
Southern Water Goodwill Fund for Hastings and St Leonards

Introduction

The Southern Water Goodwill Fund for Hastings and St Leonards is a grant programme delivered in partnership with Southern Water and managed by Sussex Community Foundation. The Fund is established to benefit the communities of Hastings and St Leonards according to the criteria set out below.

This fund is aimed at voluntary sector organisations, grassroots community groups and established local charities supporting people living in Hastings and St Leonards.

In the first round, we were able to award over £270,000 to 19 groups across Hastings and St Leonards. The second round is the final round of the Fund, with just over £130,000 remaining to be awarded. We are very grateful for the high level of engagement and interest in the Fund and would like to thank all applicants for the time and effort taken to complete their applications.

Who can apply for funding?

- Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit organisations including charities, community organisations and social enterprises with an income of less than £2 million. The Fund is not open to applications from individuals.
- Applications will only be accepted from formally constituted groups with a bank account set up in the name of the organisation.
- We will undertake all necessary due diligence to ensure applicants have the capability and capacity to manage funding responsibly and are suited to working to support the Hastings and St Leonards community.
- We expect applicants to be based in East Sussex and demonstrate their ability to work locally in Hastings and St Leonards through established networks or with local partner organisations.
- We are only able to consider applications from groups that have not previously received grants from the Southern Water Goodwill Fund.

Please ensure you refer to our [main guidance](#) for information on eligibility and exclusions.

What is the Funding For?

This funding aims to address key challenges identified within the communities of Hastings and St Leonards. The funding criteria were shaped through discussions with a community panel of eight local residents and workers, complemented by input from local youth groups who shared their perspectives on the needs of these communities.

Funding is awarded under the criteria and outcomes listed below. Funding can be for both organisation running costs and project delivery. This fund **does not support capital projects**, such as building works or the purchase of large equipment. It is also **not intended for one-off events**. Instead, the fund aims to support longer-term interventions and ongoing activities over up to one year.

Funding Criteria

Under the four funding priorities of Sussex Community Foundation: Tackling Poverty, Improving Health and Wellbeing, Reaching Potential, and Acting on Climate, the panel identified criteria specific to address the needs of the Hastings and St Leonards community.

In the first round of funding, we identified key gaps in support for improving outcomes for people with dementia, digital inclusion, youth physical health, access to employment and training for young people, and support for young care leavers and carers (*as italicised below*). In this second and final round, we are keen to address these gaps while continuing to prioritise organisations and activities that support young people and underrepresented groups.

Please review the criteria carefully. The application form will ask you to demonstrate how your project aligns with one or more of these priorities. We encourage you to be as specific as possible in showing how your work will benefit people living in Hastings and St Leonards.

Tackling Poverty

- Supporting families to thrive with early interventions and parenting support.
- Helping people facing homelessness or housing insecurity, including young people.
- *Providing debt advice and digital inclusion support, including outreach.*
- Addressing food insecurity, particularly for families during school holidays.

Improving Health and Wellbeing

- Ensuring access to healthy food through community solutions like lunch clubs.
- *Keeping older people and those with disabilities connected, active, and independent.*
- Supporting mental health and well-being, especially for young people and vulnerable groups, *including carers and care leavers.*
- *Encouraging physical activity among young people.*

Reaching Potential

- *Building confidence, skills, and aspirations for young people.*
- *Supporting training, job opportunities, and mentoring for youth.*
- *Strengthening smaller organisations to serve diverse or underserved communities.*
- Tackling the potential causes of anti-social behaviour and supporting safer communities.

Acting on Climate

- Empowering young people to take practical actions to tackle climate change impacts.
- Promoting sustainable lifestyles and environmental responsibility.

- Connecting with nature for wellbeing and/or improved outcomes.
- Creating cleaner, greener environments through community-led projects.

How much can we apply for?

Grants up to £5,000 are offered over a 12-month period for both project and organisation running costs.

Please note we are no longer able to offer multiyear grants for this programme, given the level of funding remaining at this stage.

How do we apply for a grant?

Organisations that wish to apply for funding should use our online grant application form, which can be accessed through our website and by [clicking here](#).

All first-time applicants will be required to submit copies of the following documents to be considered for funding.

- A copy of their constitution or governing rules (with a minimum of three unrelated trustees/committee members)
- A recent bank statement (the account should have at least two cheque signatories)
- An up-to-date set of accounts or records of expenditure
- Any policies (such as equal opportunities, child protection, vulnerable adults, health and safety etc).

Applicants who have received funding from Sussex Community Foundation previously will only be required to submit their most recent accounts and a bank statement from within the last three months. More information on making an application can be found [here](#).

When do we need to apply by?

The deadline for applications is Friday, 30th May 2025.

How long will it take for a decision to be made?

We aim to take 6 weeks for decisions where applications meet our eligibility criteria and all requested supporting information is in place. You will receive an email confirmation once your application is submitted and a member of the team will be in touch with any questions before our decision-making process takes place.

Can we apply for funding for activities that have already taken place?

No. You cannot apply for funding to meet costs that have already been incurred by your organisation or for activities that started before a grant decision was made.

Can we apply for funding at the same time as applying or holding a grant from Sussex Community Foundation's main grants?

Yes, this is an additional fund so any funding offered would be in addition to our main grants programme.