

Children and Young People Speak Up

Grants guidance 2025

For this year's round of Speak Up grants, we are focussing on projects working with **children and young people age 0-19**. Can you work with us to shine a light on the health and social care issues that are important to children and young people in Sheffield?

Your organisation does not have to exclusively support children and young people, as long as the grant project you are planning will focus on this age group.

We are looking for **4** voluntary or community sector groups or organisations to work with us on projects which will help take people's views and experiences to decision makers in Sheffield.

- Do you feel that the experiences and voices of the children and young people you support often go unheard?
- Does your organisation wish it could spend more time on influencing local policy and decision making?
- Do members of your team wish they had more knowledge and resources to help them do voice and influence work?
- Do you want to connect your work with decision makers in health and social care?

Then join us, for our 2025-26 round of Speak up Grants.

Our offer:

£1500 grant

This money will be used to help you run events or activities which capture the views and experiences of the children and young people you support, on issues in health and social care that are important to them. It can be spent in any way that supports the project – this could include: staff time, incentives for participants, venue hire, food, materials, activities, interpreters etc.

2 days dedicated support from a member of the Healthwatch team

Our team member can work with you to help you design and deliver activities that will help you hear from the people you work with. You bring the expertise about what works for the people you support, we bring the expertise and experience of

how to design events, surveys, focus groups etc – as well as time and energy! You and the people you work with will be leading the way. We can be completely behind the scenes, or we can come along and help with events on the day. Whatever works for you.

Information offer

Will your activity include giving information about health and social care services to the people you support? If so, our information officer can work with you to ensure that the right information resources are available.

Support to share the findings – through a report, or other format

We will support you with presenting your findings in a way that can be shared with participants, the public, and with people who make decisions about Health and Social Care. We can work alongside you to produce this so that it shares the key messages you want to share, including recommendations for how things could be improved. It might be a written report, or something in a more creative format eg a short film. How much support we give with this, depends on you.

Connecting people with decision makers

We want to create opportunities for people to share their experiences directly with those who make decisions about health and care services – our aim for this round of Speak Up grants, is that for each grant, we can help set up at least one event where this happens. This could be part of doing the project (for example a workshop that includes people who use services, and people who run / fund them) or it could be at the end of the process – bringing people together to share and discuss what is captured in the report. We would work with you to identify what would be the right thing for your group, and support you to help make it happen.

Example

In 2023 Sheffield Foyer had a Speak Up Grant which they used to focus on Sexual Health services for the young people living in their accommodation – the project helped them to hear people's experience through a series of activities (including a fun day with food). We worked on a write up together, then we published and shared the report. After publication, we hosted a round table meeting with people running sexual health services, together with people working in the hostels, bringing people together to discuss the findings and identify actions that would help address the issues.

The ask:

Grant recipients will:

- Commit to working collaboratively with us in the way that we've described
- Design and deliver activities which will capture the views and experiences of at least 20 children and young people – we will prioritise projects that are hearing directly from children themselves, but recognise that parents and carers will have valuable insights to bring too (particularly for very young children, or children with special educational needs and disabilities).
- We are particularly interested in hearing from groups in marginalised communities, who may not always be heard
- Run a project which will be completed by 5th October (you don't need to have written a report or shared the findings by this time, just finish running the activities which will help you hear from people)
- Send us your findings (a write up, completed surveys etc) by 19th October so we can support the report writing process

FAQs and how to apply

1. What do projects need to focus on?

This year, all of our grants will be given to projects working with Children and/or Young People aged 0 – 19. We want to find out what matters to them.

This means we want you and the people you work with to shape the topic – projects can be on **any area of health and/or social care**. As part of our effort to amplify more people's views and experiences, we are more likely to award grants to projects which look at topics we haven't focused on much over the last few years. Take a look at [previous reports](#) for examples of past topics.

2. Who can apply?

To be eligible to receive funding your group must fit the following criteria:

- Be a not-for-profit group – either a registered charity or social enterprise
- Have a substantive base in Sheffield, or be connected with or meet the needs of people living in Sheffield
- Have a bank or building society account in the name of the group
- Whilst previous applicants to the Speak Up Grants may apply again, applications must be for a different project
- Be able to demonstrate that they have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place
- Have insurance to deliver the activities they are running

3. How much are the Speak Up Grants for?

There are four grants available – each award is for £1500.

4. What are the timescales?

The grant scheme opens	9 th May 2025
Deadline for applications	23 rd June 2025 (9am)
Complete your activities	5 th October 2025
Send your findings to Healthwatch (completed surveys, write ups etc)	19 th October 2025

5. What sort of activities can the grant be used for?

Below are some examples of what you could use the money for – these are suggestions only, and not intended to be exhaustive lists.

What activities could you run?

The activities should support you to hear from people about their experience of health and social care – and / or give information to people which is relevant to these. But they can be fun and creative (we'd prefer it if they were!) – they could involve activities such as art, drama, physical exercise.

- Activity days
- Events
- Workshops
- Surveys

What can the money be used to pay for?

- Purchase of equipment and/or software
- Training and associated expenses for volunteers
- Staffing costs
- Activity costs
- Interpreters
- Room hire
- Food

Applications should not include activities promoting religious beliefs, political activities or goods that have already been bought or ordered.

Read examples of previous projects funded by the grants here:

healthwatchsheffield.co.uk/speakupsmall-grants-scheme

6. What does Healthwatch expect from successful applicants?

We would like you to:

- **Work with us** – we are offering two days of dedicated support from a member of our staff team to help you design your activities or carry them out. The way this works will be up to you – you and the people you work with will be leading the way.
- **Share what you heard with us** – this might be a short report on what people shared, or the completed surveys, transcripts of interviews, results of creative activities etc. This is so we can see what matters to local people, and make informed recommendations to the people who pay for and deliver services. This should be shared with us by 16th October 2023.
- If applicable, **share photos, videos** and people's experience of the activities (please make sure you have people's consent).
- **Help us bring together people and decision-makers** – either through an activity which forms part of your project, or through a follow-up event.
- **Review the final report** – we may need to ask some follow up questions to help us shape the final report and the recommendations, to make sure it reflects the experiences that you heard.

7. How do we apply?

Organisations and groups can apply for a grant by filling out the Speak Up Grants application form.

Apply online: via our Google Form <https://forms.gle/9HtoJqxn timerj5XPr3h6>

Contact us if you would prefer to fill in an application form in a different way – for example on a Word document, as a paper copy, or over the phone with our team.

You can also contact us if you would like to talk through your ideas before making an application.

- Email Holly Robson: h.robson@healthwatchsheffield.co.uk
- Contact the team by phone: 0114 253 6688

The deadline for applications is 9am on Monday 23rd June 2025.