

Better Youth Spaces (BYS) Fund:

Application Form
Process & Q&A



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Session outline

- Welcome & Housekeeping
- BYS Recap – Key Points!
 - Funding Request Thresholds
 - Categorising your requests: *Equipment or Refurb?*
 - “Like-for-Like” Eligibility
 - Completing your Planned Uses (Funding Request)
 - Quote Requirements
 - Value for Money
 - Youth Provision
- Q&A

BYS Recap: Key Points!

- The programme is funded by DCMS and aims to create **Better spaces, Expanded access, Safer spaces** and **Enduring spaces** to bring about fast paced benefits to youth organisations and the young people they work with.
- The fund will support small scale-capital projects including capital equipment, small refurbishments and other capital projects.
- All evidence of eligible expenditure to make grant claims must be submitted to SIB by: **28th February 2026** for **refurbishment** claims, and **31st January 2026** or earlier for **equipment** claims (we will agree the exact date with individual grantees).
- All funds will be **paid in arrears** (after evidence provided of an itemised invoice and that payment of the invoice has left your bank account). We cannot offer any funds in advance, but can in exceptional cases offer funds in a maximum of 3 tranches (still in arrears) to break down the cost.
- Application deadlines:
 - **The window for all applications will close at midnight on Sunday 21st September.**

Funding Request Thresholds



- **Total Grant Size:** £5,000 - £100,000 per site (not per organisation or Local Authority).

Refurb Elements:

- The maximum size of any grant for refurbishment purposes is **£50,000** on a stand-alone basis and must not have dependencies within larger/ higher cost refurb or building projects.
- There is no minimum item or invoice requirement for refurbishment requests.

Capital Equipment:

- Individual items of equipment must be **£2,000** or greater in value (as this is a Capital fund – anything under £2,000 would be classed as Revenue).
- Multiples of identical items or **grouped interdependent** items (e.g., a CPU, monitor, keyboard, and mouse used together for a single IT setup) with a **cumulative value** of £2,000 or greater purchased in a single transaction are eligible.

Funding Request Thresholds



- Eligible equipment and the £2,000 per item threshold can also include:
 - The equipment purchase cost, and
 - Where applicable, all costs necessary to bring the equipment to working condition for its intended use which can include delivery and handling, site preparation, installation, related professional fees for architects and engineers.
- Equipment assets can be considered as one grouped item and the combined value of them as meeting the £2,000 threshold if they meet both of the following:
 - a) The individual assets are interdependent and used together to deliver a single purpose or function. Interdependent meaning one item on its own would not be useful or would not achieve the intended purpose without the others)
AND
 - b) The grouped assets are purchased from a single supplier and listed on a single invoice from that supplier.

Funding Request Thresholds



- **Eligible Example 1:** Purpose IT set up: A CPU, monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables may each cost less than £2,000, but combined together cost £2,000, they would be eligible as the assets are interdependent and used together to deliver a single purpose or function.
- **Eligible Example 2:** Purpose Kitchen setup: An application for the refurbishment of a kitchen is submitted along with an equipment request. The equipment items such as oven, fridge, freezer, pan set can be grouped together to meet the £2,000 threshold as they are interdependent (one item on its own would not be useful or would not achieve the intended purpose without the others)
- **Ineligible example:** A list of items that includes a computer, and some goals nets. The computer and goal nets are not interdependent and used together to deliver a single purpose or function so cannot be grouped together. E.g. if computer was £1,000 and goal nets were £1000, they would each be treated as separate items for the £2,000 threshold and would not be eligible.

Categorising Your Requests

You must correctly assign refurbishment and equipment costs in your application.

- **Equipment** = Items that have no permanent connection to the structure of the building, the ground (in the case of land) or the vehicle (in the case of mobile units) and can be removed will be considered equipment. *E.g. Pool tables, sofas, computer equipment in a bus, swings or playground equipment not fixed to the ground, fridges or cookers that are not integrated.*
- **Refurbishment** = Items that have a permanent connection to the structure of the building, the ground (in the case of land) or the vehicle (in the case of mobile units) and cannot be removed will be considered part of refurbishment works. *E.g. Integrated cookers, built in storage cupboards, sensory garden items bolted to ground, playground items bolted to ground, accessible ramp attached to the bus etc.*

“Like-for-Like” Eligibility

- Like for like replacement of anything is ineligible.
- In determining whether a refurbishment project or an equipment/vehicle request is Like for Like we will apply **two criteria**:
- **Criteria 1: It is not identical AND**
- **Criteria 2: Meets one of the fund objectives**
 - *Improves the reach of activities provided.*
 - *Improves the safety of existing youth facilities.*
 - *Improves the youth sector’s capacity and quality to deliver a range of enrichment activities.*
 - *Improves the financial sustainability of youth facilities.*

If it meets both of the above criteria it will be deemed as not “like for like” replacement.

Note: the above criteria are compared against the current equipment / land /building as if it is currently in well maintained and fully repaired condition (even if it is not) as general maintenance and repairs to existing buildings, land or equipment is ineligible

“Like-for-Like” Eligibility

- **Refurbishment Example:** If it was there before e.g. A kitchen -
 - (i) Firstly, we will consider whether the new kitchen will differ from the old one in any material way e.g. changes to layout, use, accessibility. If we can't see it will differ we would consider it like for like and ineligible.
 - (ii) Secondly, If it is not identical then we will look at whether there is a clear reason as to why the different kitchen results in meeting any one of the 4 fund objectives e.g. does the new kitchen enable to reach more people as larger, or can be used to do new cookery courses that improve capacity to deliver more enrichment activities . If it does it will be deemed not like for like and be eligible for funding.
- **Equipment Example:** If it is a replacement e.g. An old mini bus we will firstly consider whether it is different in any way e.g. More energy efficient and also meets one of the fund criteria e.g. it improves the financial sustainability of the youth facility.

You will **need to clearly demonstrate** how your funding request **is not like for like** when answering the question *“Can you give us a brief narrative description of how you will use this funding”*.

Including clear explanation of how anything being replaced a) differs from what is there currently i.e. is not identical, and b) how the replacement will result in an improvement in one of the 4 objectives, will enable to ensure we assess your grant eligibility correctly.

Completing Planned Uses Section



Planned uses refers to the specific items or refurbishment project you are applying to BYSF for. When entering your planned uses please take care to categorise them correctly as either Equipment/Vehicle or Refurbishment as per the definitions on the previous slide, as they are subject to different fund criteria as per slide 4:

You can add up to 13 Planned Uses, Please see completed examples below:

Please select '**Add another planned use**' to add more planned uses.

Planned Use

Type *
Property - Refurbishment

Category *
Other Room Refurbishment

Total Cost *
45000

Description *
We would like to install a new sensory room at the youth centre in order to enhance t

Please list your chosen supplier/s *
Sensory Solutions Ltd

Please tell us a) why you have selected your chosen supplier/s, and b) how you have ensured value for money? *
They have a strong track record and good reviews from customers we know. Whilst they weren't the cheapest of the 3 quotes they were competitively priced and can commit to delivering within the timescales.

Planned Use Remove

Type *
Equipment - Other

Category *
IT Equipment/Improvements

Total Cost *
4500

Expected Purchase Date *
30/09/2025

Description *
5 x laptops and 6 x computer desks for IT room

Please list your chosen supplier/s *
ITSRUS

Please tell us a) why you have selected your chosen supplier/s, and b) how you have ensured value for money? *
Following an internet search ITSRUS offered the most competitive price for the purchase of the 5 laptops, have good reviews and can deliver within the fund timescales.

For example, how have you considered it meets your quality requirements, that a competitive price has been provided, the capability of the supplier/s, and the reliability of the supplier/s to deliver within the required timeframe

Planned Use Examples

Planned Use

Type *

Equipment - Other



Category *

Sports Equipment



Total Cost *

2628

Expected Purchase Date *

10/09/2025

Description *

12 x TRIBORD 100 Canoe/kayak pack - 1/2 person

Please list your chosen supplier/s *

Manchester Canoes

Please tell us a) why you have selected your chosen supplier/s, and b) how you have

We have chosen this supplier as we have used them previously and they provide high quality equipment at competitive prices. All items are regularly in stock so will meet the timescales of the fund.

Planned Use Examples (cont.)

Planned Use

Type *

Property - Refurbishment

Category *

Kitchen Refurbishment

Total Cost *

35000

Description *

Full kitchen refurbishment at Youth Centre to improve capacity for cooking sessions

Please list your chosen supplier/s *

Hutton Kitchens

If you are unable to upload the required number of quotes/ product listings for each item, please explain why this has not been possible?

Only uploaded 2 quotes for kitchen refurb- given the tight timescales in putting together this application. We emailed several contractors, but only 2 replied and provided quotes where we were happy with the level of service, timescales and quality.

Value for Money Eligibility

- When completing your planned use, you must clearly state in your application your chosen supplier and the rationale for choosing them. This does not have to be the cheapest, as long as you can provide a clear rationale for why you have chosen it and how it represents value for money.
- When demonstrating how your chosen quote(s)/web listing(s) are good value for money (VFM) in your response you must include how you have considered the following in your decision: - **Quality, Competitive price for project/item(s), Ability to deliver in timescale of the fund, and good track record.**

Example response:

Our preferred supplier for the Kitchen Refurbishment is Hutton Kitchens as this work requires specialist expertise to ensure the kitchen is accessible. Hutton Kitchens have a strong track record fitting similar kitchens and for the quality of their work and materials used, are listed as a trusted business on Checkatrade with good reviews. The quote is competitive and in line with similar quotes and they have confirmed they can deliver the project in the required timescale for this fund.

Quote Requirements

In order to demonstrate value for money you will also need to provide quotes or website listings of the items you are applying for. **They must all be itemised and dated/ obtained within the last 3 months at the point of application.**

For Equipment/ vehicles we require:

1. Items up to £10k: 1 quote or 1 website listing showing the item/s and the cost of it.
2. Items above £10k: 3 quotes or 3 website listings showing the item/s and the cost of it.

For Refurbishment we require: 3 quotes for all works

Quote Requirements

- Even if you do not know the exact amount the item will cost, i.e. if you are buying a vehicle second hand etc, you must still provide the required quotes/web listings to provide evidence for your request.
- Please ensure the amount you enter in the 'Total cost' field matches your 'chosen' supplier's quote exactly.
- If you are unable to provide 3 quotes for equipment/ vehicles above £10k or for any refurbishment work, we will still accept your application, but you will be asked in the application form a) why this has not been possible and b) how you have ensured value for money.

Failure to provide adequate explanation for insufficient quotes & value for money could result in your application being rejected.

Youth Provision Eligibility

- **Your provision must be Open Access (definition on next slide) and at least 50% of your provision must be for children/ young people aged up to 18 (or up to 25 years if they have special educational needs or disabilities, are leaving care, or considered 'at risk' or vulnerable).**
- This is based off the number of regular beneficiaries. **For refurbishments**, this is beneficiaries using the site. **For equipment**, this is beneficiaries using the equipment (may be in multiple locations). It should include all young people including those under the age of 11.
- Some of your open access provision must be for 11-18 year olds (or up to 25 years if they have special educational needs or disabilities, are leaving care, or considered 'at risk' or vulnerable)
- Examples of eligible activities could include scout groups, sports clubs (that do not require a certain ability to participate)

Open Access Youth Provision

- **Open access youth provision** is youth work that:
 - Happens outside school hours*
 - Is not part of formal education or alternative provision
 - Is open to all young people—no referral needed**
 - Is actively promoted to local young people
 - Involves trusted adults who guide, support, and challenge
- It can still be open access if:
 - There's a waiting list, as long as anyone can join it
 - There's a registration process, as long as it's not selective
 - It charges a fee, as long as cost isn't a barrier

*There may be exceptions for young people aged 18-25 where they have special educational needs or disabilities, are leaving care, or are considered 'at risk' or vulnerable

**Self-referral is allowed and young people with SEND or physical disabilities may need a parent or carer to help them access provision.

QUESTIONS?

We're happy to help with any queries you may have, so please get in touch with us at the email address below:

- [Social Investment Business – YYS@sibgroup.org.uk](mailto:BYS@sibgroup.org.uk)

THANKS FOR LISTENING!