Derbyshire Dales
Council for Voluntary Service

01629 812154

Better Derbyshire Dales Fund

Guidelines for applicants

2026-27

CONTROLLED

What is the 'Better Derbyshire Dales' Fund?

In the financial year 2026-27, Derbyshire Dales CVS has a pot of funding, which it will administer as a small grants scheme on behalf of Derbyshire Integrated Care Board, Derbyshire County Council Public Health and Derbyshire Dales District Council.

The Better Derbyshire Dales Fund supports the work of new or existing community/voluntary groups or organisations that are operating **within the Derbyshire Dales** and in need of capital or revenue funding. Please note that the purpose of this fund is to support smaller organisations / groups across the Derbyshire Dales.

How much is the grant?

Groups can apply for up to £1,000 (revenue) for running costs such as consumables, insurance, room hire, transport or sessional worker fees.

Groups can apply for up to £3,000 (capital) for fixed, one-time expenses such as changes to a building or outdoor space or equipment.

Who can apply?

To apply for this fund your group must fulfil the following criteria:

- Be a non-profit making voluntary sector organisation or community group that is based in and / or works in the Derbyshire Dales.
- Have an **annual turnover of no more than £75,000** in your last financial year.
    - By this, we mean, income or expenditure of no more than £75,000.
- Have a management committee.
- Have a bank account in the name of the organisation.
- Have a constitution or other form of governing document.
- Able to demonstrate a need for financial assistance and provide copies of the latest signed accounts – if you are a new group and do not have a set of accounts then your latest financial statement

    - *In the case of a newly established group, you must be able to demonstrate you are in the process of putting financial procedures as described above in place.*

- We encourage applications from voluntary and community groups as this is what all the funds are intended to support. We also recognize that some projects such as community playgrounds, a play area or an annual village celebration may be more appropriate for a Parish Council to be the applicant.

- Community Interest Companies can apply to the Better Derbyshire Dales Fund providing they have more than one Director, and that the Directors are unrelated.

- All applicants must have relevant and appropriate insurance for the group or activity as well as the relevant policies associated with running the group or activity.

If another organisation has agreed to insure your project, we will need to see confirmation of this agreement/arrangement

Please note we are unable to accept applications from individuals.

What kind of project will the Better Derbyshire Dales Fund support?

- We will support organisations or specific projects that aim to develop or strengthen communities.
- We will support organisations or projects that support and strengthen people's health and well-being.
- We are interested in supporting less popular causes and work that supports disadvantaged and marginalised sections of the community.

Listed below are some examples of the kind of themes that we want to address through this fund.

Health & Well-Being

We are interested in applications that can demonstrate a health and wellbeing benefit to Derbyshire Dales residents. Or applications that promote positive mental health and emotional well-being. These might develop and promote: -

• Mental Health and Wellbeing

• Financial Inclusion

• Access including transport and digital exclusion

• Healthy Ageing

You can read the Derbyshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for the Dales here: https://jsnaderbyshire.org.uk/Demographics/Derbyshire_Dales.html. This document describes health data including inequalities in the Dales area.

Community Benefit

We are interested in projects that demonstrate community benefit by: -

- developing or regenerating local communities
- reducing crime and increasing community safety
- improving the local environment
- offer a community activity or service for children, young people and families

Here are a few ideas of activities that the Better Derbyshire Dales Fund might support in terms of Community Benefit or Health and Wellbeing:

- Befriending/buddying project
- Activities that support isolated people
- Activities that help improve mental health and wellbeing
- Setting up a sports team or organising a community sporting event

- Setting up/extending the services offered by an existing lunch/social club
- A health-related community event
- A community garden or growing scheme
- Supporting youth activities, events or projects, for children and families

Capital Projects

We are looking for applications for capital costs that may: -

- improve energy efficiency of venues
- improve the facilities of a venue to encourage further use, including enabling access to all members of a community, including compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act
- emergency works to ensure the continuing and efficient running of a venue
- improve security measures with a view to reducing crime and anti-social behavior in and around the venue
- equipment that will help your group deliver services more effectively and bring a wider benefit to the local community
- environmental or built environment projects that improve or develop the local community, e.g. improving a playground or a natural area

What kind of costs will we support?

The fund will support any costs that are directly related to the delivery of the work described in your application form.

Quotes are essential for any item over £1,000, however, quotes for any items requested will strengthen your application.

Please note that the maximum you can request in relation to transport costs is £600.

The grants panel will look less favourably on applications where:

- There is no evidence that the applicant has made any effort to estimate the costs accurately.
- any grant awarded will <u>not</u> be spent within 12 months.

In addition:

- We will not make awards retrospectively – you cannot apply for funding to pay for something that has already taken place or has been paid for.
- We rarely pay professional fees such as solicitors or accountants, if your application includes this kind of element, please get in touch to discuss.
- The Better Derbyshire Dales Fund doesn't usually make a grant that would be a small contribution towards a large project if our contribution would not make a clear difference to the delivery of the project.

How to apply

Please contact DDCVS for an application form by telephoning 01629 812154 or emailing enquiries@ddcvs.org.uk

The form and guidelines can be made available in large print or on audio.

Please ask if you would like advice about whether your group is eligible for a grant, or if you would like support in completing the form.

The grants panel is chaired by DDCVS staff. The panel is made up of representatives from Derbyshire County Council Public Health and Derbyshire Dales District Council.

For the year 2026-27 the closing dates for funding rounds are: -

- Thursday 23rd April 2026 5pm
- Thursday 30th July 2026 5pm
- Thursday 5th November 2026 5pm
- Thursday 28th January 2027 5pm

Usually, the panel will meet within a month of the deadline, and we will let you know the outcome of your application as soon as we can.

Conditions that apply

If your application is successful, you will be asked to sign a short funding agreement and complete a monitoring form after the grant has been used. In addition, please be aware that: -

- Your contact details may be shared with stakeholders (Derbyshire Integrated Care Board, Derbyshire County Council Public Health and Derbyshire Dales District Council) and members of the grants panel.
- the CVS reserves the right to request further information, not specified on the application form.
- projects will be required to return an End of Grant Evaluation Form
    - failure to complete and return this may mean that your group will have to repay the grant
    - failure to complete and return an evaluation, without good reason, will mean your group is not eligible to apply to the Fund in the future.
- the applicant must have all consents required for the grant project to proceed.
- the applicant shall maintain full and proper insurance policies relevant to the grant activity and shall provide evidence of such insurance on request.
- the giving of this grant might be publicised by DDCVS and other stakeholders: Derbyshire Integrated Care Board, Derbyshire County Council Public Health and Derbyshire Dales District Council.
- When publicising your group or activity please let people know that you have been supported by a grant from the Better Derbyshire Dales Fund.
- A Better Derbyshire Dales Fund logo will be provided for your use.
- If, during the course of your planned project/activities you find that you would like to spend the grant differently then you must contact DDCVS before going ahead.

How often can I apply?

One application - per organisation - per round unless there are exceptional circumstances.

You can make future applications to the Better Derbyshire Dales Fund within the same financial year but bear in mind that priority is given to **new applicants** and those that can demonstrate a current and pressing need for funding.

You can reapply if a previous application has been unsuccessful unless we have advised you not to.

Application forms should be sent to:

Derbyshire Dales CVS, Agricultural Business Centre, Agricultural Way, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1AH

Please ensure that you have used the correct postage

EMAIL: - You can send your application by email with your constitution, accounts, insurance and any quotes or supplementary information as attachments. Please send to enquiries@ddcvs.org.uk

If you would like further support with completing your application form, please contact a member of staff at Derbyshire Dales CVS.

Email enquiries@ddcvs.org.uk or call 01629 812154 ext.1