Supporting Vulnerable People Fund Guidance
[Grant Ref: SVP0926]

Guidance Document

This fund provides targeted support to help Harrow residents overcome immediate crises, maintain secure housing, build financial resilience, and access strong local support networks.

Fund Aims

- Help residents avoid homelessness by supporting them to maintain stable accommodation and connecting them to health, employment, and other key services.
- Support health, wellbeing, and independence by reducing financial pressures and providing appropriate support.
- Support families struggling with financial hardship and enable better financial/digital literacy.
- Support employment and income by strengthening financial resilience and helping residents move toward greater economic stability.
- Prevent family breakdown by providing timely support that reduces financial stress and stops crises from escalating.
- Reduce crisis demand and reliance on high-cost statutory services by intervening earlier, strengthening resilience, and improving coordination across the local support system.

The fund supports early prevention approaches, programmes that identify and support people at risk of poor outcomes, or with other social or emotional needs, before problems escalate.

The fund needs to cover at least one funding aim.

Activity

The key audience in this fund is vulnerable people, this includes but is not limited to:

- People experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including those in temporary or insecure accommodation
- People or families on low incomes, including those affected by the cost of living, benefit changes, or in work poverty
- Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities
- Older people, particularly those who are isolated or frail
- Disabled people and those with long term health conditions
- People experiencing mental health difficulties, particularly those with severe mental illness
- Care leavers and young people at risk
- Families at risk of breakdown due to financial or social pressures
- Survivors of domestic abuse
- People with drug or alcohol dependency
- Refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants facing hardship
- Single parents
- Carers, including young carers, experiencing strain or isolation
- Ex-offenders resettling into the community

The fund is willing to support any activity that would meet the funding aims. Activity must start by 4th January 2027 and run for at least 2 years.

Data

Where to find out Inequalities information in Harrow?

- Harrow Data Observatory - insights.harrow.gov.uk
- HAY (How Are You) Harrow Report – www.youngharrowfoundation.org/hayharrow
- Healthy Harrow – www.healthyharrow.org.uk/stats/

Eligibility

You need to be applying as:

a) a constituted not-for-profit organisation (company limited by guarantee, community interest company (non-profit and limited by guarantee), registered charity, co-operative, unincorporated organisation)
b) with a minimum of 2 unrelated trustees/directors (these trustees / directors should be as listed where relevant on the Charity Commission / Companies House)
c) with a bank account in the name of the organisation

The activities for which you are applying for funding need to be legally charitable and benefit Harrow residents.

Monitoring - Reporting on the grant

You will need to report back to Harrow Giving we can support you with completing the monitoring form.

We will also be creating a public list of the grants awarded, detailing the organisations and their respective funded projects.

Amount available

You can apply for a grant of up to £40,000 per year, for programmes lasting at least 2 years.

Programmes requesting more than £20,000 per year must show a strong approach to reaching residents who are genuinely vulnerable or at risk, with a clear rationale for how they will be identified and engaged. They must also set out stronger, measurable outcomes for what the programme will achieve, along with a clear plan for tracking and evidencing progress over the life of the grant.

Second year funding is subject to successful monitoring and outcomes in year one.

What can the funding be used for?

- People – staffing and volunteer costs
- Communications - marketing and advertising costs
- Equipment – any equipment you need to deliver this work
- Resources – any activity costs needed for your team to do this work.
- Overheads / core costs

We cannot fund:

- activities that make profits for private gain
- religious activities (we can fund religious organisations if their project benefits the wider community and does not include religious content)
- projects where political activities are the main purpose, or that support or oppose a specific political party
- lobbying activities
- things you've spent money on in the past and are looking to claim for now (retrospective costs)
- loan repayments
- the topping up of organisation reserves.

Support available

Voluntary Action Harrow [VAH] (contact@vah.org.uk) and Young Harrow Foundation (admin@youngharrow.org) can support with:

- Discussing project ideas
- Reading and reviewing applications

Deadline

12pm, 7th December 2026

How to apply

Please send a completed application form to: grants@harrowgiving.org.uk

We will aim to inform you if you have been successful within two weeks of the deadline.

Where the money had come from

Harrow Council – Crisis & Resilience Fund

Other funding available

Voluntary Action Harrow has compiled a list of other funding available. This document will be updated on a regular basis so please keep the document link saved.

www.vah.org.uk/funding

About us

Harrow Giving is a local charity that funds small local projects to make a positive difference in the lives of Harrow residents. Harrow Giving is a trading name of Harrow Together (registered charity no. 1167770) and is managed by Voluntary Action Harrow (VAH).

www.harrowgiving.org.uk