# The Kick Start Fund

Thank you for your interest in the Kick Start Fund. We have developed this guide to help you understand more about the initiative, the financial support you can apply for and how financial support is awarded. Please take the time to read this guidance carefully. It is important that you understand the criteria.

If you have any questions about the guidance or eligibility to apply, please contact [info@discoverbec.com](mailto:info@discoverbec.com).

## What is the BEC Community Fund?

The Kick Start Fund is funded by Sellafield Ltd SiX Programme and delivered by BEC.

BEC are a profit for purpose company who use profits to champion local communities and deliver lasting social impact – creating a brighter future for everyone. When BEC are not investing directly in regeneration and development projects, they’re putting time, expertise and funding into initiatives that make a difference in the heart of communities across Cumbria. BEC partner with local businesses, clubs and charities to deliver programmes that offer people access to support, skills and employment.

The panel is made up of BEC employees and Sellafield Ltd SiX.

## Community Priorities

During summer 2023, we consulted with the local community to find out what the residents would like to see improved in their local community. We used this research to develop priorities for the Kick Start Fund. There are three priority aims each with a set of outcomes attached.

**You must meet at least one of these themes to be eligible for financial support.**

The key areas were:

* Health and Wellbeing
* Training and Employment opportunities
* Activities for Young People

## How much funding is available?

The total funding pot is **£20,000** for the 2024/2025 financial year.

* Individuals and informal/non-constituted groups can apply for a maximum of **£500.**
* Constituted groups can apply for a maximum of **£1,000.**

## Financial Support Criteria

We want to see ideas coming from local groups and people. You do not have to live within West Cumbria (Copeland or Allerdale boroughs) to apply, but your idea must benefit communities within West Cumbria.

**Your application must be:**

* A **new** idea, activity or event - something that is not happening in the local area now.
* An **improvement** or **expansion** of an existing service which benefits the local community that will be seen over a period of at least 12 months.
* Something that will benefit the whole community or a group of people living within West Cumbria, for example young people, older people, people with disabilities.

We have limited funds, but we want them to go as far as they can to make positive changes within West Cumbria.

**Who can apply:**

Anyone can apply to the Kick Start Fund. We actively encourage applications from young people, community groups, and individuals who may struggle to have their idea funded elsewhere. We accept applications from:

* Individuals
* Local groups and organisations
* Individuals, groups and organisations who are not based in the area but who have an idea that would be delivered here and benefit residents of the area. If you fall into this category, you will need to have a Local Sponsor. **See page 4** for more details.

There is no age limit to applying. However, if you are under 18 years old you need to have an adult to sponsor your application. This is just so we know you have someone to help you if you need it. We have added information about Adult Sponsors on page 3.

# What will we support?

Ideas that make the West Cumbrian area (Copeland and Allerdale boroughs) an even better place to live.

We are particularly interested in applications that give local people more opportunities to:

* improve their physical, mental health and wellbeing
* development of youth provision (out of school activities)
* improve training and employability prospects
* improving or setting up new community facilities
* keeping their community safe
* improve their environment
* build social networks and take part in community life

## Examples of activities that may be funded include:

* Reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse.
* Intergenerational activities - e.g. Community Memory Walks
* Encourage outdoor activities – e.g. wellness group activities such as organised events within the local community.
* Out of school activities for youth groups – such as SEND
* Work experience opportunities (e.g. within local businesses)
* Employment readiness training
* Work placed opportunities
* Training and upskill opportunities.
* Mentorship and support
* Supporting volunteers to gain qualifications - e.g. Mental Health, First Aid
* Reducing social isolation - e.g. hobby and friendship groups
* Board games club, Lego club, book club – available through libraries
* Access to activities for young people who may otherwise be excluded or isolated.
* Public artworks and digital installations
* Gardening projects

Use your imagination and take the opportunity to get an activity delivered in your area!

**Examples of what can be funded.**

* Purchase of equipment
* Venue hire
* Cost of a person to deliver an event or workshop
* Training for volunteers
* Cultural or educational visits/ trips

**What we will not fund.**

* Core costs and shortfalls in funding
* Marketing and publicity materials that are not related to your idea
* Specialist equipment that can only be used by one person
* Alcohol or tobacco
* For own personal needs
* Projects which are already being funded by Sellafield Ltd or BEC

**Financial support must be spent on the project.**

## Reporting on your Spend

If you are successful in securing financial support, we will help you with financial reporting to make it as easy as possible for you to tell us how the money was used.

We will ask you to report on what you spend and keep receipts.

## Promotion and Publicity

We would expect there to be some publicity shared about your project. Examples: pictures and posts on social media, newspaper report, website, blogs, etc.

The Kick Start Fund will promote your project via their social media platforms.

You are responsible for ensuring you have permission from any members of the public who appear in your pictures. If any under 18s take part in your pictures, you should ensure you get signed permission from a parent or guardian (such as a teacher).

## What Difference Did It Make?

We want to focus on the impact local ideas have within the West Cumbria area and the people living within it. If you are successful, we will work with you to help you monitor your progress towards your aim.

We will ask you to record what you do – take lots of pictures. You will need to ask the people who benefit from your idea if it has made a difference to them.

## Being an Adult Sponsor

If you are under 18 years old, you will need to nominate an Adult Sponsor, someone who can help you develop and deliver your idea and overcome any problems you might encounter. Your sponsor could be a family member, friend, teacher or youth worker.

If you agree to be an Adult Sponsor, you are agreeing to support the young person's application and give them any help and advice they may need to make their idea a success. We are here to help throughout the funding period should you or the young person you are sponsoring need any help, advice or support.

***As an Adult Sponsor, you are agreeing that you know the person or organisation you are sponsoring and will help them understand and engage in the area.***

## Being a Local Sponsor

We know that good things happen all around Cumbria, things that local people here in the West Cumbrian area might benefit from. However, the money allocated must support positive change in the West Cumbria area and kick-start longer term, sustainable improvements.

Asking you to name a local sponsor reassures us, and the wider community, that you have connections to the area. We need to know that you will be able to link in with what's already established and be able to develop, and refine, your idea or activity to meet the needs of the people who live here

# Developing Your Idea

Developing an idea can be difficult; there may be a lot to think about.

To be considered for the Community Fund here is a list of things you might want to consider before completing an application form.

**What is your idea?**

Example: An intergenerational dance class that brings younger and older generations together

and encourages physical activity.

**What problem, issue or gap does your idea tackle?**

Example: There are not as many groups that are actively open to both the younger and older generation. Intergenerational groups increase social connections and activities such as dancing increases physical activity which supports health and wellbeing.

**How do you know this is a problem, need or gap in the area?**

Example: I volunteer at a lunch club and many older people talk about being bored but also talk about the enjoyment they get when they meet young people. Equally, family units have changed and not all live close by anymore, children may not see their grandparents and miss out on spending time with older people.

**How will your idea make things better?**

Example: Older people and younger people will learn so much from working together (patience, understanding, fun) and will have more to do and be less isolated; this will provide an activity for the young and will also promote health and wellbeing for all participants.

**What support will you need?**

Example: Location to operate the class from, which may require room hire fee, speakers, music and a dance teacher to lead the class.

# Completing your application form

When completing the form give as much detail as you can about your idea.

This is your opportunity to describe how important your idea is, why it is needed in West Cumbria and what change it will make.

**Describe your idea as clearly and fully as you can.**

Cost your idea carefully and accurately. We may come back to you for more details if you do not provide enough information about how you will spend funds or if they think you could get better value for money.

All applications will be assessed individually and based on the eligibility criteria.

# Next Steps

If you meet the funding criteria, your application will be submitted to the Panel for consideration.

You will be notified of the decision by the dates shown in the table below.

**By completing the application process, you are agreeing to allow us to hold your details on record and, if your application is successful, you agree for a member of the team to contact you.**

## If your application is successful

If you are successful, we will get in touch with you within 5 working days of the panel. We will issue you with an Offer Letter and an Offer of Acceptance Form.

The Fund financial support is public money provided by Sellafield Ltd Social Impact Multiplied (SiX) programme, we have audit and accountability regulations to meet. It is important that you read the letter as there will be conditions attached to your financial support.

If you are happy with these conditions, you must sign the Offer Acceptance Form and return it to us. We will then authorise the release of your financial assistance, which will be paid by BACS by Energy Coast West Cumbria Ltd (trading as BEC).

## If you are not successful

If you are not successful, we will get in touch with you within 5 working days of the panel meeting and may arrange a meeting where we can chat about your idea and how else we can support you to develop it further.

This might be by identifying other funding or building support to take your idea to the next panel meeting or signposting to other support or funding opportunities. If the Panel reject your application, they will provide an explanation about why this decision was made.

# Acknowledgements

Thank you to Sellafield Ltd’s SiX Programme for providing funding.

# Application Form

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| KICK START FUND – Application Form | |
| Name: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Contact telephone number: |  |
| Email address: |  |
| Organisation / Community Group Name and details:  *(Fill this in if you are applying as a group, business, charity etc. if you are applying as an individual just leave this bit blank)* |  |
| How much are you apply for and how will the money be spent? (*Separate spreadsheet provided if required)* |  |
| What’s the name of your project/idea? |  |
| Please describe your project/idea:  *For example:*   * *What will your project/idea do?* * *Why is your project/idea needed in the community?* * *Who will get involved?*   *Where and when will it take place?* |  |
| What impact do you hope to create within West Cumbria |  |
| Who will benefit from your project? |  |
| How will you collate, report and measure the benefits? |  |