

Safer Communities Fund- FAQs

We hope you find the answers to your questions in this section. However, if you can't find the answer to your question here or within the grant making principles document, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01606 364000 or email Safer.communities@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

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What is the Safer Communities Fund?

Safer Communities is a fund to support community safety and crime prevention projects in Cheshire. This is seed funding and aimed at new projects and initiatives.

What level of funding is available?

Safer communities provides grants up to £5,000 which make a real difference in their local community. However, most of the awards made are between £2,000 and £3,000 to ensure the Safer Communities fund can have the largest amount of impact.

What are the deadlines?

There are no deadlines. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and decisions will usually be communicated within 8 weeks of submitting your application.

How do I apply?

Firstly, you need to check your project is eligible for funding. You should read the grant making principles document, criteria and refer to FAQs if unsure. In order to apply, all organisations must have discussed the project with the Community Development and Policy Officer, the applicant will then be issued with a unique application number and form. Please email Safer.communities@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or call 01606 364000.

Once you have checked your eligibility, you need to ensure your application is supported by your local policing unit by connecting with an officer and/or PCSO and ensure the application addresses one or more of the local policing priorities.

All applications submitted should use the NEW application form and should be sent to Safer.communities@cheshire.pnn.police.uk. Applications can be obtained by contacting Community Development and Policy Officer, on 01606 364000. All applicants need to discuss their proposed project prior to applying. All applications are electronic, should you have any issues accessing the application form online, please discuss this with us before applying.

Do I need to work with my local policing unit?

Yes, all applications made should clearly demonstrate how they are working with their local policing unit to address local priorities. Applicants should look to engage with local officers and/or PCSOs to ensure local needs and priorities are being addressed. All applications will be checked with the local policing teams to ensure they are aware of the project. If you are unsure on what local policing unit to connect with, you can find out more, [here](#)

We are a consortium applying for funds, is that ok?

We welcome applications which show strong community links with other organisations. However, one organisation will need to be named as the lead applicant in order for us to manage the grant award, should you be successful. Lead applicants will remain as the key point of contact for all monitoring, evaluation and communications. The lead applicant will need to meet the criteria of who can apply entirely.

Can Community Interest Companies and Social Enterprises apply?

Yes, although they must clearly demonstrate community benefit within their constitution or governing document. The governing document should clearly state how any profits are to be reinvested for community benefit.

Can I apply for funding for capital projects?

Capital projects which exist in isolation, may not be funded. However, amounts of capital can be funded as part of a bigger project. For example, sports equipment can be funded if it is directly related to the project delivery and the project as a whole.

What costs will not be considered?

- Activities which a statutory body is responsible for
- Activities that have already taken place before we offer you a grant and are therefore retrospective
- Projects where the organisation making the application is not the same as the organisation that will deliver the project
- Political promotion, including political party activity
- Travel outside of the UK
- Organisations requesting funding towards reserves
- We cannot accept general applications from or on behalf of individuals
- Overhead costs will not be funded unless directly related to the project delivery, for example venue hire.
- Activities which fund policing equipment or solely support CCTV installation.

Do I need to submit any supporting documents?

No, you do not need to supply anything alongside your application. However, as part of the eligibility check, all applications will be checked and you may be asked to supply documentation such as, governance documents, if they are unavailable online. If we require any additional information or clarification, we will contact the lead contact, named in the application form.

If your project involves working directly with children, young people or vulnerable adults, you will need to ensure you have a safeguarding policy in place. As part of the application process, you will have to declare this is in place and subsequently you may be asked to produce a copy at a later date.

I need help with my application, who should I contact?

If you need support to understand the criteria, see if you are eligible or need help to connect with the local policing unit, please contact the Community Development and Policy Officer, via email to Safer.communities@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or call 01606 364000.

Alternatively, if you require advice or guidance with the application itself you could make contact with your local Council for Voluntary Service, Voluntary Action organisation or Community Development Agency.

[Cheshire East CVS](#)

[Cheshire West Voluntary Action](#)

[Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action](#)

[Warrington Voluntary Action](#)

My group is new and does not have a bank account, can I still apply?

Yes. If you are in the process of setting up the account, you can still apply, but please advise us of this before applying. If your application is successful we will need a letter from the bank confirming the account details before we could make a grant award.

I have submitted my application, what happens next?

We will first check that your application meets the eligibility for the safer communities grant. However, as all applicants need to discuss their application with us before starting the application form, this shouldn't be a problem. If you are not eligible we will let you know before you start the application so you don't waste any valuable time. If your project aligns with the safer communities' criteria, we will then assess your application and we will acknowledge receipt of your application.

Depending on the details supplied in the application form, we may wish to contact you for clarification by telephone or email. Contact made will be with the lead contact named on the application only.

Will I be notified if my application is unsuccessful and can I reapply?

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified. You can request feedback on your application and can schedule in a telephone call with the Community Development and Policy Officer should you wish to obtain feedback.

If your application suggests amendments or improvements, you may reapply but this does not guarantee funds will be awarded. In some cases, fundable, good quality applications are unsuccessful in obtaining funds. This can be for a number of reasons but often due to a restriction of available funds.

How will the grant be made?

All our grants are paid via BACs. If you are successful, we will send out all documentation required to you, for you to receive payment.

Who can apply?

Organisations which are 'not for profit' such as charities, friends of groups, neighbourhood groups, social enterprises and community groups. All organisations must demonstrate a clear community benefit within their constitution or governing document.

If the bid is a consortium or partnership bid, the expectation would be that local groups/ organisations would be the lead applicant if working with regional or national organisations.

The fund may be accessed by Parish Councils where there is proven local need and a clear partnership approach. Other public bodies cannot apply directly but are encouraged to work alongside community groups to submit applications.

I do not know if I meet the criteria, should I just apply?

No. You will need to request an application form from the Community Development and Policy Officer. Before you are given the application, you will be required to discuss your proposed project to see if the project is eligible for funding. We do not want groups or organisations to waste their time in applying, if they are ineligible, as we understand how much time and effort goes into completing application forms. Please contact the Community Development and Policy Officer, via email to Safer.communities@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or call 01606 364000.

If successful, what sort of reporting will I need to do?

All successful applicants will be asked to complete a monitoring form including impacts achieved. You will also be required to supply a case study using the template we provide. All successful applicants will be invited to share with us their successes.

The Police and Crime Commissioner may request to come out and visit your project and/or a member of the team. This is a great opportunity for us to take pictures and share the great

work you are doing. Please try to be as flexible as possible so the commissioner can meet you.

I have been awarded funding but some of the details from my original application have changed, what should I do?

You should notify us as soon as possible. Please contact the Community Development and Policy Officer, via email to Safer.communities@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or call 01606 364000.

We are able to consider changes to the application where the overall aims and objectives still reflect the initial application, so please let us know.

Do I need match funding?

No. Your application does not have to evidence match funding however, applications which show match funding whether in-kind or financial will be scored higher on this aspect of the criteria.

The commissioner is keen to ensure as many communities benefit from the funding as possible so match funding really does help make the money go further. The commissioner has some great partnerships with other organisations and funders so it may be suggested that we jointly fund with other agencies where your project meets both our priorities. You will be contacted if this is the case to ensure the process is easy and transparent.

Can I apply for continuation funding if my project is a success?

No. Safer communities is for seed funding projects or initiatives to get started. Once a project has received funding from Safer Communities, you cannot reapply. If the project is already running, the project cannot receive funds from Safer Communities.