



Halton & St Helens
Voluntary and Community Action

Funders Festival

2026

Meet • Connect • Create Opportunities

Your guide to all the funders
at our 2026 Funders Festival



24th September, 2026
from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM



**Norton Priory Museum
and Gardens**

Tudor Road
Windmill Hill
Runcorn, WA7 1SX



Funders



Partnerships



Stronger
Communities

Welcome to the Funders Festival

A message from Sally Yeoman MBE, Chief Executive Officer, Halton & St Helens VCA

Welcome to the Halton & St Helens VCA Funders Festival.

We're delighted to bring together funders, community organisations and support organisations from across the region for a day focused on ideas, opportunities, connections and making a difference in our communities.

We know that organisations across Halton and St Helens are delivering fantastic work every day and have ambitious ideas for the future. But finding the right funding, understanding what funders are looking for and knowing where to start can sometimes feel like a challenge.

That's why we've created this event – to bring the funders to you.

Today is an opportunity to meet funders face-to-face, ask questions, explore their priorities and find out whether your ideas could be a good fit. It's also a chance to meet other organisations, share experiences and discover the wider support available to help you develop your work.

You don't need to have a finished project or funding application. Come along with your ideas, questions and ambitions. Start a conversation, build a connection and find out what might be possible.

This brochure provides an introduction to the funders and organisations joining us today. We hope it helps you identify opportunities that could support your organisation and, most importantly, the communities you serve.

On behalf of everyone at Halton & St Helens VCA, thank you for joining us. We hope you have a productive, inspiring and enjoyable day.

Sally Yeoman MBE

Chief Executive Officer

Halton & St Helens VCA



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Halton and St Helens

Both Halton and St Helens have Community Champions and access to Asda Foundation Grants.

The Asda Community Champions can donate raffle prizes to help with fundraising and can also provide snacks/resources if you have a meeting or event coming up. The budget is limited so advance warning is much needed and greatly appreciated.

Asda can welcome groups into the stores enabling them to hold awareness events and can also donate Community Champions time to help in any way can as volunteers

Each quarter, ASDA Foundation open, grants relating to bringing communities together, tackling isolation, supporting foodbanks and pantries and improving local spaces. The Community Champions can nominate groups for these, and guide groups through independent applications, depending on their eligibility.



Halton and St Helens

The Chamber in Halton also accepts membership from St Helens and areas around Halton.

A Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organisation made up of like-minded businessmen and women whose goal is to further the interests of their business community. The Chamber's aim is to uphold the economic interests of the area which it serves. Chambers do this by promoting business to business networking and encouraging inter-trading, they deliver tailored business services and support and provide a united business VOICE.

Halton Chamber embraces businesses of all sizes and in all sectors, providing our members access to a wide range of business contacts and information. If you want to develop new contacts expand your opportunities, and have your say on issues affecting your business then please get involved and join us at Halton Chamber of Commerce

capacity

Halton and St Helens

Turning local insight into positive change.

Based in the Liverpool City Region, Capacity works with local people, organisations and public services to create lasting change across the North-West.

We bring together creative thinking and practical action, using our understanding of communities, social issues and public services to tackle challenges and deliver change people can see and feel.

We believe some of the biggest opportunities can be found in the most difficult places. That's why we work alongside communities and local authorities to bring new thinking to old problems.

Social Climbers

Helping great ideas go further.

The Liverpool City Region is full of socially minded organisations making a real difference. But growing demand, stretched public services, health inequalities and declining mental health mean the need for community-led solutions has never been greater.

Social Climbers is here to help.

Developed and delivered by Capacity, with support from Postcode Innovation Trust (thanks to the players of the Postcode Lottery) and UKSPF, the programme helps local social enterprises and charities turn ideas into action and build strong foundations for the future.

From stronger finances and better governance to public sector connections and scaling successful ideas, Social Climbers provides the skills, tools and connections organisations need to move forward.

Bold ideas. Stronger organisations. Bigger impact.



Halton and St Helens

We offer Core and Project funding with no application deadlines, so you can apply at any time. Available grants range from £1,000 to £40,000 per year and can be awarded for up to three years.

In addition, our Emergency Essentials programme supports individual children living in poverty



CRT offer a free membership programme which provides the building blocks to allow your community organisation to thrive. Locally, this is available for charities, social enterprises, faith organisations and constituted groups in former coal mining areas in St Helens, Warrington and Knowsley.

CRT membership provides fundraising support, access to the up-to-date data for your local area, a regional and national network of peer support and training and 'meet the funder' opportunities.



Halton Only

Community Development Halton Borough Council

Come and talk to us about your community ideas, we can help with development plans, volunteer support, barriers and issues. Whether you are a new or existing group we can help you develop your project and get the right support. Services include Ensuring relevant governance documents are in place, Advising on constitutions, committee structure, training, and policies required, Funding searches for your project – guidance on required consultation and completing the application forms, Reviewing written bids prior to submission then supporting your project and advising on monitoring, Providing small grants to community organisations.

e-mail: communitydevelopment@halton.gov.uk



Halton and St Helens

The Community Foundation for Merseyside helps individuals and organisations give to causes that matter to them, providing a strategic approach to charitable giving and a robust grant making service. We work as part of a national network of 47 UK Community Foundations and have distributed more than £52 Million in the region since Community Foundation for Merseyside was established in 1999. The Community Foundation provide multiple funding programmes for grassroot community groups across different causes, including the Merseyside Women's Fund and the Football for Change programme.



Halton and St Helens

Cranfield Trust is the national charity that other charities turn to for management advice, training and professional support. For over 35 years, the Trust has been providing pro bono management support to the UK voluntary sector, bringing together its wide network of highly experienced volunteer consultants with charity leaders. Our Regional Managers work with local welfare charities and not-for-profit organisations to understand where they would benefit from the Trust's services and identify a volunteer with the background and expertise to support the charity to thrive.



Halton and St Helens

Are you a good cause looking for a way to raise funds online? You can start raising funds for your cause with Halton Community Lottery and St Helens Community Lottery. It's a no risk option because it's absolutely free to set up! We take a small percentage from every ticket sold to cover the costs of running the lottery.

With just 50 tickets a week you can raise £1,300 every year. Tickets are £1 a week with a top prize of £25,000!



Halton only

We have funding available to support community-based projects that make a positive difference for people living in our neighbourhoods. Whether you're running a small local activity or delivering a larger community initiative, you can apply through our simple application process. Each funding level is designed to help a wide range of ideas come to life, and you can find out more about how to apply, and what's expected once your project is complete



Halton and St Helens

At the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we fund projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK. Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. We can fund heritage projects from £10,000 up to £10million and we offer two main grants:

- National Lottery Heritage Grants £10,000 - £250,000
- National Lottery Heritage Grants £250,000 - £10million

To find out more, please visit us online.

You can also contact your local North team at

north@heritagefund.org.uk



Halton and St Helens

John Moores Foundation focuses on funding projects based in Merseyside (including Skelmersdale, Halton, and Ellesmere Port) and Northern Ireland. They aim to help people who face barriers, as a result of social, educational, physical, economic, cultural, geographical or other disadvantage, to come together to improve their social conditions and quality of life and address issues that are important to them.

They do this by making grants to local groups that fall within their areas of interest. Priority is given to small, grassroots and volunteer-driven organisations that support those most in need and work in areas that have been under-represented in their grant-making.



Halton and St Helens

We provide flexible loans and grant to help enterprises start up, become sustainable, and grow; creating jobs, reinvigorating communities and offering social investment.

As a Social Enterprise ourselves, we understand the challenges you face and will support you, pre and post-investment, offering the right kind of money at the right time.

We offer investments from £5k up to £300k to community and social enterprises operating in the North of England and the Midlands.



Halton & St Helens
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Kindred

Halton and St Helens

Kindred invests in socially-trading organisations to grow their impact in Liverpool City Region. We do this through:

- Money
- Support
- Collaboration

Our work helps grow the impact of the social economy in Liverpool City Region to create a kinder, fairer economy.

The last 30 years of investment and regeneration strategies has only increased the gaps between 'left behind' communities and the rest. Kindred offers something different; a different view of the economy, investing in local people and their ideas and lived experience.

Kindred was designed by our first 150 members to support the needs of entrepreneurs within our diverse communities. We are member-led, guided by STOs' priorities.

So far, Kindred has invested £3m in 55 organisations. Between them, they have created over 100 new jobs, levered a further £16.4m of investment and delivered £35.9 of economic and social impact. In 2024 alone, they provided direct support to 421,735 people.



Halton and St Helens

Livv Investment is part of Livv Housing Group, a housing association and more. They're all about getting social investment to local organisations making a difference. They believe in supporting social enterprises and charities to help our communities thrive.

With funding from Livv Housing Group, and co-investment from Access - The Foundation for Social Investment, the Livv and Flourish fund will consider blended finance (loan and grant) investments.



St Helens Only

The Our Active Community St Helens project is a Sport England Funded project that is delivered by Mencap. Mencap's vision is for people with learning disabilities, and the communities in which they live, to be physically active, happy, and healthy. They have funding available to organisations to access which will help get people with a learning disability, active.



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY
MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED

Halton and St Helens

(MRWA) is a strategic waste and resource management authority, leading on the recycling and management of municipal waste across the Liverpool City Region.

Previous initiatives have included the Zero Waste Community Fund and various commissioned projects, aimed to support individuals and communities by providing opportunities such as, training, making environmental improvements, supporting isolated or vulnerable people and helping households struggling on low income.

Contact details: Chauntelle.bowler@merseysidewda.gov.uk



Halton and St Helens

Reaching Communities supports longer term, community led projects that strengthen communities and improve lives across England. Funding is available for £20,001 and above, usually for projects lasting up

to five years, helping organisations create lasting change.

Projects are prioritised where people and communities experience poverty, disadvantage or discrimination, and where communities are actively involved in shaping the decisions that affect their lives. All projects must support at least one of the Fund's community led missions:

- Come Together – creating inclusive places, spaces and activities
- Help Children and Young People Thrive – supporting wellbeing, safety and confidence
- Tackle Health Inequalities – addressing the root causes of poor health
- Be Environmentally Sustainable – supporting action on climate and access to nature

Onward

Creating positive spaces

Halton Only

Onward Homes is one of the largest housing associations in the North-West, providing affordable housing and support to communities across the region.

At the Halton Funders Festival, we will be available to offer housing advice, guidance on accessing social housing, and signposting to relevant support services. While our direct funding opportunities are limited, we can act as a valuable community resource by supporting volunteering initiatives, partnership working, and social impact projects that help strengthen local communities.

We are always keen to connect with organisations that share our commitment to improving lives and creating opportunities for residents and neighbourhoods.



Halton Lea only

The vision for Halton Lea is to enable the community to take ownership of the development of the area in which they live, addressing key issues affecting them and building on the strengths already in the community Cradle to Career puts the people of Halton Lea at the centre of education, services and local decision-making.

Working with our partners, we identified Education, Family Support and Youth Provision to be the focus areas for our 3-year delivery.

Funding is available to organisations delivering in Halton Lea to support the community.



Halton only

Social Value is about creating positive social, economic and environmental outcomes for residents. Through the Halton Social Value Project, organisations may be able to access additional support, resources, expertise, volunteering, equipment, funding contributions and other forms of assistance from businesses and partners delivering services across Halton.

If your organisation has an upcoming project that possibly presents a Social Value opportunity for all sorts of reasons, then come and let us know!



Halton and St Helens

We focus our support on the clubs which need our support most – off the radar, in areas of deprivation or in underserved communities. And those considered unreachable by others, falling between the gaps within the wider funding sector. As well as our work with clubs, we also deliver programmes and projects. They connect people and organisations to work together in a place or on a topic, creating positive outcomes with an approach designed by the community, for the community. For both clubs and for communities we do this by delivering funding, capacity building, training & education programmes, and research & advocacy.



Halton and St Helens

Tesco Fruit + Veg grants is a new funding programme that invites schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations to apply for up to £1,500. This is the relaunched Tesco blue token scheme that you'll find at the front of stores nationwide, where customers vote for local projects.

Applications are welcome from local causes or a specific project that improves the wellbeing of children and young people and includes a healthy food element. This could involve activities such as eating, cooking or growing food.

It funds projects such as:

- Growing projects (fruit/veg) in allotments/planters for use in school kitchen or cooking projects
- Breakfast/after school clubs that provides food for pupils
- Sports clubs that provide a healthy snack at break time
- Healthy eating projects that support families to cook healthy meals on a budget
- Foodbanks to provide food support to families
- Holiday clubs that provide healthy meals and snacks
- Mental health support projects/ Youth Clubs/ SEND project that provide a healthy snack as part of the provision
- Addressing holiday hunger amongst children outside of school time

The shortlisted finalists can receive up to £1500, with £1000 for second place, and a guaranteed £500 just for getting through to the in-store vote. The application is completed online, which can be found through the Tesco Fruit + Veg grants website.



Halton & St Helens
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Halton and St Helens

Building Fairer Access to Funding for Black and Racially Minoritised Communities

At Phoenix Community Trust, we believe communities are best placed to lead meaningful change. Our national racial justice initiative works to challenge inequalities in funding and decision-making, helping to ensure that Black and racially minoritised communities have greater access to opportunities, resources, and influence.

We proudly support Black and racially minoritised-led organisations, community groups, and community-led Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Whether you're an established organisation, a grassroots group, or have an idea that could benefit your community, we'd love to hear from you.

How We Work

The Phoenix Community Trust project is delivered through a collaborative partnership led by North West Phoenix Community Trust Lead, Inclusive North (covering Lancashire and Greater Manchester), and One Knowsley across Cheshire and Merseyside supported by the CVS Network, VS6, and the Cheshire and Warrington Infrastructure Partnership (CWIP).

Get in Touch - Do you lead a Black or racially minoritised-led organisation, community group, or have a project idea that could make a difference in your community?

Contact us today to explore how we can support your journey.

✉ jessy.noe@oneknowsley.org

☎ 0151 489 1222



St Helens Only

Torus Foundation's Community Investment Fund (CIF), offers grants of up to £5,000 to support community-led projects that benefit Torus communities, including but not limited to, those in Liverpool, St Helens, and Warrington. CIF's purpose is to fund local initiatives that align with Torus Foundation's core focus areas: Employment and Skills, Financial Inclusion, Youth Services, Health and Wellbeing, and Digital Inclusion.

Applications are reviewed by Torus tenants, giving them a strong voice in shaping how investment is directed to grow stronger communities. For more information, please visit the Torus Foundation's CIF webpage.



Halton & St Helens
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Halton and St Helens

Do you need help with your organisation's accounts, or are the records in a mess? Perhaps you have just been appointed treasurer and don't know what to do? Need help processing your salary payments?

Our Community Accountant Jane Williams, based in our St Helens office, can guide you through all these problems and more:

- Preparation of Annual Accounts, complying with all the latest requirements
- Helping you to set up your book-keeping system
- Basic Book-Keeping and Accounts training & support
- Drawing up budgets and reporting on performance
- Payroll service calculation, administration & compliance
- Advice and administration on all aspects of charity taxation..... AND MUCH MORE



Halton & St Helens
Voluntary and Community Action

Halton and St Helens

Halton & St Helens VCA supports voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations across Halton and St Helens to develop, strengthen and sustain their work. Our team can help you identify funding opportunities, become funding ready, develop project ideas and strengthen applications, as well as providing advice on governance, finance, volunteering, training and organisational development. We also connect organisations with partners, networks and other sources of support across the local area. Come and talk to us about your organisation, your ideas or your challenges – we're here to help you take the next step.



Halton only

Library staff can visit community groups, organisations and care homes to deliver free reminiscence sessions. Staff use the libraries' extensive local history collection to share photos, books and information and themed memory boxes. People can share their memories and stories in an informal discussion. Groups can also come to the library for a tour of the local history resources.

Library staff are available to give talks to community organisations and groups on different aspects of the library service. These include local history, memory boxes and eBooks.



Halton and St Helens

We help: People to volunteer through showcasing our local organisations and opportunities here on our website and through our Facebook and twitter channels - all individuals who register with us will get a weekly updated newsletter with new opportunities and your own personalised volunteering progress.

We can match potential volunteers to projects that inspire them with organisations that need them - though we are unable to meet anyone face to face currently we can support you to think about what might be best for you based on your experiences / interests or what you'd like to get out of it.

Organisations to develop new volunteer opportunities and ensure the ones they already offer are as inclusive and fulfilling for the volunteer as they are beneficial to the organisation.

Volunteer Coordination's gain knowledge, skills and experience, sharing their learning together and supporting each other to explore new developments and old problems with volunteers through training, forums, newsletters and email updates.

Raise Awareness of Volunteering by highlighting issues and concerns which impact on the volunteering experience, campaigning and publicising. Helping decision makers to have the fullest knowledge to draw from.



Halton Only

The Team plays a strategic role in supporting some of the priority schemes for Halton Borough Council, including securing funding and undertaking monitoring and compliance on grants and investments. Programmes Office liaises with the Combined Authority and a range of funding bodies, including central Government, to raise Halton's profile. The team supports the Voluntary and Community sector with funding searches, bid writing, developing supporting documents, training, dissemination of funding information and developing partnership approaches to secure funding for the Borough. Free Training Workshops Programmes Office provide free training courses to HBC colleagues and community members to support with development of their skills to secure and manage external funding.

Offering a basic introduction workshop for the following topics: • Fundraising Top Tips • Bid Writing Top Tips • Managing Your Grant • Monitoring & Evaluation More in-depth information sessions of these topics can be developed for individual HBC teams or community organisation boards/committees at request.

Please register your interest in further information and eligibility by email: funding@halton.gov.uk



Halton & St Helens
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WINTER COAT PROJECT 2026 – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As the colder months approach, Halton & St Helens VCA, in partnership with Care UK Charity, is asking our community to come together and help keep local people warm this winter.

From 1 September to 16 November 2026, we're collecting good-quality, pre-loved winter coats that can be passed on to people and families who need them.

We're especially looking for children's and men's coats, but all suitable winter coats are very welcome. Donation Stations are available across Runcorn and Widnes, including community centres, libraries, churches and other local venues.

Have a coat you no longer need? Donate it and give it a new lease of life – your old coat could make a huge difference to someone this winter.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Support your community.



Halton & St Helens
Voluntary and Community Action

Winter Coat Project 2026

**Donations open 1st September to
16th November**



Donation Stations can be found at:

Runcorn

- Castlefields Community Centre
- Grangeway Community Centre
- Murdishaw Community Centre
- Beechwood Community Centre
- Runcorn Library, Halton Lea
- WELL Runcorn
- Community Shop
- Brookvale Community Centre

Widnes

- St Maries Church
- Ditton Community Centre
- Upton Community Centre
- Frank Myler Pavillion
- Widnes Library, Kingsway
- Halton Housing Offices

Registered Charity No. 1106001 Registered Office: St Maries, Lugsdale Rd, Widnes, WA8 6DB
CARE UK CHARITY is a registered charity in England and Wales. Charity number 1167299



Halton & St Helens
Voluntary and Community Action

Join Our Membership

Just
£10
for the year!

Be part of a stronger,
healthier, more connected
community.

Our membership gives you a voice,
access to support, opportunities
and a bigger platform to make
a difference.



Have your
voice heard



Access
support and
resources



Build
partnerships
and connections



Help shape
a brighter
future

“Membership has helped us
grow our organisation, connect
with other groups and feel like
we're part of something bigger.”

– VCA Member



Halton & St Helens
Voluntary and Community Action

Find out more
and join today at:

[www.haltonsthelensvca.org.uk/
services/membership](http://www.haltonsthelensvca.org.uk/services/membership)