Young Medway launches Core Memories Fund Cohort 2, to support young people

Young Medway is excited to share with its members, local voluntary sector and community groups that cohort 2 of the Core Memories Fund is open to applicants. Where Young Medway will continue to fund meaningful memories and experiences for young people aged 14 to 25.

The Core Memories Fund will begin to distribute the remaining £70,000 from the £100,000, following on from the success in Cohort 1 which saw £30,000 in grants allocated. Grants of £5,000 will be available to apply for, enabling organisations to deliver activities that build confidence, belonging and enjoyment. The programme focuses on creating positive, memorable experiences that support young people to thrive.

The fund is particularly aimed at projects that benefit young people who are:

- Care experienced
- Living with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or who are neurodivergent
- LGBTQIA+
- At risk of exclusion

Applications should demonstrate how young people will shape and lead the experience. While projects can include a wider group of young people, those from the priority groups above should be meaningfully represented.

The Core Memories Fund uses a simple, relationship-based approach that places young people at the centre of decision-making. Groups will be supported throughout a four-stage process:

- An initial expression of interest and eligibility check through the MVA Social Impact Gateway
- A collaborative conversation to shape the idea with young people
- Delivery of the activity or experience
- A reflective session to capture learning and celebrate achievements with young people

Round 2 funding is open to local community and voluntary sector organisations, who are members of Young Medway, with an income of under £250,000 per year.

Applicants must also be able to demonstrate appropriate safeguarding, governance and financial arrangements which will be assessed through the MVA Social Impact Gateway. If applicants are not quite ready through the assessment process to receive funding, MVA and Young Medway will provide support to enable groups to apply to a later funding round.

We will be accepting applications from **Tuesday 22nd September 2026**, the fund will now run as a rolling fund until the £100,000 has been distributed.

The Core Memories Fund is part of a national programme led by the Young People's Foundation Trust and funded by the Henry Smith Foundation, with partners across the country working together to improve opportunities for young people.

Application Process

Applicants will need to sign up to be an affiliate of the **Social Impact Gateway** and should your bid be successful become a member of **Young Medway**.

If you have not already signed up as a SIG Affiliate, then you can do this by visiting:

Medway Voluntary Action | MVA's New Social Impact Gateway Programme

Please follow the link below to view the guidance information to assist you with becoming an affiliate of the Social Impact Gateway:

SIG-Quality-Assurance-Policy-checklist-for-applicants.pdf

To apply to become a member of Young Medway, please follow the link below:

Young Medway membership

The application gateway will be open for applications from the Tuesday 22nd September 2026 and the closing date for applications is April 2027.

Application is via the Medway, Swale and North West Kent Social Impact Gateway (SIG) and **SIG Affiliates will be sent a link to the application once they are deemed 'Grant Ready'**. The link on the MVA website is an example of the form and cannot be filled in.

Please ensure you enter your SIG Affiliate Number in the relevant field in the application form once this has been received.

We look forward to receiving your funding applications.