



Helping Hands Programme

Young Westminster Foundation



COMMUNITY FUND GUIDANCE 2026



City of
Westminster

VRU

MAYOR OF LONDON
VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

KEY INFORMATION

HELPING HANDS PROGRAMME

The Helping Hands Programme centres around creating interventions led by the voices of young people and community members whom Youth Violence has directly and indirectly impacted. The programme aims to address the impact of Youth Violence in the community.

HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY FUND

The Community Fund is a community-led grants initiative. It awards funding to organisations and individuals working in partnership with local organisations to deliver projects directly with community members and/or young people. The fund focuses on opportunities for prevention and intervention for youth violence in the community.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Organisations who are already delivering a service in Westminster.

Organisations who are looking to deliver pilot projects in the community.

Individuals with a community guarantor who can govern the project can apply. They must secure a community guarantor and submit a signed guarantor agreement and the application.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF BENEFIT

North Westminster Wards

Church Street, Westbourne, Harrow Road and Queen's Park

South Westminster Wards

Pimlico North, Pimlico South and Vincent Square

We encourage applications to focus on children and young people who are directly and indirectly impacted by youth violence.

SIZE OF AVAILABLE GRANTS?

Grants of up to £5,000 are available.



TIMELINE

October 2025 - January 2026

Community Network Meetings

Open space for community members to discuss interventions. Space created to help cultivate and develop ideas and interventions.

October - December 2025

Project Development Support

Providing strategic support, guidance and resources to aid with building projects.

Monday 1st December 2025

Application Opens

Application form and guidance is made available for applicants.

December 2025 - January 2026

Funding Surgeries and Workshop Support

Funding Surgeries slots made available for applicants with Helping Hands Programme Team.

Friday 30th January 2026, 4pm

Applications Close

Community Fund closed and shortlisting process begins with Commissioners, YWF and Funders.

February 2026

Panel Meeting & Decisions

Community Fund Panel meeting takes place with some applicants invited in to meet panel members.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate one or more of the following:

TARGETED APPROACHES: Work taking place or developed to address the impact of Serious Youth Violence on the community and the need within the community is clear.

SHOW A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE: Of community relationships and the impact of Serious Youth Violence on the local community.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP: Demonstrate the relationships with local partners to ensure young people have access to the best service possible, minimising duplication of services.

Applications must demonstrate one or more of the outcomes below:

- **Opportunities that offer prevention and intervention for serious youth violence in the community.**
- **Projects which aim to increase the feeling of safety and belonging within communities.**
- **Projects that have been consulted with the local community and/or local young people.**

We will not support applications for:

- Work that takes place outside of eligible wards
- Individuals who do not have a community guarantor
- Political or Religious activities
- National organisations with no track record of delivery in Westminster

We are unlikely to support applications:

- From organisations that are in serious financial deficit
- Preference may be given to organisations which have not been funded multiple times through YWF grant funding

COMMUNITY GUARANTOR

COMMUNITY GUARANTOR GUIDANCE

The Helping Hands Community Fund has been created to be as accessible to the community. As a funder, we require all applicants to have a bank account in their organisation's name, signed annual accounts and registered with Companies House or the Charity Commission.

However, if you are an individual or a group of residents who are not part of an organisation or you are an organisation that does not have all the supporting documents, you can still apply through a 'Community Guarantor'.

WHAT IS A 'COMMUNITY GUARANTOR'

A 'Community Guarantor' is an organisation that agrees to take responsibility for the Governance and Finances of your project. They will receive the grant and transfer these funds to the Grantee in one payment. They will also need to submit the required supporting documentation outlined below. They can offer support with running the programme; however, we need this to be made clear in the Guarantor Agreement.

WHO CAN BE A 'COMMUNITY GUARANTOR'?

Organisations based in Westminster, preferably within the locality you are applying for, with a track record of working with young people and/or the community.
Organisations from outside the borough with a significant track record of delivery in Westminster, working with young people and/or the community.

WHAT WILL A 'COMMUNITY GUARANTOR' NEED TO DO?

They will submit the following documents:

A copy of their latest signed Annual Accounts (if applicable)

A copy of a bank statement no more than three months old

A copy of their Governing Document

A copy of their Safeguarding Policy

A copy of a signed Guarantor Agreement (if applicable)

FUNDING SURGERIES

Funding Surgeries are an opportunity to discuss ideas and support available for individuals and organisations interested in applying. We offer additional support with understanding the criteria, guidance, and application support. The Helping Hands Programme Team will be holding funding surgeries alongside members of the Core Community, which are bookable by email only. If you are interested in booking a slot, please email helpinghands@youngwestminster.com.

GUIDANCE SUPPORT - ONLINE

This session, led by the programme team, will focus on the Fund's guidance and criteria. The team will be available to answer any questions regarding the Fund and the role of a Community Guarantor.

Tuesday 9th December 2025, 12 - 1pm

Thursday 11th December 2025, 5 - 6pm

APPLICATION SUPPORT - IN-PERSON

These 45 minute sessions are led by the programme team, where we will focus on supporting application writing and project development.

North - Church Street, Westbourne, Harrow Road & Queens Park Wards

Thursday 11th December 2025, 11 - 3pm

Monday 15th December 2025, 3 - 7pm

Monday 19th January 2026, 11 - 3pm

Thursday 22nd January 2026, 3 - 7pm

South - Pimlico South, Pimlico North & Vincent Square Wards

Wednesday 16th December 2025, 3 - 7pm

Wednesday 21st January 2026, 3 - 7pm

Monday 26th January 2026, 11 - 1pm

NEXT STEPS

HOW TO APPLY:

Please complete the application form, highlighting the project and how it will address the impact of Serious Youth Violence.

Alternatively, we will accept video applications, including all the relevant information outlined in the application form.

Please send applications and supporting documents to **helpinghands@youngwestminster.com** with the subject line of the ward/s you are applying for by **4pm, Friday 30th January 2026**.

GRANT REPORTING:

The grant reporting will include a short report and 2 case studies. The report should include what went well, any challenges faced, and any developments going forward. We encourage all applicants to send photos and videos of their projects.

Before you submit your application please check the following:

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- A copy of your latest signed Annual Accounts
- A copy of a bank statement (no more than three months old)
- A copy of your Governing Document
- A copy of your Safeguarding Policy.

INDIVIDUALS:

- A copy of your Guarantor Agreement
- A copy of your Guarantor's latest signed Annual Accounts
- A copy of your Guarantor's bank statement (no more than three months old)
- A copy of your Guarantor's Governing Document
- A copy of your Guarantor's Safeguarding Policy.



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CONTACT

For more information around the Fund, Community Network Meetings and access to the application form please contact the programme team on **helpinghands@youngwestminster.com**.

If you're interested in partnering with us or want to explore further opportunities, please reach out to Marium, our Programme Lead, at **marium@youngwestminster.com**.

To find out more about the Helping Hands Programme please visit: **www.youngwestminster.com/helping-hands**