

Programme guidance for specialist Care Leavers charities 2023/2024

Thank you for taking the time to understand whether we're the right funder for your charity.

Please read this document before you start your application, as it explains who and what we fund, as well as how we make decisions. This guide has 7 sections:

- 1 Background
- 2 Number of grants to be awarded
- 3 Deadlines for funding applications
- 4 Initial eligibility criteria
- 5 Programme criteria
- 6 Shortlisting, and prioritising criteria
- 7 What we don't fund under this Programme

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Hopefully, it tells you everything you need to know about us, but if you still have any questions, please email us at enquiries@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk or call us on 0370 411 1223 before starting your application.

Wishing you every success with your work,

Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales

1 Background

We are committed to supporting charities which help people who experience complex issues that don't have simple solutions, such as homelessness, domestic abuse and addiction. These complex issues make life much harder for people; deepening trauma, impacting their health, leading to poverty and destitution, and preventing people from being able to fulfil their potential.

We believe small, local and specialist charities play a unique role in helping people rebuild their lives. Their size and deep understanding of the complex issues people face makes them best placed to reach, engage and support people and make an impact.

We want to ensure that the small and local charities we support can thrive beyond the lifetime of our funding. Our programmes combine unrestricted funding with a breadth of tailored support aimed at helping strengthen charities and build the knowledge, skills and capabilities of staff and trustees. Therefore, this programme is aimed at charities that prioritise their development.

We know that there are many charities that address a broad range of complex issues within a local community. However, under this programme, we want to support charities where the focus and majority of their work is to address one of the eight issues (themes).

2 Number of grants we will award

We receive more applications than we are able to fund in any one year.

Under this funding programme in 2022/2023, we awarded 82 grants totalling £6.15m across the eight themes.

We received 280 applications across all eight themes, of which 171 (61%) met our initial eligibility criteria. Of those 171 charities, we funded 82 grants (48% of the eligible applications).

The success rate varied considerably across each of the themes. Under the Care Leavers theme, we received **3** eligible applications of which **2** were funded (a success rate of 66%).

For this 2023/24 programme, we will be awarding 84 grants in total. We expect that around 3 of these will be awarded to specialist Care Leavers charities.

3 Deadlines for funding applications

The deadline for receiving applications is **Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 5 pm.**

You will be informed of the outcome of your application by **Friday, 24 May 2024.**

4 Initial eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for a grant from us, your charity needs to meet all the following criteria:

- **Be registered as a charity or as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)** with the Charity Commission. We will ask for your charity registration number at the start of your application.
- **Have at least one set of annual accounts showing as ‘received’** on the Charity Commission website, covering a twelve-month operating period.
- **Have an annual income of between £25,000 and £500,000** in your last accounts published on the Charity Commission website. This is total income and, in the case of consolidated accounts, should cover all entities within those accounts.
- **Have a bank account in the name of the charity** with unrelated signatories. If the application is successful, the grant must be paid into this account.
- Have a **Board of at least three trustees** in place who are **not related to other Board members** and have their names appearing on your Charity Commission records.
- The **majority of people in positions of power (including trustees, the CEO and senior managers) must not be related nor live at the same address.** Where there are related parties, we will consider the relationship, conflicts of interest and loyalty, the balance of power of the related trustees, and how this is managed.



- **Not make any payments to trustees**, except for out-of-pocket expenses.
- **Have a track record of delivering services, for at least one year, to people aged 18 and over.** You must also currently be delivering these services. If your charity has recently merged, then this must apply to at least one charity pre-merger.
- **Have a safeguarding policy in place.** We will explore what safeguarding means to your organisation, how it fits with your mission and values and your approach to safeguarding across your organisation.
- **Hold Public Liability Insurance.**
- **Be an independent organisation.** We will look at any formal associations you have with other organisations, parent bodies, or group structures. We will check that the board of the applicant charity has full control over its work and any conflicts of interest.
- **If you have a live grant with Lloyds Bank Foundation, it must end before 25th January 2025.**
- **Operate mainly in England and/or Wales.** Most of your charity's time and money is spent on activities in England and/or Wales and helping people living in England and/or Wales.
- **Not include religious activity** as a part of the services delivered unless the charity has been established to support people specifically of that faith.
- **Meet the programme criteria outlined below:**

5 Programme criteria for specialist care leavers charities

You must meet this programme criteria to be considered for funding.

The main purpose of your charity is to support people aged 16 to 25, who are planning to leave care or who have left care and have support needs (this can include those charities which have been set up to support unaccompanied minors who have come to the UK as asylum seekers).

You will provide a range of interventions, relationships and referral routes into specialist support, which enables people to leave care and live independently.

This must be reflected in the stated objectives within your governing document on the Charity Commission website, your annual report, your website and your social media channels. This is what we will review to understand your purpose.

As a specialist charity, you will need to demonstrate the following:

- **In-depth services.** We will consider applications where short-term support leads to continued engagement. For example, you may provide social activities to engage people who are care experienced, **but** you will also provide longer-term support, with a plan which helps people to progress to independent living. This could include support to:
 - access safe and stable accommodation,
 - access benefits,
 - build life skills (like budgeting and cooking),
 - access education, training and employment opportunities,
 - improve physical and mental health,
 - improve parenting skills and improve social skills.

We would expect your work to have a mentoring element.

We **do not fund one-off support** where there is no long-term relationship, for example, solely sports activities/social activities, or signposting to other services.

Trusted **relationships or partnerships.** We know that, as a single charity or service, you can't be expected to meet all the needs of the people you support directly. However, you should have trusted relationships with providers or agencies which can help people to overcome the challenges they face and meet their basic needs, (like benefits, health care or domestic abuse services).

When you refer someone for support, you maintain your relationship with them and track their progress to ensure their needs are being addressed and they are progressing on their pathway to independent living.

Person-centred services and personal plans. We will support charities that structure their support around each individual focusing on their strengths while meeting their needs and helping them to overcome the barriers they are experiencing.

You will work together with the people you support to understand the challenges they may be experiencing and agree on how you will help them find a way to overcome them. You will keep written or electronic records or case files of each person you are supporting, noting progress against activities. For example, you might use tools like the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale or have your own system where you track a journey of change over time covering outcomes relating to well-being, life skills, economic well-being, social skills, and confidence. Your charity should be able to demonstrate the difference you are making through these records.

6 Shortlisting and prioritising criteria

In addition to the basic eligibility criteria and the programme criteria already outlined, when shortlisting organisations we will consider how you meet the following prioritisation criteria:

✔ **Your approach to equity, diversity and inclusion**

We know that some people face discrimination because of who they are. This might be due to their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, poverty, social class or being rurally isolated.

We know that we don't all have the same opportunities and therefore charities need to acknowledge this and adjust support and access to services accordingly.

We want to partner with charities that show they:

- understand the makeup of the communities they support and work with.
- recognise the people in those communities who experience inequity.
- proactively reach and engage with people to address the inequity they experience.

- are inclusive and make people feel welcomed, valued and that they belong.

We are not looking for perfection but want to understand your approach and thinking around ensuring you support people who have faced barriers and inequity.

Example: This could include a specialist care leavers charity that has a track record of delivering support to meet the specific needs of unaccompanied asylum seekers or refugees – such as through access to English as a second language (ESOL) classes and a culturally sensitive service, taking into consideration cultural and religious needs which supports integration in the community.

Or it could include a specialist care leavers charity that has specific projects for people with care experience from the LGBTQ+ community or young parents.

✔ **Involvement of people with lived experience of the issues you work to address**

We will prioritise charities that demonstrate that they involve people with lived experience in the leadership of your organisation and the design and delivery of your services. We will also prioritise charities that strongly demonstrate an ambition to develop their practice in this area.

By lived experience, we mean people who are directly affected by the issues your organisation is trying to tackle.

For example, a Care Leavers charity is being led by people who have experienced the care system.

Your charity will be able to describe how the people it supports are meaningfully involved in decisions, internal and external influencing, civic engagement and/or governance roles. This could include information meetings, forums, or a steering/advisory group that plays a role in supporting the governance of the charity.

Example: A charity funded under the 2023 Specialist Programme had a CEO who had care experience, as did another member of the small staff team.

Each service/project is co-produced by those who access the service, and they are supported to test out a range of ideas and concepts which in turn help them to shape services and build personal confidence.

✔ **Understanding of trauma and strengths-based approaches**

Trauma-informed care is an approach which is adopted by an organisation to improve awareness of trauma and its impact on an individual's neurological, biological, psychological, and social development, to ensure that the services provided offer effective support and, above all, that they do not re-traumatise those accessing or working in services.

To address the needs of people preparing to leave, or those who have already exited, the care system it is important to understand and appreciate the impact of past trauma on that person. This trauma may be historic, such as adverse childhood experiences, including experience of domestic abuse or substance abuse and the impact of sustained mental ill health, alongside the trauma of entering the care system.

We will partner with charities that understand the widespread impact of trauma, triggers, and symptoms of trauma in the people they support, and potential pathways for recovery. This will also include the impact of direct and indirect trauma on staff and volunteers.

Support will include building positive relationships by placing individual needs at the heart of your support, helping them to build support networks outside of your charity, with a focus on identifying individual and personal strengths and goals, that helps people to take responsibility for their journey of recovery, giving them choice and control.

✔ **Organisational development support**

We want to help charities grow stronger and more resilient so they can thrive beyond the lifetime of our funding. We will focus on charities that

can benefit the most from our organisational development support, and not just the unrestricted funding.

Therefore, we will only fund charities that can demonstrate an understanding of their own organisational challenges, have the interest and are willing to invest time and effort in owning and addressing these.

This will require the involvement of the charity's leaders and the Trustees and could be anything from improving governance, increasing diversity across the organisation or introducing a database. You can find out more about our approach on our website.

It is important to us that we develop a trusted relationship with you and your charity so that we can provide the support that is best suited to what you're looking to address. To do this we will speak to you or visit your charity a few times per year.

✔ **Geographical location**

We want to make sure that we are funding small specialist charities across England and Wales. In our 2023 programme for specialist charities, we invested less funding in **Wales, London, and the North East and South West regions of England**. Therefore, to address the imbalance, where there are comparable applications which meet the programme and prioritising criteria we will favour applications from Wales and these three regions.

7 **What we don't fund under this programme**

We do not provide funding for the following organisations:

- ✘ Community Interest Companies, or any other organisations that are not charities or CIOs registered in England and Wales.
- ✘ Infrastructure or 'umbrella' organisations.
- ✘ Organisations whose primary purpose is to give funds to individuals or other organisations. This means organisations that use more than 50% of their annual expenditure as grants.
- ✘ Charities working predominantly outside England and Wales.
- ✘ Organisations that require people to take part in a religious activity as part of the support provided unless the charity has been established to support people specifically of that faith.

- ✘ Hospitals, health authorities, or hospices.
- ✘ Rescue services.
- ✘ Schools, colleges, or universities.