

# Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund

## Grant Application 2026/27

Applicant Information	
<b>Name of Applicant Group</b>	Bethany Christian Trust
<b>Activity Title</b>	Connect Café / Bridge to Freedom
<b>Grant Requested (£)</b>	£2080

- The Youth Inclusion Fund is to provide financial assistance for community initiatives aimed at working with Children and Young People. Applications should be for an activity (or activities) focused on including children & young people in activities, diverting young people from an existing undesirable activity or preventing them joining in with such activity. This should reflect a need that children and young people have been consulted on.

- The Small Grants Fund is for other applications that contribute towards achievement of the Dundee City Plan / Local Community Plan, usually up to £5,000, but there may be lower local restrictions on the amount. Therefore, it is important to check with the relevant Community Worker as listed on page 8 for any local restrictions or other requirements.

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 Forum, 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
Coldside
East End
Lochee

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH TYPE OF GRANT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR
Small Grant
Youth Inclusion

Maryfield
North East
Strathmartine

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](mailto: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  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fully completed the information on the front of the form  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Provided a response to all sections of the application form (including indicating a section as 'N/A' where relevant)  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Checked that your budget adds up properly?  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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?                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Included appropriate, measurable outputs & outcomes?  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Provided your groups accounts, or other appropriate financial information?</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Sourced and attached all relevant quotes?</b><br>(multiple quotes are required where >£5,000 is being applied for to ensure value for money is being considered) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Checked that the bank details or financial code are correct / complete?   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Signed the form, given accurate contact details and ticked the GDPR box?</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

<b>Who is the grant for?</b> (Name of Applicant Group / Department)			
<b>Did you receive a Dundee Partnership grant during 2025-26?</b> (If yes, list all grants below)			<b>YES / NO</b>
<b>Title of project funded</b>	<b>Amount granted</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Was it fully spent?</b>
Connect Café / Bridge to Freedom	£1,960	08/05/2025	YES

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

The Connect café is a weekly drop-in café, run by volunteers from the community and for the benefit of the community. We work in partnership with Menzieshill Parish Church, Food Bank, Crossreach and Bethany Christian trust to provide healthy free food and a friendly social space that any Menzieshill residents can access.

At the café we offer volunteering opportunities and support for people in recovery from poor mental health, addiction, unemployment and other challenges. At the café, attendees can also access our foodbank, support from community nurses, financial/advocacy support and signposting to other services.

The café is coordinated by our community development worker, who is responsible for ordering stock, implementing health, safety and food hygiene guidelines, and who manages our team of six volunteer staff each week.

We're applying for funding towards our monthly running costs to cover purchase of items such as:

Margarine, Cheese, Onion, Oil, Milk, Bread for toasties, Sugar, Coffee, Tea, Juice, napkins, cleaning spray (and other items when not donated)

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

**Within the City Plan, our work addresses the following priorities:**

1. Fair Work & Enterprise: Close the jobs gap
2. Health, Care & Wellbeing: reduce substance misuse; improve mental health & wellbeing
3. Building Stronger Communities: improve quality of neighbourhoods, increase empowerment of local people

Within the Ward 2 Lochee Local Community Plan Outcomes, our work addresses are:

1. Respond to the cost of living crisis
2. Tackle social isolation & improve mental wellbeing
3. Improve local supports for people in recovery & their families

**How many people will benefit from this project?**

Last year we supported 237 individuals, this year we expect a similar number!

Will any specific groups benefit from this project? (male, female, age range or protected characteristic)

This group is welcoming and open to all people. Many of our attendees experience mental health challenges, and challenges with substance use disorders.

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

Menzieshill and Lochee neighbourhoods ranked in the top 1st, 2nd and 3rd 10% most deprived areas in Scotland (SIMD, 2020), experiencing the highest rates of unemployment, low income; poor mental and physical health; inadequate housing and crime. Over the last few years we have seen the cost of living crisis continue to disproportionately affect people living in these neighbourhoods, placing more families at risk of food poverty.

The Connect Café provides a vital space for people to access community support, nutritious food and a place to socialise.

Problematic drug use disproportionately impacts communities experiencing higher levels of deprivation, and there is a clear link between the accessibility of services and the safety of people at high risk from drug related deaths. 60% of our café attendees also engage with our recovery work. To our knowledge there is no community recovery worker operating in Menzieshill when the Café is closed. It is therefore vital the connect café continues.

**What local consultation has taken place regarding this application?**

(Please attach evidence summarising the results of any consultation)

Participants attending three existing activities in Menzieshill recently discussed the gaps in service provision that they see within the city. This included the need for more community recovery groups in the areas where people live as opposed to city centre locations, a desire for more activity groups for people in recovery, and ongoing provision of phones and sims to people newly accessing recovery support. We currently direct our work at the café to fulfil all three provision gaps.

**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?)

This year, our participants have reported:

- Greater understanding of addiction
- Restoration of relationships
- Development of support networks
- Reduction in re-offending
- Sustained engagement in training/volunteering

Recent survey results with participants of our Dundee services included:

- 100% self-reporting reduced substance consumption
- 100% saying both their physical and mental health had improved
- 100% saying they have more positive relationships and increased hope for the future
- 100 % said they have more people to turn to for support and that they feel part of a community when they attend
- One individual summed up their experience by sharing: "It's a safe environment with a group of people who are trustworthy, helpful, supportive and good fun"
- Another participant shared: "I'm living, not existing".

Over the last three years we have received incredible feedback from participants, demonstrating how important and transformative the Connect Café is:

"This group's not just for yourself—it's about inspiring others to see where you are...Like when I shared about starting college it inspired others. Now my gran is asking me about the group."

"For the first time I feel like I can breathe. I've had a lifetime of being angry, but I feel I can relax now. I'm realising how much I needed help. I've never had a voice, and now I can voice things. "

"I don't know what I'd do without Heather. When I've not got the mental capacity she's there supporting me and giving me my to do list."

"Even when I'm not well or there are things going on, I come here. It gives me a purpose."

"This group has made things feel possible, like being at college— 7 months ago I never thought that was possible."

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

By providing a free Meal  
 Providing referrals to Dundee foodbank  
 Debt advice referrals and signposting  
 Support with Crisis grant applications  
 Providing Free sanitary products through Partnering with the governments Period poverty scheme  
 Providing volunteer opportunities helping people back into work.  
 Providing drug recovery support through partnerships and our Bridge to Freedom recovery program and our recovery activities project.  
 Providing space for the community nurse to support people weekly.  
 Providing space for the VoiceAbility worker to provide Advocacy with ADP applications.  
 Provide IT access.  
 Promoting other local services.

**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)	£
Pending Applications for 26/27: We'll be applying for income from local Family Trusts to cover the salary of our community development worker:	Total applied for: £41,700. However, with success rate ranging between 10-50% we can expect £10,500 from these applications.
Walter Craig Charitable Trust	
Otsar Trust	
I B B Trust	
Wm Sword Charitable Trust	
Aberbrothock Skea Trust	
The R J Larg Family Trust	
The Miss A M Pilkington Charitable Trust	
The Morton Charitable Trust [Dundee]	
Leng Charitable Trust	
The A Sinclair Henderson Trust	

The Tay Charitable Trust	
Leach Family Charitable Trust	
The Lethendy Charitable Trust	
Alexander Moncur Trust	
<p>We receive grants from the Improvement Fund &amp; NHS Tayside Charitable Foundation to cover the salary of our recovery workers who are also based at the café.</p>	

**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 (£)
£40 per week for food and cleaning products x 51 weeks	£2,040	£2,040
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2040</b>	<b>£2040</b>

- **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 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

BCT holds reserve funds to cover staff salaries.
<b>What other documents are you attaching to evidence the budget costs for this application?</b> (e.g. quotes, estimates, projected income and expenditure)
n/a

<b>How do you intend to monitor the project Outputs and Outcomes?</b>
We keep track of numbers who use the service and numbers of referrals (but do not gather individual's personal information)
We also have a Feedback form which can give individuals the opportunity to share how they are benefiting from the café and complete a questionnaire every March.

<b>What is the planned start date of the event/activity?</b> Please note turn around on applications is 6 - 10 weeks and funding cannot be retrospective ( <i>see section 2 of the guidance notes</i> )	Ongoing, but this funding would cover FY 26/27 beginning 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026
<b>What is the planned end date of the event/activity?</b>	Ongoing, but this funding would cover FY 26/ending 31st 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.

<b>City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome: Respond to the cost of living crisis</b>	
<b>Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome: to provide a weekly nutritious meal, weekly access to a foodbank, and signposting to other support services.</b>	
	<b>Target 2026-27</b>
Outputs	

51 community café sessions delivered (including food bank access, home-cooked meal, signposting support)	51 sessions
Outcomes / Indicators:	
Attendees self-report their physical and mental health had improved	80% attendees self-report improvements
Attendees self-report having people to turn to for support	80% attendees self-report improvements

<b>City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome: Improve local supports for people in recovery</b>	
<b>Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome: the café will provide increased access to person-centred, community-based recovery support.</b>	
	<b>Target 2026-27</b>
Outputs	
51 community café sessions delivered, providing drop-in support for people in recovery	51 sessions
Outcomes / Indicators:	
Attendees self-report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greater understanding of addiction</li> <li>• Restoration of relationships</li> <li>• Development of support networks</li> <li>• Reduction in re-offending</li> <li>• Sustained engagement in training/volunteering</li> </ul>	80% attendees self report improvements