



Young Medway launches Core Memories Fund to support young people

Young Medway is inviting applications from local voluntary and community groups to apply for funding to create meaningful memories and experiences for young people aged 14 to 25.

The Core Memories Fund will initially distribute £30,000 in grants of up to £5,000, 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 1 funding is open to local community and voluntary sector organisations, who will need to become members of Young Medway should they be awarded funding, with an income of under £100,000 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 reviewing the first applications from **Monday 6th July 2026** to enable us to meet with your young people to discuss their ideas during July and August. But we will accept applications for this first round until **Monday 27th July 2026**.

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 Monday 8th June 2026 and the closing date for applications is Monday 27th July 2026.

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.