

Ref: SY2604

Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund

Grant Application 2026/27

Applicant Information	
Name of Applicant Group	Barnardo's
Activity Title	Good Choices Project
Grant Requested (£)	£21,194.10

- 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

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"/> |
| Provided your groups accounts, or other appropriate financial information? | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> |
| Checked that the bank details or financial code are correct / complete? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Signed the form, given accurate contact details and ticked the GDPR box? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Who is the grant for? (Name of Applicant Group / Department)		Barnardo's	
Did you receive a Dundee Partnership grant during 2025-26? (If yes, list all grants below)			NO
Title of project funded	Amount granted	When	Was it fully spent?
N/A			

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

WHO

Barnardo's Good Choices Project will deliver community-based activities for 10 young people (YP) who are at risk of being involved in or returning to risk-taking and/or anti-social behaviour in their communities. We will work with post-school YP aged 15.5-21 who are experiencing emerging mental health challenges, social isolation or low confidence.

WHAT

Our 10-week programme, underpinned by trauma-informed practice, combines groupwork with tailored pre-/on-programme 1-2-1 support. Each YP completes an initial assessment which identifies their needs, strengths and barriers to participation.

YP will take part in group activities; building connection, routine, resilience and positive coping strategies, including:

- **Creative Activities:** e.g. arts/crafts, theatre, songwriting, upcycling
- **Holistic Wellbeing Sessions:** e.g. sleep hygiene, stress management
- **Community Projects:** group volunteering
- **Accreditation:** recognised qualifications including Hi-5/Dynamic Youth, SQA Personal Development/Working with Others, MyBnk Money Management and Emergency First Aid at Work
- **Safety Education & Support:** e.g. online safety, drugs & alcohol, sexual health, knife crime, violence

To address inequalities/poverty, we will provide **Financial Inclusion** sessions such as budgeting skills (via our Words that Count programme), cooking-on-a-budget workshops, and access to our partner MyBnk's Money Management qualification, alongside crisis support through Barnardo's Child Poverty Fund. Snacks/Lunches, travel support and other incentives will remove barriers - ensuring inclusive engagement.

Participants will visit different venues and support services to learn about activities and support services in the local and wider Dundee City area. This will create accessible pathways for support, so that the YP can become independent and resilient citizens after engaging in our programme. The YP will also learn about their City; develop a sense of pride and feel more confident about accessing local activities and support services. The YP will start to feel more confident about engaging with their peers and will feel more hopeful about their futures.

We will work closely with partners including Dundee City Council's CLD Youth Teams, TCA, Discover Work partners, SDS, D&A College and Third Sector organisations to identify activity opportunities and referral/signposting pathways, with warm handovers built-in to provide support.

WHEN

Project intake dates will be guided by the timing of referrals from our referral partners. We will hold 1-2-1 sessions with the YP before bringing the YP together in a group. We aim to run small groups of 3-5 YP during the following periods:

Intake 1 – May/June 2026

Intake 2 – Sept-Dec 2026

Intake 3 (if required) – Jan-March 2027

Referral meetings/1-2-1 assessments & relationship building will take place during the last 2 weeks of April, in August and December/January.

The 10-week group expected attendance will be 2 x 2hr sessions per week (with flexibility to attend longer days for accredited training courses) Additional 1-2-1 sessions will be offered outwith the group attendance.

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

This project will contribute towards addressing the following outcome within the Strathmartine Ward Local Community Plan.

- **We need to improve life chances for children and families**

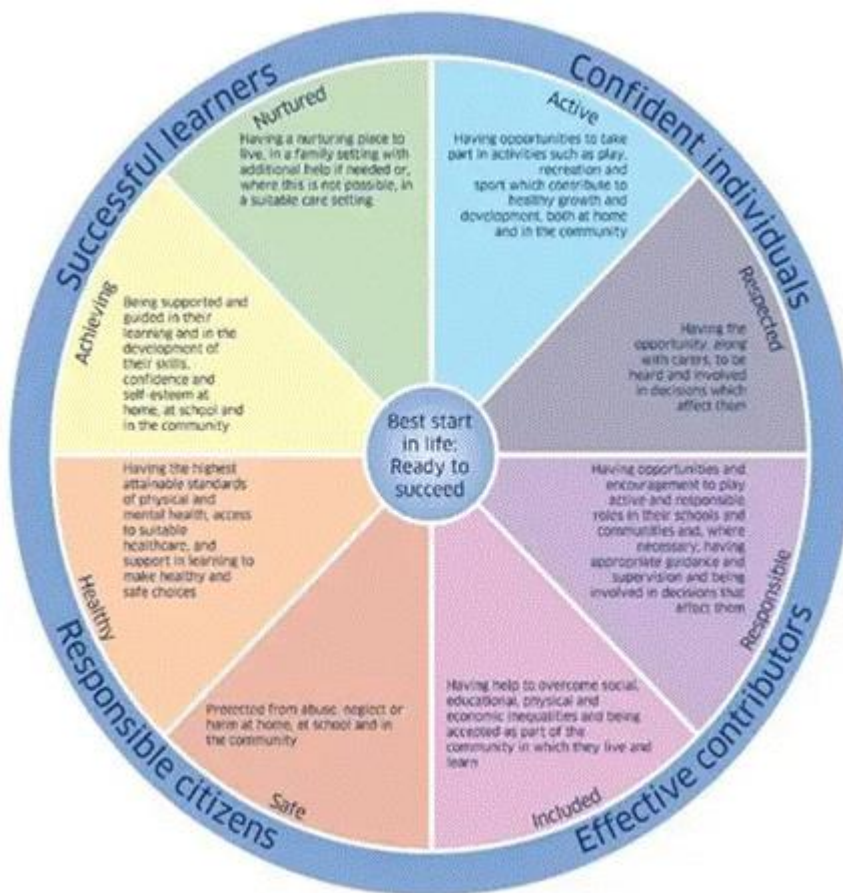
By working towards improving the life chances of YP through the Barnardo's Good Choices project, we will ultimately be improving life chances for their future children and families. We will create safer communities for children and families by educating YP on making positive choices and moving them away from being at risk of participating or returning to risk-taking/anti-social behaviour. We will create a safe space for YP where they feel valued, can contribute and know that we are there for them and encouraging them to reach their full potential. This will all be achieved by aligning to a key theme within What Matters to You (WM2U) which is the importance of listening and responding to the voices of the local community when developing and delivering projects.

Barnardo's is dedicated to amplifying the voices of children and young people (CYP), ensuring they are heard and involved in decisions that affect their lives. We believe that CYP should have opportunities to have their voices heard and be taken seriously in decisions that affect them. When YP are involved, we know this leads to better decision-making and improved services. The voices of YP will be embedded throughout delivery – shaping ongoing development and ensuring our project remains relevant, engaging and responsive. Each group will be encouraged to participate in the planning of the group timetable, selecting activities that meet their interests, whilst ensuring that all project milestones are met.

Everything we do will be underpinned by Barnardo's basis and values and the principals of The Promise.

"Barnardo's Scotland is fully committed to achieving positive change for children and families including those with care experience. That is why we are committed to 'The Promise' and to helping play our part to achieve transformational change. Since the outcome of the independent care review was published in 2020, we have focused on training colleagues and raising awareness of The Promise among our staff and volunteers. We're dedicated to improving services, advocating for change, and involving young people. There is still much to do but we are more determined than ever to Keep The Promise". (Martin Crewe, Director of Children's Services – Scotland)

Barnardo's Good Choices Project will support YP to grow in confidence and through participation in 1-2-1 and group work engagement/meaningful activities delivered locally within their community, the YP will be given a purpose and they will report a reduction in social isolation, improved mental health and wellbeing and personal growth. This will be achieved through ongoing monitoring of the SHANARRI indicators within the GIRFEC Framework and ensuring that there is adequate scaffolding of support provided for each YP. Barnardo's will also ensure that the project is accessible for all, removing any barriers to engagement so that they can be involved in the activities within the Good Choices Project to promote their wellbeing and improve their life chances



This all sits within one of the strategic priorities within **The Dundee Partnership’s City Plan 2022-2032** which is **to reduce child poverty and inequalities in incomes, education and health**. Our Good Choices Project can directly impact child poverty and community wealth building through empowering YP to take ownership of their futures, making more positive choices and starting to feel a part of their community; thus reducing social isolation and enhancing mental health and wellbeing.

How many people will benefit from this project?	10
<p>Will any specific groups benefit from this project? (male, female, age range or protected characteristic)</p> <p>Good Choices will be a fully inclusive programme for all YP aged 15.5-21 who are identified as vulnerable and needing support and guidance to make positive choices and develop the necessary skills and confidence to become independent, resilient and active citizens within</p>	

their local community. They will not be in employment or education when they join the Good Choices project.

Examples of protected characteristics supported:

- Good Choices is accessible for YP with ASN/neurodiversity – providing adapted delivery, “lived-experience staff member” support, and guidance/signposting for families.
- Good Choices is also accessible for YP from the LGBTQ+ Community. All staff have completed Barnardo’s [Safe Zone LGBTQ+ training](#), we have a Safe Zone Ally in our team and have recently applied for an internal Barnardo’s Safe Space Award for our Service. Our Team recently attended a LGBT Youth Scotland Snapshot Session to upskill our knowledge of the support available for this community.

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

Recognition of the need for this project was driven by listening to YP’s voices. YP tell us that they often struggle to leave the house, are lacking in confidence, feeling anxious about joining groups, don’t know what services are available in their local communities, don’t feel optimistic about their futures and are unsure how to navigate the different opportunities available. We are working with YP who have not attended school and are struggling to make the transition to adult life. They tell us that they participate in risk-taking/anti-social behaviour because they don’t have anything else to do or want to feel accepted by their peers. We are also seeing on the ground that YP don’t always have the skills and knowledge to keep themselves safe.

We have been working with YP across the City since our original Youthbuild Dundee Service opened in 2007, and we have seen first-hand the level of deprivation across the city and the scaffolding of support we are required to put in place for our YP to get them to the place they need to be, to be able to move forward positively and to become independent, resilient and active citizens within their communities.

Please see below for a recent Case Study detailing a project we have been delivering in the East Ward of the City, and also an Impact Report, detailing the impact of the work we have been delivering through our CashBack-funded programme across our Scottish services.



22.5% of children in Dundee City are living in poverty (after housing costs), compared to 20.9% across Scotland (*Dundee Partnership City Plan 2022-2032*) so we believe that it is important to deliver projects that will ultimately lift children and families out of poverty. Our Good Choices project will give YP the tools they need to take ownership of their futures; to become active/independent/resilient citizens and to build a positive future for them and their families; ultimately contributing towards lifting children, YP and families out of poverty.

In everything we do at Barnardo's, we work with children and young people (CYP) to be safer, happier, healthier and more hopeful.

- Safer: So children at risk of harm are better protected.
- Happier: So children struggling with their wellbeing can access support and feel they belong.
- Healthier: So children growing up with disadvantage can experience good physical and mental health.
- More hopeful: So children experiencing challenges can move into adulthood with hope and confidence.

CYP tell us they're ambitious for their futures. It's our job to be ambitious for them too, and we ensure that our values are imbedded in all our work.

- Inclusive: Respecting the unique worth of every person.
- Supportive: Encouraging people to fulfil their potential.
- Accountable: Encouraging responsible Stewardship.
- Positive: Working with hope.

The above details a range of reasons why we feel passionate about this project and why we want to deliver our Good Choices Project in the **Strathmartine Ward** to close the gap and deliver positive life chances for disadvantaged children, YP and families.

What local consultation has taken place regarding this application?

(Please attach evidence summarising the results of any consultation)

Our team is in regular contact with Skills Development Scotland staff across the city, and the feedback we have been receiving is that there needs to be provision offered at pre-employability level to support YP across Dundee Communities to prepare for their futures and to build their resilience, confidence, communication skills and motivation to be able to engage with employability, training and education provision offered by Discover Work partners across the City. Many YP that SDS and Barnardo's are engaging with are not ready to attend

employability courses and they are at risk of being left behind if we are unable to offer provision to meet their needs, and the needs of their community.

We have a member of staff in our team, James, who is currently undertaking a co-ordination role with the schools, SDS, Dundee City Council's Employability Service and All in Dundee Third Sector Employability Providers to ensure that YP are being given every opportunity and encouragement to progress towards a positive future. James is responsible for triaging referrals coming from the schools, and he has identified that there is a gap in "stage 1" provision for post-school YP to access to enhance their personal and social development and readiness to enter their employability journey. James is regularly discussing this with partners, and we know from experience that this project would be welcomed by all partners, and most importantly YP.

We have consulted with YP with lived experience – including those on our Curious Connections and Head2Work programmes – to identify needs and shape our proposal. YP told us they struggle with confidence, engaging in groups and often feel isolated. Partners also highlighted the lack of support for YP beginning to experience anxiety/wellbeing concerns due to high waiting lists. This feedback informed our project – providing flexible engagement routes, small group and 1-2-1 support, activity choice and a focus on emotional wellbeing. YP consistently report that being heard, feeling safe and having control over their support increases confidence, reduces anxiety and gives them hope for the future. YP tell us that they prefer coming to a "youth work" focused group where they can be themselves; their worker is accepting of the fact that they might not be having a good day and will flex delivery to suit the need of the situation and the moment. Our staff use this opportunity to educate, listen, motivate and inform our YP; whilst also giving them the opportunity to experience different activities to help them to work out what they enjoy in life.

We ran our Curious Connections Project in 2025/2026, funded by Dundee City Council's UKSPF funds. This was a Youth Diversionary Project which focused on supporting YP to make more positive choices, to learn about their communities and feel confident accessing the different services available. The YP reported that they enjoyed meeting YP from different backgrounds, building relationships with their peers and participating in different activities. They reported the importance of creating a safe space, regular communication, involving the YP in planning programme content and giving them an opportunity to feel more connected with their communities and to understand where and how to access support services. This feedback has been reflected on when developing the Good Choices Project.

We regularly attend the Dundee Youth Work Network Meetings and a range of other strategic meetings across the City. This coupled with our daily engagement with service users accessing the Barnardo's services has enhanced our knowledge about the challenges Dundee Citizens are facing and how creative solutions are needed to make a difference and bridge the gap for the most disadvantaged.

The above feedback has been gathered through the course of our work across the City and through delivering our programmes.

Below is a copy of one of the Curious Connections UKSPF Impact Reports submitted which does detail some of the above comments.



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?)

Sheelagh contacted one of the local Community Officers in the Strathmartine Ward (Hazel Fielder) to discuss the project idea, and she confirmed that it aligns with the aims of the Dundee Partnership's Community Regeneration Fund. Hazel confirmed that this funding does not fund activity with YP during school hours, so it was agreed that this would need to be targeted at post-school YP.

As a third sector organisation providing local delivery within the Strathmartine Ward, we have listened closely to the voices of, and feedback from, our YP and their families to develop this project. YP tell us that they often struggle to leave the house, are lacking in confidence, feeling anxious about joining groups, don't know what services are available in their local communities, don't feel optimistic about their futures and are unsure how to navigate the different opportunities available. We are working with YP who have not attended school and are struggling to make the transition to adult life. They tell us that they participate in risk-taking/anti-social behaviour because they don't have anything else to do or want to feel accepted by their peers. We are also seeing on the ground that YP don't always have the skills and knowledge to keep themselves safe.

Recent feedback received via email from Lucy Binnie, CLD Youth Worker, East Youth Team Dundee:

"I just wanted to drop you a quick note to say how disappointed I was to hear that Donna's funding is coming to an end and that her future position is now uncertain. Donna has been such a valuable part of our partnership over the past three to four years, and she will be genuinely missed by both staff and the young people she works so well with. As we know, it's often not just the service itself, but the person delivering it, that makes the real difference. If

there is anything we can do to support the funding process, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes, Lucy"

(Lucy Binnie, CLD Youth Worker, East Youth Team Dundee)



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

This project will be delivered in an area of high deprivation in Dundee. We want to make sure that the voices of local YP are heard through this project so we will be encouraging local YP to engage and shape the project through participation and feedback. YP will benefit from meaningful activities which will contribute towards building connections and confidence and reducing social isolation, Tailored activities and accredited courses will develop new skills and knowledge to improve their future prospects. A Whole Family Approach will be adopted, so if through building relationships with the YP, we identify other support needs within the family, we will make sure that the families are signposted effectively and encouraged and supported to engage with local services.

Through Barnardo's Child Poverty Fund we can support any YP and family participating in the Good Choices Project who are experiencing deprivation and require financial support. The Child Poverty Fund is intended to meet immediate crisis needs which cannot be met anywhere else, via financial assistance, product donations, and additional resources.

Through delivering our Financial Fitness sessions, Barnardo's Good Choices Project will give YP the tools to manage their finances and to also develop strategies to navigate the cost-of-living crisis; whilst ensuring they are aware of how to access the support services available within their local community.

Upon successful completion of the project, each participant will be awarded a £100 participation voucher to support tackling deprivation. Participants will be given a choice of food, clothing or energy support and we will agree an expenditure plan to tie in with budgeting skills training.

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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)

The Good Choices Project is very similar to Barnardo's Head2Work Project (formerly Fit4Work), funded through Cashback for Communities which we have been delivering in Dundee since 2017. Unfortunately this funding ends on the 31st of March 2026 and we have been unable to identify alternative funding to date.

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

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 (£)
Salary costs	£10,988	£10,988
Participant 1-2-1/group refreshment costs	£600	£600
Participant costs – resources, activities, qualifications	£1250	£1250
Participation/completion voucher payment	£1000	£1000
Stationery/photocopier/printing	£85	£85
Staff travel costs	£800	£800
Marketing costs	£100	£100
Meeting room hire	£1224	£1224
Corporate governance/staffing costs/IT costs	£1548.93	£1548.93

Management charge	£3598.17	£3598.17
Totals	£21,194.10	£21,194.10

- **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)



Please note we are unable to provide further quotes until we agree the project content with the participants. With your agreement, if there is an underspend on a budget line, we could negotiate re-apportioning that amount to another budget line.

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

Impact will be measured by gathering regular feedback throughout the project, and by also conducting an end of project evaluation.

Good Choices will be overseen by our Service Manager and embedded within Barnardo's comprehensive performance, quality assurance and impact-monitoring framework. We will use a bespoke evaluation model – aligned to the project's outcomes and milestones:

- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Specific KPIs will track progress, engagement, retention and outcomes for YP.

- Regular Reporting and Feedback Mechanisms: Monthly performance reviews, and quarterly and annual reports, will document progress, outcomes, and insights from feedback loops. This approach ensures continuous improvement based on participant, partner and stakeholder input - ensuring accountability and transparency.
- Evaluation tools: a mix of qualitative and quantitative tools will be used e.g. Mentimeter, group and individual feedback, feedback from family or support workers, case studies.
- YP Voice: Our Voice & Influence approach ensures that and CYP, particularly those most often excluded, are at the centre of shaping the services, policies and systems that affect their lives
- EDI data gathering to monitor inclusion.

<p>What is the planned start date of the event/activity?</p> <p>Please note turn around on applications is 6 - 10 weeks and funding cannot be retrospective (<i>see section 2 of the guidance notes</i>)</p>	20/04/2026
<p>What is the planned end date of the event/activity?</p>	31/03/2027

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: We need to improve life chances for children and families

Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome: Barnardo's Good Choices Project will deliver community-based activities for YP aged 15.5-21 who are at risk of being involved in or returning to risk-taking and/or anti-social behaviour in their communities. The YP will be experiencing emerging mental health challenges, social isolation or low confidence. Tailored activities will support YP to build connections, confidence, routine, resilience and positive coping strategies. YP's financial awareness will improve through budgeting workshops and training.

	Target 2026-27
Outputs	
Number of YP from the Strathmartine Ward participating in Barnardo's Good Choices Project	10
Number of YP engaging in a Financial Fitness Workshop during the course of the project	8
Minimum Number of Community Volunteering Hours arranged	20
Outcomes / Indicators:	
Number of YP reporting improved confidence and self-esteem	8
Number of YP reporting reduced social isolation	8
Number of YP reporting improved mental health and wellbeing	8
Number of YP reporting improved awareness of the risks of anti-social behaviour, drugs & alcohol and the importance of making positive choices to keep themselves safe	8

City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome:	
Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:	
	Target 2026-27
Outputs	
Outcomes / Indicators:	