

**FINANCIAL INCLUSION FUND
2025/2026**

The closing date for applications is 31st July 2025 at 5 pm.
Please note, late applications will not be accepted.

Please refer to the associated guidance when completing this application form.

All projects must be completed by 31st March 2026.

Who can apply?

- Groups and organisations who are working directly with residents from low-income households can apply for this grant for capital costs. Applicants will be expected to show how the grant will improve the lives for these families.
- All applicants must be active in our South Ayrshire Council's area and spend any agreed funding such that it benefits residents/communities in South Ayrshire Council areas.
- Third Sector organisations/community groups require to have a constitution and appropriate governance and financial arrangements in place, proportionate to the value of the application.

Which priority does your project fit in?

Project must meet at least one of these, please ✓ the most appropriate.

1. Breaking the cycle of debt & dependency	Yes
2. Reducing Child Poverty	Yes
3. A reduction in the number of people in crisis through early intervention	Yes
4. Preparing people for employment, training, education & volunteering opportunities	Yes

Which of the following Council Plan priorities most aligns with your proposed project:

Priority 1 – Spaces and Places	
Priority 2 – Live, Work, Learn	Yes
Priority 3 – Civic and Community Pride	Yes

Project Proposal

Organisation Name: Vics In The Community	
Project Name: Vics Financial Wellbeing Support	
Organisation Address: New Voluntary Park (NVP) Whitletts KA8 9RW	
Charity No: SC048328	
Postcode: KA8 9RW	
<p>What are the main activities/purpose of the group:</p> <p>Vics In The Community is a registered charity based in North Ayr and was established in 2018 with the aim of addressing inequality by supporting people living in poverty through football.</p> <p>During the Covid-19 pandemic Vics became the main anchor organisation within North Ayr supporting young people, families and vulnerable adults with food, digital equipment, energy vouchers and other essentials.</p> <p>Following the pandemic Vics have continued to provide a range of supports and interventions and have continued to work alongside both Public and Third Sector groups and organisation's including the local schools, Information and Advice Hub, Thriving Communities and Voluntary Action South Ayrshire to support people living in North Ayr.</p> <p>Vics are recognised locally as the organisation who can provide support with white goods, food insecurity, fuel poverty, mental health and wellbeing support while also offering a range of football programmes across North Ayr.</p> <p>Our Community and Wellbeing Team offer a range of opportunities for young people and adults to take part in groups including our Mindful Mondays, Men's Group, Chatty Spaces, Community Pop Up Events, Walking Football and ASN groups. The team also continue to support individuals referred or who have contacted the team direct for support.</p>	

Our football programmes include our organised teams for kids aged 4 years up to older adults playing walking football. There are currently over 370 people playing across our teams supported by our team of volunteers and staff.

Vics continue to offer free community football during the school holidays and these programmes continue to be well attended and supported by funders such as Cash For Kids and the Scottish Football Association. The football programmes offer young people the opportunity to play football and receive a healthy lunch snack while also supporting parents and carers with childcare.

In addition to the football camps Vics organise other opportunities for young people such as outdoor learning activities, fun days at NVP and trips.

Vics continue to respond to the ongoing needs and challenges across the community.

Purpose of grant application – please advise how the grant funding would be spent and how it would benefit recipients:

Vics continue to be the cornerstone of the community supporting a wide range of people living in North Ayr particularly people living in Whitletts.

With the community being recognised as the most deprived Community in South Ayrshire and in the top 5% most deprived data zones in Scotland, it is evident that financial inclusion and wellbeing support is needed within the community. Unemployment remains higher than the national average and there continues to be challenges with drugs, alcohol and knife crime close to our base at NVP.

Vics are very fortunate to have received funding that has helped create a staffing resource who can provide support; however, the team require funding to be able to offer vouchers to support food and fuel poverty, support people in crisis, organise early intervention programmes/support for young people, adults and families and continue to support people with training that leads to volunteering and employment.

Our Community Team anticipate an increase in referrals and people engaging with Vics when our new Community Hub opens. The Hub will provide a new place/space where we can offer a range of activities such as cooking on a budget, mental health and wellbeing programmes and support for volunteers.

Funding will be used to assist, support and develop our work in North Ayr and funding will target people living in poverty including young people, adults and families.

Total cost of idea/how much are you applying for? Please provide a breakdown:

The anticipated costs are broken down below:

- Resources for group work/activities (Young People/Adults)
£1450
- Emergency support (Food/Fuel/ Essentials)
£3000
- Fund to support volunteers and referrals with training (Food Hygiene, SFA Courses etc)
£500

<u>Total £4950</u> - (Vics would accept a reduced allocation if the full amount was not available)	
Are you a constituted group/organisation?	YES
Do you have a bank account?	YES
Do you have host organisation in place (if required)? If so, please state host organisation.	Not Applicable
Do you give consent for us to use/share your details throughout the Financial Inclusion funding process.	YES

I, on behalf of, (organisation name):

- Certify that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this application is true and accurate and will adhere to the following terms and conditions.
- Understand that making this application does not entitle the organisation to funding as a right.
- Will not commence or commit any expenditure before receiving approval of the funding.
- Understand that this funding award does not cover retrospective work.
- Understand that to make any misleading statement in relation to this application could make the application invalid or may mean the organisation has to repay the funding.
- Understand that this application is subject to appropriate checks and meets appropriate guidance and essential criteria.
- I have read the associated guidance and essential criteria before completing and submitting this application form.
- Understands that if I do not provide satisfactory evidence of spend then the council may request, I repay the grant.
- Failure to return or complete and return any evaluations requested then I may not receive any future funding from South Ayrshire Council. I may be asked to repay the funds if I cannot provide evidence that they were used for the purpose intended.

Name of Person completing application:

Marna Ferguson____ Date: ____29-07-2025____

This application only should be uploaded to [Your Area Your Voice Your Choice](#)

Please submit the following information via email to External Funding Officer at:

grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

- 1. Lead contact name, email address and telephone number.**
- 2. Copy of constitution.**

- 3. Copy of last 3 months bank statements**
- 4. last verified/signed accounts**