

Youth Empowerment Grant Programme, 2025 – 2030

Introduction

Young K&C is proud to announce the Youth Empowerment Grant Programme (2025 - 2030) in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC).

The aim is to create excellent opportunities and outcomes for children and young people in RBKC, delivered by outstanding play and youth services, working in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sector.

The Youth Empowerment Grant Programme focuses on 5 priorities identified in the [2023 Youth Review](#). The grant programme will build and strengthen the voluntary and community sector through financial contribution to services, capacity building support and partnership development. The fund will support services to deliver the following priorities:

- Inclusivity
- Learning and employability
- Physical and emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Safe and secure spaces
- and celebrating and strengthening the sector via meaningful partnerships.

This is part of RBKC's overall plan for a Greener, Safer and Fairer borough.

RBKC has committed to funding of £4,700,000 over five years, with Young K&C committed to raising match funding of £750,000 over the same period.

Our vision for youth and community adventure play (CAP) services is to deliver high quality services and provide more opportunities that result in positive outcomes for children and young people across the borough.

This grant guidance document contains details on each grant, including eligibility, application process, evaluation and post-grant requirements.

For questions about the grant programme, please contact info@youngkandc.org.uk

Youth Empowerment Grant Programme

The Youth Empowerment Grant Programme consists of 3 grant programmes for core and project funding:

- Main Grants
- Small Grants
- Making Space

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to apply, organisations must be:

- Registered charities or community interest companies (CICs), registered before December 2023
- Have a minimum of 3 unrelated trustees or directors
- Delivering services for children and young people, aged 6-19 or up to 25 with SEND, preferably in RBKC

Grants Programmes

Organisations are welcome to apply for all 3 grant streams. However, each organisation will only receive funding from a maximum of 2 grant streams. The strongest of multiple applications is most likely to be successful.

Main Grants Stream

Total Grant pot: £757,500 per year

Grant length: 3-years with a possible 2-year extension

Main Grants provides longer-term core grant funding for organisations delivering play and youth services for children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea, such as local youth clubs and community adventure play.

Organisations applying for a Main Grant will need to demonstrate a strong track record of delivering high quality services for children and young people in the borough, along with match funding. They will need to demonstrate how they deliver a minimum of 3 of the 5 priority areas in the Youth Review.

Organisations will be able to bid for 3 years, with the possibility of a 2-year extension following satisfactory completion of monitoring and evaluation of the services. Funding levels will be reviewed annually, based on the monitoring data provided and potential inflationary changes. Grants will commence from 1 April 2025.

Organisations can express an interest in leasing council properties:

- Lancaster Youth Hub, 128A Lancaster Road, London W11 1QS
- Golborne Youth Club, 2A Wornington Road, London W10 5QW
- Chelsea Youth Hub, Blantyre Street, London SW10 0EQ

- Canalside Centre, the Boathouse, Canal Close, W10 5AY, with Cremorne Watersports site, Cremorne Gardens, Lots Road, SW10 0QH
- Little Wormwood Scrubs Adventure Playground, 1 Dalgarno Gardens, London W10 5LL
- Flashpoint Play Centre, World's End Place, Worlds End Estate, SW10 0HE

Successful applications for council properties will demonstrate how they partner with other local organisations and maximise the use of the buildings. Partnership and consortium bids applying to lease the council properties are welcome.

Organisations are invited to submit an application for each site they are proposing to run. Organisations can submit a maximum of 4 applications for Main Grants.

Grants will commence from 1 April 2025. [Apply here.](#)

Small Grants Stream

In partnership with John Lyon's Charity

Total Grant pot: £100,000 per year

Grant length: 1 year

Small Grants provide shorter term funding for projects and activities taking place across the sector. This Grant programme will be run annually.

The total grant pot is £100,000 with £50,000 from RBKC and £50,000 ring-fenced for organisations with a turnover under £250,000 from John Lyon's Charity.

Organisations are invited to apply for up to £8,000 to deliver projects and activities for up to 1 year with children and young people or up to £10,000 per year for projects that support a high proportion of disabled young people.

Organisations applying for a Small Grant will need to demonstrate how they implement a minimum of 1 of the 5 priority areas in the Youth Review.

Grants will commence from 1 April 2025. [Apply here.](#)

Making Space Stream

Grant pot: £50,000

Grant length: 3-years with a possible 2-year extension

This grant programme aims to enable more children and young people, aged from 6 – 25, with special education needs and disabilities to participate in local youth and play services.

Organisations can apply for up to a maximum of £20,000 per annum, for costs including training, staff costs and equipment.

Applications must demonstrate how the organisation will deliver more opportunities and activities for children and young people with SEND.

Organisations will be able to bid for 3 years and have a 2 year extension following delivery of good quality services. Funding levels will be reviewed annually, based on the monitoring data provided and any potential inflationary increase.

Grants will commence from 1 April 2025. [Apply here.](#)

Application Process

Organisations are invited to submit applications for each grant from **10 September 2024**.

Organisations will complete a written application form, covering their track record of delivery, engagement of children and young people, priority areas, budget and health and safety. Applications will be available online, via [Young K&C's website](#).

Each applicant is expected to submit answers in full. Any text that exceeds the word limit will not be considered.

Applicants are required to submit the following supporting documentation for the grants:

Documentation	Main Grant	Small Grant	Making Space: SEND grant
Safeguarding Policy and Procedures	✓	✓	✓
Bank statement dated in the last 3 months	✓	✓	✓
Employers Insurance and Public Liability Insurance	✓	✓	✓
Budget	✓	✓	✓

Risk assessment	✓	✓	✓
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion monitoring form	✓		✓
Training log, inc. the DBS of all personnel working with children	✓		✓
Health and Safety Policy	✓		✓
Complaints procedure	✓		✓

Applications must be submitted by **11:59pm on Friday 8 November 2024**.

Applications submitted after this time will not be considered.

Alongside applications, organisations who successfully pass the due diligence stage will be visited by a group of local young people to assess the service and ask follow up questions.

Delivery for the grants is expected to begin on the 1 April 2025.

Meet the Funder and Open Days

To enable voluntary organisations to find out more and prepare their applications, we will be offering [a Meet the Funder session](#) hosted by KCSC, a session on policies and procedures (3 [October](#)), and [open days at the Council sites](#) that are available to lease. The Meet the Funder event will be recorded and available to view online after the meeting.

The timeline is as follows:

- **Tuesday 10 September 2024:** Applications for Strengthening the Sector: Main Grants, Strengthening the Sector: Project Grants and Making Space open
- **[Monday 16 September 2024:](#)** An online Meet the Funder session to provide an overview of the grants and evaluations process, followed by time for Q&As
- **Monday 23 September:** Open House sessions for applicants interested in leasing [Lancaster Youth Hub](#) and [Golborne Youth Centre](#)
- **Tuesday 24 September:** Open House sessions for applicants interested in leasing [Canalside Activity Centre](#) and [Little Wormwood Scrubs](#)

- **Thursday 26 September:** Open House sessions for applicants interested in leasing [Chelsea Youth Hub](#), [Flashpoint Adventure Playground](#) and [Cremorne Activity Centre](#)
- **Thursday 3 October:** Session on developing policies and procedures for the Youth Empowerment Grant Programme
- **Friday 8 November 2024:** All applications close at 11:59pm
- **Friday 29 November 2024:** Due diligence and recommendations on all applications completed by a panel of professionals
- **December 2024:** Applicants to the Main Grants fund will be visited by a panel of local young people
- **January to February 2025:** Applicants to the Small Grants and Making Space Grants funds will be visited by a panel of local young people
- **March 2025:** RBKC to complete final sign off of successful applicants and issue contracts
- **1 April 2025:** Grant funded programmes to begin delivery

Due Diligence and Selection Process

Due Diligence

Each application will be subject to a due diligence process conducted by a panel of local professionals, from within the Council and voluntary and community sector. The due diligence process will assess the applicant suitability, supporting documentation and financial stability and track record of working with children and young people.

Alongside the documentation submitted, applicants will be assessed on their track record, safeguarding, health and safety, accounts, and communications.

For the Main Grants and Making Space grants, each organisation will be scored on a scale of 0-5 on each of the 4 areas set out below:

- **Safeguarding and Health & Safety:** Policies and procedures including Safeguarding, Health & Safety and risk assessment (including training logs including the DBS of all staff working with children or young people)
- **Track record:** Organisations based and delivering locally, up-to-date records with Charities Commission and or Companies House since Dec 2023, track record of delivery with children and young people, preferably locally within RBKC
- **Governance:** A diverse board of trustees, accounts submitted on time and adequate reserves and turnover, up to date insurance cover.
- **Communications:** Published and public safeguarding and complaints policy as well as published services and contact details

Should there be serious concerns in any of these areas, the panel reserves the right to fail the organisation and not proceed with their application. Each application must pass the relevant area(s) for the rest of their application to be considered.

For Small Grants, each organisation will be checked for safeguarding, insurance and compliance.

Following the recommendation of a panel of professionals, a representative group of local young people will visit applicants to assess their sessions and ask additional questions of the applicants.

Selection Process and Criteria

The focus of the Youth Empowerment Grant Programme is to ensure children and young people across Kensington and Chelsea have access to high quality services that implement the priority areas identified by young people.

Costs and budgeting

We expect these grants programmes to be oversubscribed. As a result, we may not be able to cover full project costs. Our aim is to provide a contribution to costs. Whilst focusing on quality and impact, consideration also has to be given to budget and costs. This will be done by:

- Inviting organisations to submit realistic itemised budgets, inclusive of match-funding
- Organisations will need to submit information on service delivery days, opening hours and expected numbers of children and young people
- Cost per child will be considered in line with similar types of provision
- Annual adjustments will be made to costs based on monitoring and uptake of services

Organisations applying to deliver at more than one site should complete a separate budget for each of the sites that they are applying for.

The budget will be scored from 0-5.

Selection Criteria

If this grant programme is significantly oversubscribed or a particular geographic or demographic need is not adequately being met, applications will be more successful if organisations can demonstrate that they:

- Deliver high quality services and support for children and young people in RBKC
- Have a strong track record in delivering excellent outcomes for local children and young people
- Deliver the priorities of the youth review (set out above)
- Maximise delivery from council owned buildings
- Help to address gaps identified in the youth review including provision for girls and young women, inclusion of young people with SEND, provide more structured activities for older young people, and provide learning and employment opportunities
- Deliver from the south of the borough or wards with high levels of need, maximising sufficiency of play and youth provision and the best possible geographical spread of provision throughout the borough
- Deliver provision for a diverse range of children and young people, including those with SEND, girls, LGBT++, low-income households, looked after children and refugees
- Work in partnership with local stakeholders including libraries, parks, leisure centres, Early Help, Community Safety, voluntary, statutory or private sector providers
- Have clear policies and procedures in place including Safeguarding, health and safety and insurance. All staff must be adequately trained and DBS checked
- Have good communications, including listing details of activities on the Our City website

Organisations applying for the lease for Council owned buildings will need to demonstrate track record in site management and will be required to work with partners to maximise use of the building for young people.

Applications will be scored between 0-5 based on the extent to which they meet the Selection criteria in each of the main questions on the application form.

Young People will carry out visits to applicants, designed to assess whether the proposed service is welcoming and inclusive. The young people will want to see the premises, meet staff and meet children and young people who currently use the service. They will assess applicants on factors including but not limited to:

- Activities and facilities, including resources, cleanliness
- Staffing, interest and approachability
- Accessibility and inclusion

Young people will play a key role in assessing the applicants.

The final decision will be made by the Council. The Council and Young K&C reserve the right to reject applications that are not completed to a sufficient standard or applications that raise serious concerns around the safety of the service provided.

Grant Agreements

All grant agreements are subject to the organisation meeting the grant conditions. Standard grant conditions include organisations submitting their monitoring and reporting to a high-standard and on time, and uploading their project offer on the Our City website. Additional conditions may be required, including but not limited to attending additional training or making edits to policies and procedures.

Grant agreements for Main Grants will be between RBKC, Young K&C and the successful applicant. Grant agreements for Small Grants and Making Space will be between Young K&C and the successful applicant.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation for each grant will be required for submission via plinth. Plinth aims to enable voluntary organisations to collect data and evidence outcomes effectively.

Monitoring for Main Grants will include regular uploading of project data on Plinth, along with a monitoring form and visit from RBKC every 6 months.

Monitoring for this Small Grants will be required at the end of the project.

Monitoring for Making Space Grants will be required every 6 months.

All successful applicants may be visited by RBKC, Young K&C and its Young Ambassadors, as part of the monitoring process.

Appendix

[Youth Review](#)

[Main Grant Budget form](#)

[Making Space Budget form](#)

[Small Grant Budget form](#)

[EDI Form](#)

[Risk Assessment template](#)

[Training log template](#)

[FAQs](#)

