



VCS Challenge Fund

Thriving Community Zone Northumberland Park Challenge Fund: Application Guidance

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1. About Haringey Community Collaborative

Haringey Community Collaborative is jointly delivered by Public Voice and Mind in Haringey.

We provide strategic leadership and capacity building support to the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Haringey, with a particular focus on grassroots organisations and underserved communities. Our work supports organisations to strengthen sustainability, governance, service delivery, partnerships, impact, and influence, and ensures that residents and VCS organisations are involved at all levels of decision making in the borough.

2. What is a Haringey VCS Challenge Fund?

The **VCS Challenge Fund** is a community grant fund led by Haringey Community Collaborative. Each round focuses on a priority theme identified through the Haringey Community Collaborative VCS Priorities Report and wider engagement with partners and communities.

Applications are assessed and selected by a community panel of local residents, experts, and stakeholders. Alongside grant funding, awardees will receive tailored capacity building support and will participate in shared learning and a final showcase event.

3. Why Northumberland Park?

Haringey is a borough starkly divided by wealth and health inequalities. In east Haringey, up to 1 in 3 children live in poverty; in the west, as low as 1 in 33¹. Situated in Tottenham, Northumberland Park is the most deprived ward in London – this includes high levels of economic inactivity, low income, debt, and poor health².

This **Thriving Community Zone: Northumberland Park round** is funded by the NHS West and North London Integrated Care Board. A 'Thriving Community Zone' aligns with the Neighbourhoods-health model, but focuses on a smaller (most deprived) geographical area.

Health outcomes and inequalities are driven by a wide set of social, economic, and environmental conditions – known as social determinates of health³. Residents of Northumberland Park experience worse health and social outcomes and face greater risk of needing complex or crisis interventions compared to their peers living in more affluent areas.

¹ Understanding Poverty in Place: Where Data Meets Community in Northumberland Park (November 2025) [Understanding Poverty in Place: Where Data Meets Community in Northumberland Park | Zenodo](#)

² Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data, October 2025, available on Haringey Council's IMD dashboard - [Microsoft Power BI](#)

³ What makes us healthy? The Health Foundation [What makes us healthy? | Health Foundation](#)

This fund aims to address health and social inequalities by providing resources to community-led initiatives in Northumberland Park.

4. What kind of projects will be funded?

We encourage applications from community-led projects that build healthier lifestyles and social capital in Northumberland Park (N17), including:

- Groups and initiatives that are already active in the Northumberland Park area
- Community-led collaborations and partnerships in Northumberland Park with local partners – whether that be health services, the public sector, or other community organisations.
- Activities or services that engage, or co-design, directly with local residents

5. What are the desired outcomes of the funded projects?

We will fund projects that aim to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

1. **Healthier lifestyles:**
 - Help people feel confident accessing services / support
 - Understand and overcome barriers to good health (e.g. stigma, mistrust)
 - Help people take steps to support their own health and wellbeing
2. **Social capital:**
 - Help residents and groups to build or access supportive networks
 - Build resident trust in services and support available to them
 - Increase access to opportunities (e.g. employability and skills) particularly with young people

6. Who we want to help

We are particularly interested in groups and activities that support the following in Northumberland Park:

- Young children, parents, families
- Children and young people experiencing mental health issues
- People living with health conditions that impact their physical activity, or ability to work

7. Grant size and funding available

Main Fund

- **Total main fund:** £80,000
- **Grant size:** Typically up to **£15,000 per organisation**
- **Funded cohort:** Approximately 5-6 **organisations**

- **Delivery period:** 6 months (1 October 2026 - 31 March 2027)

Follow-on Fund

Organisations that successfully deliver a Main Fund project will be eligible to apply for a **follow-on fund**, designed to help scale and deepen impact.

- **Total follow-on fund:** £70,000
- **Grant size:** Typically up to **£15k - 20k per project**
- **Number of projects funded:** 3-4 organisations
- **Delivery period:** A further **6-9 months**

Thriving Community Zone capacity building activities

As part of the funding requirements, applicants must allocate **£1,500 of their project budget** to participate in required **Thriving Community Zone capacity building activities**. This funding includes attendance of:

- Theory of Change and impact measurement (onboarding session)
- Introduction to local Thriving Community Zone partners including health services, the public sector, or other community organisations.
- Information sharing, key health messages, and support to signpost/ refer at risk populations
- Co-design of targeted engagement and awareness raising initiatives.
- Tailored capacity building and partnership building sessions with Haringey Community Collaborative
- All projects will conclude with a **showcase event**, connecting funded organisations with partners, funders, and decision-makers

8. Eligibility criteria

Eligible organisations

Applicants must be one of the following:

- Registered Charity
- Charitable Incorporated Company (CIO)
- Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Company Limited by Guarantee (set up for charitable purposes)*
- Community Benefit Society
- Religious institutions**

*Charitable companies will be required to provide governance and financial information as part of due diligence.

**We will accept applications from religious organisations if the proposed project benefits the wider Northumberland Park community, not just the congregation of your religion and does

not contain religious content. For example, a faith centre running a free weekly yoga club that's open to anyone in the community, or a place of worship hosting NHS health checks.

9. Sustainability and legacy

The Challenge Fund is designed to create lasting impact beyond the grant period. This includes:

- A showcase event at the end of the Main Fund programme, connecting funded organisations with potential partners and funders
- Capacity building support to help identify and engage onward funding opportunities
- A Follow-on Fund to help scale and deepen successful initiatives, including delivery through Neighbourhood hubs
- Strengthening the role of VCS organisations as trusted promoters of health literacy within vulnerable communities
- Building long-term working relationships between VCS organisations and Neighbourhoods teams, with opportunities for future collaboration and co-bidding

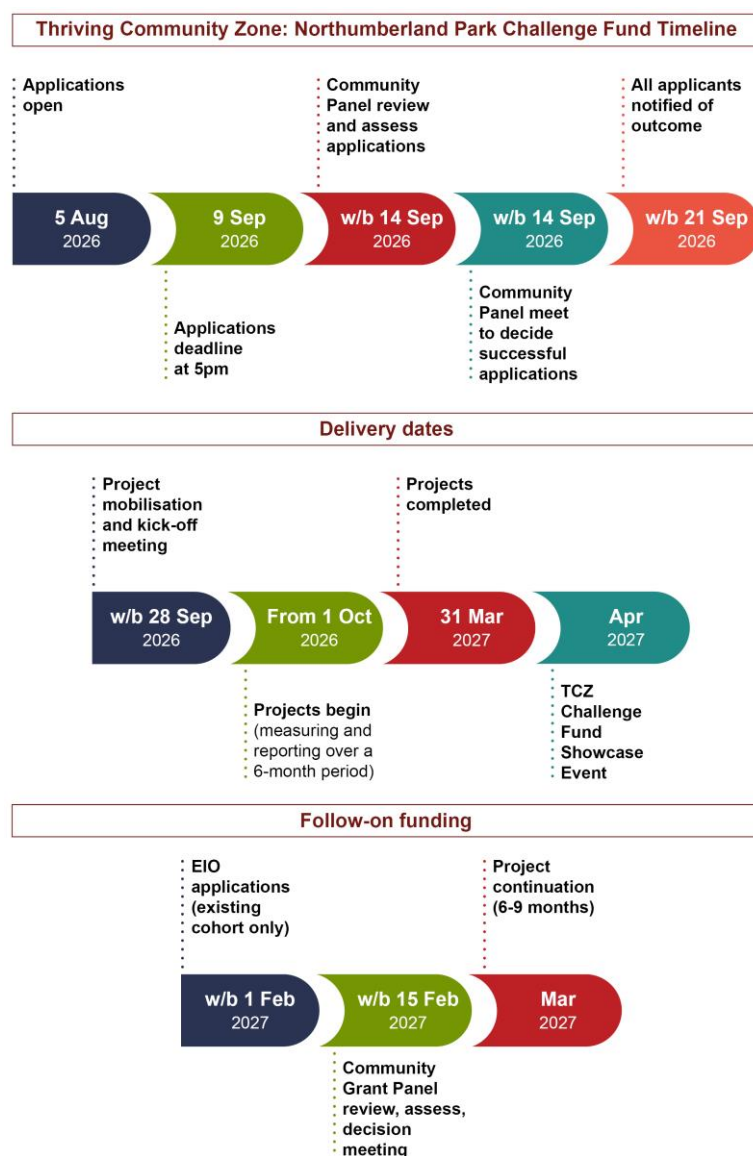
10. Key dates

Main Fund

- Applications open: **Wednesday 5th August 2026**
- Applications close: **Wednesday 9th September 2026, 5pm**
- Applicants notified of outcome: **week beginning 21st September 2026**
- Successful projects onboarding: **week beginning 28th September 2026**
- Project delivery and Neighbourhoods capacity building: **1st October 2026 – 31st March 2027 (6 months)**
- Showcase event: **April 2027**

Follow-on Fund

- Application process: **February 2027**
- Project delivery and capacity building: **March 2027 – December 2027**



11. How to apply

Please read this Thriving Community Zone: Northumberland Park Challenge Fund **Application Guidance** in full before applying.

Your application will be assessed by a community grant panel, who will be looking for projects with a clear plan, good understanding of community needs, strong impact, and relevant experience.

To apply, complete the [Thriving Community Zone Challenge Fund Application Form \(Survey Monkey\)](#). Applicants will be asked to clearly demonstrate how their project is rooted in Northumberland Park and addresses the desired outcomes.

If you require the application form in an accessible format, we can provide a Word / PDF document, please email hello@haringeycollaborative.org to request this

Application deadline: Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 5pm

References:

1. Understanding Poverty in Place: Where Data Meets Community in Northumberland Park (November 2025) [Understanding Poverty in Place: Where Data Meets Community in Northumberland Park | Zenodo](#)
2. Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data, October 2025, available on Haringey Council's IMD dashboard - [Microsoft Power BI](#)
3. What makes us healthy? The Health Foundation [What makes us healthy? | Health Foundation](#)