

Community Lounge Grants

Stoke-on-Trent City Council currently supports **18 Community Lounges** across the city, to deliver flexible, community-focused services shaped by local needs. These lounges function as key centres for engagement, wellbeing, and support, reducing isolation and enhancing quality of life. They offer accessible, inclusive spaces where residents can connect, seek assistance, and participate in activities that promote health and independence.

This Fund supports Stoke-on-Trent organisations to deliver projects that enhance the services provided by community lounges, enable more community spaces to become Community Lounges, strengthen the impact of community-based support, widen the range of local services available, and encourage intergenerational connections within neighbourhoods.

Priorities of the fund

This programme aims to expand both the number of Community Lounges, and the services that they provide which align with the Council's priorities to:

- Enhance community – based support
- Broaden service access
- Promote intergenerational approaches
- Increase diversity and inclusion
- Strengthen early intervention

The programme is looking for projects which supports these priorities. Groups might consider projects such as:

- ❖ **Strengthening and expanding** services within the existing Community Lounge network
- ❖ Establishing new lounges, including **digitally enabled spaces**
- ❖ Supporting **out-of-hours** community provision where beneficial
- ❖ Enhancing **intergenerational engagement**, including collaboration with Family Hubs
- ❖ Increasing **inclusion and diversity** to engage a wider more representative demographics of attendees
- ❖ Developing a digital community / physical community aimed at **Care Leavers**

Projects need to be flexible and run during evenings and weekends so they are accessible to as many people as possible.

We are seeking innovative projects that introduce fresh ideas, new approaches, or creative solutions to strengthen community support.

Eligible organisations

We will support the following types of organisations:

- Constituted Voluntary groups
- Constituted Community groups.
- Registered Charities
- Social Enterprises

This programme will support local, grassroots voluntary and community organisations. It will not support statutory agencies or national charities / organisations.

Organisations must have been established for longer than twelve months to apply.

Geographical Reach

Stoke on Trent

Eligible costs

- Proportionate core costs
- Equipment costs
- Small items of equipment
- Training costs
- Revenue costs
- Project costs
- Event Costs

Ineligible costs

- Funding towards religious projects or projects that promote religion, (although religious organisations can be funded for non-religious projects)
- Party political activities, (where one particular political party is promoted above another)
- Funding for statutory expenditure

Grant amount

Available grants up to £10,000

Duration of projects

Organisations have 12 months to fully deliver the project

Monitoring

Organisations must agree to complete an End of Grant report demonstrating impact and showcasing their work.

There may be various touchpoints throughout the delivery of the project

Organisations must submit case studies to demonstrate their impact

Supporting documents required

- **Governance Document** – Constitution, Memorandum and Articles of Association
- **Accounts** – either independently examined, audited or a record of income and expenditure.
- **Bank Statement** – this will need to be in the name of the organisation, no older than 3 months old and clearly showing the account name, number and sort code. The bank account must have at least two signatories, who are not related.
- **Details of signatories**
- **Safeguarding Policies**
- **Equality and Diversity Policy / statement**
- **Quotes** for capital equipment