

Ref: NE2616

Dundee Partnership
Community Regeneration Fund

Grant Application
2026/27

Applicant Information	
Name of Applicant Group	NE Community Empowerment Team
Activity Title	Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
Grant Requested (£)	£3750

- 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 x
East End	
Lochee	Youth Inclusion
Maryfield	
North Eastx	
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
- Fully completed the information on the front of the form
- Provided a response to all sections of the application form (including indicating a section as 'N/A' where relevant)
- Checked that your budget adds up properly?
- 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?
- Included appropriate, measurable outputs & outcomes?
- Provided your groups accounts, or other appropriate financial information?

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)

Checked that the bank details or financial code are correct / complete?

Signed the form, given accurate contact details and ticked the GDPR box?

Who is the grant for? (Name of Applicant Group / Department)	Community Empowerment Team		
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?
2026 summer trips	2404.05	May 2026	N/A
2025 - Freecycle	569.00	October 25	Yes

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

We are seeking Community Regeneration Funding to deliver Dolly Parton's Imagination Library across communities in North East Dundee. The project will provide children aged 0–5 with a free, high-quality book each month, delivered directly to their home.

This initiative will support families experiencing poverty by improving early literacy, child development, and parental engagement, while contributing to long-term educational outcomes and reducing inequality within our communities.

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

City plan -Reduce child poverty and inequalities in incomes, education and health.

North East locality plan – Cost of living, improving life chances for children and families

How many people will benefit from this project?	150
Will any specific groups benefit from this project? (male, female, age range or protected characteristic) Children under the age of 5	

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

The North East ward of Dundee continues to experience high levels of deprivation, with many families facing financial hardship and limited access to books in the home. Research shows that children growing up without books are at a significant disadvantage in terms of language development, literacy skills, and long-term educational outcomes.

Literacy attainment figures for some areas in Whitfield are stark reading with only 45% of children in one of the areas achieving their expected level in literacy by the end of p1 in comparison to the Dundee average of 72%.

Through ongoing engagement via community groups, family support sessions, and local partnerships, we have identified:

- Limited access to books and learning materials in homes
- Low parental confidence in supporting learning
- Increased demand for free, accessible services

This project responds directly to these locally identified needs and complements existing community provision by providing free, accessible resources that support early years development.

The aim of the project is to improve early years and reduce inequality by providing free access to books and promoting early literacy within the home.

Objectives

- Register local children aged 0–5 for Imagination Library
- Deliver monthly books directly to families
- Promote reading and learning at home
- Increase parental confidence and engagement

This project is a preventative, community-led intervention that directly addresses inequality and supports families during the cost of living crisis. By investing in early years development, Dundee Partnership can help create stronger communities and better outcomes for children across the North East ward of Dundee.

What local consultation has taken place regarding this application?

(Please attach evidence summarising the results of any consultation)

Local consultation took place with families who have preschool age children across the area when initially setting the project up. We have also liaised with the local nurseries and speech and language therapists.

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 project been running locally for 18 months now and is currently holding a waiting list for children signed up to join which evidences the community support

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

This project directly tackles deprivation by addressing the inequalities experienced by families in North East Dundee, particularly those affected by poverty and the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Children growing up in deprived households are significantly less likely to have access to books in the home, which impacts early language development, literacy, and long-term educational outcomes. By providing a free, monthly book directly to children aged 0–5, the Imagination Library

removes financial barriers and ensures that all children, regardless of household income, have access to high-quality learning resources.

The project benefits those experiencing deprivation by:

- **Reducing financial pressure on families**

Families are supported through access to free books, removing the need to purchase learning materials during a time of rising living costs.

- **Promoting early intervention**

Supporting children at a critical developmental stage helps reduce inequalities before they become entrenched, improving school readiness and long-term outcomes.

- **Empowering parents and carers**

The project increases confidence and skills in supporting early learning at home, particularly for parents who may lack resources or confidence.

- **Improving access to opportunities**

Home delivery ensures the programme is accessible to families who may face barriers to attending services, including social isolation, digital exclusion, or transport issues.

- **Strengthening community engagement**

The project creates opportunities to connect families with wider community supports and services, helping to reduce isolation and build resilience.

Overall, this project provides a preventative, low-cost intervention that delivers long-term benefits by improving early literacy, supporting families, and contributing to reducing inequalities across the community.

What other sources of funding have you secured / tried to secure for this project?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If none, please state why this is the case <p>(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)</p>	
Source of Funding (detail if this funding is for more than 1 year, if applicable)	£
No other sources identified	

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 (£)
Imagination Library subscriptions (150 children x £25)	£3750	£3750
Totals	3750	3750

- **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)

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

We will record measurable data to evidence delivery, including:

- Number of children registered for the Imagination Library
- Number of books distributed (monthly per child)
- Number of families engaged through promotion and sign-up activities
- Referrals received from partner organisations (e.g. health visitors, nurseries)

This information will be recorded and reviewed regularly to ensure the project is reaching target families within the North East locality.

<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>	<p>August 2026</p>
<p>What is the planned end date of the event/activity?</p>	<p>August 2027</p>

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.

<p>City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome:</p>
<p>Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:</p>

	Target 2026-27
Outputs	
Children will be enrolled onto the programme	150
Monthly books will be distributed to participating families	150
Outcomes / Indicators:	
Increased confidence among parents to support learning at home	150

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

