



Community Chest Grant

Improving Youth Employment Opportunities in Gipping Ward, South West Ipswich - Applications now open

Amount: A total funding pot of £5,000 is available for this theme/area. This may be awarded as a single grant or divided among multiple successful applicants.

You may apply for anything up to £5000.

Area: Gipping Ward, Ipswich.

Issue or emerging need: Youth Employment.

Closing date: Friday 9th October by 5pm.

Community Chest Grants are designed to tackle local issues and emerging needs within the community.

We are seeking applications from organisations that can deliver activities and opportunities which support young people in Gipping Ward to develop the skills, confidence, experience and connections needed to progress into employment, education, apprenticeships or training.

Applications may build upon an existing project or deliver a new initiative. Partnership applications are welcomed.

Projects must be delivered by **April 2027**.

Given the funding available, we recognise that projects may focus on a specific group of young people or a targeted intervention rather than seeking to address youth employment challenges across the whole ward. We are particularly interested in projects that can support young people who may be struggling to progress despite wanting to work or access training opportunities.

Applicants should consider how their project will create sustainable outcomes for young people beyond the lifetime of the grant.

Supporting information

Evidence suggests some young people in Gipping face greater barriers to employment than elsewhere, including:

- Higher levels of young people with no qualifications.
- Greater levels of deprivation relating to children's education, skills and training.
- Transport barriers, with many households having no access to a car or van.
- Limited employment networks and role models.
- Mental health, wellbeing and wider social barriers to employment.

We are particularly interested in projects that:

- Support young people who have experienced repeated rejection from jobs, apprenticeships or training opportunities.
- Help young people build confidence, aspirations and employability skills.
- Provide mentoring, coaching or positive role models.
- Offer practical opportunities linked to employment, skills or training.
- Demonstrate links to local employers, sectors experiencing skills shortages, or existing employment pathways.
- Help young people move closer to employment, education, apprenticeships or training.

Applicants may choose to focus on a specific demographic or group of young people where there is a clear rationale and identified need.

Examples may include care experienced young people, young carers, young parents, young people with disabilities, or those at risk of becoming NEET.

For further information or access to data, we recommend visiting the SODA website [Suffolk Observatory – Welcome to the Suffolk Observatory](#).

What We Are Looking to Fund

We are looking for projects that create meaningful opportunities for young people and strengthen links to employment, training and education pathways.

Activities could include:

- Employability and job-readiness workshops.
- CV writing, interview preparation and job search support.
- Confidence-building and personal development activities.
- Mentoring and coaching programmes.
- Practical work experience opportunities.
- Careers advice and sector-awareness activities.
- Training and skills development.
- Volunteering opportunities linked to employability outcomes.
- Activities that connect young people to local employers and employment opportunities.
- Projects that strengthen links between young people and existing support services.
- Innovative approaches that help young people progress towards employment, apprenticeships, education or training.

This list is not exhaustive, and creative approaches are encouraged.

We recognise that a £5,000 grant will not solve youth unemployment. However, we are looking for projects that can help young people take meaningful steps towards sustainable employment and positive future outcomes.

Eligibility criteria

This fund is for existing local groups or organisations, who must be constituted and be able to meet the following due diligence requirements:

- A committee with at least three members
- A bank account in the group's name, with two signatories for all withdrawals (living at two different addresses)
- Provision of a recent bank statement (within 30 days) with visible transactions (confidential details may be redacted, for example if an individual has paid a donation into the account)
- A Safeguarding Policy in place if they are working with children and/ or vulnerable people
- Any other policies or insurance which are deemed necessary or related to the activity

Community Chest Grants cannot be used for:

- Paid staff costs which are unrelated to the project
- Activities which are the statutory duty of any organisation, including IBC
- Paying for any activities retrospectively
- Political activities for any party
- Activities with a religious focus, or which may exclude residents based on faith (this does not exclude activities which are affiliated with a religious group provided they are open to all)

How to apply

Applications are to be made using the following form and must be received by **5pm on the 9th of October 2026**.

[Community Chest Application form 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Next Steps

Applications will be reviewed at the next Community Grants Recommendation working group on the 14th October.

If your application is successful, we will request due diligence documents from you and make the required checks. Once complete, we will ask you to sign an agreement and make arrangements for payment.

We aim for the Community Chest Grant process to take no more than two- three months in total, inclusive of due diligence checks and processing payment.

If you require any further information or support, please contact communities@ipswich.gov.uk.