Moray Grant Scheme

Meeting Community Need Grant Scheme 2026/27

Date: 27 11 26

Guidance Notes

This is a guidance note to help you complete the Meeting Community Need Grant Application Form for 2026/27.

The grant scheme and accompanying application form is based on the Changing Lives Grant Scheme that has previously been offered by the Moray Council Community Sports Development Team.

1.0 Introduction

For the fourth year running, grant applications are welcomed from Moray based community sport and third sector organisations that wish to deliver a meeting community need (formerly known as change lives) sports or physical activity related initiative.

This year's grant scheme will not have a particular focus (e.g. mental health and wellbeing) but will ask sports clubs to deliver projects that are aligned to one or more of the following Summer of Sport Pillars.

These pillars are through the grant scheme to help support clubs that are: -

1. Stronger
2. More Sustainable
3. More Inclusive
4. Safer

More information on what is meant by these terms is outlined in section 3 of this guidance note.

2.0 Aims

In preparing your application, you should note that this grant scheme aims to: -

- Support through funding the development and delivery of sports related meeting community need (changing lives) projects by Moray based community sport and third sector organisations;
- Raise awareness of meeting community need (changing lives outcomes based approach) to sport and physical activity;
- Encourage partnership working -and in particular with non-traditional partners- in terms of sport and physical activity delivery; and
- Encourage up-take of the Moray Club Accreditation Scheme. Although the grant scheme, will be available to all Moray constituted -not for profit- clubs

and groups that offer sport and physical activity, all successful applicants will require to become a member of the Moray Club Accreditation Scheme.

Furthermore, it is also the intention to ensure that the grant application process is as straightforward as possible.

3.0 Grant Funding Criteria

Informed by these aims, the grant scheme will require applicants to develop a community need (changing lives) project that is aligned to one or more of the following four Pillars.

SAFE: A safe club is one where everyone can take part knowing they are protected and looked after. Strong safeguarding, good health and safety practice and a focus on wellbeing builds trust with members and the wider community.

INCLUSIVE: An inclusive club welcomes everyone in its community regardless of background, ability, age, gender or circumstance. By reflecting the community clubs may reach people who might otherwise miss out on interacting with the club.

STRONG: A strong club is well-run and clear about where it is heading. Good governance, up-to-date policies, effective communications and sensible planning help communities make confident decisions and meet their responsibilities

SUSTAINABLE: A sustainable club plans for the long term rather than just the next season. This means managing money carefully, nurturing members and club officials, securing the facilities and equipment while also considering its environmental sustainability.

The applicant will need to demonstrate how one or more of the 4 pillars are incorporated into a project that is based on meeting community need approach.

An example of one of the projects from Moray based clubs funded in the past is supporting a club to diversify from delivering badminton to also include pickleball and combining the offered activity sessions for young people with mental health and wellbeing support. This successful application was aligned with all of the above pillars but in particular ‘Safe’ and ‘Inclusive’.

Please note that whatever the focus of your application, the applicant will require to demonstrate an outcomes based changing lives approach as part of their application.

4.0 Eligibility

All applicants will need to meet the following requirements:-

- All organisations must be based and delivering their projects in Moray;
- All volunteers or employees engaged in the delivery of the programme supported through this initiative must have appropriate PVG/Disclosure check;
- A Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedure must be in place (if applicable);
- All activities supported through this grant scheme require to be risk assessed;

- A bank account for the group must be set up before any application can be considered;
- The age range of the benefactors is from 3 years of age upwards; and
- Priority will be given to new projects that have not received SOS funding although all applications that meet the above criteria will be welcomed.

Finally, if the club has not done so already any grant awarded will be made on the basis that the successful applicant will require to apply for Moray Club Accreditation status within 3 months from the date of accepting the grant award.

5.0 Maximum and Minimum Grant Awards

This year, a total of £5,000 is available to support Moray based sports clubs.

Although it may depend on how many applications are received, it is proposed that the minimum grant award will be £100 and the maximum grant award will be £500.

6.0 Evaluation

Applicants will be asked to outline their approach to evaluating their project.

While the evaluation approach will not be 'prescribed' and will be left to the applicants discretion, it will be expected that the evaluation approach covers the following key elements:-

- Gathering and the use of both quantitative and qualitative data;
- Collation of data at the beginning, middle and the end of the project; and
- How the intervention has impacted on the individual after the completion of the programme.

The evaluation approach will however be considered in terms of its own coherency in relation to the identified outcomes for the project.

7.0 Workshops and who to contact for further support

In providing further information about the meeting community need (changing lives approach) and general information of the grant scheme, 3 online workshops (via teams) will be held.

The dates and times of these workshops are:-

	Dates (2026)	**Time**
Workshop 1	4 December	2.00pm to 3.00pm
Workshop 2	9 December	5.00pm to 6.00pm
Workshop 3	11 December	6.30pm to 7.30pm

To book your place on any of the above workshops or discuss your grant application proposal, please contact:-

Robin Paterson

Community Sports Hubs Development Officer

Tel: 07970 974 857 **Email**: robin.paterson@moray.gov.uk

8.0 What is the deadline for submitting applications?

The deadline for the submission of applications (on line) is **31st December 2026**.

9.0 When will I know if my application has been successful?

Following the meeting of the grant application panel, we intend to inform all applicants of the outcome of their application by **13th January 2027.**

The successful applicants will then have until **31st January 2027** to confirm the acceptance of their grant offer.

10.0 Who to contact if you have any questions.

In addition to the raising any questions at the above noted workshops, you can contact either Robin or Fraser (contact details below) if you have any questions.

Please note that both Robin and Fraser will be on annual leave after 18 December 2026.

Robin Paterson

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