

# Gwent High Sheriff's Community Fund

**Funding Criteria: Community and Voluntary Organisations**



The Gwent High Sheriff Community Fund exists to support young people (up to 25) across Gwent to live safer, more positive lives.

The fund aims to support community groups and projects that prevent crime, reduce risks for young people, offer alternatives to becoming involved in antisocial behaviour, and build trust between communities and the police.

When applying, it is important that you show how your project connects to one or more of these themes: (Please note that applications will be treated equally if they fit one or more of the themes).

## Fund themes

### Prevention

The fund aims to support projects that help stop problems before they start. This could include:

- Giving young people positive opportunities, role models and skills for the future.
- Addressing the challenges that can put young people at risk (e.g. online safety, substance misuse, or peer pressure).
- Creating safe spaces and activities that encourage and teach young people about safety, looking after others and making healthy choices with confidence.

### Involvement in crime

The fund aims to support groups and projects that reduce both the risks of offending and the harms of being a victim. This could include:

- Raising awareness of the impact and consequences of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Supporting young people who may be at risk of offending, or who have already been involved in crime.
- Providing help for those affected by crime, including victims and vulnerable groups.

### Perceptions of the police in the community

The fund aims to strengthen trust and understanding between young people, their communities, and the police. This could include projects that:

- Create opportunities for positive interaction between young people and the police.
- Help young people feel heard, respected and supported by local services.
- Promote community-led solutions that make neighbourhoods feel safer.

## Types of projects that will be supported

The following list is not exhaustive, but is intended to illustrate the types of projects the fund seeks to support.

- Activities that give young people safe, fun things to do, like youth clubs, play schemes, arts, sports, outdoor spaces, or cadets.
- Projects that help young people and the wider community stay safe and avoid crime, such as advice on healthy relationships, domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol, or positive parenting.
- Opportunities that give young people positive role models, skills, and confidence for the future.
- Community safety projects, like road safety, fire awareness, tackling litter, or reducing anti-social behaviour.
- Safe spaces and activities that encourage young people to make healthy choices, care for others, and feel confident.
- Support for challenges that put young people at risk, such as online safety, substance misuse, or peer pressure.
- Mentoring and support to help young people build self-esteem and become active, responsible members of their community.

## Grants available

Groups are invited to apply for grants of up to £7,500 to spend in 2026-27 on a range of costs which could include:

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

Note that applicants must be able to show how these activities fit at least one of the fund themes described above.

## Multiyear funding

A small number of multi-year grants may also be awarded (up to 3 years, which would be a maximum of £22,500 over the 3 year period).

These awards will be decided by the fund panel at the participatory grant making event, based on the project and strength of the funding pitch at the event.

## Who can apply?

The Fund is open to community and voluntary organisations working in Gwent (Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Caerphilly), including:

- Registered charities
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)
- Voluntary and community groups
- Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- Not-for-profit companies (limited by shares or guarantee)
- Social enterprises

We particularly welcome applications from grassroots organisations where volunteers play a key role.

## Key dates for 2025/26

- **30 September 2025** – Fund opens to applications. Use the 'Book a Call' button available on the fund webpage to speak with a Grants Officer about any queries.
- **4 November 2025 (12pm)** – Fund closes to applications.
- **Week commencing 19 January 2026** – Applicants notified if they have been shortlisted.
- **Saturday 21 March 2026** – Your Voice, Your Choice participatory grant-making event.

## How to apply?

Applications must be made online through the Community Foundation Wales website. If you're unsure about your application, you can book a call with a Grants Officer for advice before applying.

**Grants will be awarded at the participatory grant-making event; Your Voice, Your Choice on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026 in the Blaenau Gwent region.**

Participatory grant-making is about handing decisions back to the local community. It gives local people the chance to choose the projects they feel will make the biggest difference in Gwent.

The event is run in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, and all shortlisted applicants will be invited to join our annual grant-making event, where community groups come together to decide which projects to fund.

**Please note that if you are not able to attend the grant-making event, your application will be withdrawn.**

## Things to keep in mind

- Grants awards will not be made until the grant making event in March 2026, so please bear this in mind when planning your project timescales.
- Successful grantees must host a visit from the High Sheriff during the year of funding as part of their grant conditions.
- Grants should be spent in full within the funded period.
- We encourage organisations to think about their long-term impact and how they can work with others to add value.

### We cannot fund:

- Costs already incurred before the grant is awarded.
- Fundraising for other charities or groups.
- Projects that can't be completed within one year (unless awarded multi-year funding).

## The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) 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.

