**NEW! VCFSE Family Hub weekly bulletin – 01.08.25**

Hi everyone,

Here’s this week’s weekly VCFSE (voluntary, community and faith-based groups, and social enterprise organisations) Family Hub bulletin which covers family/Family Hub relevant information, including: Sector 3/VCFSE updates, One Stockport Family Hub updates, Training, Funding opportunities and any other information such as events promotion, activities, requests, etc.

If there’s anything you would like me to share in a future bulletin, please let me know and I’ll add it in :)

[**Sector 3/VCFSE updates**](https://www.sector3sk.org/)**:**

* **Stockport Volunteer Fair!** Get ready to connect with local organizations and find your perfect volunteer opportunity at the Stockport Volunteer Fair on 17.09.25 from 10am – 3pm at Merseyway Shopping Centre.  If you're passionate about giving back to the community, this event is perfect for you. Join us in person to connect with various organizations and find volunteer opportunities that match your interests and skills. Whether you're an animal lover, a green champion, or a mentor-in-the-making, there's something for everyone

[**One Stockport Family Hubs**](https://www.stockport.gov.uk/your-local-family-hub) **updates:**

* **Stockport Local have created the online directory,** which provides details of statutory services, local and national organisations and community groups in Stockport. We would like to encourage groups and organisations to sign-up to the directory using the following online form - <https://forms.stockport.gov.uk/request-to-add-a-directory-entry/category>
* **All Stockport residents and people working in Stockport have continued free access to The Solihull Approach course library** at [www.inourplace.co.uk](https://www.inourplace.co.uk/) with access code REDROCK. Use postcode SK1 3XE if you work in Stockport, but don't live here. You can also register for a free account with Essential Parent via [Family Hubs - Stockport Council](https://email.mailer.conesso-app.com/c/eJwsj8sK2zAURL_memMipCvZlhZalBhTCu0vBEW-fuCHjCTH5O9L2mwHzsyc3vY4OF2QFY1oKq1qqYvJKln1xN1QYU_DIIwSRqM2zjeVcLV3xWyRo-I1rwSvuETGlW6MGUiTaLgZOCi-uXmlyHzYKaVwc8fBfNiK1U45HwnkD8AOsLuui6Uc_HKEmNkYXuxcALs0hcu7RIDd4LZ5fd-m85lAdt--xzrvyyO7EWQrlJFktKwB6zNvD--2w83jDrLt_rHlz_OZyj90pZVyplj-dm_A7te5U_kR-XIb9fO5gWzp8_0bpnBGTyDb-__hIlo_ubiGnIn5aV5fFBMonsjnEGVaWIhjka3hgHchmkoB3nnxsvg3AAD__0WadJU)
* **Family Hubs App -** One Stockport Family Hubs have launched a new free app offering an easier way for parents, parents-to-be, and carers to access expert advice, local information, and personalised support. Read more about the app (in attached pdf). To get started downloading the app, visit [Family Hubs](https://www.stockport.gov.uk/landing/family-hubs).
* **Read the latest One Stockport Family Hubs newsletter** - Please take 5 minutes to read the [July 2025 Family Hubs newsletter](https://emails.conesso.io/30e76beb/viewinbrowser?conesso_link_tag=56a61142c&utm_campaign=Family+Hubs+Newsletter+-+July&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Conesso&token=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJjb250YWN0SWQiOiI2NjI3ZWY3OTdiMWE1N2I4NTY1NjRiMjAwMzAyNWE1NiIsImVtYWlsSWQiOiI1MDlhYTdlOTUiLCJiYXRjaElkIjoxNTczNSwidmVyc2lvbklkIjo2NDEwLCJ0ZXN0IjpmYWxzZSwiaWF0IjoxNzUyNzU5ODA5fQ.UHuUN4fJtuDU_owXAl1RLYLTJBHzCZYtKGGkW8wBBYY). This newsletter is intended for people who work with or are involved with families, not for families themselves. [Sign up](https://forms.stockport.gov.uk/list-subscription/signup?topic_id=736) for the newsletter to connect with Family Hubs and stay informed about network developments and new support offers.
* **As part of the School Readiness Programmes’ support** of collaborative working with VCFSE organisations and promoting positive outcomes for babies, toddlers, and children from pregnancy and from birth to five, the below Early Grants are now open for application. More details and how to apply for the Early Years grants can be found via these links:

[GM Early Years Nurture Network Microgrant | Action Together](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/gm-early-years-nurture-network-microgrant)

[GM Early Years Nurture Network Participation Grant | Action Together](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/gm-early-years-nurture-network-participation-grant)

[GM Early Years Safe Start Baby Bank Delivery Grant | Action Together](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/gm-early-years-safe-start-baby-bank-delivery-grant)

* **NEW! Offerton Parish Park (Redgra) on Half Moon lane are running a new free activity morning called ParkPlay.** Park Play’s are taking place in 82 communities across the country, and we are hoping to bring a successful community led ParkPlay in Stockport, specifically in Offerton. The idea behind this is every Saturday, a volunteer led session will take place that incorporates using park space for free, fun, and welcoming weekly social events of games and activities. ParkPlay is committed to being a safe and suitable space, but importantly we want families to have fun in an open green space. It’s around 2 hours of activity and welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds.

You can find more information via their website: [Home - ParkPlay](https://park-play.com/)

We are currently looking for volunteers to lead and support the ParkPlay initiative:

**ParkPlay Leaders** – we are looking for people to lead and deliver on the session, where there are small responsibilities in taking a register, moving equipment and facilitating the activities

**ParkPlay Volunteers**– we are looking for volunteers to support the activities and liaise with families who attend

See attached flyers for more info on how to apply

**Sector 3 Training:**

Our free workshops are aimed at those working, volunteering, or starting out in the VCFSE sector in Stockport:

* [**Grant Management Toolkit with Sophie and Charlotte [Online Evening session]**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grant-management-made-simple-your-timeline-and-toolkit-online-tickets-1420981145859?aff=oddtdtcreator)- 27.08.25 from 6 - 7pm. In this session, you'll be more informed of how to stay on top of all aspects of managing grants, through our toolkit, which includes: a 12 month funding plan; a Grant Projection plan; a Data Collection plan; a template budget; and a Monitoring and Evaluation Calendar
* [**Beyond the Bake Sale - Part 1 - Listen and Learn Session with Kaylie and Clare [In-person]**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beyond-the-bake-sale-learning-session-tickets-1436729529699?aff=oddtdtcreator)- 03.09.25 from 10am - 12:30pm. Beyond the Bake Sale is a workshop focusing on events planning and management but with other creative ways to generate both restricted and unrestricted income included, and will be split into two parts: The 'Listen and Learn' morning session will cover the information, logistics, and guidance PowerPoint slides, followed by the afternoon 'Put Your Planning into Practise' session. There is a small refundable fee for the morning session (please see the terms in the link).
* [**Beyond the Bake Sale - Part 2 - Put Your Planning into Practise Session with Kaylie and Clare [In-person]**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beyond-the-bake-sale-part-2-put-your-planning-into-practise-session-tickets-1436729790479?aff=oddtdtcreator) -03.09.25 from 1:30 - 3:30pm. Beyond the Bake Sale is a workshop focusing on events planning and management but with other creative ways to generate both restricted and unrestricted income included, and will be split into two parts: The 'Listen and Learn' morning session will cover the information, logistics, and guidance PowerPoint slides, followed by the afternoon 'Put Your Planning into Practise' session. The afternoon session will be a chance for you to put the learning from the morning into action with your own organisation's plans and events with Clare and Kaylie on hand to ask questions, chat through ideas, help support you to draft your event plan, event calendar, sponsorship packages or anything else they you feel that you need to ensure your fundraising is a success. This is a free, bookable session that is optional for you to use if needed.
* [**Being a Better Ally: Practical Inclusion for the LGBT+ Community**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/being-a-better-ally-practical-inclusion-for-the-lgbt-community-tickets-1430329316489?aff=oddtdtcreator)- 10.09.25 from 10am - 12:30pm. Want to make your organisation truly inclusive for LGBT+ people — but not sure where to start? This interactive and informative session is for you. Led by Stockport organisation, [Forward](https://forwardlgbt.org.uk/), who will walk you through the foundations of good allyship, from inclusive language and pronouns to a brief history of LGBT+ rights in the UK — helping you understand the "why" as well as the "how". It's a chance to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and explore what real-world support looks like — both as an individual and within your organisation. This workshop has tiered pricing for VCFSE organisations or private businesses.
* **NEW!** [**The Income Club**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-income-club-event-tickets-1552878755159?aff=oddtdtcreator)- 15.09.25 from 12 - 1pm. An informal opportunity for Stockport's VCFSE sector to find out about new funds, share information and network.
* **NEW!** [**From Preloved to Profit: Online Selling for Groups with Kaylie and Charlotte**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/from-preloved-to-profit-tickets-1551612056429?aff=oddtdtcreator) - 24.09.25 from 10 - 11:30am. Are you tired of chasing grants to keep your group running? Want to explore creative, sustainable ways to generate extra income and boost your environmental credentials? Join us for “From Preloved to Profit” our new funded, practical workshop designed especially for Stockport's VCFSE organisations who want to explore the potential of selling second-hand goods online.
* **NEW!** [**Meet the Funder with Forever Manchester [In person]**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meet-the-funder-with-forever-manchester-in-person-tickets-1549237825039?aff=oddtdtcreator) - 29.09.25 from 12 - 1pm. We are hosting a one-hour Meet the Funder event with[Forever Manchester](https://forevermanchester.com/). You’ll be able to find out more on: The types of grants available, Application Process, Decision making, and you will then have time to ask any questions you may have about the grants, advice on how to apply, and anything else!

**Other training opportunities:**

* **We are offering new dates for the popular Stockport Council Suicide Awareness for Professionals training, which is free of charge for anyone working or volunteering in Stockport. Course Details:**

Delivery Time: 2.5 hours

Develops understanding and compassion.

Tackles myths, stigma, and barriers

Introduces concept that suicide is not inevitable – people can be helped, and module includes the latest research and evidence.

Helps delegates understand how distress develops and how people can be best supported.

Develops common language between community, services, and those in distress.

Gives delegates the confidence and the skills practice of talking to someone in distress.

Develops a compassionate approach for demanding and time-pressured environments.

Equips the delegate with the knowledge of how to use [www.StayingSafe.net](http://www.stayingsafe.net/) to make their own Safety Plan

No prior experience required.

To book a place for any of the sessions, please CTRL & click on the following link: [SUICIDE AWARENESS FOR PROFESSIONALS BOOKING FORM](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nvZeoElhuk-kDN8ziBD2RFjPQX7eWpNJmMOwfylaJ2pUNDc5UjFSRVgwWUlLSjQ4WTdNSTlCUkw1RC4u)

* **NEW! A flourish of activities at Flourish coming up this Autumn:**

Typically there will be a 3 - 4 day Social Enterprise Time to Grow support programme (dates just getting finalised) over a few months mid to late Autumn.

We have a 10 week Careers in Holistic Health course running on Tuesdays from 16th September aimed 18 - 30 year olds

We are running 2 x 1 day certificated PAT testing courses running on 6th and 13th September - great for community groups running centres or equipment focussed projects (we only have a few places left now)

We are running 2 x First Aid courses where VCSE organisations in Stockport will have access to subsidised or free places - these will run on a Wednesday or Friday in Oct /Nov

Flyer attached for more info

**Funding opportunities:**

**(Please note, these are added to every week but kept in order of upcoming deadlines).** [**Also, click here for Sector 3’s Funding page for more grants, and for those with rolling deadlines**](https://www.sector3sk.org/funding)**.**

* [The Screwfix Foundation](https://www.screwfix.com/landingpage/screwfix-foundation) is offering capital grants of up to £5,000 to UK-registered charities and CICs for small-scale building and repair projects benefiting people in need. Please see our [**Full eligibility criteria.**](https://media.screwfix.com/is/content/ae235/Content%20Management/PDF%20downloads/SF_Foundation_Eligibility_Criteria_2024.pdf) Deadline 10.08.25
* **NEW!** [James Tudor Foundation](https://www.jamestudor.org.uk/) offers physical health and mental health grants of up to £25,000 (usually for one year) to support the work of UK registered charities with an annual income below £20 million and at least five years’ audited or independently examined accounts. Each programme is tailored to address specific needs within the health sector, enabling organisations to deliver meaningful and lasting impact to the communities they serve. Expression of Interest deadline: 5pm on 15.08.25
* **NEW!** [GirlDreamer – Dream Fund](https://form.typeform.com/to/Dm9sqdXk?typeform-source=www.linkedin.com) provides grants to social impact organisations led by women of colour social entrepreneurs (aged 18-35). Organisations can apply for grants of £2,500 and business development support. Deadline 21.08.25
* [Hilden Charitable Fund](https://hildencharitablefund.org/) - Grants of £5,000–£7,000 per year (up to two years) are available for UK charities supporting asylum seekers, refugees, or prison-related resettlement. Applicants must earn under £200,000 annually. Deadline 3pm on 21.08.25
* **NEW!** [Consortium – LGBT+ Fund: Youth Advocacy Fund](https://www.consortium.lgbt/yafund/) aims to help organisations to build confidence and independence in LGBT+ young people (aged 14-25) and to support their needs and wishes as they grow into adulthood. Organisations can apply for grants up to £50,000 to fund core costs, projects and activities. Deadline 27.08.25
* [The Strategic Legal Fund](https://strategiclegalfund.org.uk/about/) supports strategic legal work in the UK which benefits asylum seekers, refugees and migrants which are defined by SLF as those: Who are living in poverty and; Who face significant disadvantage or discrimination in connection with their immigration status. The SLF funds strategic legal work in any area of law where migrant groups experience disadvantage or discrimination as a result of migration status. The maximum grant is £30,000. Deadline 5pm on 01.09.25
* [The Hinrichsen Foundation](https://www.hinrichsenfoundation.org.uk/further-guidance/) offers £500–£3,000 for UK music projects focusing on contemporary music performance, commissioning, or recording. Projects should be high-quality, collaborative, and artistically ambitious. Co-funding is expected. Deadline 05.09.25
* [The Grocers' Charity](https://grocershall.co.uk/the-charity/apply-for-a-grant) offers one-off grants up to £5,000 to UK-registered charities. They support various causes, including poverty, youth, elderly, disability, and health. Deadline 05.09.25
* [Thomas Wall Trust](https://www.thomaswalltrust.org.uk/) - UK charities can apply for grants up to £5,000 to improve communication skills for disadvantaged adults and NEETs. Projects must lead to an accredited qualification. Priority given to match-funded, self-sustaining initiatives. Capital costs are not eligible. Deadline for stage one 22.09.25
* **NEW!** [Financial Resilience fund -](https://www.lloydsbankfoundationci.org.uk/grants/apply-for-financial-resilience-fund/) Lloyds Banking Group and its four charitable Foundations have launched a new joint Financial Resilience fund, with £4.2 million available to the charity sector to help empower those most in need by gaining confidence and skills to manage their finances, reduce reliance on debt and achieve long-term financial stability. This programme is specifically designed for charities which work directly with people who are socially excluded and disadvantaged, over the long term to support them with the challenges of financial insecurity. Unrestricted funding of £30,000 is available. Deadline 25.09.25
* [Another Way Women's Foundation](https://www.anotherwaywf.org/funding) - A grant-making charity dedicated to enabling a brighter and fairer future for women and girls through financial support, education, empowerment and advancement. By funding impactful projects and services, they aim to accelerate gender equality, effect system change and advance women’s lives, sustainably, at both an individual and community level. Grants fall into two areas: Project support – ‘seed’ funding for pilot or start-up initiatives to show ‘proof of concept’. Services support – to enable support organisation and service providers to pay for essential service delivery. Grants £1,000 and £5,000. Next funding round window is 01.09.25 – 30.09.25
* [Arete Foundation](https://www.thearetefoundation.org/?dm_i=6MG6,15KI6,5UHXEX,5EP1F,1) - Funding and support to charitable organisations that help young people in NW England. Two funding streams. One-off unrestricted grants for small community organisations. Typical one-off grants of £2,000-£2,500. The Foundation aims to support organisations with a turnover of less than £500,000. Long-term funding partnerships for small Northwest charities that want to strengthen and grow. Typical grants of £10,000-£30,000 pa for 3 years, to scale or strengthen operational health. December round: 01.06.25 to 30.09.25
* [Granada Foundation](https://granadafoundation.org/?dm_i=6MG6%2C168BB%2C5UHXEX%2C5JS05%2C1) - For non profits Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, Lancashire, Cheshire, High Peak, Westmorland and Furness and Cumberland. Fine arts, the sciences, education and recreation or other leisure-time occupation. Grant sums of £500 – £10,000 with average grants £2,000. Larger grants can be awarded. May offer multi-year grants in exceptional circumstances but will not fund capital projects. Two funding rounds annually. Next deadline 08.10.25
* [Armed Forces Families Fund: Early Years programme 2025-26](https://covenantfund.org.uk/programme/armed-forces-families-fund-early-years-programme-2024-25/) will award grants of between £5,000 and £80,000 on behalf of the MOD’s Armed Forces Families Fund Early Years Programme for projects which help enhance early childhood education and childcare settings of young children from armed forces families. Deadline 12pm on 08.10.25
* [The Tree Council](https://treecouncil.org.uk/) is offering grants of between £250 and £2,500 for schools, constituted community groups and charities, community interest companies, Tree Warden networks, and other organisations across the UK to deliver tree-planting projects during the 2025/26 Winter planting season. Deadline 14.11.25
* [The Henry Smith Charity’s Holiday Grants for Children](https://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/explore-our-grants-and-apply/holiday-grants-for-children/holiday-grants-for-children-overview/) fund offers £500–£2,750 for UK schools, youth groups, and charities to provide recreational trips or holidays for disadvantaged children. Deadline midday on 19.11.25
* [Ironmongers’ Company](https://www.ironmongers.org/charitable-grants?dm_i=6MG6,177WZ,5UHXEX,5OM7Y,1) - Grants to Charities for educational activities for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Also, iron Projects for the restoration of historic ironwork or creation of new decorative work in iron and steel. Registered charities. May consider equipment. Grants range from a few hundred pounds up to around £10,000. The average grant awarded is £4,000. Deadlines 15.12.25 and 31.07.26
* [DofE Awards Access Without Limits Funding](https://www.dofe.org/access-without-limits/community/) - The DofE Awards Access Without Limits Funding for Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations has been extended. We have grants available for organisations, working with young people between the ages of 14-25, who would like to become Directly Licensed Centres, able to offer the DofE Award to their service users, or to those young people who live in the neighbourhoods and communities, where they are based.

Through support from the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, we are able to fund and support a limited number of voluntary sector organisations that are new to the DofE, to licence and begin to deliver the award. Eligible organisations can receive a grant of up to £10,250 and support to help establish the DofE in your organisation and link our programme to the existing activities you provide for young people. Deadline 01.01.26

* **NEW!** [Access without limits](https://www.dofe.org/access-without-limits/community/) - Grants of up to £10,200 are available through the Duke of Edinburgh – Access Without Limits fund for voluntary and community organisations to set up and deliver the DofE Award and support marginalised young people aged 14–24. Deadline 31.01.26

**AOB:**

* **Marbury Road Edible Garden are hosting a series of free, small-group therapeutic gardening sessions** open to anyone aged 14+who feels they could benefit. Register here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3wCOaaYaq6h-hj36MVGaoVJDJvIF7d3uv-CQeRLLO5rJzDg/viewform>
* **NEW! Making Space Open Day evet on 06.**08.25 from 11am at Progress House, 35A Adswood Lane, SK2 6RE – your chance to meet the team and share what you can expect from the new service, including taster sessions, and exploring the centre. Flyer attached with more info
* **Wanted – Volunteer Befrienders.** Help someone with sight list feel connected, confident, and supported. Find out more at [www.wlathewhouse.org.uk](http://www.wlathewhouse.org.uk) or 0161 480 2612 or nina@walthewhuse.org.uk. See attached flyer for more info
* **NEW! Stockport Talking Newspaper is a free weekly audio service designed for people who are blind, visually impaired, or unable to read printed materials** due to a disability or health condition. STN provides readings from the Stockport Express as well as a magazine, a ‘What’s On’ feature and updates from Walthew House, Stockport’s charity for people with sight and hearing loss. The service can be accessed on demand and can be received in a variety of ways (online, telephone, smart speaker, USB via post) for varying technical abilities. See attached flyers and poster for more info
* **Brinnington Well fest is taking place on 14.08.25** from 1 – 4pm at Brinnington Park Leisure Complex, SK5 8LS with a 5k walk, tea, dance and karaoke, local cheerleading displays, silent disco (sensory friendly), facepainting and more. Flyer attached with more info
* **NEW! Forward's Be You prom** - Forward are holding their Be You Prom at the end of August. Poster attached. Tickets can be booked here <https://www.outsavvy.com/event/28627/be-you-prom>.
* **NEW! Home-Start are looking for volunteers**, to deliver support to vulnerable families across Stockport, especially in Offerton and Reddish – see attached flyer for details.
* **NEW! Interested in supporting local families?**
Join our free *Parent Group Leader* training with EPEC (Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities). You'll build skills, boost confidence, and help run friendly parenting groups with other volunteers. It's a great way to connect, grow, and give back to your community.

Check out the flyer for more info or fill in our expression of interest form here: [EPEC Parent Group Leader training – Expression of interest form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nvZeoElhuk-kDN8ziBD2REWODXlbQvxHmjAsZ77CiwBUN0ZBMVcxRjdPRTREMTZBUDFKMFlLOVdaNS4u)

* **The R-Time Network are super excited to invite you to apply for funding to deliver R-Times Youth Awards (Year 2) — a fantastic celebration dedicated to recognizing the incredible young people living right here in Stockport.** This is your chance to host an event that shines a spotlight on the talents, achievements, and positive contributions of local youth. When you apply, just give us a quick rundown of your planned event—think about what you’ll do, who’ll be involved, and how you’ll make it memorable. And don’t forget to include a simple budget outlining how much the event will cost. We can’t wait to support your ideas and celebrate Stockport’s young stars together!

Please send your completed applications to Donna Higgins - R-Time Youth Development Officer  donna.higgins@stockport.gov.uk by 05.09.25 at 4pm

The important stuff!

* + Deadline for applications is Friday 5th September at 4.00 pm.
	+ The event needs to be delivered before the end of March 2026
	+ Maximum amount of funding available is £5,000.00
	+ All nominations received will be anonymised and sent out to our network partners on 12th September to vote on which event they wish to support  - we will inform the winner on Monday 29th September 2025.
* **NEW! All the leading supermarkets, including Tesco, Morrisons, ADA, Waitrose, Sainsbury’s, Iceland, and Ocado will give free donations to your organisation when you and other members of your network order online from them via easyfundraising, at no extra cost.**

With up to £6 offered per order, on average, just two people could raise £114 for you in a year by doing their regular food shop online. Many people connected with your organisation already getting their groceries delivered regularly - just imagine how much you could raise if they all ordered through easyfundraising! With no extra cost to them, they can help to fund your running costs, services, projects, and more.

To get this free funding for your organisation, register to join the free easyfundraising network here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/s3-stockport/>

* **NEW! Please find attached this week’s GrantFinder Bulletin**. Thanks to Sean Martin for sharing this with us – the GrantFinder tool to run funding searches can be accessed for free in stockroom – just let one of the friendly library staff or volunteers know, and they’ll log you in 😊

Finally, if you would rather not receive these emails, please let me know and I'll take your details off my contact list.

All the best and have a lovely weekend!

Charlotte