

**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	
2. Reducing Child Poverty	✓
3. A reduction in the number of people in crisis through early intervention	
4. Preparing people for employment, training, education & volunteering opportunities	

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

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

Project Proposal

Organisation Name:	The Honeypot Children's Charity
Project Name:	Wellbeing Fund for South Ayrshire Young Carer Families
Organisation Address:	Head office: 227 Shepherds Bush Road London W6 7AS Scotland Honeypot House: The Old School New Cumnock East Ayrshire KA18 4QW
Charity No:	England & Wales 1184132 Scotland SC052213
Postcode:	KA18 4QW
What are the main activities/purpose of the group: The Honeypot Children's Charity has provided residential short breaks for young carers aged 5-12 for nearly 30 years. Starting in England in 1996 and expanding in Wales in 2017, we opened our third Honeypot House in Scotland in 2023. Young carers referred to us for a break spend 3 days and 2 nights at our house – a former school that has been refurbished to provide bedrooms and play areas so that we can host groups of 12 children and provide a range of activities. We also offer Memory Making Days and further wraparound support for young carers and their families. Through our partnership with the South Ayrshire Health and Social Carer Partnership we support many young carers from South Ayrshire. The children we support are either caring for a parent with a mental health condition; a parent or sibling with physical disabilities; a parent or sibling with a long-term illness; or a parent with substance misuse issues. The responsibilities of caring for a sick or disabled family member impacts severely on the mental and physical wellbeing of young carers, and their chances of thriving in education and life. They often miss out on the opportunity to learn skills, try new things, feel a sense of achievement, or make friends. Many of the children we support hail from deprived areas where opportunities to respite from their responsibilities are little to none. By participating in a Honeypot break, young carers experience new adventures, build friendships, and enjoy themselves without having to think	

about their daily caring responsibilities. These experiences help them develop new skills, build self-esteem, and create happy lasting childhood memories. They return home with renewed energy and a positive outlook, better equipped to continue supporting their cared-for person(s). With improved mental health and well-being, young carers will be better able to perform their caring duties.

In 2024-25 we operated at 30% capacity at our Scotland Honeypot House located in East Ayrshire, providing 23 Residential Short Breaks, and 9 Memory Making Days out. We supported a total of 300 young carers of which 82 from South Ayrshire – which represents the largest number of children supported by us by county. Once we reach full capacity in 2-3 years' time we will be able to provide up to 63 Residential Short Breaks and further Memory Making Days, and we are keen to support more young carers from South Ayrshire.

This short video gives a tour of our Honeypot House in East Ayrshire, and features our contact at the South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

<https://youtu.be/EMxcxVLP6vk?si=pz4p56a1J7EHD1eg>

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

As part of our range of wraparound services, we can offer young carer families support through our Wellbeing Fund. Wellbeing grants have a value of up to £250. Only Honeypot families who have been engaged with our services for a minimum of four months can apply for a Wellbeing Grant. This is to ensure that children aren't registered just for the receipt of a grant.

The application form is filled out by a parent/guardian or other authorised representative of the child. The applicant needs to provide evidence of financial hardship such as the child being eligible for Free School Meals, the child being in receipt of the Pupil Premium, a sibling or parent being in receipt of Carer's Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance, or Employment and Support Allowance.

These grants will be used for essentials such as laptops that young carers need to do schoolwork, clothing including school uniforms, blankets, furniture such as beds and mattresses, and white goods such as more energy efficient fridges or laundry machines. These purchases provide great relief to disadvantaged households who are struggling to make ends meet.

Our dedicated Wellbeing Fund Co-ordinator will work with families who apply for these grants to assess their eligibility (if they can evidence financial hardship) and what their most urgent needs are and how goods purchased can help them save money and/or benefit the young carer with their education for example.

The Honeypot Board makes the ultimate decision on whether to approve a grant upon recommendation by the Wellbeing Fund Co-ordinator. They will then take care of purchasing and sending the goods agreed. No money will be distributed to the families. If successful, families can reapply for a Wellbeing Grant after two years have passed.

In 2024-25 we were able to distribute 176 Wellbeing Grants to as many families across the UK. However, because of increased operational costs our charity's Board of Trustees have decided that we can only distribute these grants going forwards if we secure specific funding for the Wellbeing Fund.



This story is about an 8-year old young carer who helps to care for both her mum and dad. Her parents applied for a Wellbeing Grant to fund a tablet and provides an example of the impact of our Wellbeing Grants.

"Thank you again for the grant to get our daughter a tablet and blue screen cover for her dyslexia, this will help her so much with her educational work as well as a chance to step away from her caring duties and do something for herself. We gave it to her last night and she was thrilled! She thanked us, but we told her it wasn't from us and could she guess who sent it. She guessed it was Honeypot after a few clues and she nearly cried! She was so happy that we had set it up for her so that the tablet could read directions out loud, as she struggles with reading because of her dyslexia. We are truly grateful, thank you so much Honeypot!"

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

The value of a wellbeing grant is up to £250. We would like to requests as much funding as possible, but we recognise that there will be other very worthy causes that need funding. We currently have no funding in place to distribute Wellbeing Grants in Scotland and we would really appreciate the support.

An amount of £2,500 would fund a Wellbeing Grant for 10 families from South Ayrshire.
An amount of £3,750 would fund a Wellbeing Grant for 15 families from South Ayrshire.
An amount of £5,000 would fund a Wellbeing Grant for 20 families from South Ayrshire.

Are you a constituted group/organisation?

YES/NO

Do you have a bank account?

YES/NO

Do you have host organisation in place (if required)?

If so, please state host organisation.

YES/NO — we are the host organisation

Do you give consent for us to use/share your details throughout the Financial Inclusion funding process.

YES/NO

I, on behalf of, The Honeypot Children's Charity:

- 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: **Madeleine van Hilten**

Head of Lottery and Statutory Grants

Date

8th August 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