

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

by **emr**



Building Brighter Futures Fund **2026** Programme

Helping charities to **transform the lives of young people**



INTRODUCTION

In the heart of communities across the UK lies the untapped potential of countless young minds. The **Building Brighter Futures Fund** aims to ignite the dreams of these often-overlooked youths. It's our belief that **young people deserve every chance** to create a better, fairer life for themselves.

We support UK charities, including Community Interest Companies (CICs) and small groups set up for charitable purposes, that share this belief. By funding employment, education or health and social care projects, we can help local young people to see and reach their full potential.

The Building Brighter Futures Fund was founded in 2023 by EMR, global leader in sustainable materials. The Fund is delivered by the network of Community Foundations across the UK and is managed directly by Cheshire Community Foundation.



WHAT BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES WILL FUND

Projects designed to support young people between the ages of 11 and 19 or those up to 25 years old for young people with additional needs.

Projects which deliver improvements in young people's perception of their **personal development** and **sense of purpose**.

This can include:



Relationships

Projects that help young people to develop the right network around them – whether that's through nurturing interpersonal skills, deepening their understanding of others, or developing their respect for people from all backgrounds.



Health and wellbeing

Projects that help young people across all the areas of wellbeing – whether that's helping them to feel happier, better manage feelings and emotions, increase their confidence, self-awareness and self-esteem or make more informed choices for their own physical, mental and emotional health.



Career and education

Projects that open doors for young people – help them to build important new skills; achieve their full potential in education or move into a job or start work-related training.



To increase your chances of receiving funding, please demonstrate how your project:

- Delivers activities with measurable impact based on one or more of the key objectives, between April 2026 to December 2026
- Uses best practice methods to contribute to long-term impact in young people's lives
- Is shaped by young people, addressing their feedback and their needs
- Provides support or sources of referral beyond the BBF grant, and establishes a development plan for those supported

Applicant organisations must:

- Be a small to medium sized charitable organisation
- Be able to demonstrate that the project is designed to support young people between the ages of 11 and 19, or up to 25 years of age for people with additional needs
- Have a strong understanding of the issues affecting young people and a proven history of delivering services and activities, making a positive difference to their lives
- Have the expertise to collaborate effectively with partners, referral agencies and other stakeholders
- Have robust outcome monitoring and reporting methods and be able to contribute to the Fund's Social Value questionnaires required for this grants programme (see additional information on page 7)

What cannot be funded:

- The programme will only fund complete projects – it cannot make contributions to wider work
- It can only support costs which are directly related to the delivery of the project

Communities we're supporting in 2026:

Funding is available across the following areas:

Scotland

Yorkshire

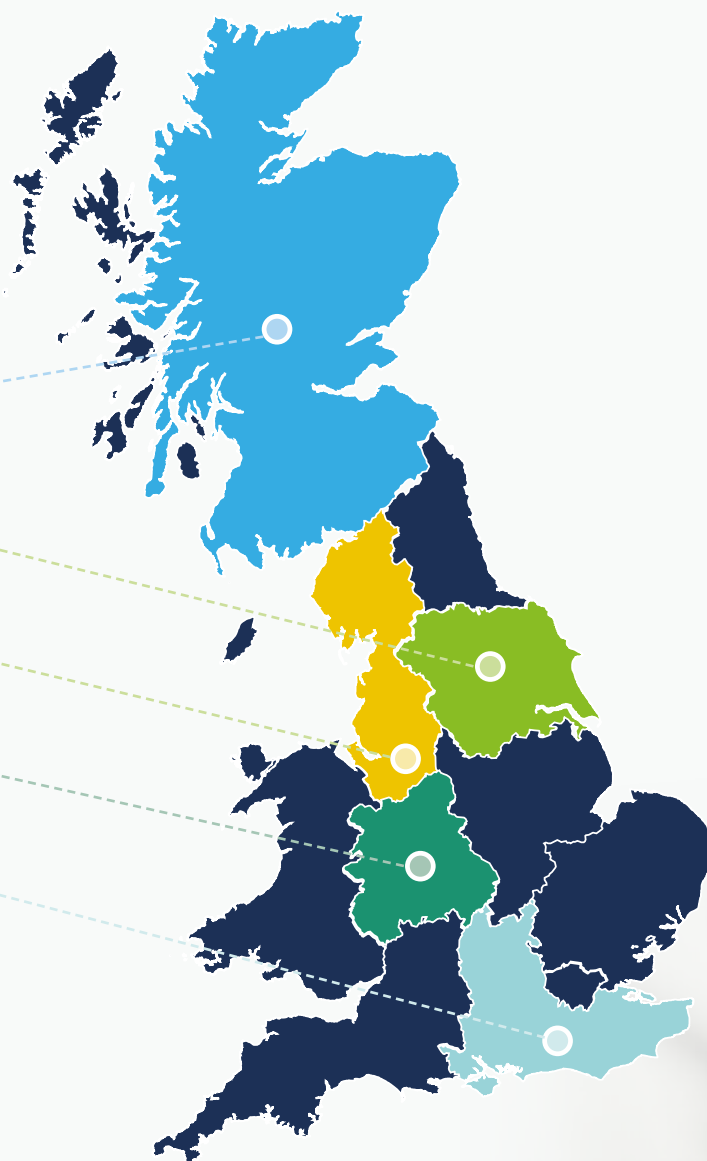
Cheshire and Warrington

West Midlands

London

- The fund will typically make grants of between **£8,000** and **£10,000**, and applicants can apply for up to **£20,00**. However, the panel may consider funding up to **£40,000** for especially strong projects, which meet all the programme criteria and stand out to the Grants Panel as having demonstrable impact.
- Grants will be awarded for work which will begin **April 2026** and **completed by December 2026**; a 9 month delivery period.
- The **Building Brighter Futures Fund** is particularly keen to support charities in areas where EMR operates. The Fund will support projects delivering within a 5-mile radius of an EMR site (up to 10 miles in more remote areas)

For a full list of EMR sites visit: uk.emrlocal.com/yards



How to apply:

Click on the link below:

Deadline to apply: 5pm on **11th January 2026**

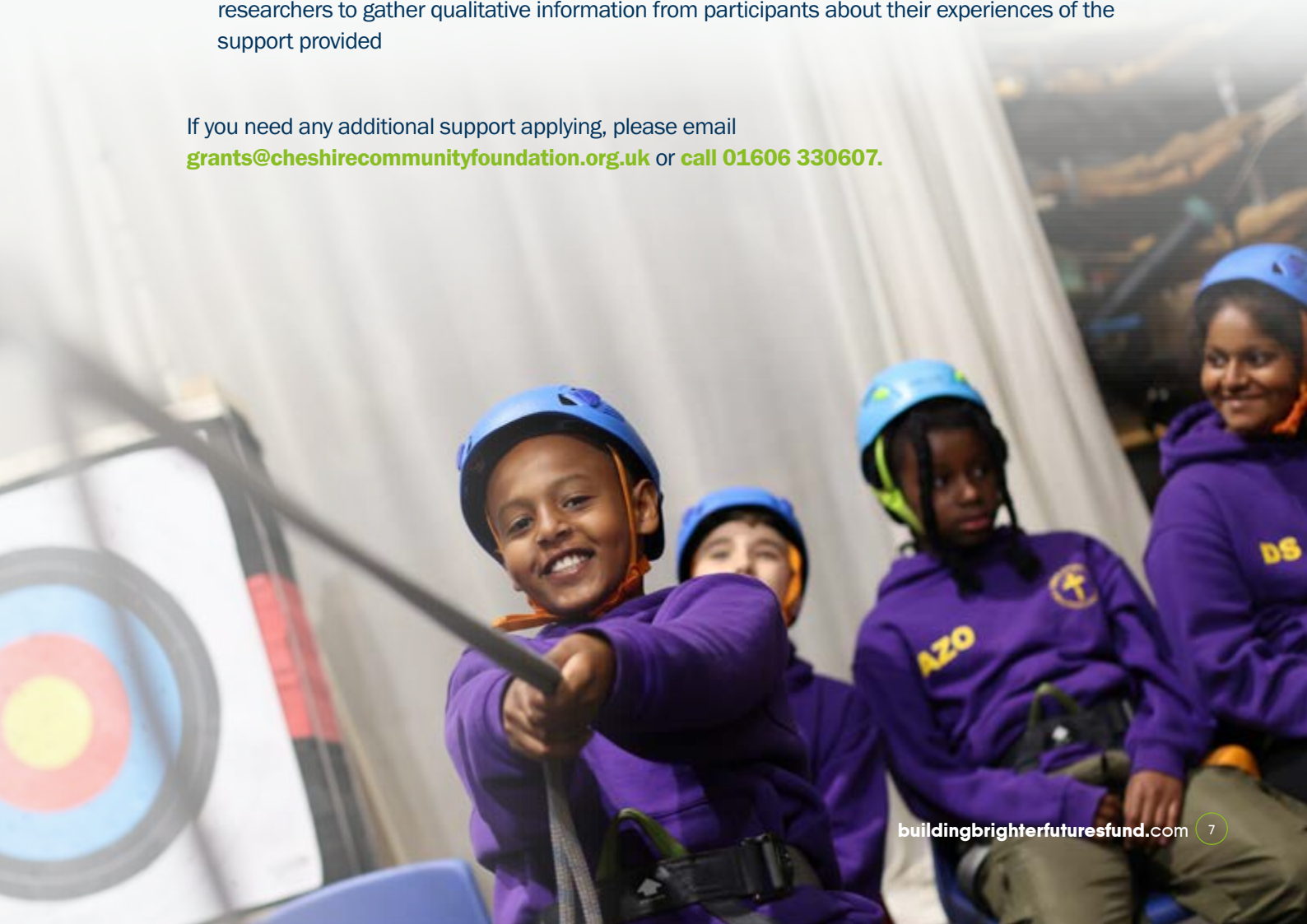
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Measuring impact:

To measure the ongoing impact and effectiveness of the **Building Brighter Futures Fund**, and to ensure the Fund is led by the experiences of young people and what they view as important, EMR is completing a social return on investment calculation. Successful applicants will be required to fulfil the following:

- Provide information on beneficiary numbers, activities delivered and their outcomes
- Supply case studies of individuals taking part
- Completion of an online survey that captures information on some of the outcomes for participants in the funded work
- A small number of successful applicants may be asked to take part in interviews with researchers to gather qualitative information from participants about their experiences of the support provided

If you need any additional support applying, please email grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk or call **01606 330607**.





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EMR is working in partnership with Cheshire Community Foundation, registered charity number 1143711, who hold our charitable funds and administer our Building Brighter Futures grant making