

**Dundee Partnership**  
**Community Regeneration Fund**

**Grant Application**  
**2024/25**

Applicant Information	
Name of Applicant Group	The Yard
Activity Title	Sensory room equipment
Grant Requested (£)	4,805

- The Physical & Environmental Improvement Fund is to provide financial assistance for community initiatives aimed at improving the local area through Capital expenditure. Capital expenditure is something of a physical nature including the acquisition, improvement or structural enhancement of an asset valued at £6,000 or more.

- 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	PLEASE INDICATE WHICH TYPE OF GRANT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR
Coldside	Small Grant
East End	Physical & Environmental Improvement

Lochee	Youth Inclusion
Maryfield	
North East	
Strathmartine	<p>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 <a href="mailto:dundee.partnership@dundeecity.gov.uk">dundee.partnership@dundeecity.gov.uk</a></p>

## 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 checked="" 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?

X
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<b>Who is the grant for?</b> (Name of Applicant Group / Department)	The Yard		
<b>Did you receive a Dundee Partnership grant during 2023-24?</b> (If yes, list all grants below)			<b>NO</b>
<b>Title of project funded</b>	<b>Amount granted</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Was it fully spent?</b>

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

Since 1986, The Yard has brought adventure and community into the lives of thousands of disabled children and families through inclusive play and family support. In all that we do, we are guided by the belief that disabled children deserve equal opportunities to build confidence, make friends, learn new skills, develop their independence, and most importantly, have fun. The Yard is essential for many local families, who tell us they feel unsupported by mainstream play services for a variety of reasons, including a lack of activities suitable for their children's needs, inadequate staffing levels and knowledge, and unsuitable environments.

In late 2023 Dundee City Council offered to transfer full ownership of our Mid Craigie centre to The Yard for free. We are now embarking on a major renovation project to create a truly accessible community space for local families with a disabled child. The total cost of this is £1,574,590, with £1,005,500 already secured. The renovation will bring the building in line with the standards required for Care Inspectorate registration and thus give us the scope to run new services, such as youth clubs and after-school childcare.

A grant from the Community Regeneration Fund would be put towards the fit out of a new Snoezelen sensory room at our Dundee centre, helping us purchase a sky projector and full hoist and track system. Our sensory room is one of our most popular facilities at our Edinburgh centre, and we anticipate that the Dundee sensory room will be similarly popular. Currently, children attending our Dundee play sessions enjoy playing with a wide variety of sensory toys – from colourful light-up toys to tactile messy play trays – but this is the first time we will have the

opportunity to build upon these much-loved activities with a dedicated sensory space. By adding a hoist to the room, we can ensure that it can be enjoyed by all, including wheelchair users.

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

- “We need local opportunities to be involved in learning, social and physical activities which promote wellbeing”
- “We need to improve life chances for children and families”

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

500

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

Children with disabilities and additional support needs aged 0-18, and their family members (note that the projected number of beneficiaries refers to the children only, as they will be the primary users of the sensory room).

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

Sensory play is popular among all who attend The Yard, and it has been recognised as a vital component of childhood development. However, it is particularly beneficial for the many children who visit The Yard who are autistic and/or have sensory processing difficulties. The room can not only be used by sensory-sensitive children who may benefit from a quiet, controlled environment, but also sensory-seeking children who get a great degree of mental stimulation by exploring different materials, textures, sights and sounds. Sensory play has been shown to promote relaxation, improve concentration, build confidence in trying new things, and develop fine motor skills. By being able to make changes to the environment such as light colour and noise levels (through playing with musical tactile panels), children can also discover their own sensory preferences and learn how to self-regulate by adapting their environment.

One of the main issues with our centre in its previous condition was that it was not as accessible to wheelchair users as we would have liked. Increasing wheelchair access was one of main priorities during the design process of the new centre. Installing a hoist in the sensory room will support this goal, making the benefits of sensory play accessible to a wider range of disabled children and young people in Dundee than before.

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

(Please attach evidence summarising the results of any consultation)

The Yard explored several options before deciding to proceed with this renovation. For many years, we shared our Mid Craigie centre with another charity, whose lease with Dundee City Council meant that we could only use the space at limited times. As a result, in 2017/18, we started to investigate our options for creating our own space, which at the time we envisioned as a brand new, purpose-built centre, potentially in Douglas rather than in its existing location. This involved commissioning several independent evaluation reports, with one report in particular focusing on how we could better meet the needs of the local community.

Within this report, our consultants interviewed 13 parents and carers and 17 external stakeholders (public and third sector professionals), and delivered a workshop with 10 pupils with additional support needs from Kingspark School, in order to identify our priorities for service expansion and the design of the new centre. Through this process, they identified that “families want a bigger, more extensive service that would continue the non-judgemental and empowering environment while opening up to a more diverse range of children, particularly including teenagers.” Several families mentioned that they had visited our site in Edinburgh, and were enthusiastic about the prospect of a similar facility in their area. Although most families agreed that The Yard would benefit from a more bespoke space and that they would be willing to travel to Douglas if necessary, some families using the centre in Mid Craigie expressed worries about the prospect of relocating. However, it was recognised that there were real disadvantages to the Mid Craigie building; for example, limited accessibility for children with more complex needs, including wheelchair users.

Dundee City Council's later offer of a full asset transfer of the existing Mid Craigie premises meant that this relocation did not need to happen, providing the best of both worlds to our families; by carrying out a complete renovation, we will be able to meet our goal of providing improved accessibility to a wide range of children and families, without sacrificing our location in a community where our work is most needed and we have already established strong local partnerships.

### **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 delivered services in Dundee since 2015, with services initially launched after numerous local families reported that there were few accessible leisure and social activities for their disabled child within their local area. Since then, we have established our service and reputation, building partnerships with other local organisations. This has allowed us to not only develop our services in line with the needs that our families have expressed directly, but also work towards meeting Dundee City Council's priorities around whole family wellbeing. For example, we are integrated into the Linlathen Fairness Initiative, a Scottish Government funded pathfinder project aimed at reducing poverty in Linlathen and supporting more households into employment.

Throughout the whole process of the asset transfer and renovation planning, we have had the full support of Dundee City Council, who recognise the gap in services that exist for families with children with additional support needs, and the role that The Yard can play moving forward in delivering these services. Renovating our centre will go some way to addressing that, as when complete, our building will be of a standard that will allow us to apply for Care Inspectorate registration to deliver respite services, including out-of-school services and holiday provision.

Our regular evaluations demonstrate how local families believe in the impact of our work and see us as an important community resource. In our latest membership survey (November 2024), we found that as a result of our work, Dundee families experienced the following benefits:

- 83% of parents/carers felt less stressed
- 65% said their family relationships were more positive
- 65% felt more confident supporting their child's needs
- 94% felt less isolated
- 78% of disabled children and young people were more confident
- 71% felt less isolated
- 83% were happier overall

Moreover, 89% of families agreed that The Yard felt like a community. In renovating our centre, we can expand on the services that have achieved these results so far and improve the overall Yard experience for local families.

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

This renovation represents an exciting opportunity for us to respond to what local families with a disabled child tell us they most need, developing new services that support the wellbeing of some of Dundee's most disadvantaged families. The sense of isolation created by a lack of local leisure and social opportunities for their disabled child is compounded by high poverty rates, with many of our families living in areas of multiple deprivation like Linlathen, Craigie and Douglas (SIMD 2020). In these areas alone, 20% of young people aged 0-15 have a long-term health condition or disability (Census 2022), representing a significant intersection between disability and poverty. This intersection has been recognised by the Scottish Government, who have identified families with at least one disabled child as a priority group within their Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

By renovating the centre to meet Care Inspectorate standards, we can roll out new services that target key issues faced by families experiencing deprivation. We will provide accessible after-school childcare, increasing access to employment for parents and carers of a disabled child, since we know that parents and carers often struggle to find work that fits around their caring responsibilities, which compounds the difficulties created by the additional costs that come with raising a disabled child. In addition, many of our families are eligible for Self-Directed Support (SDS) payments, but the lack of accessible services in the area mean they are limited in how they can use this funding, and therefore they are not getting the full financial support they are entitled to. Expanding our services would allow us to create new support and respite opportunities throughout the week that would meet the criteria for SDS funding.

Although standard membership of The Yard costs £8 a month, we also offer waived membership fees for families experiencing financial hardship, as we believe that no child or family should ever be excluded from the support that they need for financial reasons.

**For Physical & Environmental Improvements (which must be Capital worth at least £6,000 in value) the following questions must be answered:**

**Have all relevant permissions been agreed?** (please state what these are)

N/A

**How will the planned project be maintained?** (please state who will be responsible for this)

N/A

**What is the expected 'life' of the improvement?** (e.g. before it will require replacement)

N/A

**Could a plaque indicating the Community Regeneration Fund as a source be added on location for this award?** (If there would be additional costs for this, please indicate this in the budget section)

N/A

**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)	£
Alexander Moncur Trust (secured)	3,000
The Morrisons Foundation (rejected)	9,508
The Barcapel Foundation (rejected) (note: request higher than budget below due to inclusion of additional, non-essential items)	31,711

**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 (£)

Sky projector*	155	155
Bubble tube with fittings	870	-
Fibre optic strands with light source	499	-
Light panel with switches	1343	-
Knocker panel*	1,000	-
Musical tactile panel*	700	-
Vibrating bumper panels	680	-
Wall mats	681	-
Floor mats	1,146	-
Padded flooring	541	-
Mirror panels*	577	-
Hoist with tracking system*	3,849	3,849
Installation costs*	4,564	-
VAT (on items marked with *)	2,171	801
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,781</b>	<b>4,805</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

N/A

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

Quotes for sky projector and hoist

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

We will use a range of methodologies to monitor the project outputs and outcomes, including:

- **Membership survey:** we formally evaluate all our services through a membership survey every six months, which allows us to track the impact of our work over time. The survey is available online for families to complete at home, or staff at The Yard can help them complete it on-site using an iPad or on paper.
- **Case studies:** these allow our families describe the difference The Yard's impact in their own words.



- **Reflective diaries:** the play team discuss and write up their observations after each session, including notes on group dynamics, challenges and successes. These allow us to plan and develop sessions to best support our families' wellbeing.
- **Care plans:** we regularly update each child's care plan with notes on skills that they have developed, successes, challenges and likes and dislikes. This provides us with evidence of each child's personal growth since joining The Yard. By sharing these plans with parents and carers on an ongoing basis, we can get feedback from families about how these developments are showing up at home as well.
- **Attendance records:** by tracking attendance numbers at each session through our membership database, we can track the number of families using our services over set periods of time.
- **Informal, ad hoc feedback from families:** we have an open-door policy for our families to contact us with feedback on the service and this open culture is encouraged to allow us to be as responsive as possible. Many of these conversations take place in person (for example during family sessions), as well as over email, social media and phone calls.

<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> )	13/03/2025
<b>What is the planned end date of the event/activity?</b>	31/03/2025

## 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:</b> We need local opportunities to be involved in learning, social and physical activities which promote wellbeing	
<b>Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:</b> To improve upon the leisure and social opportunities available to disabled children and their families in the East End, using inclusive play activities to help them build confidence, learn new skills and feel less isolated	
	<b>Target 2024-25</b>
Outputs	

Create a sensory room at our centre in Mid Craigie where up to 500 children and young people annually will be able to physically explore new sensory experiences, helping them feel relaxed, learn about the world around them, and learn to self-regulate	N/A for 2024-25– centre will re-open in August 2025 so target is 500 people for 2025-26
Purchase a hoist that will increase physical access to sensory wellbeing activities for children and young people who use wheelchairs	1 hoist purchased No. of wheelchair users who will use the space is unknown at this stage
Outcomes / Indicators:	
Local families (inc. both parents/carers and disabled children) will report feeling less isolated	To be measured in 2025-26 after centre re-opens
Local families (inc. both parents/carers and disabled children) will report increased confidence	To be measured in 2025-26 after centre re-opens
Local families (inc. both parents/carers and disabled children) will report feeling part of a community at The Yard	To be measured in 2025-26 after centre re-opens

<b>City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome:</b> We need to improve life chances for children and families	
<b>Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:</b> To increase access to leisure and social opportunities for local families with a disabled child, creating an inclusive community hub where they can enjoy spending time with another. Renovation of the centre will also allow us to offer after-school and school holiday support, increasing access to employment and training for parents/carers	
	<b>Target 2024-25</b>
Outputs	
Create a sensory room at our centre in Mid Craigie where up to 500 children and young people annually will be able to enjoy sensory play activities with their parents/carers, increasing parents'/carers' confidence in supporting their child's needs	N/A for 2024-25– centre will re-open in August 2025 so target is 500 people for 2025-26
Outcomes / Indicators:	
Local parents/carers of disabled children will report more positive family relationships	To be measured in 2025-26 after centre re-opens
Local parents/carers will report increased confidence in supporting their disabled child's needs	To be measured in 2025-26 after centre re-opens

