



Solihull Targeted Short Breaks Grants 2026 Programme – Factsheet (updated)

Solihull Council is funding a Short Breaks Grants Programme to support small organisations to deliver targeted short breaks activities for children and young people with disabilities within Solihull.

Programme Aims

The aim of the grants programme is to fund ideas and proposals which will achieve both Aim A and Aim B:

- A. Provide positive activities for children and young people with disabilities this could be after school, evenings, weekends or during the school holidays
- B. Parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities have time away from their caring duties

Proposals that cannot clearly demonstrate that both aims will be achieved will **not** be funded.

Through the grants programme we will be looking to ensure a widespread of activities across the borough of Solihull.

The programme will support projects and activities that are for children and young people with disabilities.

Programme Objectives

It is intended that the Short Breaks Grants Programme will help achieve the following objectives:

- Complement the range of targeted short breaks provided by Social Life Opportunities (SoLO) on behalf of Solihull Council
- Meet the need for short breaks for an increased number of families
- Widen the choice of providers offering short breaks for children and young people with disabilities
- Deliver a wider range of short breaks activities and improve the choice for families in deciding the type of short break activity their child would like to attend
- Jointly commission the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme to ensure that children with disabilities from low-income families receive the right kind of support

Short Breaks Grants and HAF

We aim to strengthen connections between the Short Breaks Grants Programme and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme by jointly commissioning holiday activities that meet both sets of requirements.

Our intention is for specialist SEND provision during school holidays to be delivered exclusively through the Short Breaks Programme. Providers planning to offer holiday activities for children and young people with disabilities are encouraged to apply via the Short Breaks Grants Programme. When applications are reviewed by the Short Breaks Panel, we will determine whether funding should come from Short Breaks, HAF, or a combination of both. Joint funding will help ensure that all children have equal access to provision that meets their individual needs.

Organisations receiving HAF funding will need to meet additional requirements within the HAF standards, such as providing a nutritious meal; grant awards will depend on these being fulfilled.

Further details about how the two programmes link will be shared at the HAF Provider Networking session on 19th January 2026. For more information, contact hafsolihull@solihull.gov.uk.

Completing your application

To be successful proposals will need to:

- Involve community groups or organisations, which are based in or able to evidence a strong track record of delivery in the Solihull borough
- Involve children and young people with disabilities and/or their parents/carers in the planning, review and evaluation of the activities provided
- Introduce new participants to short breaks activities, by providing new opportunities to take part.
- Demonstrate sustainability and/or exit pathways available once the project has finished
- Evidence that activities are of a suitable length to provide a short break to attendees' parents/carers

Projects will be prioritised where they:

- Focus on providing short breaks during the school holidays and intend to deliver HAF funded places alongside short breaks
- Evidence a proportionate use of funding compared to the scope and scale of the activities provided
- Provide a project or activity that is more than just a one-off (e.g. a football group for disabled children and young people that meets one evening a week during term-time; a social group for disabled children and young people that meets on a weekly or fortnightly basis on a weekend; a programme of school holiday activities that offers a range of activities)
- Evidence innovation – the grants programme is seeking to widen choice for children and young people with disabilities and provide new opportunities and experiences
- Evidence experience of delivering services for children and young people with disabilities (either disabilities in the main or a specific disability/condition)
- Evidence how they will assess and meet the needs of individual children and young people with disabilities to ensure they are appropriately supported to access the activities safely
- Are able to meet the needs of a particular group (e.g. teenagers, Early Years)

Outcomes

Additionally, the overarching outcomes expected of activities funded through this programme are that:

- Children and young people with disabilities are supported to have fun, positive experiences and develop their own abilities.
- Children and young people attending the activities enjoy the short break activities they take part in
- Parents, carers and other family members feel confident that their relative is safe throughout their short break experiences.
- Children and young people with disabilities attending activities are enabled to be as independent as possible.
- For those young people aged 14 and above, there will be a greater focus on preparing for adulthood.

Available funding

We expect grants to be in the range of £5,000 - £27,500 (annual value).

Please note – organisations can apply for more than one project, but an application form must be completed for each project to be delivered. These will be subject to separate evaluation, and if successful, a separate grant agreement. If submitting multiple applications – the total value must not exceed £99,999 (annual value).

Funding is available for the period 1st April 2026 – 31st August 2027, this means individual applications are capped at £38,950 for those delivering for the full 17 months. Please indicate on your application form if your application is to provide activities for the duration of this funding period or for a specific period.

Note: Following consideration of applications for Short Breaks Grants funding, discussions will take place with those providers who have indicated in 2.17 of the application form that they'd like to apply for additional funding from HAF. HAF funding will be in addition to the limits outlined above.

Parental contributions

Consultation with parents of disabled children indicates that they are happy to pay a reasonable cost for their child to attend a short breaks activity. Providers are therefore expected to ask parents to contribute towards the cost of their child attending the activities, providing this cost is reasonable and equivalent to a similar mainstream activity. This also ensures parity across short breaks activities and means that more short breaks can be provided. The funding requested as part of your grant application can cover the parental contribution amount for those in hardship.

Exception: If a child is in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) and their place is funded through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, no parental contribution should be requested as this falls in line with the expectations for all eligible children.

Priority Area

Applications will only be accepted from organisations who will deliver activities in the borough of Solihull.

Overall, applications will be reviewed to ensure that there is a good spread across the geographical borough.

Applications will only be accepted from organisations delivering activities for children and young people with disabilities*

* Children and young people will be eligible to attend activities and services funded through this grants programme:

- up to their 19th birthday (or until the end of Year 13 if they attend a special school)
- if they are resident in the borough or are in care and are the responsibility of Solihull Council, wherever they are placed.
- if they have a disability (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) that prevents them from accessing universal services without substantial ongoing additional support.

When applying to attend, families should provide confirmation of their child's eligibility. This could include:

- Evidence that the child or young person is in receipt of middle or higher rate disability living allowance (DLA) or any personal independence payment (PIP)
- An Education, Health and Care Plan or Social Care Assessment showing a relevant assessed need
- A letter from a relevant professional (e.g. their GP, consultant, school's special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO), community nurse or another relevant professional) confirming that the child or young person's needs mean that they require targeted services for children and young people with disabilities and are unable to attend universal services without substantial ongoing support.

Families not already in receipt of a short break should be prioritised when booking children and young people onto activities.

Before you apply

Before you apply, you should check that you know what is already being delivered locally to avoid duplication. When we assess your application, we will check that your project will either bring something new to your area or add value to what is already being delivered, rather than directly competing with activities currently on offer.

Please note – organisations can apply for more than one project but an application form must be completed for each project to be delivered, and will be subject to separate evaluation and, if successful, a separate grant agreement.

Eligibility

You can apply for this funding if you are one of the following:

- Registered charities
- Constituted Community groups
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
- Community Interest Companies
- Co-operatives - registered Community Benefit Societies and registered Industrial and Provident Societies
- Social Enterprise
- Religious organisations that provide wider community benefit
- Mutual aid groups (the funds will need to be held by a local organisation with one of the above legal structures – supporting information from your chosen organisation will need to be submitted with your application)
- Special Schools

** Funding to Community Interest Companies and other non-charities may include conditions to restrict funding to charitable objectives only.

Additional Supporting Information

To be eligible to apply you must provide proof of:

- A written constitution / memorandum / articles of association/ set of rules that clearly outlines the aims and rules governing the organisation
- Your organisation / company's management committee / board of trustees / board of directors with at least 3 unrelated people as members, a list of those directors will be required showing who has bank authorisation
- A copy of your organisation's registration with the Charity Commission or Companies House
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's balance of funds, income and reserves
- A bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two unrelated signatories
- A bank statement from the last 3 months
- A copy of your organisation's safeguarding policy, procedures and practice
- A copy of your organisation's safer recruitment policy
- A copy of your organisation's equal opportunities policy or equality, diversity and inclusion policy
- Details of your Ofsted registration (if relevant)
- A copy of your organisation's insurance certificates showing appropriate public liability (£10 million per incident) and employer's liability (£10 million per incident)
- A copy of the relevant motor vehicle insurance certificate (if a vehicle is available to the project)
- A copy of your organisation's data protection policy, procedures and practice
- Copies of your organisation's risk management, health and safety policy, procedures and practice
- Confirmation that all staff delivering the activities will have an appropriate level of paediatric first aid training
- Quotes for items of equipment over £300

You will need to submit this documentation with your application

Sorry, we cannot fund

- Individuals or sole traders
- Companies Limited by Shares
- Capital costs above £1k and builds
- Direct replacement of statutory obligation and public funding
- Promotion of religious or political activities
- Groups with significant financial free reserves
- Retrospective grants
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- National charities
- Overseas travel or expeditions
- Medical research and equipment for statutory or private healthcare
- General appeals
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people
- Statutory work in educational institutions
- Sponsored or fundraising events or groups raising funds to distribute to other causes
- Mainstream Schools, Churches, Parish Councils or PTA's unless community benefit is demonstrated

It is important that organisations who are applying for funding understand that a grant cannot fund ineligible activities, and that grant recipients will need to provide:

- Evidence of participant eligibility
- Evidence of the activities undertaken using the grant funding
- Termly Monitoring information, including information about individual participants and the activities they have attended (including at least one case study)
- Enter provision data into Synergy Gateway, which is a web-based system accessible via the internet by the deadline given in any grant award letter. Training will be provided, and all users will need to complete a user access request and confidentiality agreement form signed and approved by their respective managers. Forms to be able to access to Gateway will be provided for successful applicants.
- Evidence of expenditure both during and on completion of their project activities

To help make sure of your understanding, we've listed what can and can't be funded below:

Yes! We can fund these costs	No! We cannot fund these costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff costs (where not already funded through other sources) ✓ Running costs of the project, e.g., room hire, marketing, stationery etc ✓ Skills training and other course costs ✓ Administration costs directly associated with the project ✓ Clearly justified capital purchases under £1000 i.e., small capital items (such as IT equipment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Core costs of running your organisation other than those directly associated with delivery of the project ✗ Costs not directly associated with the running of your project ✗ Costs before the start date on your grant agreement ✗ Any costs that cannot be fully evidenced back to your organisation's nominated bank account ✗ Any bank charges or legal fees ✗ Items which only benefit individuals e.g., prizes, individual kit/equipment not shared ✗ Activities promoting religious beliefs or political activities ✗ Activities that the state has a legal obligation to provide, e.g., education ✗ Fundraising activities ✗ Contingency costs ✗ VAT

All successful grant applicants will be expected to participate in any appropriate publicity as requested by Solihull Council.

Application timescales

Application Timescales	
Call for Applications is open	wc 15 th December 2025
HAF provider networking session	Monday 19 th January 2026
Deadline for Applications	Tuesday 27 th January 2026 23:59
Panel decision-making meeting	Week beginning 2 nd February 2026
Applicants informed of approval / approval with some specific conditions/ rejection (and reason for rejection)	By 13 th February 2026
Grant agreements issued	By 15th March 2026

Delivery of activities	From 1st April 2026 – 31 st August 2027
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Note: If you have difficulty in completing the application Warwickshire & Solihull CAVA may be able to provide support ([Solihull Infrastructure - WCAVA](#))

Young Opportunities (YO) Solihull is a voluntary organisation set up to support Solihull VCFSE organisations to work together to maximise opportunities for children and young people. If you are an organisation based or delivering in Solihull, [please contact YO Solihull](#) for opportunities to collaborate and build partnership working. [About Us | YO Solihull](#)