

# Gwent High Sheriff's Community Fund

**Funding Criteria: Community and Voluntary Organisations**



The Gwent High Sheriff's Community Fund aims to provide a safer and better quality of life for the people of Gwent by supporting community-based initiatives and projects for young people that help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Grants will be awarded at the annual participatory grant-making event on the 8th March 2025. Successful grantees must agree to schedule a compulsory visit from the High Sheriff during financial year 25/26, as a condition of their grant award.

## **What kind of projects will be supported?**

To be successful, projects must demonstrate how their activities contribute to one or more of the following:

- providing support to young people that is relevant to them and the challenges they face in the 2020s, including establishing safe and secure digital behaviour by helping them to understand the risks and dangers of social media and the internet
- working with young people to raise awareness of the impact and consequences of crime, including vandalism, criminal damage, misuse of alcohol and drugs or substance abuse, anti-social behaviour and cyberbullying
- reducing crime and anti-social behaviour by creating opportunities for young people who might be both perpetrators and victims of crimes such as street-based abuse, vandalism and cyberbullying
- targeting the underlying causes of crime and addressing the problems which drive young people to offend
- engaging young people in positive activities which provide greater social support, positive role models and other protective factors to help them develop into good citizens of the future
- supporting victims of crime, including domestic abuse and modern slavery, and protecting the vulnerable

## **Grants available**

### **Grants for one year**

Groups are invited to apply for grants of up to £5,000 to spend in 2025-26 on a range of costs which could include:

- Piloting a new project
- Running costs for a programme of activities
- Purchasing equipment and materials

**For more information, visit [www.communityfoundationwales.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundationwales.org.uk)**

## What is Participatory Grant-Making?

Participatory grant-making is about devolving grant making decisions to the local community. It enables local people to decide how best to address local issues by choosing to support initiatives that best demonstrate effective solutions to the problems facing communities in Gwent.

The event is run in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend our annual grant making event on Saturday 8th March 2025. The 2025 event will be held in a location in Tithe Barn, St Mary's Priory, Monk Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5ND. Please make sure a representative from your organisation is available at this date before applying.

## Who can apply?

The Fund will be used to support projects for children and young people up to the age of 25.

The Fund is open to community groups, voluntary organisations and local charities in Gwent (the local authority areas of Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Caerphilly).

There is a preference for grassroots organisations where volunteers play a key role in project delivery. Projects that have previously received funding will be considered. Such projects should demonstrate how continued funding will help them to consolidate or improve the impact of the project. There is no longer a requirement for a 2-year break after 3 years of continuous grant funding.

## How to apply?

Applicants must complete an online application form which can be accessed via our website.

Please note:

- The Gwent High Sheriff Your Voice, Your Choice event 2025 will be held on Saturday 8th March 2025. Venue: Tithe Barn, St Mary's Priory, Monk Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5ND.
- Successful grantees must agree to schedule a compulsory visit from the High Sheriff during financial year 25/26, as a condition of their grant award.
- Grants will not be awarded retrospectively i.e. for costs incurred before receipt of our grant offer letter, and the signed terms and conditions have been returned.
- Grants are not available to support fundraising for other groups and charities.
- Grants must be fully spent within one year of receipt of our offer letter.
- The application must show a clear need for financial support, financial hardship or additional support needs.

## Multiple Year Funding

We recognise how important it is for groups to be able to plan for the future and that having secure funding can give you the confidence and reassurance to develop your project over the long-term. The Gwent High Sheriffs' Community Fund now offers groups the opportunity to apply for multi-year funding of up to 3 years but will also continue to offer 1 year project or small capital item funding.

We hope to be able to make at least **one three-year grant per year**. To be considered for a three-year grant please complete the additional section of the application form indicating how you plan to develop your project over the period of funding being applied for. Your application will still be considered for one year funding if you are not successful with a three-year grant.

We also recognise the challenge of finding core funding, especially longer term. Groups can now apply for funding towards core costs for up to 3 years, providing the group can provide accounts for at least the last 12 months and the amount being applied for is less than 50% of your annual turnover. For example, to apply for a grant of £1,000 per year, your annual income should be at least £2,000.

## The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It requires organisations in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

We are keen to encourage organisations to think about not just the community in which they live and work, but also how their work aligns with and complements the services and activities of other groups and organisations both voluntary and statutory.

We would like you to think about how your organisation can work together with others to add value, working in partnership rather than in competition. In your application, please explain your plans for the future as well as for the present, we would like to see how groups are thinking about the long-term impact of their decision making to work with and alongside others.

