

Guidance for Applicants

Trusted Voices: Women's Health Community Research Project in Salford

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for VCSE organisations that can:

1. Deliver community-led insight into women's (18+) health in Salford by recruiting and paying a minimum of two community researchers to undertake at least fortnightly engagement for a defined minimum of 30 hours' work between July 2026 and April 2027. All researchers must be paid at least the Real Living Wage (£13.45 per hour).
2. Work in partnership with Salford CVS as we co-ordinate and deliver centralised support and training (minimum four hours) for community researchers.
3. Collect and share insight with Salford CVS, NHS Greater Manchester and wider project partners.
4. Improve two-way information flows between our communities and health services.
5. Participate in a Trusted Voices network across Salford.

This project is funded by NHS Greater Manchester and managed by 10GM. It will be driven by communities and delivered collaboratively alongside Salford CVS.

The project aims to strengthen the VCSE sector’s ability to listen to and capture the experiences of women in Salford who face poor health outcomes, health inequalities, and potential marginalisation or exclusion, ensuring their voices inform and influence decision-making within the Greater Manchester NHS.

The primary research focus for this project is “Women’s Health in Salford”. It will focus on understanding women’s access to and experiences of:

- Menstrual health and menopause support (including gynaecological care);
- Mental health and wellbeing support; and
- Fertility, pregnancy and perinatal support in Salford.

The research themes were developed with input from NHS partners and Salford’s public health team.

Who can apply?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constituted as a voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) organisation 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based in Salford OR have a strong track record of delivery in Salford 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full membership of Salford CVS at the time of application and currently adhere to the eligibility criteria for full membership of Salford CVS – more details available at https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/membership-0 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an organisational Bank Account with 2 signatories who are not related to each other OR have a holding account at Salford CVS 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are able to submit a fully completed application by Friday 26th June 2026 at 17:00 to grants@salfordcvs.co.uk 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully up to date with grant reporting to Salford CVS (if applicable) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a proven track record of working with/supporting women in Salford 	

What is the Trusted Voices project?

Background to the project

The Trusted Voices project aims to strengthen community insight-gathering across Greater Manchester. It is funded by NHS Greater Manchester, managed by 10GM and will be delivered in partnership with Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIOs) across all 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Its purpose is to improve the VCSE sector's ability to listen to and capture the experiences of people facing the poorest health outcomes by supporting organisations to develop their community-led research and insight ability.

This fund aims to build organisational capacity and develop groups' abilities to gather and share insight with local and Greater Manchester NHS partners, helping to improve two-way communication and information flow.

This will help build a clearer understanding of what people and communities need from the health system and what matters most to them.

What do we mean by Trusted Voices?

Trusted Voices are community-based individuals or organisations with established credibility and strong relationships within local communities. They are trusted because they are seen as authentic, representative and able to communicate in ways that reflect real community experiences and perspectives. They can reach people who may be missed by more traditional engagement methods, and their existing relationships and credibility help them gather honest, practical insight from the communities they serve. This will ensure that the project's findings are rooted in real experiences and reflect what people need from the health system.

Examples of what the funding can be spent on

Category	Examples
Staffing and community researcher costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment and payment of community researchers• Staff time to support/co-ordinate insight-gathering activities• Supervision and support for community researchers
Volunteer/participant costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Out of pocket expenses for volunteers/participants (travel, refreshments, childcare)
Insight-gathering activities and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Costs for running focus groups, interviews or listening events• Venue hire for community engagement sessions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing of information sheets, consent forms or discussion materials • Data collection tools (notebooks, stationery, etc)
Community engagement and outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications to reach under-represented groups (flyers, posters, translated materials) • Staff time for outreach and community engagement
Project management and administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time spent managing the grant, co-ordinating activity, reporting and attending meetings • Administration support for collecting, recording, storing and sharing insight
Safeguarding and access costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional support needs to enable safe participation (interpreters, sign-language, etc) • Accessibility costs such as room adaptations or transport for participants

All funded projects must focus on generating insight relating to the programme's three priority areas, which are understanding women's access to and experiences of:

- Menstrual health and menopause support (including gynaecological care);
- Mental health and wellbeing support; and
- Fertility, pregnancy and perinatal support in Salford.

Projects should be designed to gather the experiences and priorities of women across one or more of these key themes in Salford, ensuring that lived experience informs project findings.

Please note: the research model and questionnaires have already been developed. This fund is about using this model to gather insight from communities you have strong relationships and connections with.

Reporting and engagement requirements

Delivery of insight

Research findings from the project must be reported to Salford CVS by:

- September 2026
- December 2026
- March 2027

If you have any questions about the reporting time scale, please contact Joe Kendal (Research and Insight Worker) at joe.kendal@salfordcvs.co.uk

Trusted Voices network meetings

Three Trusted Voices network meetings – one at project inception, one part-way through and one at the end of the project – will be convened as a way of bringing together community researchers and groups involved across the project.

An in-person inception meeting will take place as part of this funding. **Attendance at this meeting is a condition of funding.** A date for the meeting and additional network meetings will be shared once the project begins. You will need to ensure a relevant member of staff and your nominated community researchers attends these sessions.

Support and training offer

Community researchers from each project will be expected to attend Salford CVS led training, support and development sessions allied to the project. The training offer will be tailored to the needs of each groups' community research team. The minimum level of training – including safeguarding and data reporting – will require a minimum of four hours commitment and take place at the beginning of the project. Participants requiring additional training will be supported throughout the project by Salford CVS on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact Joe Kendal (Research and Insight Worker)

joe.kendal@salfordcvs.co.uk or the Grants Team grants@salfordcvs.co.uk to discuss your ideas.

How much can you apply for?

Eligible organisations are welcome to apply for grants up to £5,000.

Eligible costs

See above on page 2 for some examples and ideas of what you can spend your grant on.

Eligible costs include:

- Minimum 30 hours payment at Real Living Wage (£13.45) for up to two community researchers
- Staff time (co-ordination, admin, reporting, etc)
- Venue hire

- Printing and promotional costs
- DBS checks for staff/volunteers
- Overheads
- Volunteer expenses
- Marketing costs
- Any other reasonable costs

Ineligible costs include:

- Alcohol
- Retrospective costs – this funding cannot pay for things you have already bought or paid for

Please contact the Grants Team grants@salfordcvs.co.uk or Joe Kendal (Research and Insight Worker) joe.kendal@salfordcvs.co.uk to discuss eligible costs.

What policies / other documentation are required?

All organisations will be expected to have the following policies in place at the time of application:

- a) Health and Safety Policy
- b) Equality/Diversity Statement or Policy
- c) Public Liability Insurance (Cost can be included in budget)
- d) Risk Assessments
- e) Volunteer Policy
- f) Safeguarding Adults Policy
- g) Safeguarding Children Policy

Please note: If your project involves working with adults at risk you will need to include a copy of the Safeguarding Policy.

What support is available to applicants?

Support with your application

Please contact Joe Kendal (Research and Insight Worker) joe.kendal@salfordcvs.co.uk or contact the Grants Team grants@salfordcvs.co.uk to discuss your application.

Wider development support

Salford CVS can also offer practical support to VCSE organisations with developing policies, accessing volunteers, and accessing wider funding. For further information, visit our website at:

www.salfordcvs.co.uk/development-support

See our online Safeguarding in Salford resources:

www.salfordcvs.co.uk/safeguarding-salford

You can also contact our Development Team by phone 0161 787 7795 or email at: office@salfordcvs.co.uk

How to apply

Organisations that wish to apply should contact Joe Kendal by email at joe.kendal@salfordcvs.co.uk to arrange a phone call to discuss compatibility with the research project. Organisations that are suitable for the project will be asked to complete and submit an application form by email to grants@salfordcvs.co.uk in Word format. Alternatively, they can be posted to: Salford CVS, The Old Town Hall, 5 Irwell Place, Eccles, M30 0FN

Grants will be awarded primarily on a first come, first served basis. We are also looking to achieve a spread of funding across communities, which may play a role in the decision-making process. Salford CVS will close the fund to applications once all the funding has been awarded.

When is the closing date for applications?

Friday 26th June 2026 at 17:00 to grants@salfordcvs.co.uk

How will our project be evaluated by Salford CVS?

Salford CVS has a three-fold approach to evaluation:

- **Assessing impact** – the difference your project made in words, numbers, stories, quotes and photos
- **Gathering learning** – what you have learned as an organisation, how your organisation has developed and what you would do differently next time
- **Providing assurance** – demonstrating good management of public money

Reporting requirements

Research findings from the project must be reported to Salford CVS by:

- September 2026
- December 2026
- March 2027

In addition, one short **end of project report** form to capture the difference that the funding made will be required **April 2027**.

We may also select your project for a monitoring visit to help us understand how you are getting on and if you're in need of any support.

As guardians of public money, Salford CVS requires all funded organisations to keep receipts for all project spend after your project completes. Salford CVS undertakes several spot-audits every year and you may be asked to provide evidence of your spending.

With your help in providing feedback we can demonstrate how grants and investments can make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of local people. This is important in helping us report back to our funders and wider partners and helps secure investment in our sector over the years to come.

Any further questions?

Please contact the Grants Team grants@salfordcvs.co.uk or Joe Kendal (Research and Insight Worker) joe.kendal@salfordcvs.co.uk to discuss your application.

Completing Application Form - Part 1

Contact Information

Question a) – Please give the name of the lead contact for this application / project. They will be the primary point of contact for all matters relating to this application and the project if successful.

Question b) – Please give a secondary contact. They will only be contacted if we have difficulty reaching the lead contact.

About your organisation

Question 1) – Please give the full name of your organisation.

Question 2) – Please give the registered address of your organisation. If you don't have a registered address as such, please provide the address of your Chair.

Question 3) – Please give your organisation's turnover (income) for the last full financial year.

Question 4) – Please tell us how your organisation is constituted; examples are provided below:

- Unincorporated Association or Community Group
- Company Limited by Guarantee
- Registered Charity
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Community Interest Company
- Community Benefit Society
- Cooperative Society
- Other (give details)

Please note:

- All organisations must be not-for-private-profit
- Companies Limited by Guarantee must have an 'asset lock' to prevent the transfer of assets to individuals
- Some charities might also be a company limited by guarantee

Question 5) – Please give your organisation number (i.e. registered with the Charity Commission or Companies House). Please note that Unincorporated Organisations / Community Groups will not have an Organisation Number.

Questions 6) – Please provide the URL (link) to your organisation's website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts (if applicable)

Questions 7-9) – We are keen to support all staffed organisations that pay a minimum wage of at least **£13.45 per hour** as set by the Living Wage Foundation. We also actively encourage organisations to become an accredited [Living Wage Employer](#). If you don't employ staff, please tick the 'not applicable' box (N/A).

This includes regular third-party contractor staff.

Question 10) – We expect all organisations to have relevant policies in place at the time of application. Please note that Public Liability Insurance costs can form an element of your bid. If you need advice or support on developing policies, please see the 'What support is available to applicants?' section above.

Please note that you will need to submit copies of the following documents along with your application:

- Safeguarding Children Policy (only if applicable to your work)

- Safeguarding Adults Policy (only if applicable to your work)

Summary information

Question 11) – Please give your project a name.

Question 12) – Please give details of who you will work with to conduct this research.

Question 13) – Please indicate the areas of Salford which will receive support from this funding.

Question 14) – Select the area(s) on which your project is most focused.

- A) Access to and experiences of menstrual health and menopause support (including gynaecological care) in Salford
- B) Access to and experiences of mental health and wellbeing support in Salford
- C) Access to and experiences of fertility, pregnancy and perinatal support in Salford

About your project

Question 15) Please explain how you plan to conduct research and what your plan for delivery is (where, how, and with whom will you work).

Question 16) Please tell us why you are interested in supporting community-led women's health research in Salford.

Question 17) - Please describe how you will ensure that the project provides a safe, welcoming and accessible environment for women participating in the research. Please give a breakdown of when you plan to deliver engagement sessions or research.

Question 18) Please give a start and end date. Community research activities must take place between July 2026 and April 2027.

Question 19) Please confirm that you or a member of your team, and your community researchers, will attend an in-person inception meeting, date to be confirmed. If you need on more information on this please speak to Joe Kendal,

contact details above on page 8.

About the money

20) Please give details of your project budget.

If other money is being used to support this project:

If you have other sources of money, it may be you're only looking for a contribution to certain costs (see the example below).

Description of item	Breakdown of calculations	Item cost	Amount requested
Tshirts	£10 each x 15 = £150 + £5 delivery = £155	£155	£55

Full cost = £155

Amount requested = £55

Amount from alternative sources = £100 (e.g. an annual raffle)

If applicable, where is the rest of the money coming from?		
Source of funding	Amount	Funding Secured?
Annual raffle	£100	Yes

Please attach

Please confirm you are attaching:

- Safeguarding Adults policy (*if applicable to project activities*)

Declaration

Please confirm that you have read the [Terms and Conditions](#) of this grant by giving the name and role of the lead applicant.