Ref: WE2605

Dundee Partnership
Community Regeneration Fund

Grant Application (Ferry / West End) 2026/27

Applicant Information	
Name of Applicant Group	Yusuf Youth Initiative
Activity Title	Health and wellbeing
Grant Requested (£)	£8775

The Local Community Planning Partnerships (LCPPs) in the Ferry and West End will examine their existing Local Community Plans to identify outstanding actions with a direct relationship to community regeneration and consider allocation of some or all of their available funding to commissioning works that would allow achievement of these agreed priorities. Each area has an allocation for 2024/25 with which to commission activities, and so activities that attract external funding may be prioritised.

This application should address needs in one of the below Wards within which the Dundee Partnership supports activity. If an activity covers more than one Ward then an application is required for each ward, but it is essential that each application can stand on its own if agreed and that the application is not for a city-wide activity, but a local activity that is to take place in more than one Ward.

TICK THE WARD WHERE YOUR PROJECT WILL OPERATE

The Ferry☐

West EndX

Please note that communications regarding this application will be sent to you via email unless you indicate otherwise. All communication for this application should be made to

dundee.partnership@dundeecity.gov.uk

Checklist for the DP Community Regeneration Fund Application Form

Before submitting your application form to the Dundee Partnership Team, please use the below checklist to ensure that your form is as fully completed as possible. Please also note that submitting an incomplete form can cause delays in processing or rejection of your application.

Have you:

Read the guidance sections of the form	X
Fully completed the information on the front of the form	X
Provided a response to all sections of the application form (including indicating a section as 'N/A' where relevant)	X
Checked that your budget adds up properly?	X
Checked that your start date is after the date at which funds could be available, (see page 6) and that your end date is within the financial year?	X
Included appropriate, measurable outputs & outcomes?	X
Provided your groups accounts, or other appropriate financial information?	X
Sourced and attached all relevant quotes? (multiple quotes are required where >£5,000 is being applied for to ensure value for money is being considered)	X
Checked that the bank details or financial code are correct / complete?	X
Signed the form, given accurate contact details and ticked the GDPR box?	X

Who is the grant for? (Name of Applicant Group / Department)	Yusuf Youth Initiative

Did you receive a Dundee Partnership grant during 2025-26? (If yes, list all grants below)			**YES**
Title of project funded	**Amount granted**	**When**	**Was it fully spent?**
West End youth Sessions	£2500	April 25	Yes

Please give a description of what you want this grant for - (please limit your answer to 500 words or less)

Funding 6 months of dedicated staff capacity will ensure the continued operation and integration of our winter community garden and lifeline food larder in the West End. Staff are essential to coordinate outdoor winter growing, safeguard vulnerable volunteers during cold, dark months, and maintain a dignified, accessible food support system for local residents facing hardship.

Over the 6-month winter period, the funded staff member will deliver a structured schedule of practical activities across both facilities. In the community garden, they will lead weekly winter maintenance and food growing sessions—including managing cold frames, winter crop cultivation (such as hardy greens, garlic, and root vegetables), tool maintenance, and site safety during inclement weather.

They will actively recruit, supervise, and support volunteers, ensuring an inclusive, warm environment that fosters peer connections and counters seasonal isolation. Simultaneously, the staff member will manage the lifeline food larder operations: overseeing weekly food deliveries, sorting and hygienic stock storage, managing volunteer rotas, organizing weekly distribution to approximately 50 service users, and providing direct signposting and support to low-income families, refugees, and international students in need.

This staff capacity guarantees that both services run seamlessly and safely, providing a vital sanctuary of physical activity, social connection, and essential food relief throughout the hardest months of the year.

Key Funding Priorities & Impact

- **Winter Wellbeing & Volunteering:** Maintaining structured outdoor activities during the "winter blue months" counters seasonal isolation, poor mental health, and physical inactivity. Dedicated staff supervise winter garden maintenance, cold-frame growing, and safety protocols for vulnerable volunteers.
- **Lifeline Food Security:** Staff manage stock sourcing, food safety, distribution logistics, and referral connections for the food larder—ensuring reliable access to nutritional food for low-income families, refugees, and newly arrived international students struggling with the cost of living.
- **Social Cohesion & Inclusion:** The project serves as an inclusive bridge where diverse groups—from long-term local residents to refugees and students—work alongside one another, build peer support networks, and share resources.

Which City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome(s) will it address?

Dundee will be a fair and socially inclusive society.

How many people will benefit from this project?	60
Will any specific groups benefit from this project? (male, female, age range or protected characteristic)	

Please say why the project is needed (please limit your answer to 500 words or less)

Building on Yusuf Youth Initiative's (YYI) 19 years of experience delivering minority-led community work in Dundee, this 6-month winter project addresses an urgent convergence of food insecurity, social isolation, and financial hardship in the West End.

- **Soaring Food Insecurity & Cost of Living:** Local low-income families, refugees, and newly arrived international students are facing severe financial strain during the winter months when energy and food costs spike. Our lifeline food larder provides immediate relief and dignity, but managing stock logistics, food safety, and referrals requires dedicated staff hours to remain operational.
- **Winter Isolation & Mental Health:** The dark, cold winter months significantly exacerbate seasonal depression, social isolation, and anxiety among vulnerable residents. Without safe, structured activities, many individuals lose access to community support.
- **Year-Round Growing & Volunteering:** The winter garden provides a vital outdoors space for physical activity, skill-building, and peer connection. However, running a garden in winter requires paid staff coordination to ensure volunteer safety, run cold-weather growing, and facilitate inclusive volunteering opportunities for diverse groups across 25+ nationalities.
- **Need for Staffing Infrastructure:** Volunteers are the backbone of our work, but relying solely on volunteer coordination during harsh winter months leads to burnout and service disruption. Paid staff capacity is essential to coordinate operations, keep both the larder and garden running smoothly, and provide consistent mentorship and signposting for those in crisis.

This project bridges these urgent needs by using staff capacity to run the larder alongside winter gardening—fostering community integration, nourishing families, and maintaining a welcoming local sanctuary through the hardest months of the year.

What local consultation has taken place regarding this application?
(Please attach evidence summarising the results of any consultation)

We maintain continuous, active consultation with our service users, volunteers, and local partners to ensure our services directly reflect community demand in the West End.

- **Direct Feedback from Larder & Garden Users:** Through ongoing conversations with families, refugees, and international students using our food larder, service users consistently highlight the acute financial pressure they face during winter. They emphasized the critical need for uninterrupted, dignified food support. Similarly, garden volunteers explicitly requested year-round activities, sharing that outdoor volunteering provides vital routine, physical health benefits, and social connection during the dark winter months.
- **Targeted Consultation on Winter Needs:** Specific discussions with low-income households and newly arrived community members revealed that seasonal isolation and mental health challenges peak between November and March. Participants requested structured, staff-led opportunities to stay connected, build skills through winter growing, and give back to their local community.
- **Partner & Network Engagement:** We engage regularly with Dundee City Council community development teams, local refugee support groups, and student networks across Dundee. These discussions confirmed a growing gap in winter support services and reinforced the need for integrated, culturally inclusive provision in the West End.
- **Co-Designing the Solution:** This application is a direct response to what our community asked for. Service users made it clear that while volunteer energy is strong, consistent paid staff coordination is essential to keep the food larder stocked and managed safely, oversee winter garden operations, and support diverse participants across 25+ nationalities.

What evidence do you hold that the local community supports this application?
(For example, was it proposed by members of a particular group? Does it directly address need identified by community members?)

The support for this application comes directly from the people who use, rely on, and shape our services every week in the West End.

- **Direct Request from Larder Users & Local Families:** This proposal was directly driven by feedback from local low-income families, refugees, and international students who rely on our lifeline food larder. Service users expressed deep concern about reduced provision or closures over winter, explicitly asking us to secure dedicated staff capacity to keep the larder fully stocked, organized, and open during the months they need it most.
- **Volunteer Demand for Winter Activity:** Participants in our community garden specifically requested that sessions continue through the winter. Volunteers—particularly those facing seasonal isolation or mental health challenges during the "winter blue months"—highlighted that the garden provides a crucial daily routine, outdoor activity, and peer support network that they cannot afford to lose when the weather turns cold.
- **Active Co-Design with Diverse Groups:** YYI supports individuals from over 25 nationalities. Community meetings with newly arrived refugees and students identified that the combination of the garden and food larder offers a safe, non-stigmatizing entry point into the local community. They requested structured, staff-led volunteering as a way to build skills, give back, and connect across cultures.
- **Partner & Network Validation:** Local community organizations, refugee support groups, and Dundee City Council networks have reinforced that winter food insecurity and seasonal isolation are major local challenges. Their direct referrals to our larder and garden confirm strong local confidence in our work and validate the need for funded staff to sustain these operations.

How will the project / activity tackle deprivation or benefit those experiencing deprivation? (Refer to Section 1 of the Guidance Notes)

This project targets multiple dimensions of deprivation in the West End—including income, health, and social isolation—by removing financial barriers, improving nutrition, and providing vital mental health support through the harsh winter months.

- **Relieving Direct Financial Strain & Income Deprivation:** By securing staff hours to maintain and coordinate our lifeline food larder, we provide free, essential food support to local families, low-income households, newly arrived international students, and refugees. Winter

brings severe cost-of-living spikes driven by rising heating bills; our larder directly alleviates household food poverty, ensuring vulnerable community members do not have to choose between heating their homes and feeding their families.

- **Improving Health, Wellbeing & Seasonal Deprivation:** Living in deprivation frequently exacerbates mental health challenges and social isolation, particularly during the "winter blue months." Staff-led coordination ensures our community garden remains an active, safe space throughout winter. Dedicated staff supervise winter growing, maintain safety protocols, and provide structured outdoor volunteering. This offers participants a purposeful routine, fresh air, physical activity, and vital peer support to combat seasonal depression and anxiety.
- **Fostering Social Inclusion & Empowering Disadvantaged Groups:** Deprivation often overlaps with language barriers, cultural displacement, and social marginalization. Supporting a diverse group spanning over 25 nationalities, our staff actively facilitate an inclusive, non-stigmatizing environment where refugees, international students, and local residents work side-by-side. Volunteering in the garden and supporting the larder gives individuals agency, practical life skills, and a strong sense of community belonging.
- **Sustaining Dignified Access via Funded Capacity:** People experiencing acute deprivation rely on consistent, dependable support. Paid staff capacity ensures the larder remains systematically stocked, hygienically managed, and connected to wider referral pathways, while ensuring winter garden activities are safely organized rather than left vulnerable to seasonal staff or volunteer shortages.

What other sources of funding have you secured / tried to secure for this project?

- **If none, please state why this is the case**

(Detail below, including applications that are pending or that have been turned down. We may ask for further evidence of an application for other funding)

Source of Funding (detail if this funding is for more than 1 year, if applicable)	£

What are the costs of your activity and how much money is required? Please give specific details (expand list / use an additional sheet if required) and provide all quotes (good practice for applications for over £5,000 is to provide three quotes to ensure value for money is received, and we will require to see these where relevant).

Cost Heading	Full Costs (£)	DP Aid (£)
Staff Costs £13.50 per hour x 25 hrs x 26 weeks	8775	8775
Totals	8775	8775

- **All applicants are required to submit a copy of the group's most recent annual accounts with this application. These will be used to help determine eligibility for funding, and WITHOUT THEM AN APPLICATION WILL NOT PROCEED**
- **If unrestricted reserves held are less than three months operating expenses please confirm this below**

Note that if you have already submitted your accounts within this financial year, further copies may not be needed - please check with the Dundee Partnership Team if unsure

What other documents are you attaching to evidence the budget costs for this application? (e.g. quotes, estimates, projected income and expenditure)

How do you intend to monitor the project Outputs and Outcomes?

We will monitor project progress, outputs, and outcomes through a combination of quantitative tracking and qualitative feedback, ensuring our funded staff maintain clear oversight and accountable reporting.

- **Quantitative Outputs & Attendance:** Staff will maintain weekly registers to record participant numbers, demographics (age, ethnicity, nationality, household type), frequency of attendance, and total volume/weight of food distributed through the larder. This will measure

community reach and track engagement consistency across both the garden and larder.

- **Measuring Personal & Wellbeing Outcomes:** To assess changes in mental health, reduced isolation, and food security, staff will collect direct feedback through short quarterly surveys, baseline and exit self-assessments (tracking wellbeing and confidence during winter), and informal focus groups with volunteers and larder users.
- **Qualitative Staff Observations & Case Studies:** Funded staff will record weekly session logs to document participant progress, peer interactions, and emerging support needs. We will develop detailed case studies focusing on individual user journeys—such as refugees, low-income families, or international students—illustrating the holistic impact of combined food support and winter volunteering.
- **Stakeholder & Partner Feedback:** We will gather periodic feedback from local partner organizations, refugee support groups, and Dundee City Council teams to evaluate wider community integration and cross-referral effectiveness.
- **Continuous Improvement & Reporting:** All data will be reviewed monthly by project leads to refine delivery, respond quickly to winter demand spikes, and provide comprehensive output/outcome reporting to the Forum.

What is the planned start date of the event/activity? Please note turn around on applications is 6 - 10 weeks and funding cannot be retrospective *(see section 2 of the guidance notes)*	October 2026
What is the planned end date of the event/activity?	March 2027

Outputs & Outcomes

It is expected that applicants will have evidence to support performance information when completing returns on the performance against target. Consideration of this should be given when outputs and outcomes are set out.

Applicants will usually refer to one City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome, but the opportunity is given for up to two, if required. **Please refer to section 3 of the Guidance Notes** for examples of outputs and outcomes / indicators.

City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome: Dundee will be a fairer and socially inclusive society

Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome: Weekly volunteering opportunities at the garden	
	Target 2026-27
Outputs	
Support 20 volunteers per week improving skills and wellbeing	26 weeks
Outcomes / Indicators:	
The winter garden project will engage **20 local volunteers** in regular growing and maintenance activities, delivering at least **150 cumulative hours** of winter volunteering to improve mental wellbeing, reduce seasonal isolation, and foster peer relationships across diverse community groups. **Target:** 20 volunteers / 150 hours	20

City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome:	
Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:	
	Target 2026-27
Outputs	
52 larder openings per week (2 per week x 26 weeks)	52 larder sessions
Outcomes / Indicators:	
Delivery of weekly food larder sessions across 26 weeks, supporting an average of 50 local residents, refugees, and students per week (approx. 1,300 total individual visits over 6 months) with dignified access to essential food items.	50 people per week