



Collaborative Communities Fund

16th July

Opening doors, connecting people, supporting you



Third Sector Leaders Kirklees is a
Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity number: 1162592

1. Share information about the Collaborative Communities Fund
- 2. Pause:** Questions
3. Run through Expression of Interest Form
- 4. Pause:** Questions

What's this fund about?

This fund is for voluntary, community and social enterprise (**VCSE**) organisations and groups based in rural areas (Wards: Colne Valley West, Holme Valley North, Holme Valley South, Kirkburton and Denby Dale).

This fund is about **building the capacity of local VCSE organisations and local VCSE groups based** in these rural areas. We want to fund **six-month collaborative partnership projects** that can build the capacity of local VCSE groups and organisations.

Capacity building means **equipping local community groups and local VCSE organisations with the knowledge, skills and capabilities to set up, deliver, improve, develop and strengthen** their work.

In practice, this might include helping a new group to set up from scratch. Or delivering a training course on an area of need for local groups and organisations (e.g. fundraising strategies, bid writing). Or sharing good practice to tackle specific barriers.



Does the fund focus on specific outcomes?

Partnership projects must **build the capacity of local VCSE groups and local VCSE organisations** that contribute to **one or more of these outcomes:**

1. **Improve physical and mental health and wellbeing**
2. **Reduce health inequalities**
3. **Reduce social isolation**
4. **Strengthen the sense of local community and belonging**

The local VCSE groups and local VCSE organisations that benefit from any capacity building support **must be working with adults who are 18+ years.**



What we will fund

1. **Local partnership projects**, we actively encourage collaboration between local VCSE organisations and groups. Projects must **respond to local community needs in rural areas**. What **capacity building support** do local VCSE groups and local VCSE organisations need to deliver their work better? What would make it easier/faster/better for them to respond to local community needs?
2. Capacity building support must help local VCSE groups and local VCSE organisations contribute to **one or more of the four fund outcomes for adults 18+ years**.
3. Use a **test and learn approach** to deliver the project with partners (from **October 2026 to March 2027**)
4. **Grants of up to £5000 are available**. Partnerships can submit more than one Expression of Interest if you have more than one project in mind. And you can form different kinds of partnerships to deliver these projects.

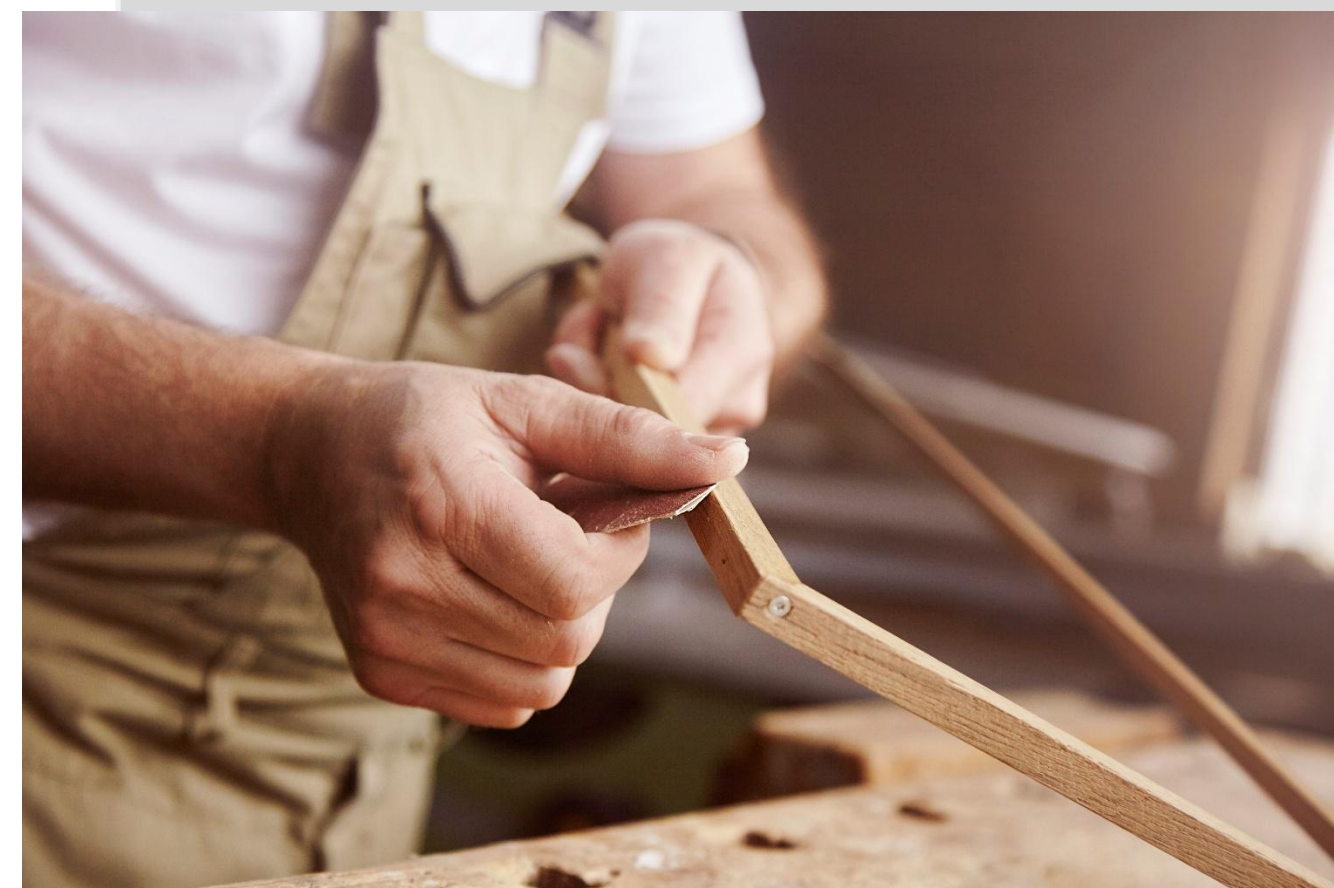
There will be an opportunity to access free training and support for the successful partnerships if there are any gaps in their knowledge and skills to deliver the project. This support will be funded separately by TSL.

What we will not fund

1. Expressions of interest submitted from **a single organisation** based in a rural area will not be accepted.
2. Expressions of interest submitted **without a pre-conversation with Raj Cheema** about the proposed project will not be accepted.
3. Capacity building support provided to local VCSE groups and local VCSE organisations that **only work with 0-17 years old**.
4. **Direct frontline delivery** of existing, ongoing or new projects and services that achieve the fund outcomes.
5. **Existing core and running costs** – the fund must be used for project delivery costs which can include an increase in hours for colleagues involved in delivering the project.
6. **Partnerships formed only of unconstituted groups** – but if an unconstituted group partners with a local VCSE organisation and/or a local VCSE constituted group based in the local area (i.e. have a local community space, operate from local spaces, have physical and visible presence locally), then they can apply.
7. **Not a sole focus on consultation and engagement** - we expect testing your project will involve some level of engagement.
8. **Evaluation projects** of existing initiatives.

Questions to consider when shaping your project

- What are the common **needs and barriers of the local VCSE sector in rural areas** when it comes to setting up, delivering, improving, developing and strengthening the support delivered to residents?
- What would **reduce the isolation of people working at a local level and delivering support** to residents?
- What kind of support would make the **experiences of local VCSE groups and local VCSE organisations better (and easier)** when it comes to setting up, delivering and improving activities? **What would have made your journey as a local VCSE organisation or group easier and better?**
- What would a six-month project to deliver this kind of **support look like?**
- How can the capacity building support be **easily accessed and used by** local VCSE groups and local VCSE organisations in the local area? And how can this **support stay in the local area?**



What if...

What if... there was a practical tool to respond to a specific barrier (e.g. bid writing, fundraising)

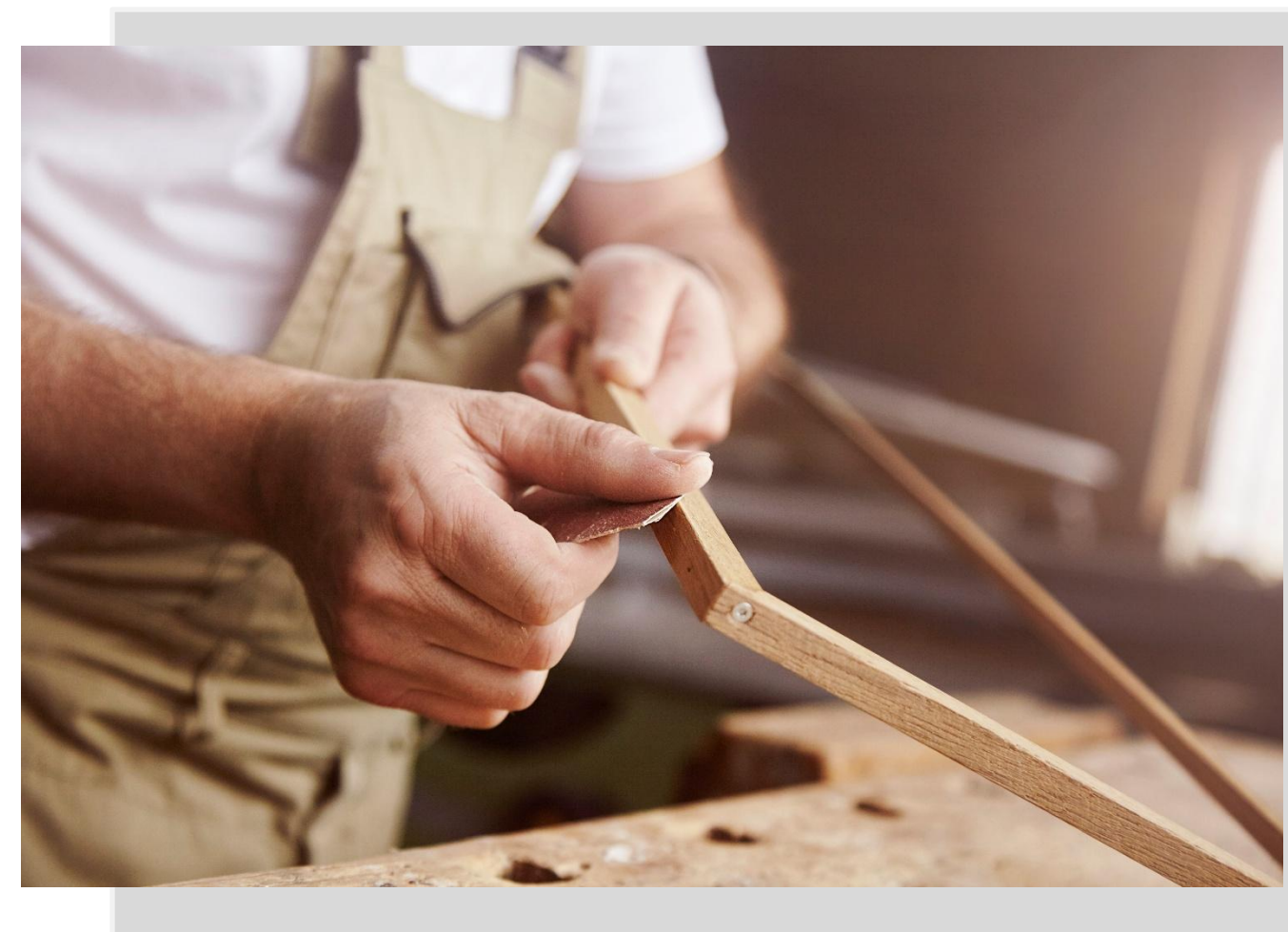
What if... there were local champions with expertise in specific areas of need?

What if... there were volunteer VCSE coaches trained in common areas of need to coach individuals through a process?

What if... there was a way to make shared resources and assets in the local area easily accessible so that people can make the best use of these to deliver their activities to residents?

What if... a specialist training programme focusing on a key barrier was delivered to a group of individuals working for local VCSE organisations and groups ? And then they supported other VCSE colleagues with these skills?

Again, what would have made your journey as a local VCSE organisation or group easier and better?



What's the ambition?



1. Ambitious collaborative projects to build the capacity of the local VCSE sector in rural areas.
2. Projects that are rooted in the needs of local VCSE groups and local VCSE organisations and addressing these needs.
3. Capacity building projects that have the potential to iterate, change and develop.
4. Capacity building projects that have the potential for the knowledge, skills and capabilities to stay in the local area.
5. Projects that will help local VCSE groups and organisations to make a better impact on the four outcomes in rural areas.

Application process

1. **Book a conversation with Raj Cheema** to discuss your project idea – Email InfrastructureSupport@tslkirklees.org.uk to schedule a conversation. Please note that any expressions of interest submitted without this conversation **will not be considered**.
2. Complete our [expression of interest](#) – by **Thursday 20th August 2026 at the latest**. You will find the **online link here: [Collaborative Communities Fund - Expression Of Interest](#)**
3. Shortlisted applicants will be **invited to attend an event in September** to present their project.
4. **Local area representatives** will support TSL in selecting projects in each area to receive funding.

Pause.

Any questions?

Expression of Interest Form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OdfwqFaqBUyxf1gJOvfVarvVsmhhWApFoeT5whEbWglUNEtXUTkzMU40TEJLWUUyTVpHWkhDNEJYQi4u>

Pause.

Any questions?