

**Summer of Play 2021**

**Guidance for Organisations**

The aim of the fund is to support local organisations help improve the wellbeing of children and young people over the summer holidays. Funding of up to **£10,000** is available to deliver holiday activities and experiences, integrating food and wider family support where needed, and targeted at children and young people particularly adversely affected by the impacts of the pandemic.

**Applications must be submitted by 6.00pm Monday 7 June 2021.**

This investment is part of Scottish Government’s social renewal agenda following the pandemic and is focused on getting it right for every child by promoting the wellbeing of children and young people as Scotland recovers from Covid-19. It also complements wider investment in holiday support through free school meal replacement for those eligible for free school meals on the basis of low income, and wider investment in education recovery.

It is the responsibility of the organisation to make sure that the proposed activities are in line with legislation including Covid-19 guidance. See links at the bottom of this guidance to find out more.

**Who the funding is intended to reach**

This funding is aimed at children and young people most likely to be experiencing continued disadvantage and who are more likely to have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Several groups of children and young people have particular wellbeing needs which require targeted support. These include:

* Children from low income households
* Children from the Tackling Child Poverty priority family groups: larger families; families with a disabled child or adult; young mothers; families with children under one; and minority ethnic families
* Children from families who have been shielding during the pandemic and whose ability to engage in activities and socialise will have been very limited
* Children with a disability or additional support need
* Care experienced children and young people
* Young carers
* Children in need of protection
* Children supported by a child’s plan
* Children who have undergone significant transitions during lockdown or will experience them this year, including starting in ELC, starting primary school, moving to secondary school and leaving school.

**Who can apply**

If you are a public or third sector organisation that works with individuals that satisfy the eligibility criteria in West Lothian, you can apply. Voluntary organisations who are constituted or have a governing document and bank account are welcome to apply – documents must be submitted with the application.

Services working within West Lothian Council are also welcome to apply.

Individuals and private sector organisations are not eligible for this fund.

As the funding is specifically for working with children and vulnerable Young People applicants are required to have a Child Protection Policy and must ensure staff are appropriately recruited and checked. Please upload the Child Protection Policy (if appropriate) with the application.

**How to apply**

You can apply by clicking the link to the application form below: [**https://forms.office.com/r/UxEtD4TyEA**](https://forms.office.com/r/UxEtD4TyEA)

**Applications must be submitted by 6.00pm on Monday 7 June 2021.**

**A copy of your constitution or governing document should be emailed to** [**CLDYouthServices@westlothian.gov.uk**](mailto:CLDYouthServices@westlothian.gov.uk)

**Successful applicants will be required to provide their organisation bank account details, and either a copy of audited accounts or the last three months bank statements.**

**How applications are assessed**

Applications are assessed by a decision panel with representatives of the West Lothian CLD Steering Board. Their aim is to allocate funding to organisations who are likely to have the greatest positive impact for the target groups.

An assessment process is in place and a panel will meet to assess the applications and applicants will be informed of the outcome by 14 June.

The guidance recommends making awards to organisations based on evidence that shows they meet the following criteria:

* Providing **opportunities to (re)connect** with friends, peers, wider community and the outdoors, as well as with trusted adults.
* Providing **opportunities** for children and young people to **play, be active and enjoy themselves.** Such activities will provide key learning opportunities and help support children’s return to school in the autumn by boosting wellbeing and confidence. Activities should be wide ranging and inclusive as possible to cover all interests, backgrounds and circumstances and shaped around a theme offun and play with a view to providing positive experiences. Activities may include: sports; expressive arts; crafts; outdoor learning; trips and visits. Time outdoors should be optimised.
* Sustainability – applications which include a legacy will be looked on favourably – this could include educational programmes on healthy eating, food waste reduction or environmental sustainability
* **Equity** - Activities should be accessible to target families and barriers to participation such as transport should be mitigated as far as possible. Consideration should be given to how to meet wider needs, including through the integration of food, childcare, financial inclusion, family support and referral on to wider services where needed. Principles of dignity and human rights should be applied, promoting non-stigmatising provision of services and supports. [Resources](https://www.nourishscotland.org/projects/dignity/) are available to help integrate dignified food provision.
* **Engagement –** It will be important to build on existing trusted relationships and communication methods so that children and families know about the offer and are encouraged to engage with it. Communication and promotion of the summer offer should be coordinated locally in order to maximise engagement among target groups. A national marketing strategy is also being developed to support this and will include a stakeholder toolkit that local partners can use to promote their own activities. Details will be shared once available.

**Food Criteria**

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that every child in Scotland has the best possible start in life and that includes making sure that our children have access to healthy and nutritious food.

This criterion is not intended to replace or describe current Government nutrient guidelines for food provision in schools, rather it is aimed at helping organisations who are providing food as part of this fund to plan and provide a meal that supports children and young people’s health and wellbeing, whilst being nutritious and enjoyable.

A nutritious lunch can comprise hot or cold foods that may be shop bought or cooked in-house. Organisations aiming to create opportunities for children to engage and even make the food that they eat (with support from adults), will be welcome (within current covid-19 restrictions).

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| **Food provision should comply with the following criteria**  **A DRINK** | Drinks provided should be:   * plain water (fizzy or still) * milk, (all varieties) * caffeine free, sugar-free drinks (fizzy or still)   What ***cannot*** be funded are:   * Full sugar drinks, including energy drinks, milkshakes and smoothies. |
| **A MEAL** | The meal should contain vegetables or fruit as per the five a day recommendation  When purchasing food, try and use the [traffic light system](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/how-to-read-food-labels/) and avoid foods and drinks high (red) in saturated fats, sugars or salt.  Please note that rehydrated pot meals ***cannot*** be funded and we ask that you avoid deep fried foods. |
| **SNACKS & PUDDINGS** | Please be mindful of the use of high fat, salt and sugary products such as cakes, biscuits, sweets, chocolate, pastries, ice cream and crisps, limited provision is anticipated.  It recommended to have freely available bread, basic salad vegetables, and fruit that children can fill up on if still hungry. |

**Support available**

Support is available to help you develop your application.

* For help completing your application including how you can promote activities towards the target groups contact: [CLDYouthServices@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:CLDYouthServices@westlothian.gov.uk)
* For advice on how to organise activities for children and young people in line with Covid-19 guidance please refer to: <https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/media/5974/youth-work-covid-19-guidance-framework.pdf>

**Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation**

Evaluating the project will provide the Scottish Government with information on delivery and reach of the funding, as well as help inform future policy and practice. A template reporting form will be sent to you at the end of the project. The evaluation must be completed and returned to [CLDYouthServices@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:CLDYouthServices@westlothian.gov.uk) no later than Friday 30th August 2021.

For the most up to date health advice please visit [NHS Inform](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus). [Further guidance](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19) is available from Public Health Scotland.

* **Safe delivery of activities and services for children and young people**
  + Guidance for organised unregulated activities for children and young people under 18: [Coronavirus (COVID-19): organised activities for children - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-activities-for-children/)
  + Guidance for regulated childcare settings: [early learning and childcare](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reopening-early-learning-and-childcare-services/), [school age childcare](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reopening-school-age-childcare-services/),  or [childminding](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-childminder-services-guidance/) services
* **Staff, volunteer and service user safety**
  + Local authorities should ensure the organisations they work with have appropriate processes for safeguarding and data protection in relation to employees, volunteers and the people they are supporting.
  + To lower the risk of transmission and protect us all, physical distancing advice should be followed at all times and current guidance on [protection levels](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/) for your local area adhered to.
  + Public Heath Scotland and Scottish Community Development Centre have produced [guidance on supporting communities safely](https://www.scdc.org.uk/supporting-communities-safely). This includes information on social and physical distancing, hand hygiene, and preparing, handling and delivering food. The information is updated regularly.
* **Food safety**
  + See [further information and guidance](http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/consumers/food-safety/coronavirus) from Food Standards Scotland on safe preparation and handling of food in the context of the pandemic.