

**SMALL GRANT SCHEME - SUPPORTING UASC & REFUGEE YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES**

**SUPPORT FUND TO ENABLE UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING & REFUGEE YOUNG PEOPLE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CONNECTIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS WITHIN THEIR RECEIVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**

 

In partnership with 

**What is the Supporting UASC’s / Refugee and their Communities Small Grant Scheme ?**

Amity Hub along with Staffordshire County Council, our partner, is currently supporting 44 Unnaccompanied Asylum Seeking Looked After Children and 116 Unaccompannied Asylum Seeking Care Leavers who are making a new start in the UK. Staffordshire County Council are currently supporting 18 Refugee Young People.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) are defined as individuals who :

* Were under the age of 18 year of age when they arrived in the UK without a responsible adult
* Are applying for asylum in their own right
* Are separated from both parents and are not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so

A Refugee Young Person is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. Staffordshire County Council provides support to Refugee families as part of the Government Resettlement Schemes (UKRS, ARAP and ACRS).

UASC and Refugee young people can be some of the most vulnerable children in our society. Not only are they alone in an unfamiliar country they may have experienced a traumatic journey to the UK and on arrival they are at significant risk of exploitation, trafficking and going missing.

Following their 18th birthday an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker has Care Leaver status and Amity Hub may continue to support the young person up to their 25th birthday. The age range of the young people supported within the Amity Hub is 13 through to 25 years but predominantly the young people are aged between 17 and 20. These young people are supported to learn the English language along with engagement with appropriate local education and / or employment provision.

Numbers of UASC and Refugee young people including care leavers currently living in and around our main locations are :-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Newcastle Under Lyme | 73 |
| Stoke On Trent | 38 |
| Birmingham | 20 |
| Stafford | 5 |
| Wolverhampton | 3 |
| Walsall | 2 |
| Burton on Trent | 3 |
| Sandwell | 2 |
| Tamworth | 6 |

As at the 28/6/22

Evidence tells us that the majority of these young people tend to keep themselves separate from the wider community, engaging only with other migrant communities because of the challenges they face integrating in the wider community. Feedback from the UASC community tells us that they do best when they are supported to be an integral part of the community where they feel value and supported.

It is our vision to provide support, encouragement and opportunities for our UASC and Refugee population to engage in their local community in order to benefit the resident community, promote positive outcomes for these young people and achieve community cohesion. We are looking for local community organisations in and around the areas shown in the above table on page 2, to connect unaccompanied children and young people we support to what they need in their local area. Successful organisations who are awarded a grant will help to promote positive outcomes for these young people and bring new positive experiences, a network of support and local friendships to help them become fully active members of their community.

If you are running a project, community activity or club or hoping to run a project that can make a real impact on the lives of Staffordshire’s Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking and Refugee Young People to help them integrate within their local community, this fund is a fantastic way to receive support. You must be able to deliver an activity or event to the young people that is accessible to them within their local area (see table shown on page 2).

This “Helping UASCs and Communities” Small Grant Scheme is available during 2022 and 2023.

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1. **Applying for Funding**

To apply for funding, you must first have already spoken with Project Coordinators from Amity Hub (01782 612539, email [contact@amityhub.co.uk](mailto:contact@amityhub.co.uk)). You will not be able to proceed with a funding application otherwise. The funding application form is hosted on our website [www.amityhub.co.uk](file:///\\scc101\shared\Families%20and%20Communities%20Commissioning%20Team\Children%20with%20Complex%20Needs\UASC%20Independence%20&%20Integration%20Programme\Small%20Grant%20Scheme\www.amityhub.co.uk%20) and your application must be completed and emailed to [contact@amityhub.co.uk](mailto:contact@amityhub.co.uk).

The application form requires the project/activity/club lead to outline the nature of the project, how it meets the funding criteria, and information about the applying organisation or group.

You must be able to deliver a service to the young people that is accessible to them within their local area (see table shown on page 2).

Please note – by submitting a funding application you will be confirming that you accept Amity Hub’s and Staffordshire County Council’s funding conditions as set out in this guide at the time of application. Organisations not accepting these at the time of applying will not be eligible for funding support.

Bids will be accepted from 4/7/22 to 5/8/22. Deadline for applications is 4pm on 5/8/2022. No bid will be approved if submitted after 5/8/2022 for this round of funding.

**2. Eligibility for Funding**

Groups eligible for funding include but are not limited to community organisations including sports, arts, dance, performance, gardening, music, food and drink clubs, parish councils, social enterprises, residents’ associations or traders’ associations, local charities, schools, faith organisations, youth groups and neighbourhood forums. Groups do not need to be formally constituted to apply for funding, though Amity Hub is not able to fund individuals. Depending on the project, Amity Hub may wish to see evidence of safeguarding procedures, appropriate insurance etc, and you may be asked to submit these.

Groups must be able to provide a service that the young people are able to access within their local area. Groups may also have access to their own transport that they can use to facilitate access for the young people.

1. **Criteria for Funding**

To be considered for funding from Amity Hub the project will need to meet some simple criteria:

• Funding must support new activities or events. Groups themselves do not have to be new, but this fund is about filling gaps by supporting new or additional activity and projects that work with the UASC and Refugee young people who are using services delivered at Amity Hub. Funding may possibly support the purchase of new equipment, or even improvements to buildings – but you will always need to demonstrate how the funding unlocks new provision for this engagement with this cohort of young people.

• This new activity or event must relate to and engage the young people who access the Amity Hub service.

• Successful projects are about accessing community assets that aids community cohesion between the UASC and Refugee community and the established community. Projects that enable citizens, families and communities to be empowered to support the integration of the local UASC and Refugee population will be considered.

• Successful projects are about promoting independence, empower UASCs and Refugees to develop life skills and a sense of belonging to the communities where they live.

• Projects must contribute to community cohesion through improved awareness of the local community in relation to the UASC and Refugee group, to develop knowledge of the UASC and Refugee group within their local community and support an ethos of development and care within their local community.

* Projects must be value for money.

Amity Hub cannot award funding for the following things:

• Projects run for the benefit of an individual person

• Any ongoing running costs of existing activity e.g., insurance, fees, rent, transport

• Healthcare and treatment services

• Formal education

• Individually prescribed, targeted health programmes

• Any predominantly religious activity (but this does not preclude religious organisations from making bids for non-religious activity)

• Any political activity

• Expenditure previously incurred or committed

• A statutory responsibility or services generally resourced from/by other statutory organisations

• Any activity that discriminates on the basis of race, religion, gender, nationality, disability, age or sexual orientation

• Activity to make a profit for shareholders

If you feel you have a project that may achieve the outcomes required but are concerned by the restrictions above, discuss this with Amity Hub ahead of making the application.

**4. Funding amounts**

Amity Hub has available a maximum of up to £1,000 for each successful bid. Organisations can submit more than one bid as long as the projects are delivering a different offer. Smaller amounts can be bid for as there is no set minimum. Amity Hub has in total £16,000 available to award to successful organisations. Amity hub has available a maximum of £1000 for each successful bid however, where assessed costs are higher and approved consideration can be given to increasing this amount following negotiation.

**5. Assessment of application**

A panel including representatives from Amity Hub, Above n Beyond, young people and Staffordshire County Council will consider your application form against the essential criteria set out above. If they do not feel that it meets these criteria, they may contact you to suggest how to change the project aims, or how to better tell the story of what you want to achieve and show the impact you will have. The panel will also consider the following points:

**Complete application forms** – Please ensure you answer all the questions in the application form.

**Timing** – Please ensure your activity can be delivered within the timescale, up to and including the 31st of March 2024.

**Relevance** – The application should describe how the activity meets section 3 “Criteria for Funding”. How will this support integration in the community of the UASC population who are using the Amity Hub service? For instance, does it bring people together who may not have met each other? Does it help people from different cultures get to know each other better?

**Involvement** – Your application should describe the commitment to involve communities in the planning and delivery of the event or activity.

**Innovation** – Is your idea for an activity or event fresh, different and creative?

**Budget and organising plans** – Are they realistic and strong enough so your activity and event is successful?

**Evaluation** – Your application should describe how the impact and success of the event or activity will be measured.

**6. Award of funding**

If Amity Hub and Staffordshire County Council approve your application, you will be notified in writing (email) and timing of receipt of payment will be discussed with you and processed following presentation of an invoice for the awarded amount. Your organisation needs to provide your bank account details on your invoice.

Organisations who were unfortunately not successful with their bid will be notified in writing (email) with reasons given to why their bid did not comply with the eligibility for funding.

**7. Project Delivery**

Your project must be underway, and this fund’s contribution must be spent, by 31st March 2024, unless there are exceptional reasons otherwise agreed by Amity Hub and the County Council in writing. Discuss this with Amity Hub if you have any uncertainties about this.

If there are exceptional reasons for not spending the funding by 31st March 2024, then Amity Hub and Staffordshire County Council may agree either:

• that the organiser of the proposal would have to return any unspent money and the Amity Hub could re-allocate the fund during the remainder of the funding period up to the 31st of March 2024.

Or

• If agreed in writing by the Amity Hub and Staffordshire County Council, the project could use the money during the following financial year. The project would need to be completed within the following year and could not be carried forward any further.

All Staff or Volunteers directly engaging with Young People must have a valid enhanced DBS at time of delivery. Amity Hub may ask for evidence of DBS checks.

Projects awarded and delivered must be able to produce a valid Risk Assessment to support the activity. Amity Hub will be able to assist successful organisations if required.

**8. Project evaluation**

Once your project has been approved, you will also be sent a short evaluation form which you will be required to complete and return to us once your project has been delivered. This is only brief, but we want to understand how our funding has made a difference in the community and for the UASC young people. You will also need to retain evidence of spending as we will need to see this and will ask for it as part of the evaluation.

**9. Data protection and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018**

Information collected by Amity Hub may be shared with Staffordshire County Council. Where Staffordshire County Council collect any personal data from you as part of the application process, they will only use it for this purpose and no other. Your personal data will never be shared with anyone else other than Staffordshire County Council and will be retained only for as long as it is needed. Non-personal data you submit to use as part of this application process will be used to make decisions to award funding, perform anonymised analysis, or to undertake publicity or fundraising. For more information on how Staffordshire County Council handles personal data, please see their Privacy Notice.

**10. Application timeline**

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| --- | --- |
| Applications open | 4/7/2022 |
| Deadline for applications | 05/08/2022 4PM |
| Panel meet to discuss applications | 9/08/2022 |
| Decisions communicated to all applicants | 12/8/2022 |
| Project evaluation forms **must** be returned | 2 weeks after project ends |