

Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund

Grant Application 2026/27

Applicant Information	
Name of Applicant Group	Whitfield community project
Activity Title	Parent and toddler group
Grant Requested (£)	£1000

- 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 Grantx
Youth Inclusion

Maryfield	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
North Eastx	
Strathmartine	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Fully completed the information on the front of the form | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Provided a response to all sections of the application form (including indicating a section as 'N/A' where relevant) | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Included appropriate, measurable outputs & outcomes? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Provided your groups accounts, or other appropriate financial information? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Checked that the bank details or financial code are correct / complete? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Signed the form, given accurate contact details and ticked the GDPR box? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Who is the grant for? (Name of Applicant Group / Department)		Whitfield Community Project	
Did you receive a Dundee Partnership grant during 2025-26? (If yes, list all grants below)			YES / NO
Title of project funded	Amount granted	When	Was it fully spent?
Parent and toddler group, 2 x morning weekly – term time only 38 weeks	£1000		

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

We are seeking funding to deliver a Parent and Toddler Group operating two mornings per week across the 38-week school term. This project is designed to provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment where parents, carers, and young children can come together to learn, play, connect, and build meaningful relationships. The group will offer families a consistent, reliable space that supports early child development while also reducing isolation and strengthening community connections.

The Parent and Toddler Group will focus on providing high-quality play experiences that support early learning and development. Through free play, sensory activities, songs, stories, and simple early-years learning opportunities, children will be encouraged to explore, build confidence, develop social skills, and enjoy positive play in a stimulating and nurturing environment. The sessions will help prepare toddlers for future nursery and early-years settings by promoting sharing, communication, routine, and independence.

Equally important is the support offered to parents and carers. Many families—particularly those experiencing low income, limited support networks, or poor mental wellbeing—may struggle to find accessible spaces where they can meet others, seek informal advice, and feel part of a wider community. This group will provide a relaxed,

friendly environment where parents can socialise, share experiences, gain peer support, and build confidence in their role as caregivers. Regular attendance can significantly reduce isolation, which is a common issue for new parents, single parents, young parents, and those with limited family support.

Funding will allow us to run the group consistently throughout the school year. This includes venue costs, play resources, equipment, healthy snacks for children, and staffing or facilitator support. Ensuring the group is free or low-cost is essential in removing financial barriers and enabling families from all backgrounds—including those experiencing deprivation—to attend regularly. Many families struggle to access paid activities for toddlers, and the affordability of this group will make a significant difference to their ability to engage.

The project also provides routine and structure for both children and parents. Running two mornings per week gives families something reliable to plan around and offering 38 weeks of term-time delivery ensures ongoing stability. This consistency helps children build confidence and familiarity, creating a secure and positive environment where they can thrive.

Overall, this Parent and Toddler Group is needed to support early development, strengthen family wellbeing, and help reduce isolation within the community. It will give young children valuable early-learning experiences while offering parents a warm, supportive space to connect with others. By funding this project, you will be helping to build stronger, more confident families and a more connected local community.

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

Outcome 1: Improved Health and Wellbeing for Children and Families

- Supports children’s early development, social skills, communication, and emotional wellbeing.
- Supports parents’ mental health through social connection, reduced isolation, and peer support.

Outcome 2: Reduced Social Isolation and Stronger Community Connections

- Brings parents and carers together in a friendly, supportive environment.
- Helps families build networks, friendships, and informal support systems.

Outcome 3: Reduced Inequalities in Early Years Development

- Provides accessible, low-cost early-years activity for families who may not afford paid groups.
- Ensures all toddlers have equal access to early play, learning, and social development opportunities.

Outcome 4: Increased Participation in Community Services and Activities

- Encourages parents and carers—especially those who may feel isolated or lack confidence—to engage in local community life.

How many people will benefit from this project?	20-30
<p>Will any specific groups benefit from this project? (male, female, age range or protected characteristic)</p> <p>We expect 20–30 people to benefit directly from this project each week.</p> <p>This includes both toddlers and their parents/carers attending the two weekly sessions throughout the 38-week term time. Over the full year, this will support a consistent group of families as well as new families joining as the project grows.</p>	

Will any specific groups benefit from this project?

Yes. Several specific groups will benefit:

Toddlers (0–3 years old)

- Supports early learning, communication, social skills, sensory development, and confidence.
- Helps prepare children for nursery and early-years settings.

Parents & Carers

- Including mothers, fathers, grandparents, kinship carers, and foster carers.
- Provides a supportive environment to meet others, share experiences, and reduce isolation.

Families experiencing deprivation or limited income

- The project offers free/low-cost access to early-years activities that families might not otherwise afford.
- Helps reduce inequalities in early child development.

Young parents / single parents

- Groups who often experience higher levels of isolation and may have fewer support networks.

People with protected characteristics

The group is inclusive and accessible, benefiting:

- **Parents or carers with disabilities**
- **Toddlers with developmental delays or additional needs**
- **Families from diverse ethnic backgrounds**
- **Individuals experiencing mental-health challenges**

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

This Parent and Toddler Group is needed because many local families are experiencing challenges that affect their children's early development, their own wellbeing, and their ability to access supportive community spaces. Parents and carers often report feeling isolated, overwhelmed, or lacking opportunities to meet others, while toddlers benefit greatly from consistent play, social interaction, and early-learning experiences. The group provides a safe, friendly environment where both children and adults can connect, learn, and thrive.

Many families—particularly those with limited income, new parents, single parents, young parents, or those without wider support networks—struggle to access affordable early-years activities. Paid classes can be expensive, creating a barrier for families facing financial pressures. This project removes cost as an obstacle, making sure that all families, regardless of circumstances, can benefit from high-quality play and socialisation opportunities. Running the group during term time across 38 weeks provides reliability and structure, which is especially important for families seeking routine and stability.

Early childhood is a crucial developmental stage. Toddlers need opportunities to play with peers, develop communication skills, build confidence, and explore safely under the guidance of supportive adults. Without access to groups like this, many children may miss out on important early-learning experiences that prepare them for nursery and school. This project directly supports children's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development through play, sensory activities, stories, songs, and interaction with others.

The group also plays an essential role in supporting parents' and carers' mental and emotional wellbeing. Isolation is a common issue among parents, especially those caring for young children at home. A regular, welcoming group gives them the chance to meet others, share experiences, and build informal support networks. Even brief conversations with other adults can significantly reduce feelings of stress, loneliness, and anxiety. For many, attending the group becomes one of the few consistent opportunities to connect with others in a relaxed, non-judgmental environment.

Families facing deprivation often experience additional barriers such as limited transport, low confidence, or lack of awareness of local support. By offering an inclusive, local group that is easy to access, this project ensures that families who are most in need can take part. For some families, this group may be the first step back into community life, helping build confidence to engage with other services and activities.

In summary, the project is needed because it addresses multiple challenges faced by families with young children: limited access to affordable early-years activities, social isolation, financial pressures, and gaps in early development opportunities. This Parent and Toddler Group gives children a strong foundation for learning while offering parents essential emotional and social support. By funding this project, you are helping to build stronger, healthier, more connected families and a more resilient local community.

What local consultation has taken place regarding this application?

(Please attach evidence summarising the results of any consultation)

LMG core minutes to be attached with application

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?)

We have strong evidence that the local community supports this application and that there is a clear demand for a Parent and Toddler Group operating twice weekly during term time. The need for this project has been identified directly by parents, carers, and

early-years practitioners who have expressed that there are limited accessible, low-cost opportunities locally for young children and their caregivers to meet, play, and connect.

Families within the community have shared that they struggle to find affordable early-years activities, with many paid classes being too expensive or already oversubscribed. Several parents have approached us directly requesting a regular group where they can bring their toddlers to socialise, especially those who may be isolated, new to the area, or without wider family support. During conversations with local families, the most commonly identified needs were: opportunities for children to interact with others, a safe and welcoming space for parents to meet, and consistent weekly sessions that are easy to access.

Local staff, community workers, and partner organisations have also reported that many families—particularly those experiencing deprivation—benefit greatly from structured play opportunities and positive social interaction. There has been repeated feedback that a free or low-cost toddler group would fill a significant gap in local provision.

Informal engagement with parents who attend other family sessions has shown enthusiastic support for the idea. Many have expressed that a twice-weekly group would help them create routine, build confidence, and support their child's development. Parents have stated that they often feel lonely or overwhelmed at home with young children and would value a supportive environment where they can meet others in similar situations.

Additionally, attendance patterns at previous family-based activities show that there is strong, consistent demand for early-years sessions. Local groups that provide free or affordable activities often reach capacity quickly, indicating that families are actively seeking this type of support but do not always have access to it.

Overall, feedback from families, observations from community partners, and the lack of similar affordable provision in the area all demonstrate widespread community support for this project. The Parent and Toddler Group has been shaped directly by the needs identified by local parents and carers, and the community both wants and will benefit from this service.

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

This project directly supports families experiencing deprivation by removing the financial, social, and practical barriers that often prevent parents and toddlers from accessing early-years opportunities. Many local families face challenges such as low income, limited childcare support, isolation, poor mental wellbeing, and restricted access to affordable activities. This Parent and Toddler Group provides a free or low-cost, local, and inclusive service that ensures all families—regardless of circumstances—can take part.

Families living in deprivation often have the least access to early learning experiences outside the home. Many paid classes or private toddler groups are unaffordable for those on tight budgets, meaning children may miss out on important early social development. By offering two accessible sessions every week during term time, this project helps reduce inequalities in early childhood development **by ensuring all toddlers have the same opportunities to play, learn, and socialise.**

The group also supports parents and carers who may be experiencing isolation—a common issue in areas affected by deprivation. Parents with low income, young parents, single parents, or those without strong support networks often struggle to access community activities. This project provides a welcoming, judgement-free space where parents can meet others, share experiences, and build informal support networks that improve wellbeing and resilience.

For families experiencing stress or anxiety related to financial pressures, caring demands, or limited social support, attending a structured, positive group twice a week can significantly improve mental health. The routine, friendships, and peer support created through the group help reduce feelings of loneliness and overwhelm.

Children living in deprived households may also have limited opportunities for play due to lack of space, resources, or transport. This group provides high-quality toys, sensory materials, stories, and activities that parents may not be able to provide at home. By supporting early communication, confidence, and emotional development, the project helps give toddlers a stronger start in life—something that is especially important for children who may be at greater risk of falling behind.

The group's local, easily accessible location also benefits families who may struggle with transport costs or rely on walking or public transport. This practical accessibility ensures that the families most affected by deprivation are not excluded.

Overall, this Parent and Toddler Group tackles deprivation by improving early-years development, reducing social isolation, supporting parents' mental wellbeing, removing financial barriers, and ensuring that all children—regardless of background—have equal opportunities to grow, learn, and flourish. It provides a vital community resource for families who need it most.

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)

none

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 (£)
New supplies – toys, walkers, high chairs,	620	
Snack – 38 weeks	380	

Totals	1000	

- **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

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

Weve compared prices, via online, Amazon, Asda's or Mothercare.

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

We will use a combination of simple, practical monitoring methods to ensure the Parent and Toddler Group delivers meaningful impact for families. Our approach will capture both **outputs** (what we deliver) and **outcomes** (the difference it makes), allowing us to review progress regularly and report clearly to funders.

We will record the following measurable elements at each session:

- **Attendance numbers** of toddlers and parents/carers
- **New vs. returning families** attending each week
- **Number of sessions delivered** over the 38-week term
- **Participation patterns**, such as consistent weekly attendance
- **Activities provided**, including play themes, sensory activities, and learning opportunities

All outputs will be collected using a simple sign-in sheet and weekly facilitator notes to ensure accurate records.

We will collect outcome information through a mix of feedback and observation:

1. Short feedback forms (once per term)

Parents/carers will complete brief, easy-to-understand questionnaires to measure changes in:

- their child's social skills, confidence, and communication
- their own feelings of isolation, wellbeing, and confidence
- how helpful they find the group in building routine and peer support

2. Verbal and informal feedback

Parents will be encouraged to share comments during and after sessions. These will be noted anonymously to capture personal experiences and stories of change.

3. Observations from staff/facilitators

Session leaders will record observations such as:

- children's interaction with peers
- improvements in confidence and play
- increased engagement from parents
- development of friendships and support networks

4. Attendance over time as an indicator of value

Regular attendance will be monitored as a strong sign that families are benefiting from the group.

Review and Reporting

We will review monitoring information quarterly to:

- identify what is working well
- respond to families' needs
- adjust activities based on feedback
- ensure the group remains accessible and effective

At the end of the project year, we will prepare a final report including:

- attendance data
- feedback summaries

- examples of positive change
- lessons learned and future recommendations

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 (<i>see section 2 of the guidance notes</i>)	April 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:	
Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:	
	Target 2026-27
Outputs	
Outcomes / Indicators:	

City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome:	
Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:	
The purpose of the Parent & Toddler Group is to provide an accessible, welcoming, and supportive space where young children can develop early-years skills through play, and where parents/carers can reduce isolation, build connections, and gain confidence. The project supports children’s social, emotional, and communication development while providing parents with opportunities to meet others, share experiences, and build informal support networks. This contributes directly to improved family wellbeing, reduced inequalities in early-years development, and stronger community cohesion.	Target 2026-27
Outputs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver two Parent & Toddler sessions per week for 38 weeks during term time. • Support 20–30 parents and toddlers each week. • Provide high-quality play, sensory, craft, story and singing activities that support early development. • Supply healthy snacks and age-appropriate resources for children. • Provide a warm, inclusive space where parents can meet, talk, and access informal peer support. • Maintain attendance logs and basic demographic information. • Collect regular participant feedback from parents/carers. 	
Outcomes / Indicators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents report improved confidence, reduced isolation, and better emotional wellbeing. • Children show increased confidence, communication, and social interaction. • Families feel more supported and connected to local services. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who may not access paid activities benefit from regular play and learning opportunities. • Parents from low-income or vulnerable households attend regularly due to the free/low-cost structure. • Improved readiness for nursery settings (sharing, routines, social skills). • Families engage consistently throughout the year. • New families join and feel welcomed into the community space. • Parents report feeling more connected to others and more confident attending local services. 	