
Westdene Fund Guidance for applicants

The Westdene Fund at Sussex Community Foundation has been established to support individual young people (aged 16-25 years) in Sussex with outstanding musical talent. Please read the guidance notes carefully to ensure you are eligible to apply for funding.

Who can apply?

Applications are invited from individual young people who:

- Are 16+ years old and attend a school or college in Sussex (East & West, or Brighton and Hove)
- Have secured, or already taken up, a place at a recognised centre of excellence for musical education, or passed Grade 7 in their chosen instrument
- Are able to demonstrate a wide and continuing interest in music
- Intend to pursue a musical career
- Can demonstrate financial need

If the applicant is under 18 years of age, a parent or carer should complete the application with them, and the parent or carer's bank account details should be provided as part of the application.

Grant size

Grants will be awarded of up to £1000.

What you can apply for

Awards are available to support a specific activity or item, such as music lessons, masterclass or tuition fees, participation in a National Youth Orchestra, music tours, or a contribution towards the cost of a higher-grade instrument.

When can I apply

Applications can be made at any time. There is no deadline for applications and grants are awarded on a rolling basis. Only one grant may be awarded to an applicant in any 12-month period.

How to apply

Applications are submitted through our online portal, which gives real-time progress updates and securely saves your details for future applications. If you have not previously submitted an application through our funding portal, you will need to register as a first-time user before applying.

If you have any questions about accessing or using the portal, please contact our grants team by calling 01273 409 440 or by emailing grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org

As part of the application process, applicants will be asked to provide a supporting reference from their music teacher and/or the Head of Music at their college. The supporting reference form is available on our website and can either be uploaded through the funding portal with the application or emailed to us separately.

The online portal and reference document may be accessed through the Sussex Community Foundation website at <https://sussexcommunityfoundation.org/grants/how-to-apply/additional-grants/westdene-fund/>

Process after receipt of an application

We will carry out eligibility checks and get in touch if we have any questions or require further information. If the applicant has received funding through the Westdene Fund before, we will also check to see if monitoring for previous awards has been submitted.

Most applicants will receive a decision within 4-6 weeks.

How grants are paid

If a grant is approved, a grant payment will be transferred to you using the bank account details provided.

Questions

If you have any questions about the Westdene Fund or our application process, please contact the grants team on 01273 409 440 or by emailing grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org