

Shaping Care Fund

Capturing the Voice of Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People in Greater Manchester's Regional Care Cooperative Pathfinder



Call for Expressions of Interest

Deadline: 12.00 noon on Monday 15th July 2024.

Grants to support Greater Manchester based VCSE organisations engage with Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People to give voice to their needs and wants from the care system.

Are you a VCSE organisation working with Cared for Children and/or Care Experienced Young People in Greater Manchester? Are you interested in supporting young people give their voice to the shaping of the GM's emerging Regional Care Cooperative (RCC)?

If so, we would like to hear from you. We are looking to fund social economy providers to creatively listen to the views of children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced, the care system and feedback their views to the RCC team.

The aim of the Shaping Care Fund is to put the voice of children and young people at the centre of shaping the Regional Care Cooperative and inform the direction of future care services. It is important that projects that are successful in receiving this one-off funding demonstrate their capacity to deliver to short timescales and demonstrate their track record and skill set to work with the groups of young people highlighted above.

We will be investing locally within GM, with the Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprise(s) (VCFSE) sector to ensure a diverse range of young people are listened to and heard.

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Background

Greater Manchester has been successful in securing additional resources as one of two national Regional Care Cooperative (RCC) pathfinders.

A first step in the process is to engage with Cared for Children and those children and young people with experience of care, to better understand what practical changes would make the most positive impact on their lives.

What are Regional Care Cooperatives (RCCs)?

A recent article in communitycare.co.uk, describes RCCs as being designed to overcome the challenge of individual councils being too small – and having too few children – to be able to meaningfully shape the services providers offer and ensure that they meet need and are value for money.

The DfE said that, by operating at much greater scale than councils, RCCs, supported by the national body, would be much better able to forecast need, and commission sufficient placements, in the right places, to meet it.

It would also be much easier to share learning, good practice and information about the cost and quality of providers between 20 RCCs, compared with 152 councils, improving the quality of commissioning.

This would reduce excess profit making and improve outcomes for children by making it more likely that they would be in a placement that meets their needs, said the DfE.

In terms of **project ideas**, the fund is open to a wide range of project ideas that engage young people. You know your young people the best and understand how to engage them in a productive, creative, yet meaningful way. Examples could include using mediums or music, art, dance, cooking workshops, photography, poetry, gardening and use of green space and more. **Creative ideas are very much welcomed and encouraged.**

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What are we looking for?

We are looking to fund projects in which Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People are consulted and listened to, in order to gain their views and listen to their voices.

Expressions of interest are welcomed that feature:

- Creativity, originality, and child/young people-centredness.
- Sensitivity and knowledge of children in the care system.
- A variety of skill sets of organisations e.g. young people's mental health, youth justice, separated young people.
- Collaboration with other organisations/groups where needed to reflect experience, specialisms.
- Ideas that build on existing research and evidence of Care Experienced views.
- Ideas that have a wide reach, involving those children and young people that are not currently easily heard by services.
- A creative and collaborative way of feeding back clear recommendations from children and young people by the end of the programme.

Partnership applications welcome

Organisations or community groups are able to apply as single organisations, or in partnership with other organisations (or both for different activities or ideas).

What size grants are available?

We anticipate individual applications being in the range of £5,000 - £10,000. However, exceptional proposals in terms of scope, number of beneficiaries and/geographic spread may exceed this figure.

Commissioners welcome such larger proposals for strong, creative projects and for those working in partnership and/or across multiple boroughs of Greater Manchester.

There is no minimum size of award. The total funding available is £40,000.

Who can apply?

The Shaping Care Fund is only open to organisations that meet the criteria below:

Applicant organisations must:

- be constituted as voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) organisation. See [this link for a definition](#) of a VCSE organisation.
- be based in Greater Manchester or have a strong track record of working with Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People.
- have an organisational bank account with 2 signatories who are not related to each other.
- be fully up to date with previous grant reporting to Salford CVS (if applicable).

Further suitability

- There is no minimum or maximum turnover required for organisations who wish to apply to this fund.
- We are welcoming applications from organisations who already have a strong track record and actively work with Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People.

What can the grant be used for?

The grant can be used to pay for any reasonable project costs, including staff time, freelance sessional input, volunteer expenses, venue hire, refreshments, equipment, promotional materials and any other reasonable project costs.

All activity and spend must be completed by 31st March 2025.

Application Process and Timescales

We are inviting Greater Manchester-based (or organisations with a strong track record of delivery in GM) to submit a short expression of interest (in Word format) by **12.00 on Monday 15th July**, by email to: grants@salfordcvs.co.uk.

A swift shortlisting process will follow, with all applicants informed of the outcome during the week commencing 22nd July. Shortlisted applicant organisations will then be invited to submit a full proposal by **12.00 noon Friday 9th August**.

An assessment panel will then review full proposals and agree awards. The panel will collectively agree and select projects/services with the greatest impact and innovation for investment from the fund. All organisations shortlisted will be informed of the outcome by the **end of August 2024**.

The delivery period for successful engagement projects can take place between **September 2024 and March 2025**.

Any questions?

If you have any questions regarding the Shaping Care Fund, please contact Niamh Meehan at Salford CVS by email at Niamh.Meehan@salfordcvs.co.uk or by phone on 07756 868182.

Alternatively, you can contact Salford CVS' wider grants team by email at grants@salfordcvs.co.uk or by phone on 0161 787 7795.