

Ref:

Dundee Partnership **Community Regeneration Fund**

Grant Application **2025/26**

Applicant Information	
Name of Applicant Group	Hot Chocolate Trust
Activity Title	Outdoor Pursuits Residential
Grant Requested (£)	£6,000

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

Who is the grant for? (Name of Applicant Group / Department)		Hot Chocolate Trust	
Did you receive a Dundee Partnership grant during 2024-25? (If yes, list all grants below)			YES / NO
Title of project funded	Amount granted	When	Was it fully spent?

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

A four-day outdoor residential adventure to Nethy Bridge Forest Village for 16 young people (YP) facing marginalisation, poverty, or trauma. The YP will help plan the residential, from activities to budgeting and provisioning. They will enjoy instructor-led outdoor activities, star-gazing and reflective moments, team and confidence building, and individual support.

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

Maryfield Local Community Plan: “We need to improve life chances for children and families.” (Health & Wellbeing; Children & Families; Cost of Living)

City Plan: “Reduce child poverty and inequalities” and “Resilient and empowered communities”.

How many people will benefit from this project?	16
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Will any specific groups benefit from this project? (male, female, age range or protected characteristic)

Within the YP engaging with HCT we will target those who have never had an opportunity like this before e.g. due to poverty, school non-attendance etc.

No independent research describes the city centre subculture of YP engaging with Hot Chocolate so we conduct our own anonymized survey to explore YP's life circumstances.

From our July 2025 research:

- 86% were aged 15-19
- 76% white scottish; 11% mixed ethnicity; 8% white non-UK; 4% gypsy/traveller
- 53% identify as LGBTQ+; 30% identify differently from their birth-assigned gender
- 33% are neurodivergent; 14% awaiting diagnosis and 20% "unsure"
- 27% have a disability
- 61% live in the most deprived neighbourhoods (SIMD 1-2); 22% in the 5% most deprived
- 20% are not in education/employment/training; 34% were excluded from school
- 48% have a mental health condition and 33% were unsure
- 53% struggle with anxiety; 44% with depression; 29% with an eating disorder
- 40% have self-harmed and 29% have attempted suicide
- 55% use drugs most days/weeks and 36% alcohol
- 28% report having committed a crime; 47% have been the victim; 36% have witnessed a crime. 9% have been arrested.

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

We will lead an outdoor pursuits residential weekend for 20 vulnerable YP, creating respite, building trust, confidence, skills and memorable experiences.

The YP we will target cannot afford to access activities or go away for a trip like this and for some even a token payment is a barrier to access. Therefore, we will fully fund the weekend but YP "buy in" through taking responsibility before and during the weekend. Small groups will work with youth workers in the weeks before to plan and organize different elements e.g. choosing tutored activities, planning and leading other activities (e.g. games, bonfires), putting together care packs (e.g. time-out activities, self-care tools), catering and travelling plans etc.

Given the complex needs evidenced above, the first impact is respite – YP repeatedly tell us the value of getting away from their normal lives for once, relieving the stresses and expectations and experiencing themselves in new ways. Equally, this "get-away" can unlock difficult emotions and responses for some which is why we invest in their agency to help organize everything, in building a culture of mutual care within the weekend, and in a 1:2 ratio of youth workers (paid and volunteers) to YP.

Youth workers use the weekend to build trust, confidence and social skills/connections with and between the YP. We use informal education approaches to support YP to build the kind

of weekend they want to enjoy and to respond to and repair the moments when relationships break down. *"Whether it's emotional or physical or mental, we always learn something... I don't know how [they] do it. It's like they sneak learning in the back door. I've learnt how to make badges, and I've learnt how to be more emotionally aware!"*

Since many of the YP have found themselves often discounted for positive opportunities, the activities are chances to discover unknown aptitudes as well as to develop their skills, including soft skills of team-work, communication, task-focus etc. and the particular skills of climbing, archery etc. The impact on YP's confidence and sense of self is invaluable.

Finally, YP will be supported to reflect on their own and each other's growth as well as feedback on learning about the residential experience. This embeds the positive memories and sense of achievement to build resilience as they return to challenging situations. Youth workers will reflect on and follow up with support to the needs and ambitions that YP have shared during the weekend to inform positive next steps together.

Reflections on previous, similar projects:

"It was just a miniature getaway for two days. I got to know more people from here who I didn't talk to and I enjoyed myself after being stressed for a few months – it was amazing."

"It made me realise that I don't want to just be, you know, stuck in Dundee. I need to see what else I can do with my life."

What local consultation has taken place regarding this application?

(Please attach evidence summarising the results of any consultation)

The first consultation is drawing from YP's feedback on similar activities in recent years showing the impact of these kinds of experiences and the youth work support provided through them (as is reflected above).

In our research in July 40% said that residential opportunities are important and the highest area YP wanted support was around money (47%).

In the period leading up to the residential a youth worker (in a new post, focussing on supporting YP into more physical active lifestyles) will be exploring barriers to physical activity with YP and thus identify those who want to find new ways to be more active. Their feedback about how to overcome those barriers will be used to shape the residential.

What evidence do you hold that the local community supports this application?

(For example, was it proposed by members of a particular group? Does it directly address need identified by community members?)

The desire to undertake this kind of trip is reflected frequently in YP's youth work engagements. For example, collaborative planning for summer trips highlighted, again, requests for outdoor activities (leading to an archery day trip next week).

It is a very common response from adults in our community that "there needs to be more for the young ones to do". Outdoor activities, similarly, are widely valued for their appeal and beneficial impacts.

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

As noted, the activity creates access to experiences which are otherwise beyond the financial reach of the YP. By charging no fee but building in YP's agency and leadership in developing the plans for and delivery of the residential, we both remove the financial barrier and build dignity and worth. YP develop their skills and experience themselves as contributors and makers. This builds confidence, responsibility and ambition.

YP describe the impact of this residential in terms of expanded horizons, new sense of self, and a refreshing and nurturing of personal resilience.

"I felt connected to nature and connected to myself. Talking to the other people on the residential, it changed my perspective that I was alone, cause I'm not."

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)	£
Hedley Foundation (secured)	£3,000
NHS Tayside Charitable Foundation (secured)	£1,000
BCBN Grant Initiative (awaiting decision)	£3,000

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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 (£)
3-night Residential Costs for 16 young people & 6 Youth Workers - including activity costs	5,456.00	5,456
minibuses - 17 & 7 seater plus fuel	1,322.00	544
Subsistence for 2 days x 22 people	384.00	0
Planning meetings and review/celebration	120.00	0
Self-care pack – supporting YP's engagement and wellbeing	240.00	0
Lead Youth Worker (23 days salary allocation)	2,963.00	0
Totals	10,485.00	6,000.00

- **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)
Budget including costings breakdown from Abernethy Trust.

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

All youth work engagements, during planning and the residential, will be followed by reflective debrief: youth workers discuss and record activities, the most significant things YP have said/shown/done, and professional observations. These are written as a letter to the YP, which grounds recordings in rich, accountable relationship and constitutes a constructive resource for YP when/if they choose to read the recordings. The recordings and letters are stored and analysed within HC's bespoke evaluation database, Teckle Data. These letters form the basis for judging YP's progress against outcomes, drawing statistical records of engagements and outcomes from little-and-often, narrative recordings.

At the end of the residential YP will be supported to share their immediate reflections. At the review and celebration meeting a couple of weeks after the residential they will explore their experience, impacts, and learning for the future in more depth.

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>)	1/2/2026 *NB we would like to book as early as possible
What is the planned end date of the event/activity?	31/3/2026

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: Providing a transformational residential experience for 16 young people including youth work support to participate in planning/leadership, engage in new activities and experiences, and holistic personal support.	
	Target 2025-26
Outputs	
YP will participate in planning and leadership activities towards an outdoor pursuits residential	16 YP
YP will participate in an outdoor pursuits residential over three nights at Nethy Bridge.	16 YP
Outcomes / Indicators:	
YP will show improved confidence	16 YP
YP will show improved social connections and positive impact on themselves and others	16 YP
YP will show improved ability to look ahead, plan and stick to goals	16 YP

City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome:	
Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:	
	Target 2025-26
Outputs	
Outcomes / Indicators:	