

NCLB Enrichment Programme

Guidelines

Background

No Child Left Behind recognises the increasing challenges facing children and young people, negatively impacting their engagement in mainstream education, as well as the challenge schools face in trying to support all children to reach their potential.

NCLB is working in partnership with local schools and organisations to provide additional funding in Cheltenham to help support children and young people who are struggling to engage in education. The NCLB Enrichment Programme will provide individual children and young people, and organisations that support them, with the opportunity to access funding that will either give them the opportunity to engage in an extra-curricular activity linked to their interests or develop their strengths and skills using technology.

The Outcomes

- Children and young people in Cheltenham who are struggling to engage in mainstream education have access to high quality enrichment activities that inspire them, support their development and ultimately improve their ability to engage in mainstream education.
- The programme will support the wider work being done across Cheltenham to divert young people at risk of criminal exploitation.
- The programme will support the work of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) community agreement, in that the provision should be based on our key themes of being trauma informed and based on kindness and empathy.

Funding

There is a total of up to £30,000 available.

The funds will be designated into the following pots:

Pot 1 - £15,000 for children and young people to develop their strengths and skills using technology.

Pot 2 - £15,000 for children and young people to take part in extra-curricular activities.

Within these pots, of money, £10,000 will be primarily designated as funding for individuals. £5000 will be primarily designated as funding for projects (subject to review from the NCLB Board). See below for the criteria of each.

Target cohort

Children and young people of school age (4-18) who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Are persistently absent or at risk of persistent absence from school or other educational setting (less than 85% attendance)
- Have special educational needs (SEND)
- Exhibit disruptive behaviour in the education environment that make them at risk of exclusion

Making an application

All applications must be made via the online form remembering to answer all the questions. Not doing so may delay the assessment of your application. Please note that we may ask to see a copy of your constitution and last annual accounts (audited where this is a requirement for your organisation).

What can you apply for?

Funding for individuals

Apply at <https://nclbcheltenham.org.uk/nclb-enrichment-programme>

Organisations can apply for funding to support a child or young person:

- To access an extra-curricular activity e.g. dance lessons or a coding club
or
- Access technology to support them with education e.g. a laptop or tablet

Please note each organisation can only apply for a maximum of 5 children or young people.

Funding for projects

Apply at <https://nclbcheltenham.org.uk/nclb-enrichment-programme>

Organisations can apply for funding to support the running of a new or existing project that provides:

- Extra-curricular activities
or
- Opportunities to use technology to support education

If applying for funding for an extra-curricular activity, the applying organisation should support the child/young person to choose which activity they would like to engage with. This activity can be from the list provided on the application form (existing NCLB partners) or an activity sourced by the referring organisation, alongside the young person.

The funding provided will be used to fund the provision for up to 6 months. Should there be a change in circumstances impacting engagement, applicant must approach the NCLB board to decide on the next steps.

If applying for funding for technology to support a child or young person, the applying organisation can apply for either hardware and/or software. NCLB will then work with partners to source the required items.

In all cases, when applying for support for an individual child or young person, the organisation applying must seek the consent of their parent/carer to make the application and ensure that the parent/carer understand the data sharing and storage arrangements.

Who can apply?

Applications can be made by:

- Schools and/or other educational establishments
- Statutory Sector Organisations (police, social care etc)
- Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations

If applying on behalf of an organisation, that organisation must sign up to/be in the process of signing up to the NCLB community agreement if they have not already done so at <https://nclbcheltenham.org.uk/community-agreement>.

What we won't fund

- Work that does not benefit children and young people who live or attend education settings in Cheltenham.
- Applications that cannot demonstrate that safeguarding arrangements are in place or that the correct parental consent has been sort.
- More than one application for a project from a single organisation.
- More than one application for support for an individual child or young person.
- Provision that an organisation has a statutory duty to provide.

How much can be applied for?

If you are applying for individual support you can apply for either one activity or piece of technology of up to £500.

If you are applying for a project you can apply for up to £500.

Monitoring and evaluation

Organisations will be asked to provide a case study (anonymising the participants' details) to allow NCLB to evaluate the project. NCLB will provide a framework for the applying organisation to follow.

This is available at <https://forms.office.com/e/hDkjDdJdca> (to be completed after the programme). If the young person's circumstances prevent a case study being submitted for any reason, the organisation should notify NCLB of this. Individuals may also provide a case study, but this is not a condition of the funding.

Timings

The grant fund will be open to applications from 12:00 midday on Monday 24th February 2025.

Applications can be made at any time once the grant fund is open, and the application process will be closed when the funds have all been allocated.

Please note applications will be dealt with in order of receipt.

Applications for projects will be assessed once a month and the organisation notified within 7 days.

Applications for individual support will be assessed twice a month and the organisation will be notified within 7 days.

Who will assess the applications?

An assessment panel will be formed that will include the following:

- Cheltenham Borough Council Cabinet Member;
- A representative from NCLB
- Angela Gilbert to represent the wider VCS.

Assessment criteria

The assessment panel will be looking for applications that have been well thought out and can demonstrate the following:

- How the proposal will meet our outcomes as set out above
- It meets the needs of the target children and/or young people
- Overall value for money
- Accessibility of your proposal
- Sustainability beyond the grant

If you are successful:

Duration

You will be expected to have spent any allocated funding within 1 year. In exceptional circumstances an extension may be agreed.

Agreements

Once the funding has been agreed, the council will enter into a project agreement with the organisation which will set out various obligations on the two parties. This is very important as the way in which the money is used will be subject to inspection and audit. It will also help us ensure that your work is progressing along the right tracks.

Payments

For projects the full amount will be paid to the organisation on return of the signed project agreement.

For individual support, the payment will be made directly to the applying organisation once the agreement has been returned and access arrangements have been made.

Other considerations

Please be aware that as this is public money, the funding will be subject to inspection and audit. Any fraudulent activity will be quickly identified and reported to the police.