



Get funding for a Community Youth Worker with a grant from the Innovate & Cultivate Fund

Community Youth Workers support clubs, groups and initiatives for young people that:

- Meet a known need for young people within their community
- Include the wishes and voices of young people
- Support intergenerational community cohesion
- Enable positive outcomes for both young people and their communities
- Acknowledge the valuable contribution young people can make to Cambridgeshire.
- Enable Parish councils to work together for the benefit of young people across a geographic area where rural isolation is a known issue for young people.

Cambridgeshire County Council would particularly welcome applications to the [Innovate & Cultivate Fund](#) to fund a Community Youth Worker in local communities delivering their own youth provision and services in areas of high need. You can apply for a start-up grant of up to £15,000 to help cover the first two years of a part-time Community Youth Worker, where you have match funding from your local council.

What is a Community Youth Worker?

Community Youth Workers work directly with young people and with volunteer youth workers to support young people with the preparation and transition to independence and adulthood. Helping young people within that community to build life skills, develop healthy relationships and make decisions that are right for them. They also lead and support young people and community volunteers to fund, plan, design and deliver valuable youth clubs, projects and positive activities for young people locally. Helping young people to thrive, enjoy emotional health and well-being, and enabling them to participate meaningfully within their own communities. They can also represent young people and act as an advocate to address and support needs, remove barriers to participation and inclusion, and to ensure their voices are heard through effective partnership work and by engaging with local services and organisations.

What makes a community group suitable for this fund?

Community groups that are already delivering positive activities and youth groups, and are keen to further develop and grow their offer to maximise their reach to young people within their communities are ideal applicants. If your group has secured support from the local council or can do this by demonstrating the positive difference your work has made to young people then you should explore this funding opportunity with them. By aspiring to support young people with the issues they face and providing positive activities and trusted adults to talk to you can:

- Support positive outcomes and learning for young people
- Enable them to better manage risks and make more informed decisions
- Encourage community volunteering
- Enable community cohesion by bringing people together to value, support young people and see them as part of the solution
- Support young people to participate in democratic processes and play a meaningful part within their own community and its future.

If you can do some or all of the above, you can help prevent young people from needing more targeted and costly statutory support. This meets fund criteria by reducing pressure on overstretched public services and offering a return on investment for this fund.

What do you need to apply?

A good understanding of young people within your community: What are the issues for young people, what already exists within your community for them and what are the gaps? If you don't already have the support of your local council talk to them, preferably with your young people, about the work you are already doing and how their support to enable and fund a Community Youth Worker post could positively impact young people and the wider community. Talk to them about how growing your offer to young people could complement and add value to the work they do and acknowledge young people as a valuable part of the community. Find out how many potential volunteers there are, and how many residents say they want to see something for young people or have concerns about young people in the local area. Ask young people and the community what types of activities are required and if anyone has any skills, resources or funding they would want to contribute. This can be done through a door-to-door survey, a questionnaire, a public meeting or a social event. You can also learn more about your community from the County Council Parish Profiles - <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/parish-profile/>

People: Effective and sustainable youth provision needs enthusiastic volunteers – a team of volunteers who wish to develop as youth workers, co-ordinated by the Community Youth Worker who can enable training, be a point of contact for those young people that need additional support within the community and the link to other organisations in the Statutory and Voluntary sector that can support young people. You will need a steering group or committee who can oversee the youth projects, monitor progress and sort out any problems.

Committee: It's useful if your Community Youth Worker has the support of a committee that includes community members, a parish councillor, teacher, GP (or those with safeguarding experience and knowledge of working with young people) and members of other community organisations. Use social media to generate interest as well as some of the more traditional routes to raising awareness, such as flyers and/or posters in libraries, schools, churches, a parish magazine or community centre.

Match Funding: You will need to ensure you have the support of your local council to match fund your Community Youth Worker. It is an expectation of the Innovate & Cultivate Fund that local councils provide match funds over the two year project. We will also wish to see evidence that your youth provision will be financially sustainable beyond the Innovate & Cultivate Fund period.

Link with your Youth and Community Coordinator: You should also link with your Youth and Community Coordinator (YCC) to access professional support to ensure safeguarding for young people and volunteers and to link with wider funding, training and development opportunities. YCC's are district based professionals that support the development of youth work in communities and can offer support to get started, further develop your provision or explore sustainability. To access this service please contact youthincommunities@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

What we can provide:

Start-up Funding: You can apply for a start-up grant of up to £15,000 over two years for your Community Youth Worker from the Innovate & Cultivate Fund. In addition to local council match funding, financial support may also be available from sources such as local businesses, charitable grants and your own fundraising efforts. For funding opportunities please see:

<https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/supportcamb>

Support: A package of support from your County Council Youth and Community Coordinator (YCC) to help get you started including training, advice and sample documentation. We can link you to local and national youth work providers for professional and practical support. YCC's can also support you to fund equipment and specific youth activities and link you to professional statutory services to ensure the right support for young people should you have any concerns or be unable to meet the needs of individuals you are working with.

Qualifications: YCC's can support your Community Youth Worker and volunteers to access professional training to ensure skills development and enable them to feel equipped and supported in their work with young people.

How much does it cost?

Typical annual costs of a Community Youth Worker

Item	Description	Annual Costs
Community Youth Worker up to 20 hours per week	Using the JNC professional youth work scale we would expect a parish council/community youth organisation to employ a Community Youth Worker on either:	

	JNC Scale points 7-10: Relevant experience to level 3 and commitment to gaining their JNC level 3 qualification	Up to £21 512 per annum excluding on costs – Full time equivalent
	JNC Scale points 11 – 14: Holding a level 3 JNC qualification	Up to £25 729 per annum excluding on costs– Full time equivalent
Match funding	A local council contribution of: An Innovate & Cultivate Fund grant of: Community fundraising and income generated by applying to established funders	Minimum of £7,500 per annum for 2 years Up to £7,500 per annum for 2 years Significant potential

What do I need to do next?

Every community is different so you will need to do some research and scoping to see if employing a part-time Community Youth Worker is right for you and your community before you apply for funding. You should also seek advice from the CCC Youth in Communities Team by emailing youthincommunities@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Pre-application advice sessions are held before each funding round. You will need to make an appointment to discuss your application proposal before submitting. Full details for registering are available on the ICF webpage <http://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

We are also encouraging applications for Mobile Warden Schemes, Digital Inclusion Projects, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia Friendly Communities, Timebanks and Men’s Sheds and the fund is open to applications for any projects that reduce pressure on Council services and/or offer direct savings for the Council.

The Innovate & Cultivate Fund application form and further details about the fund may be found at <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>.

Further information and resources:

- The National Youth Agency <https://nya.org.uk/>
- UK Youth <https://www.ukyouth.org/>