



**Chesterfield Health
and Wellbeing
Partnership**

Children and Young People Emotional Wellbeing Small Grants Scheme

Funding Guidance

2026 - 2027



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1. Introduction

This guidance supports organisations applying for funding to deliver community-based projects that improve the emotional wellbeing of children and young people in Chesterfield.

The Emotional Wellbeing Small Grants Programme aims to invest in local, preventative activity that helps children and young people feel:

- Confident and resilient
- Connected to peers and trusted adults
- Safe, included and supported in their community

Funding is intended for one-off or start-up projects, not ongoing delivery or core organisational costs.

2. Purpose of fund

Funding is available for projects that improve emotional wellbeing by providing children and young people with opportunities to:

- Take part in positive, pro social * activities (definition below)
- Build confidence, resilience and self esteem
- Form supportive relationships with peers and trusted adults
- Access safe, inclusive community spaces
- Learn new skills or develop interests
- Overcome barriers to participation (e.g. cost, transport, access needs)

Projects should:

- Address a local need or gap in provision - activities should be delivered in areas where there is limited provision, enabling access for children and young people who may face barriers (e.g. cost, getting there, condition specific)
- Avoid duplication of existing funded services
- Reflect the THRIVE Framework, with a strong focus on prevention and early help

**Definition: Pro social Activity*

For this programme, a pro social activity is defined as an activity designed to improve wellbeing through positive interaction with others. This may include physical activity, creative or cultural activities, volunteering, outdoor learning, peer support or community-based group activities.

THRIVE Framework – Quick Summary for Applicants

The THRIVE Framework is a national approach that helps children and young people get the right support at the right time. It focuses on needs rather than diagnosis.

Your project should help children and young people stay well, build confidence and resilience, and access early, community-based support.

The Five THRIVE Areas:

- Thriving – activities that help children maintain wellbeing, connection and confidence.
- Getting Advice – simple, accessible advice or signposting to support.
- Getting Help – short-term, goal-based support for specific needs.
- Getting More Help – specialist or intensive mental health support (not to be duplicated).
- Getting Risk Support – support where young people cannot benefit from traditional help but still require professional oversight.

Key Principles for Applicants:

- Needs-led support.
- Shared decision-making with young people.
- Focus on prevention and early help.
- Partnership working with local organisations.
- Clear, measurable outcomes.

In short: THRIVE is about helping young people stay well, get early help in their community, and have a say in the support they receive.

3. Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from all organisations that meet all of the following criteria:

Eligible organisations

- Local voluntary or community groups with a governing document (e.g. constitution, memorandum and articles, or written rules)
- Registered charities (including CIOs, trusts, unincorporated associations, and not for profit companies limited by guarantee)
- Community Interest Companies (CICs) or social enterprises that:
 - o Are limited by guarantee (not by shares)
 - o Have a clear community purpose and charitable aims
 - o Can demonstrate an effective asset lock
 - o A minimum of three Directors, the majority of whom are not paid employees

Governance Requirements

Organisations must:

- Have a management committee or board of at least three unrelated members
- Hold a bank account in the organisation's name with at least two unrelated signatories

4. Eligibility and delivery requirements

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they will:

- Deliver activities within Chesterfield. However, if there is a limited supply of activities in the locality and the local residents are benefitting, CYP could be supported to attend an activity out of area, considering the social value for the locality.
- Deliver outside the school setting and outside the school day
- Support children and young people aged 0–18 (or up to 25 with additional needs)
- Focus on emotional wellbeing rather than clinical or therapeutic intervention
- Have appropriate policies in place, including:
 - Safeguarding
 - Health and safety
 - Data protection
- Ensure staff and volunteers have DBS checks where required
- Hold appropriate insurance for all activities
- Organisations are normally expected to submit only one application per funding round; however, exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis where a clear justification and demonstrable additional benefits are provided.

5. How much funding is available?

Funding has been agreed for this financial year 2026/27 to the value of £23,750.

Groups can apply for funding of up to £2,000

Requests exceeding £2,000 will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and must provide evidence of exceptional need, measurable impact, and value for money.

6. What we can fund

Examples of Eligible Activity

- Group sessions, clubs or workshops (e.g. creative, physical, outdoor, wellbeing or cultural)
- Safe social spaces and peer support groups
- Volunteering, mentoring and youth leadership opportunities
- Projects that develop confidence, connection or life skills
- Targeted activity for children and young people experiencing inequality or disadvantage

Eligible Costs

Funding may be used for:

- Venue or room hire
- Staff or volunteer delivery costs directly related to a new, pilot or time-limited project. In exceptional circumstances, continuation funding for a previously funded pilot project may be considered for up to six months where there is evidence of impact and a clear sustainability plan.
- Equipment
- Materials and resources
- Training
- Transport supporting participation
- One off project start-up costs

7. What we cannot fund

The fund cannot support:

- Core organisational costs, permanent staffing costs, or ongoing service delivery without a defined end date
- School based or curriculum linked activity
- Clinical, therapeutic or NHS commissioned services
- Activity delivered outside of Chesterfield
- Provision delivered during the school day or on school premises
- Duplication of existing, funded provision
- Large capital purchases

Note: the funding should not be used to support school activities, schools are funded separately to do this. An exception, however, is if the school is being used as a venue to deliver an activity from, not part of the school day

This funding is one-off and short-term. There is no guarantee of future funding.

8. Application process

Applicants must complete the application form, providing details of the project proposal, budget and policies.

Funding Rounds:

The programme will initially operate through two funding rounds during 2026/27

Round 1: Applications open 29 July 2026 and close 30 September 2026

Round 2: Applications open 1 October 2026 and close 31 December 2026

Applications received after a published closing date will be considered in the next available round.

If funding remains available following round 2, Chesterfield Borough Council reserves the right to open a further funding round or allocate remaining funds through a rolling application process.

The programme may close early if all available funding has been allocated.

Your Application Should Include:

- **Applicant and Project Details**
- **Eligibility Confirmation**
- **Project Summary** – aims, beneficiaries, location, delivery period and any partners
- **THRIVE Alignment** – how the project supports prevention and early help and complements existing provision
- **Outputs, Outcomes and Measurement** – what will change and how impact will be measured
- **Partnership Working** – details of any organisations involved
- **Budget** – a clear, proportionate breakdown of costs
- **Monitoring and Reporting** – confirmation that quarterly updates, case studies and a final report can be provided

9. Assessment Criteria

- You will receive an email to confirm your application has been received.
- Applications are checked to make sure they meet the criteria and are fully completed. The Mental Health Network members will be asked for local insight or comments on each application.
- A final decision is made by Chesterfield Borough Council, to make sure the funding is used as intended.
- Applications that do not meet the criteria will not be taken forward.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Clear benefit to children and young people's emotional wellbeing
- Evidence of local need or unmet demand
- Commitment to inclusion and reducing barriers
- Safeguarding and risk management arrangements
- Value for money
- Robust outcome measurement and reporting
- Alignment with THRIVE principles and local priorities

10. Tips for a strong application

- Be clear, focused and realistic
- Use local evidence where possible
- Demonstrate partnership working
- Avoid replicating statutory services
- Set achievable and measurable outcomes
- Build evaluation into the project from the outset

11. Reporting

Funded projects must share simple quarterly monitoring and end-of-project information including:

- Number of young people supported
- Sessions delivered and examples of impact/case studies.
- Case studies showing changes in wellbeing, connection or confidence
- End of project report

12. How to apply

Contact Helen Marples helen.marples@derbyshire.gov.uk for a copy of the application form

Or

Download the form from the [Chesterfield Health and Wellbeing Partnership website](#)

13. If your application is successful

If your application is approved:

- You will receive a funding offer letter and a Grant Agreement from Chesterfield Borough Council.
- Funding is paid up front by bank transfer.
- Payment is usually made within 28 days of receiving your signed paperwork.
- Funding must be used only for the agreed project.
- Funding is one-off and time-limited and must be spent within the agreed project period

14. Appendix



The THRIVE Framework Principles

The THRIVE Framework Principles are the basis for all support options provided by those implementing the THRIVE Framework. They should be embedded in everything the service or community does.

1. Common Language

Common conceptual framework (five needs-based groupings: *Thriving*, *Getting Advice*, *Getting Help*, *Getting More Help*, *Getting Risk Support*) shared across all target groups.

2. Needs-Led

Approach based on meeting need, not diagnosis or severity. Explicit about the definition of need (at any one point, what the plan is and everyone's role within that plan). Fundamental to this is a common understanding of the definitions of needs-based groupings across the local system.

3. Shared Decision Making

Voice of children, young people and families is central. Shared decision-making processes are core to the selection of the needs-based groupings for a given child or young person.

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4. Proactive Prevention and Promotion

Enabling the whole community in supporting mental health and wellbeing. Proactively working with the most vulnerable groups. Particular emphasis on how to help children, young people and their communities build on their own strengths including safety planning where relevant.

5. Partnership Working

Effective cross-sector working, with shared responsibility, accountability, and mutual respect based on the five needs-based groupings.

6. Outcome-Informed

Clarity and transparency from outset about children and young people's goals, measurement of progress movement and action plans, with explicit discussions if goals are not achieved.

- Discuss the limits and ending of interventions.
- Differentiate treatment and risk management.
- Consider full range of options including self or community approaches.

7. Reducing Stigma

Ensuring mental health and wellbeing is everyone's business including all target groups.

8. Accessibility

Advice, help and risk support available in a timely way for the child, young person or family, where they are and in their community.

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Further Information:

- <https://implementingthrive.org/about-us/i-thrive-principles/>
- <https://implementingthrive.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/THRIVE-Framework-for-system-change-2019.pdf>