

Children, Young People and Families Innovation Fund 2025 Frimley-wide

What is the Innovation Fund?

The Innovation Fund started as an idea from a local resident and aims to give communities the opportunity, support, courage, and funding to suggest and progress innovative ideas that could have a big impact on the health and well-being of local people. Over the years the fund has grown to new areas within NHS Frimley, and the impact has been clear to see. By providing opportunities for our communities to find their own solutions to local health and care issues, we can develop support alongside local people, making improvements and reducing gaps in health inequalities in a different and more impactful way.

This guidance is in relation to the Innovation Funding for projects that support Children, Young People and Families. Funding is also available for projects that support adults and wider communities within the NHS Frimley geography; for more information please visit: [Innovation Fund | Frimley Health and Care](#)

The established Innovation Fund process supports the allocation of small funds to local community ideas and projects. Partners within the local health and care system, such as local authorities and public health, use the framework to allocate monies to projects that can support our shared priorities.

NHS Frimley are working in partnership with Rushmoor Voluntary Services who will be administering the process and distributing funding on our behalf. The fund is open to those who can deliver projects supporting people living in:

- Slough
- Bracknell Forest
- The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
- North East Hampshire and Farnham
- Surrey Heath

Groups/organisations based outside these areas can apply, but they must directly support people living in these locations.

Supporting Local Ideas that Help Children, Young People and Families Thrive

At NHS Frimley we want every child to grow up healthy, happy, and with every chance to thrive. However difficult living conditions, money struggles, and mental health challenges can make life harder for some of our families. That's why we're offering small grants to support local projects that help children, young people, and their families. Communities play a vital role in shaping young lives and, together, we can make a real difference and create a brighter future for every child.

Recently, NHS Frimley carried out a large-scale listening exercise called [Reconnect, Reset, Rebuild](#), to hear directly from local people, community groups, and partners about what matters most to them. Thousands of conversations took place, focusing on people's experiences of health and care, the challenges they face, and their ideas for improving wellbeing.

Key themes that emerged included:

- The need for more support with mental health (for both children and parents)
- Tackling childhood obesity through community-led activities
- Improving access to social and peer support networks
- Addressing inequalities linked to poverty and living conditions
- Making services easier to access — not just physically, but also by ensuring they are culturally sensitive, emotionally supportive, and practically accessible for all families

These insights directly inform the aims of this fund. We are particularly keen to support projects that respond to these local priorities and offer practical, community-based solutions that improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people, and families.

We are looking for innovative and new ideas and recognise that local people know their own communities the best. The Innovation Fund is intended to empower local communities and organisations to co-design innovative solutions to support local people and communities to address the challenges they experience.

What Kind of Projects Are We Looking For?

We're looking for ideas that will make a real difference for local children and families — especially those facing difficult challenges. You can [read examples of previously funded projects](#).

Key Dates

- **Launch and open application process:** Monday 29th September 2025
- **Close applications:** Midnight Sunday 2nd November 2025
- **Review applications:** w/c Monday 10th November 2025
- **Award projects:** w/c Monday 24th November 2025
- **Interim Reporting:** Due by end of March 2026
- **Final Reporting:** Due by end of November 2026

Key Information

1. NHS Frimley is offering funding from £2,000 up to a maximum of £15,000 to community and voluntary groups and local organisations through the Innovation Fund, for projects or ideas that can support the improved health and wellbeing of Children, Young People and Families in the areas listed above. The funding will apply for one year from the date of award.
2. Projects must focus on **at least one** of the criteria listed below, in line with key priorities for NHS Frimley and the partners involved in this work:
 - Physical health including oral health, continence, healthy eating & nutrition, diabetes, epilepsy, respiratory conditions
 - Mental wellbeing (including family support) or reducing social isolation
 - School readiness
 - Support on infant feeding and immunisation education
 - Social and community connections (helping families feel supported)
 - Living conditions including projects that improve environments for children, like tackling childhood asthma

We're particularly interested in projects that:

- Support children, young people, and families who are most in need
 - Are inclusive and accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities or neurodiverse needs
 - Help to tackle health inequalities linked to where people live or their circumstances
3. We welcome applications from community and voluntary groups and local organisations provided you can evidence one or more of the above criteria.
 4. Further requirements to note:
 - a. Groups/organisations do not have to be registered charities but must have a constitution, and a bank account in the name of the group, with at least two unrelated signatories.

- b. Groups/organisations must identify and have the appropriate policies and procedures in place e.g. Safeguarding, GDPR, health and safety and complaints as well as appropriate financial record keeping and insurance to safely deliver their project.
 - c. Bids from schools must not be business-as-usual or part of programmes that schools are obligated to do. Projects should add to or enhance the health and wellbeing of children, young people, and families. Ideas must not be those eligible for usual routes of school funding.
5. Projects will be expected to report against the following key metrics:
- a. Number children/family members engaged with.
 - b. Change in participant well-being before and after activity e.g. through well-being scores and/or case studies.
 - c. Project spend and activity delivered.
 - d. Any health and care partners involved in the delivery of your project e.g. local NHS services, other voluntary sector groups, local care services or charities.
6. Ideas or projects put forward in applications need to demonstrate the following:
- a. That the project will be delivered to those residing within the boundaries of the specified geography of the funding you are applying for.
 - b. How the project is new or innovative and where it addresses an identified need in the community or a gap in services. Projects can be a development of an existing piece of work but must show evidence of the impact it has had.
 - c. The aims of the project, who the project will support, how you will link with these local people if not already identified. Explain how the work will have a positive impact.
 - d. The measurable difference the project will make. You must be able to describe where your project will have an impact, demonstrating **at least one** of the criteria listed in item 2.
 - e. How the project outcomes will be sustained past the life of the funding.
 - f. The intended evaluation techniques and measures that will be used to demonstrate impact. One interim and one final report will be required to show how the money has been spent and the impact on those reached.
7. The maximum amount an organisation or group can bid for is £15,000 although lesser amounts can be applied for from £2,000.
8. Projects must be delivered between November 2025 and November 2026. Monies received must be spent by 30 November 2026 or the funder has the right to request return of any unspent funds.

Application Process

- 9. Applications must be submitted using the relevant application form.
- 10. Please complete the application form with as much detail as possible. It does not matter if your idea or project is not fully formed but some consideration of each question will help the shortlisting panel make informed decisions about which projects to recommend.
- 11. There is a word limit for each question clearly shown on the form; content that exceeds the word limit may not be considered by the shortlisting panel.
- 12. Multiple bids (up to a **maximum of three**) from an organisation are permitted, though consideration will be given to the reach of funding across the specified geography.
- 13. Costs cannot be funded retrospectively.

14. Applications must be submitted by midnight on Sunday 2nd November 2025. Any applications received after this time will not be considered. All applications will be acknowledged within 5 working days. Applicants who do not receive an acknowledgement will need to make contact to confirm the application has been received.
15. Applications should be submitted via email to innovation@rvs.org.uk
16. We are unable to accept applications by post but can support you if you have any difficulties completing the form or have any questions. Please contact us to discuss your support need via innovation@rvs.org.uk or 01252 398450.
17. Applications will be reviewed by a shortlisting panel who will make their recommendations to the funding organisation. The shortlisting panel will include appropriate representation from:
 - NHS Frimley
 - Local Authority representatives
 - Voluntary Sector representatives
18. On applying for the funds, you are agreeing to allow Rushmoor Voluntary Services to share your application with funding and advisory organisations and to speak to others about your project in this way.
19. All applications will be considered and you will be informed if your application has been successful no later than Monday 1st December 2025.
20. Decisions made by the funding organisation are final, and feedback for unsuccessful applications will be given on request.
21. Successful applicants will be required to evaluate their project, detailing how the funding was spent and providing evidence of the measurable impacts of the project. Evaluations must demonstrate that the grant was spent in accordance with the purposes, and in the place, for which it was approved. Any changes to the project/event must be agreed with us, in advance.
22. Successful applicants will be required to sign a Funding Agreement evidencing the required organisational criteria and agreeing to funding expectations. NHS Frimley are working in partnership with Rushmoor Voluntary Services who will be delivering the process and distributing funding on our behalf.
23. NHS Frimley is committed to a strict policy of zero tolerance. We believe all forms of diversity contribute to a positive and enriching experience for staff and the community we serve. Zero Tolerance means we will never ignore, tolerate or condone discrimination, bullying, harassment, abuse or victimisation of any kind in any form. This includes, but is not limited to, a person's age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity status, race, religion or beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background.