



<b>Subject:</b>	Summer Scheme for Children with Additional Needs Funding
<b>Date:</b>	14 April 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan – Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>
----------------

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
---------------------------------------	-----	-------------------------------------	----

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update members on the outcome of the open call funding programme for Summer Scheme Funding for Children with Additional Needs</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of the report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<p><b>Background information</b></p> <p>3.1 Members will be aware that the Summer Scheme for Children with Additional Needs grant was first introduced in 23/24 to support participation in summer scheme activity for children unable to access mainstream provision in Belfast. Neighbourhood Services administered the fund in the two initial years 23/24 and 24/25.</p> <p>3.2 In June 2025, SP&amp;R committee agreed that they would allocate £120,000 to support the funding programme in 26/27 and that it would be administered through the Central Grants Unit, using the corporate approach to small grants. Small grants are up to £10,000 per annum and these are awarded through delegated authority by the directors of relevant departments.</p> <p>3.3 The Summer Scheme for Children with disabilities and/or additional needs grant supports local community, voluntary organisations and Special Educational Need schools to run a summer scheme for children and young people between 5 and 17 years of age with disabilities and/or additional needs who have restricted/limited access to any other summer scheme, programmes, or services during the summer months due to support needs.</p> <p>3.3 The Council's Small Grants 2026/27 Tranche 1 opened on Monday 20 October 2025 and closed on Friday 9 January 2026. In October 2025, Belfast City Council launched a campaign to advertise and promote all the Council's small grants. Advertisements were placed in local and regional newspapers and were also promoted across Belfast city Council website and social media.</p> <p>During November 2025, information sessions were held both in-person and virtually to advise applicants.</p> <p><b>Central Grants Unit (CGU) administer the small grants and carry out duties including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Receipt and log of applications</li> <li>- Eligibility check of applications</li> <li>- Supply applications that have met eligibility criteria to Community &amp; Neighbourhood Services Officers</li> <li>- Officers to score against agreed set criteria</li> <li>- Organisation of assessment moderation panels</li> <li>- Informing groups of their successful, unsuccessful or ineligible applications</li> <li>- Issuing of letters of offer</li> </ul>

3.4	For the Summer Scheme for Children with Disabilities and/or additional needs 19 applications were submitted totalling £140,321.29, all 19 applications were eligible and were assessed by Neighbourhood Services staff in line with agreed criteria. All organisations scored 50 and above and were recommended for funding with ineligible costs deducted from the requested amount. A list of all organisations and recommended awards is provided in Appendix 1.
3.5	Following approval through Delegated Authority from the Director, CGU will notify successful, unsuccessful and ineligible applicants, distribute letters of offer, and conduct mandatory training workshops for successful applicants.
4.0	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>
4.1	The administration of this fund will be carried out by existing staff, all funding awards can be made within existing budgets.
4.2	At June 2025 SP&R elected members agreed an available budget of £120,000 for this funding programme in 26/27. Officers have identified an additional £15, 431.26 from underspends in relevant existing budgets to increase the overall budget to £135,431.26. This will ensure that all projects will receive funding.
5.0	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
5.1	This funding seeks to provide access to summer scheme activity for children living with disabilities or additional needs and will have a positive impact on equality.
6.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached or None</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 - Summer Scheme for Children with disabilities and/or additional needs grant awards