

The meeting discussed the [Youth Empowerment Grant Programme](#), focusing on enhancing youth services in the borough. The programme aligns with the 2023 Youth Review priorities: inclusivity, learning and employability, safe and secure spaces, physical and emotional well-being, and celebrating the sector. Grants are available for VCS organisations serving youth aged 6-25, with three streams: [Main Grants](#) (up to £40,000 annually), [Small Grants](#) (up to £10,000 for projects with high disabled youth participation), and [Making Space Grants](#) (up to £20,000 for SEND youth).

Applications close on 8 November, with assessments and contract issued by March 2025.

Action Items

- Attend the [Open House sessions](#) next week (23-26 September) to view the council properties available for leasing
- Attend the [Policies and Procedures Workshop](#) on 3 October
- Submit grant applications by the deadline of 8 November at 11:59pm
- Conduct due diligence and make recommendations via a panel by 29 November
- Conduct visits to shortlisted applicants with Young Ambassadors from December to February 2025
- Sign off successful applicants and issue contracts in March 2025
- Start delivering programs on 1 April 2025

Programme Overview

- Speaker 1 introduces the grant programme, emphasising the importance of supporting youth and play services in the borough.

- The programme aims to enhance existing high-quality services and expand opportunities for children and young people.
- The grant programme is aligned with the priorities identified in the 2023 Youth Review, including inclusivity, learning and employability, safe and secure spaces, physical and emotional well-being, and celebrating the sector.
- The programme is open to VCS organisations delivering services to young people aged 6 to 25, with a focus on inclusivity and addressing the needs of specific groups like LGBTQ+ youth, girls and young women, and young people with special educational needs.

Grant Program Streams and Application Process

- The grant programme includes three streams: Main Grants, Small Grants, and Making Space Grants.
- Main Grants provide longer-term core funding for organisations delivering at least three priority areas from the youth review.
- Small Grants offer shorter-term funding for projects and activities that support at least one priority area, with additional funding for projects serving a high proportion of disabled young people.
- Making Space grants focus on increasing inclusion for young people with special educational needs and disabilities, with a maximum grant amount of £20,000.

Application Details and Property Availability

- Applications for Main Grants can express interest in council properties like Lancaster Youth Hub, Golborne Youth Club, and others.
- Organisations can apply up to four times to lease multiple sites, with each application judged individually.

- Open house sessions are available for applicants to visit the council buildings and ask questions about utilities, rents, and other details.
- Key dates include open house sessions, a session on developing policies and procedures, and a hard deadline for application submissions on 8 November.

Assessment and Delivery Process

- Applications will be assessed by a panel of professionals, with due diligence focusing on safeguarding, track record, governance, and communication.
- Young people will be involved in assessing applications through visits and feedback, which can significantly impact the outcome of the application.
- The assessment process will include a review of the application's alignment with the youth review priorities, sufficiency of play provision, and geographical spread.
- Successful applicants will receive contracts starting 1 April 2025, with monitoring and evaluation conducted through Plinth.

Online Application Process and Support

- Tom from Plinth explains the online application process, including creating an account, filling out the application form, and uploading required documents.
- The platform allows for multiple responses to the same application form, enabling organisations to apply for multiple grants and buildings.
- Collaborative features allow multiple users from the same organisation to work on the application together.

- Applicants are encouraged to reach out with any questions and to review the grant guidelines and FAQs thoroughly before submitting their applications.