardens
- **Wellbeing and social activities:** activities promoting health, wellbeing and social connection
- **Integration activities:** activities that promote inclusion, integration and settlement
- **Learning and Skills Development:** adult learning such as literacy, numeracy, ESOL, digital inclusion and activities that enhance life skills
- **Community Food:** gardening, food growing, community meals, pantries/larders
- **Advice and Guidance:** workshops, signposting, surgeries,
- **Advocacy and Support:** activities that promote, raise awareness or advocate for the rights of a particular community of identity, interest or circumstance
- **Capacity Building:** activities that support individual or organisational capacity, training, volunteering, peer support, networks
- **Support for Inclusion:** tailored activities or services within this theme for those with additional support needs and/or protected characteristics who experience additional barriers and exclusion

Theme Specific Outcome(s)

1. Individuals are aware of and have equitable access to locally based spaces and services that reduce isolation, enhance wellbeing and encourage active participation in community life.

2. Marginalised individuals are equipped with knowledge, skills and capacity to integrate and improve their quality of life.
3. Individuals have improved life chances through learning, skills development and personal growth.
4. A stronger sense of belonging, support and control is fostered within communities, creating lasting relationships and networks that empower individuals and drive collective resilience and positive change.
5. Communities of place are safer, more connected, resilient and inclusive, with improved opportunities, resources and quality of life for all residents.
6. Third Sector organisations and Community groups are supported to grow, innovate and effectively respond to emerging needs through focussed capacity building interventions, volunteer engagement and peer support.

Theme 4: Improving Health and Wellbeing

This theme focusses on reducing the impact of poverty and inequality on peoples' health and wellbeing.

We understand that persistent exposure to these challenges, can make it more difficult for people to develop and remain in good health, access essential services and avoid harm.

We recognise the importance of early intervention and prevention in helping people build their capacity, confidence, resilience and recovery. By addressing issues early, we can reduce the risk of developing complex needs, additional health problems and improve overall quality of life.

To support this theme, we are looking to fund community driven solutions that are inclusive and promote improved physical health, positive mental health, social connections, personal resilience and greater independence.

Funded activity could include but not be limited to:

- **Well-being Activities:** interventions that promote mental health and wellbeing i.e. healthy cooking, outdoor, creative or recreational activities, conversation cafes, issue-based workshops
- **Therapeutic Support:** advice, listening services and counselling
- **Social Support:** befriending, peer support, lunch clubs, volunteering
- **Physical Activities:** dance, play, movement and balance activities, sports, physical fitness, games, coaching
- **Care Services:** day care, reminiscence, programmes that support specific conditions, recovery and resettlement
- **Support for Inclusion:** tailored activities or services within this theme for those with additional support needs and/or protected characteristics who experience additional barriers and exclusion

Theme Specific Outcome(s)

1. Individuals are equipped with tools and resources to support, adopt, maintain and enhance their physical health and well-being.
2. Individuals are aware of and have equitable access to rights based mental well-being support/activities that aim to improve emotional resilience, increased capacity and enhanced overall sense of control.
3. Individuals are equipped to maintain their independence through advice and support, increased social interaction and connections.
4. Individuals are empowered with knowledge, skills and confidence to maintain their own wellbeing, whilst contributing to the care and support of others in their community.

Theme 5: Challenging Violence Against Women and Girls

This theme focusses on challenging and reducing all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls, to stop it occurring in the first place and to address the underlying attitudes and systems that perpetuate it.

We understand that in order to provide safety, positive outcomes, and recovery for those women and girls affected, everyone has a part to play in reducing and raising awareness of the harms caused by this.

To support this aim, we are looking to fund services that focus on providing person centred, holistic support to survivors of all forms of violence against women and girls with a focus on reducing risk, increasing safety and promoting wellbeing.

Funded activity could include but not be limited to:

- **Prevention & Early Intervention:** awareness raising, issue-based workshops
- **Advocacy and Signposting:** Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy and referrals to relevant support services
- **Therapeutic support:** advice, counselling, emotional support
- **Recovery support:** one to one, peer and group support
- **Outreach:** activities within accessible locations
- **Skills Development:** volunteering, mentoring, training and development
- **Support for Inclusion:** tailored activities or services within this theme for those with additional support needs and/or protected characteristics who experience additional barriers and exclusion

Theme Specific Outcome(s)

1. Women and girls and those affected by violence and abuse have equitable access to specialist support services that allow them to make informed decisions best suited to their needs.
2. Women and girls and those affected by violence and abuse live and thrive in their communities with increased resilience, self-esteem, confidence and improved sense of safety and overall wellbeing.
3. Organisations work together to reduce and raise awareness of the harms caused by all forms of violence to individuals, families and communities.