UK COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

#IWill

Key funding principles
Volunteering Projects

Key to success:
Put incentives in place for young people. For example, certification, training courses, references or even free food. It is important that young people feel volunteering is also increasing their future opportunities and feel valued for their work.

Plan the time and resources needed for bespoke training. You could even develop training into a toolkit, which could be used to train younger volunteers, this would help reduce training costs. Also, webinars could be a low-cost way to train younger volunteers.

Reach out to local youth clubs or youth-led organisations before beginning your project to gain better knowledge and understanding of the methods and approaches they use to work effectively with young people.

Things to take into consideration:

- Have you worked with young volunteers before? Do you understand their training needs?
- Have you thought about incentives for volunteering?
- Do you have the resources and capacity to provide the appropriate training?

Project example:

The Mustard Tree Foundation was awarded £2,110 from Berkshire Community Foundation.

This organisation delivered the project Starting Point. This project helped 13 young people engage in volunteering opportunities, for example, working in charity shops, food banks or community cafes. As a result of the grant, 4 have entered employment, 3 have entered education and 6 still volunteering.
Education and Learning Projects

Key to success:
Ensure there is a signed agreement or contract regarding the project activities and schedule with the head teacher or senior members of staff. A signed agreement can be used as a reference point, which will help to manage the expectations of staff, the charity and young people.

Co-design the project activities with young people and schools before the beginning of your project to gain a better understanding of activities young people want to do and how to work effectively with young people and schools.

Research if there are the specialist practitioners available in your local area and recruit before the beginning of your project.

Things to take into consideration:

- Have you started to build relationships with local schools in your area?
- Have you considered the school’s timetables in relation to your project schedule?
- Do you know if the required qualified tutors are available in your local area?
- Do you have the expertise and resources to support young people with additional social and behavioural needs?

Project example:

Buckinghamshire Mind was awarded £4460 from Heart of Bucks Community Foundation

This organisation supports and represents people with mental health problems and delivers a range of services to support service users to live safe and purposeful lives. The grant was used deliver a project that trained 21 young volunteers as peer mentors to help bring mental health awareness into their schools. This project has improved the young mentor’s self confidence in their presentation skills and to openly talk about mental health.
Arts and Culture Projects

Keys to success:

Recruit qualified practitioners before the start of the project, so to prevent delays and schedule activities dates in advance.

Research (including site visits) and book venues before the start of the projects. To help ensure projects stay in budget, you should try to use other charity or other lower cost venues.

It is important that you consult with young people, so you are delivering activities that young people genuinely want. Also, consult with local youth clubs and youth-based organisations about the activities they offer to young people.

Things to take into consideration:

- Do you have the resources and network to recruit the qualified practitioners for the start of the project?
- Are there suitable venues available in your local area?
- Have you engaged young people in the design of your project?

Project example:

Spinning Wheel Theatre was awarded £5000 from Suffolk Community Foundation

This organisation delivers education and engagement projects with young people and community groups, collaborating with actors, creatives and industry mentors to deliver engagement projects for young people. They delivered a range of activities related to theatre, such as sewing costumes, constructing the set, developing software skills, writing funding applications and press releases. As a result of the grant 66% of participants who are of university age have gained places at Drama schools or on University courses in creative arts.
Disability Support Projects

Keys to success:

It is important your organisation understands different disabilities and consults with local disability organisations before the beginning of the project. This will help you to understand the different needs of participants. For example, a young person with a physical disability will have different support needs to a young person with Down Syndrome.

Your projects should be inclusive of young people with a variety of needs; however, it would be suggested that disability-based projects are designed with the specific needs of disabled young people in mind. For example, when you are advertising your project be specific on what your expertise, support and resources you are offering so that it is clear to the person or carer registering.

Recruit specialist practitioners with experience of working with young people with a range of disabilities and support needs. Also, splitting the group into smaller groups based on abilities and personal goals for the project activities.

Things to take into consideration:

- Do you have the expertise and skills to support young people with diverse disabilities?
- Have you thought about the approaches to effectively engage young people with disabilities?

Project example:

Leonard Cheshire Disability was awarded £5000 from Community Foundation for Calderdale

This organisation supports people with disabilities across the UK through their employment, education, enterprise, health, volunteering and digital inclusion projects. The grant delivered the project Can Do, which is a volunteering programme for 77 young people aged between 10 to 25, which delivered community-based volunteering opportunities that help build life skills and enhance future opportunities of volunteering, training and employment.
Environmental Projects

Keys to success:

Before beginning your project, put plans in place for an alternative indoor activity and find a lower cost venue in case of bad weather or possibly select an activity that can be delivered both indoors and outdoors. Also, when advertising your project highlight that there may be schedule changes due to the weather.

Go on site visits to the proposed project areas, which will help to build accurate timelines and manage outcome expectations. If your project is only for a short amount of time, choose gardens or outdoor spaces which have smaller tasks needed for renovation.

Partnering with local environmental or conservation organisations, who can help to continue the work after the project has finished or provide volunteer placements to young people who are keen to continue.

Things to take into consideration:

- Is your planned project weather dependent? If so, do you have alternative indoor venues?
- Do you have the staff capacity and resources to deliver your project?
- Is your project sustainable after funding?

Project example:

Hype Merseyside was awarded a grant from Community Foundation for Lancashire.

Hype is an organisation who provides youth services for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The grant delivered a project which addressed youth apathy and unemployment in the Wirral. The project provided volunteering opportunities for young people aged 15 to 24 years old to redevelop and preserve urban parks. As a result of the grant, 61% progressed into further education or training and 27% progressed into employment, including paid apprenticeships.
Sports and Fitness Projects

Keys to success:

Contact both mixed-gender and female sports clubs or groups in your local area as channels to advertise and engage with their networks to engage potential female volunteers.

Hire the specialist, qualified coaches before the start of your project. If there are difficulties hiring several specialist coaches, one could be hired to then upskill other coaches to deliver specialist coaching.

Plan alternative indoor activities before the start of the project and find alternative venues. Also, only deliver these projects during the summer months so you have the best chance of delivering activities outside.

Things to take into consideration:

- How will you attract female volunteers?
- Are there female sport groups in your area?
- Are there the qualified people with the required skills and expertise in your local area?
- Do you have the resources to provide alternative activities or venues?

Project example:

Cambridge United Youth and Community Trust was awarded £2,250 from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

This organisation uses sport as a tool to engage marginalised groups of people who deliver projects across three themes; education, inclusion and health. The grant trained 10 young people aged 16 to 20-year olds who have none or little paid work or volunteering experience to become FA level 1 coaches. The young volunteers gained experience in primary school, disability sport and assisting coaches. The project helped the volunteers with their professional development, and they saw the impact of their volunteering in the local community.
Healthy Eating Projects

Keys to success:

Recruit the nutritionists prior to the start of your project to prevent any delays.

Find ways to repurpose short-dated food, for example, bake sales or donating to food banks.

Establish attendance rules, for example, if you miss two or three sessions you will be removed from the project.

Involve young people in the process of selecting projects, for example, a young person on the grants panel. Also, co-design projects with young people who can bring their lived experience of issues to the projects.

Things to take into consideration:

- Are there qualified nutritionists in your area?
- How will you deal with food waste?
- Have you consulted with young people to find out what type of activities they would want to do?

Project example:

Warren Park Café Church was awarded £5000 from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation.

This organisation supports disadvantaged people in Havant, they address issues such as mental health illness, loneliness and poverty. The grant trained young people as volunteers to work as peer community advocates promoting healthy eating and lifestyles. This was a youth-led project, which is delivered through informal education techniques that tackle issues of food and social poverty, also build young people’s skills in cooking, public speaking and facilitation.
Crime Reduction Projects

Keys to success:
It is difficult to engage with young people who are drug users or actively involved in crime, therefore it is important to be creative and develop different approaches to volunteering in which this group of young people can actively engage. It would be suggested that young volunteers have a mentor with lived experience of the criminal justice system who can provide 1:1 support and encouragement to continue with their volunteering placement.

Make clear to relevant stakeholders the type of young people you want to work with on the project, for example, having a very clear brief on the group of young people you want to engage. Also, working with schools, youth clubs etc to help them connect with young people who are at risk of offending.

Things to take into consideration:
- Have you considered at what stage you want to engage young people in their recovery from drug use?
- Do you have the network and resources to engage with young people involved in the criminal justice system?
- Have you clearly identified the type of young people you want to work with?

Project example:

Newcastle Upon Tyne YMCA was awarded £4,500 Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

This organisation provides support to young people through a range of programmes and activities in Newcastle. The grant was used to help launch a social media campaign through their SPACE2 project which is called the ‘Drop the Knife; Save a Life’. The 35 young people created the short film ‘Shanked’ and underwent training in presentation and digital skills, to deliver 6 presentations to youth groups and a social media campaign on Instagram and Facebook.