



ABCD Community Pathfinder Grant 2024
Application Guidance



Purpose of the guide

Thank you for your interest in the Leeds ABCD community pathfinder grant scheme. This document will provide you with information about the ABCD community pathfinder scheme and guide you through the application form.

The grant pack includes the following documents which we hope you find useful.

- Grant Application Form
- What is ABCD Factsheet
- What is a Community Builder Factsheet
- What is a Community Connector Factsheet
- ABCD in Leeds Plan

What Leeds City Council is looking to fund

We currently fund fourteen ABCD community pathfinder schemes. Research undertaken by Leeds Beckett University in 2019 demonstrated that the pathfinders are improving health and well-being, reducing loneliness and social isolation. Community members have formed friendships; come together to change the things they care about and have reported feeling better connected to their community.

Leeds City Council is looking to build on the pathfinder model and fund three new ABCD community pathfinder schemes:

- from any of the following areas: Little London and Wood House, Moor Allerton (specifically Lingfield/Cranmer bank neighbourhood), Gipton and Harehills (Gipton area) Bramley and Stanningley and Kirkstall (Hawksworth Estate neighbourhood). These will be for 24 months initially with an option to extend another year following that.

Project Delivery

ABCD Pathfinders will continue to have two key elements:

- A paid Community Builder post
- A Small Sparks fund of £2000

The Community Builder will:

- Discover enthused people in the community with skills, gifts or talents and local knowledge, we call these people 'community connectors' to get involved.
- Host conversations with people in neighbourhoods to discover local assets and what people care about
- Engage local community groups and associations.
- Create places and hold a space where people come together and support each other.

- Build connections through social interaction, activities, and shareable community opportunities- creating places that are welcome and create shareable moments.
- Work with communities to develop a vision and a plan, asking: what can the community do, what does the community need outside help with, what is best delivered by the other agencies and what do outside agencies need to stop doing so that people and communities can be in the driving seat?
- Support communities to create and implement the change they want to see.
- Foster celebration of people's gifts and skills throughout the process.

The expected deliverables of the grant are:

- To have a paid Community Builder post in place.
- To discover ten new Community Connectors will be active community members, identifying and bringing about the changes they care about and want to see.
- To develop a minimum of ten new people led groups/activities established or events held in the neighbourhood and/or through social media platforms.
- To evidence how the Small Sparks money is used in the community to fund people and community ideas.
- To proliferate the ABCD model in the area you are working in.
- Commit to embedding an asset-based approach as an organisation, this will include staff attending ABCD training and being part of other learning network offers.
- Work with the ABCD Leeds City Council Team to create an ABCD policy for your organisation.

Completing the application

Here are some helpful tips to help you with completing the application.

You may complete the written form, or we are happy to receive the application form questions in video format. If sending the application in a video format, please state the question in the application before giving your answer so the panel know which question you are answering.

Please note the panel will stop watching the video after 15 minutes so please keep your answers as concise as possible. Please send videos via a We Transfer link. We are unable to accept any other video transfer links. For video applications, we will still require you to complete a written project and budget plan.

Your organisation must be a not-for-profit organisation to be able to apply. These include but are not limited to:

- Charitable incorporated organisations.
- Community interest companies (CIC) limited by guarantee.
- Companies limited by guarantee with a clause in their governing document preventing distribution of profit (including social enterprises).
- Housing associations.
- Industrial and provident community benefit societies.
- Registered charities.

Please ensure that your application demonstrates throughout:

- Evidence of working successfully with local communities.
- An understanding of the ABCD model and asset-based approaches, with evidence of where your organisation has worked in this way.
- Experience and evidence of implementing and embedding change with communities.
- Evidence of working in partnership with communities, other third sector organisations and public sector bodies.
- Evidence of commitment to embedding ABCD across your organisation and how this will be achieved.

Please keep your answers clear and concise and answer all questions on the application form, inserting your project plan, and keeping to the word count. Please sign your application form with a wet signature.

If submitting a video, please send a digital copy of the application form with the accompanying paper project and budget plan. Please submit written and video applications by 12 noon on the 22nd February 2024 to: ABCD@leeds.gov.uk

Applications submitted after this date and time will not be considered.

Section 1: Applicant Details

1.1 Please use the legal name of your organisation. Your legal name will be on your governing documents and your bank account.

Use your organisation address as registered on your governing documents.

Section 2: Experience

2.1 Please provide specific examples of community development work your organisation has undertaken and specifically any asset-based community development activity. We are happy to accept any format of this evidence, such as: stories, case study examples, photographs. Please give examples of how you work with communities to develop opportunities for positive change.

2.2 Please tell us your experience and knowledge of the area you are proposing to work in. If you have not worked in this area before, please tell us why you would like to work here now and the opportunities you can bring.

2.3 Please tell us what challenges your organisation has faced with supporting community member led action. These can be examples from previous experience and examples from any area in Leeds.

Section 3: Partnership Working

3.1 We are keen to hear your organisation's experience of working in partnership but specifically how you plan to work in partnership to deliver this project. What opportunities will partnership working offer? What challenges do you foresee and how do you plan to mitigate these?

3.2 We would like to hear about your knowledge of the potential challenges that an ABCD Community Builder might experience in working with communities and how you would support them.

3.3 We are keen to work with successful organisations to support and influence the wider roll out of asset-based working across the city – how could you work with us to achieve that?

Section 4: Project Plan

4.1 Please provide a project plan for the life of the grant, we would suggest a quarterly format outlining your approach. Please provide milestones for the life of the grant.

4.2 We would like you to tell us how your organisation intends to deliver work to support communities with COVID 19 recovery. You can also tell us about any previous experiences in this area to date that could inform how you would approach this for this grant.

Section 5: Sustainability

5.1 Our aim is to embed ABCD in communities. We are looking to fund organisations that are committed to embedding an ABCD approach and will plan for ABCD activity to continue after the grant has ended. Please tell us how you would approach this.

5.2 We are keen to support partners to develop asset-based working in their organisations. You might participate in training and develop asset-based working across other projects. We would like to hear what steps you will take to embed ABCD within the structure of organisation.

Section 6: Budget

6.1 Please provide a detailed breakdown completing all boxes of how you propose to spend the £25,000 per annum grant (which includes the £2,000 per annum Small Sparks Fund) during the funding period.

A proportion of the funding can be used to contribute to overheads. Please include full cost recovery in your budget breakdown.

Section 7: Supporting documentation

Please provide a copy of your organisations community engagement plan to accompany your submitted application.

Support with your application

Please look at the ABCD in Leeds website for more information about our ABCD programme (www.abcdinleeds.com/about)

We will be holding a ABCD community pathfinder grant webinar and Q&A session on the **8th February 2024 at 10.30am**

You can book a place through our ABCD in Leeds Eventbrite page: [ABCD in Leeds Events | Eventbrite](#)

If you would like to have an informal conversation and/or have any questions on the application form, accessibility or the process please email us at: ABCD@leeds.gov.uk