

New Funding Opportunities

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1. The Strategic College Improvement Fund (SCIF)

The Strategic College Improvement Fund (SCIF) aims is to support colleges to deliver better outcomes for learners, employers and local communities. FE colleges and sixth-form colleges graded by Ofsted as 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' will be able to apply for grants of £80,000 and £200,000 with a stronger 'partnering' college. Together they will achieve improvement by creating and delivering action plan to tackle the issues faced. Applicant colleges are required to contribute at least 25% of the total costs of the improvement programme; partner colleges must also account for at least 25% of the total costs of the programme of work. The closing date for Stage One applications is the 27 July 2018. Following assessment successful colleges will be offered support to continue to Stage Two.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

2. Funding for Projects that Promote a Better Understanding of the Environment and Countryside

Not for profit organisations and schools can apply for funding to the Niveveh Charitable Trust for a broad range of projects and activities that promote a better understanding of the environment and countryside, whilst facilitating improved access, education and research. Whilst the Trust does not specify a minimum or maximum grant amount that can be applied for, an analysis of previous grants would suggest a maximum of £5,000 per year for up to three years. Previous projects supported include Busby Primary School which received a grant of £2,000 to build a 'vertical garden' for environment enhancement as well as the children's educational value; and St Joseph's Specialist School & College, which received a grant of £4,000 towards a community garden expansion. Applications are usually discussed at the Trustees' quarterly meetings and applications can be submitted at any time.

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3. Grants of up to £10,000 to Encourage People to Play Sport

Schools as well as formally constituted not for profit organisations, local authorities and governing bodies of sports are eligible to apply for grants of between £300 and £10,000 through Sport England's Small Grants Programme to cover capital and revenue costs for projects that help more people regardless of age, background or ability, to play more sport or to be more active more often. The focus of the Grants Programme is on adults and young people aged 14 or over. Projects working with mixed age groups may be considered if there is a particular focus on people aged 14 plus. The maximum project size is £50,000 and applications can be submitted at any time.

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4. Stellos Award for Disabled Entrepreneurs

The Stellos Philanthropic Foundation is giving disabled entrepreneurs the chance to win a share of £70,000 to fund the further growth of their business and become Stellos Disabled Entrepreneur of the Year 2018. This year the award is open to all forms of entrepreneurship (including pre-revenue start-ups). Applicants can be businesses operated by and/or for the benefit of disabled people; or employers whose workforce is made up of significant numbers of disabled people. The overall winner will receive a top prize of £30,000 and there are four prizes of £10,000 to four other finalists. The closing date for applications is the 1 October 2018.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

5. The Social Tech Trust New £500,000 Fund

Grants of up to £45,000 are available over a 9 - 12 month funding period to social ventures for projects that can demonstrate how technology can be used to address social challenges. For this funding round projects need to demonstrate how tech can be used when driven by equality. To be eligible the social venture needs to have a working product or service that they will be testing and improving through continued user testing and increasingly rigorous social impact evaluation. The funding is being provided through the Social Tech Trust's innovative Social Tech grant funding programme. In addition, successful applicants will receive:

- Technical assistance to support growth, sustainability and capacity for transformative innovations, e.g. legal and business support, social impact measurement and reporting, marketing and communications.
- Access to our extensive support networks, including mentors and investors.
- A personal approach from the Social Tech Trust team – one that recognises the importance of flexibility for early-stage innovation
- Support to build your case for further investment.

Stage 1 applications are open from midday on Monday 2 July until Wednesday 25 July 2018. For those selected, Stage 2 applications will be open from Monday 6 August to Wednesday 29 August 2018. Investment decisions will be announced in October 2018.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

6. ScottishPower Foundation 2019 Grant Programme

The ScottishPower Foundation is now accepting applications from Registered Charities and not-for-profit organisations and expects to fund around 20 projects over the next year. All applications must address at least one of the following aims of the Foundation:

- The advancement of education
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement
- The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science
- The prevention or relief of poverty and the relief of those in need by reason of disability or other disadvantage
- The advancement of citizenship and community development.

In addition, the Foundation particularly welcomes applications that strongly address the following strategic priorities:

- Environmental programmes
- Tackling disadvantage and promoting equal opportunities
- Addressing fuel poverty and/or energy efficiency.

Grants of £25,000 up to £250,000 are available for up to one year's work. Applications should be submitted by no later than 1pm on Wednesday 25 July.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

7. Funding to Support Early Year Language and Literacy Skills

The funding is designed to offer practical help to parents who need help teaching their children reading, writing and language skills, for example by accessing home visits and online tools. Voluntary and community groups with a proven track record of breaking down learning barriers for children with additional needs will be able to bid for a share of the fund to run projects that help disadvantaged families and children with additional needs. These children are more likely to experience a 'word gap' when they arrive at primary school i.e. a gap in communication skills between disadvantaged children and their peers. This can have a long-term impact on a child's education. Giving parents the confidence to work with their children on speech and language before they start school has been shown to be one of the most effective ways to ensure children have the right foundations for a successful education. Projects could include:

- Home visits from trained early years professionals, to help parents support their children in learning new words through simple steps like reading and singing nursery rhymes
- Easy-to-use online tools that help broaden the vocabulary parents use with their babies.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

8. Funding for Projects that Support the Education and Development of Children and Young People

Schools, colleges and community groups in England can apply for grants to BlueSpark Foundation to support the education and development of children and young people through educational, cultural, sporting and other projects. BlueSpark is particularly keen to support projects which will help enhance the self-confidence, team working skills and future employability of children and young people. Many grants will be under £2,000, most will be under £5,000 and only in a few cases will grants exceed £10,000. Funding provided by BlueSpark for a project must be crucial to the project rather than marginally incremental to its funding. The funding available can be for physical assets such as iPads, sports equipment, or lighting for stage productions or for services or facilities such as sports coaching or music or drama tuition or simply for the provision of experiences such as theatre visits. These examples are intended to be illustrative and not restrictive as to the funding which BlueSpark may provide to support projects. Applications can be submitted at any time and must be made online on BlueSpark Foundation's standard Application Form.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

9. Funding to Support Victims of Domestic Abuse

The Fund will support proposals for the provision of core support for refugees and other accommodation-based services, helping local areas ensure that no one is turned away from the support they need. Specifically welcomed are bids which demonstrate that there is a need for the type of support proposed locally and that the solution proposed is designed to meet the needs of victims. For example, bids could be for specialist refuge places or for specific groups (i.e. for victims with mental health problems, substance abuse problems, or particular needs of different ethnic communities), or, where this best meets local need, other accommodation-based services with specialist support, or other services that enable victims to access this support. All bids must help deliver the local strategy for domestic abuse provision and provide evidence of local need and gaps in provision in their own local areas.

Grants of up to £100,000 maximum per individual partnership bid will be considered. Applications from more than £100,000 which prohibit work across a number of local authority boundaries. Applicants are required to submit bids no later than 5pm Friday 17 August, all funded works must be completed by 31 March 2020.

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10. New Funding for Culture and Creative Industries

The Cultural Development Fund is open to towns and cities that have a strategic vision for their development and can demonstrate both cultural maturity and commitment to culture-led growth but need investment to accelerate and broaden their vision. The aim is to support towns and cities to develop transformative culture-led economic growth and productivity strategies by using culture and creative activity to:

- Unlock economic growth and productivity
- Make places attractive to live in, work and visit
- Strengthen local leadership in culture and/or the creative industries
- Enhance creative skills.

Applications from a partnership for the area, led by a Local Authority, Local Enterprise Partnership, or other appropriate body, who would lead a consortium of partners from both the public and private sector are invited to register an interest in the first instance. At least one partner organisation is expected to be from the cultural, heritage or commercial creative industries, depending on who is most appropriate to meet the aims and objectives of the proposed activity. Bids for up to £7 million for a number of projects in a certain area to help regeneration, create jobs and maximise the impact of investment will be accepted. The investment will help to grow local economies and increase access to arts, heritage and the creative industries. The fund will support a range of activities, including but not limited to: resource investment in programme, events and activities or culture and the creative industries; resource investment in upskilling local cultural and creative industries leaders; capital investment in physical space for culture, heritage, and the creative industries; and capital and resource investment in new creative skills development programmes and materials. One formally constituted organisation with a registered address in England must act as the lead and submit the application. The deadline to register is 4pm on the 1 August 2018; and the closing date for applications will be 12pm on the 15 August 2018.

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11. Funding Available to Support Social Entrepreneurs

UnLtd, the charity for Social Entrepreneurs recently launched its Impact Fund. The fund aims to address one of the key challenges for early stage social ventures: getting to access to capital. The Impact Fund will invest in around 35 social ventures over the next three years. Initially, the UnLtd Impact Fund is looking to support social ventures tackling challenges related to training and employment - including school leavers and apprenticeships, further and higher education, unemployment and underemployment, and supporting those distant from the labour market. Social ventures will be offered access to between £50,000 and £150,000 of debt investment, which will include an element of grant funding. The level of grant funding is decided on a case-by-case basis, but it is expected to be an average of 15% of the total amount. The UnLtd Impact Fund offers unsecured business loans at an interest rate of 9.5% repayable over a maximum of five years, with all fund profits reinvested to support more social ventures. In order to apply, applicants need to complete an Expression of Interest through the UnLtd website. Successful applicants will be invited to complete a full application which will include submission of a financial model.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

12. Grants of up to £10,000 for Projects that Help Disadvantaged and Neglected Children

Not for profit, organisations such as schools; registered charities; voluntary organisations; churches and community interest groups etc. can apply for grants of up to £10,000 per year for up to 3 years for projects that help children and young people overcome the effects of:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Disability
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- Poverty and deprivation.

The closing date for applications is the 2 September 2018.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

13. BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme

The BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme which supports children and young people up to the age of 18 living with severe poverty as well as additional pressures such as domestic violence, disability or poor health in the family is currently open for applications from referral organisations that will be able to apply for grants on behalf of families or young people. The fund will cover the purchase of critical items such as:

- Gas or electric cookers
- Essential household items
- Furniture and kitchen equipment
- Children's beds and bedding
- Washing machines
- Fridges and freezers
- Baby equipment
- Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations.

Applications must be completed by a registeredreferrer who is part of an organisation that is supporting the family or young person and capable of assessing their needs. The Social Tech Trust should also be able to administer and supervise the grant on behalf of the BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme.

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14. NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust supports charities working in agriculture and rural development. The Trust will focus on providing funding of £1,000 - £50,000 to larger initiatives, which would have a significant impact on the rural community. The aims of the Trust are as follows:

- To advance the education of the public by means of research and dissemination of information in relation to agriculture
- To advance the education of young people within rural areas
- To relieve poverty within rural areas
- To promote the benefit and social welfare of inhabitants of rural communities by associating together with the inhabitants and local authorities, voluntary and other organisations to advance education and leisure
- To promote research into agricultural associated activities
- To advance the education of the public by means of research and dissemination of information in relation to insurance.

The Trust also provides small grants of up to £250 through their Community Giving Fund which supports worthwhile community events, charities, schools and community group activities that are local to their operations. The deadline for applications is 26 October 2018.

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15. Launch of the 2018 Discovering Start-Ups Competition

Discovering Start-Ups is a competition bringing together industry expertise and offering assistance to new-start technology companies. Start-ups are invited to enter and pitch their entrepreneurial ideas for a prize. The Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government prizes to help boost their new business. This competition carries the theme 'Connecting the Digital World' and takes place in September in London. It provides a platform for entrepreneurs to pitch their start-ups to investors, venture capitalists and global corporate leaders. The Final will feature an Exhibition with judges rotating between start-up pitching stations and the opportunity of 1:1 follow-ups later in the day. Prizes include:

- Scheduled introductions to elite technology investors
- A stand in the Discovering Start-Ups Exhibition
- Professional training on how to pitch to investors during the Finalist Acceleration Workshop
- One year's membership of Cambridge Wireless
- Exposure in the CW Journal and other press
- One free video created by Beyond Media.

The competition is open to technology developers or providers of software, hardware or IT services. Applications must be submitted by midday on Monday 6 August, 2018.

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16. IUK Launches £10 Million Regulators' Pioneer Fund to Bring Innovative Products & Services to Market

Innovate UK (IUK) works with people, companies and partner organisations to de-risk, enable and support innovation, and promote economic growth. The Regulators' Pioneer Fund (RPF) is being administered by IUK on behalf of BEIS. BEIS is investing up to £10 million over two years in regulator-led projects. The competition's aim is to promote cutting-edge regulatory practices to help make the UK the world's most innovative economy, whilst protecting citizens and the environment. Applicants can apply for up to £1 million of grant funding, this includes funding that would be passed on to collaborators or partners on a sub-contract basis. The funding can only be used for non-commercial activities. Proposals must demonstrate clear benefits to businesses bringing innovative products and services to market. Applicants should address one of the four Grand Challenges set out in the Industrial Strategy.

- Put the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution
- Harness the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth
- Become a world leader in shaping the future of mobility
- Harness the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an ageing society.

To lead a project, an applicant must:

- Be a national regulator
- Be the lead sponsor of the project
- Clearly set out how a new regulatory approach will help businesses bring innovative products and services to market.

Projects may include partners, such as businesses, industry bodies, civil society groups, other regulators or academic institutions, on a sub-contract basis. The deadline for applications is midday on 14 August 2018.

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17. The Energy Entrepreneurs Fund

The objective of the Energy Entrepreneurs Fund (EEF) is to support, through capital grants, the development and demonstration of innovative technologies and /or processes in the areas of energy efficiency, power generation, and heat and energy storage. The scheme seeks the best ideas, irrespective of source, in these areas from the public and private sector. The scheme particularly aims to assist small and medium sized enterprises, including start-ups, and those companies selected will receive additional funding for incubation support. Up to £1m of the £10m available grant funding will be ring fenced to fund smaller projects with a total value up to £250,000. The remaining funding will be used to demonstrate a robust evidence based case for funding, which will include but not be limited to:

- The potential impact of the innovation on 2050 low carbon targets or security of energy supply
- The commercial viability of their innovation and a coherent development plan that will commercially progress the innovation
- Value for money, including cost reduction potential
- The size and nature of the business opportunity.

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18. Government Launches New £163m Affordable Homes Fund

Homes England is making available £163 million across England up to 2020 to 2021 through the Community Housing Fund. The objectives of the Community Housing Fund are to:

- Increase housing supply in England by increasing the number of additional homes delivered by the community-led housing sector
- Provide housing that is affordable at local income levels and remains so in perpetuity
- Deliver a lasting legacy for the community-led housing sector in the form of an effective and financially self-sustaining body of expertise within the house building industry in England.

Applications will be considered from all organisations which are, or intend to become, constituted as a body corporate, or an equivalent form of constituted body. This includes but is not limited to Registered Charities, a Company Limited By Guarantee, Community Benefit Society, Co-operative Society, Community Interest Company, Social Enterprises, Registered Providers, and Local Authorities. The Fund will be split into two phases:

- Phase One will help organisations cover the revenue costs of project-specific activities that will support development of community-led housing proposals, and the capital costs of local infrastructure projects that will result in housing developments that meet the criteria for being community-led
- Phase Two is for capital funding to support the costs of building new community-led housing schemes that covered under the second phase of the Fund.

In addition to the costs listed above, funding will be also available to local authorities who wish to support community groups looking to develop community-led housing proposals in their areas; for example, to employ staff to provide advisory services, information and support to groups. The total budget for this fund across the two phases is £163 million and will cover a two-year period and there is no strict cap on the amount of grant funding that can be applied. Applications will be accepted until the funding is fully committed or until 31 December 2019, whichever occurs first.

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19. Small Charities Funded Website Programme

This is a new funding opportunity for small registered charities with annual incomes below £350k to receive a new, best practice website built using templates funded by the Transform Foundation. This programme is designed specifically for very small charities and is separate to their main Website Grant. As part of this programme successful applicants will also receive a website strategy and rolling process to adapt the templated site to their needs. Applications are accepted on a design basis and your organisation will need to cover ongoing costs for a minimum of a 12 month commitment. Given the limited number of sites available, the programme is on an invite only basis according to a prescribed cause, size and geography. Recipients must be registered charities, CICs or other non-profit organisations with a social mission.

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20. War Memorials Grant Scheme

Grants of up to £30,000 are available grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials in England. These grants are intended to help those who are responsible for the family or young person and capable of assessing their needs. The fund will cover a two-year period and there is no strict cap on the amount of grant funding that can be applied. The scheme will run for 18 months, is funded by the Department for Culture, Heritage and Communities and is open to all registered charities with a social mission. The funding is grants will normally be for up to a maximum of 75% of eligible costs. Our built heritage. Grants made available through the War Memorials Trust and the next closing date for applications is the 30 September 2018.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

21. The Paul Bush Foundation Trust - Funding Available for Adults and Children with Physical Disabilities

Individuals and charitable organisations can apply for grants of up to £10,000 (£5,000 for individuals) to support the needs of adults and children with physical disabilities. Funding is available to assist those individuals with a disability to improve their physical, psychological and emotional well-being. In the case of funding for individuals applications must be supported and completed by a third party sponsor. A sponsor could be, for example, a health or personal care professional, social worker or charity support group representative. The Trustees meet twice yearly in April and October with successful applicants being advised by 1 November and 1 May each year.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

22. Grants for Projects Tackling Health Issues Amongst Vulnerable People

Registered and exempted Charities can apply for a grant of £1,000 or £5,000 to help them to deliver their community based projects. Priority is given to projects that focus on:

- Homelessness
- Domestic abuse
- Prisoners / offenders
- Refugees and asylum seekers

Eligible organisations with an operating income of at least £100,000 and no more than £1,000,000 have until 31 July 2018 to apply for a small grant and 30 September 2018 for the larger grant to the Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust.

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23. Funding for the Provision of Clinical Care

Charities delivering health care can apply for grants of between £15,000 and £100,000 towards new buildings, the refurbishment of existing buildings and equipment. Match funding is required for projects over £50,000. In particular, funding is available to charities providing support palliative care and hospices, those that support older people as well as projects supporting transitions and independence. Funding is not available for clinical care which might be considered the proper responsibility of the National Health Service (e.g. refurbishment of hospital wards or other facilities, or provision of surgical equipment). The funding is made available through the Wolfson Foundation Health and Disability Grants Programme and the next closing date for applications is the 5 January 2019.

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24. New Fund Launched to Boost Construction Skills

The Construction Skills Fund will bring training to construction sites thus allowing learners to apply their knowledge in a real-world environment. The aim of the fund is to help meet the needs of employers; whilst also supporting those who want to join the industry, particularly adult learners. The scheme will run for 18 months, is funded by the Department for Education and will be administered by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB). The fund aims to support:

- 20 on-site training hubs
- Work experience placements for people working to join the industry
- Entry pathways for those currently unemployed
- Pathways for career switchers

Funding will be awarded to bids best able to deliver an on-site training hub; it is likely that a lead organisation will apply to receive the funding on behalf of a collaboration that may include:

- Employer with large infrastructure or housing projects
- Local authorities
- Combined authorities
- LEFES
- Housing associations
- Other clients (e.g. HS2)
- Federations
- Training groups
- Colleges
- Higher education
- Private training.

Funding will only support on-site training provision, and access to live construction projects is essential to qualify. Grants could support, for example, the establishment of the hub's training facilities, a skills coordinator for each project, and the cost of training delivery and qualifications. The closing date for expressions of interest is eight weeks from the launch date of 18 June 2018. Applicants selected to go forward to Stage 2 will then receive more information on the application deadline.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

25. Funding for the Restoration of Historic Buildings

Funding is available to restore historic buildings through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Heritage Enterprise grants programme. The programme provides grants to support not-for-profit organisations in partnership with the private sector for the restoration of unused historic buildings and sites. The programme provides grants where historic buildings have failed to attract enough investment because the cost of their repair has not been commercially viable for private developers. Through the programme, two levels of grants are available:

- Grants of between £100,000 and under £2 million
- Grants of between £2million and £5million.

For grant requests of over £100,000 and under £2million decisions are made every three months. For grant requests of between £2 million and up to £5 million the next closing date for stage one applications is the 16 August 2018.

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

26. Reducing Plastic Waste in the Environment

Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation, will invest up to £4 million in innovation projects to reduce the harm that plastics do to our environment and increase productivity and growth of the economy. The aim is to support the development of new polymers, processes, designs, recycling regimes, value added recycle or bio-alternatives. Eligible applicants can be businesses, academic organisations, charities, public sector organisations or research and technology organisations (RTO) carrying out the project work and intending to exploit the results from it in the UK. Collaborative bids are encouraged and the lead organisation must claim funding through this competition and at least one other organisation in the consortium must also claim funding. All projects must involve an SME. Only an SME can lead projects with costs below £100,000. Projects with a total cost of between £50,000 and £1 million that can start by 1 December 2018 and end by 31 December 2020 and last between 3 months and 24 months are eligible for funding. Apply by 12pm 8 August 2018.

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27. The Great British High Street Awards 2018

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has launched the Great British High Street Awards. The Awards recognise and celebrate local achievements on Britain's high streets and support the communities in which they live and work. High streets are eligible to win up to £10,000 for their local community, plus the opportunity for their local businesses and consumers to participate in a Visa GBHS Spend & Win Competition, which rewards the people that make our high streets so special. Winners will be named in each of the four UK nations across two categories:

- The Champion High Street category will recognise the nation's best high streets
- The Rising Star High Street category will recognise the nation's most ambitious high streets, which are taking the lead and working together to revive, adapt and diversify.

An overall High Street of the Year will also be named.

The awards are open to:

- Business Improvement District
- Local Authority
- Parish Council
- Town Team
- Coastal Community Team
- Town Centre Partnership
- Community Interest Company
- Chambers of Commerce
- Trading Association.

Entries close at 23.59 on the 22 August 2018.

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28. Grants of up to £2,000 for Projects Tackling Disadvantage and Deprivation

The next application deadline for the Greggs Foundation Local Community Projects Fund is the 28 August 2018. The Fund makes grants of up to £2,000 to not for profit organisations with a turnover of less than £300,000 a year who work to reduce the disadvantage of the most deprived people in the community. They are interested in projects that improve resilience within communities, which can include sessional activities/respite support, equipment for sessional activities, trips and residential breaks. They are also interested in new approaches and innovative ideas as well as sustainable approaches to supporting your community. This should include one or more of the following communities of interest (i.e. people who are):

- Disabled or suffering chronic illness
- Living in poverty
- Voluntary carers
- Homeless people
- Isolated older people
- Other demonstrating significant need.

They do not fund running costs or continuation of existing and ongoing work. The Foundation are more likely to make grants to local organisations based near Greggs shops.

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29. New Funding Round for New Community Businesses

The Community Business Bright Ideas Fund supports aspiring community groups wanting to set up new community businesses has re-opened for applications. Grants of up to