

REPORT AUDIT TRAIL**CONSULTATION**

Name/Position	Portfolio/Ward/ Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in para:
Councillor Lynda Marshall	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces	19/06/25	30/06/25	happy with the ODR Family Learning Community Grants documentation.
<i>Andrew Bramidge</i>	Regeneration and Environment	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter a date.	
<i>Chloe Parker, Finance</i>	Finance and Customer Services	19/06/25	26/06/25	Implications included at 6.2
<i>Stuart Fletcher, Legal Services</i>	Legal Services	19/06/25	26/06/25	Implications included at 7.1
<i>Helen Rowe, Human Resources</i>	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	19/06/25	25/06/25	Implications included at 8.1
<i>Karen Middlebrook, Procurement</i>	Finance and Customer Services	19/06/25	25/06/25	Implications included at 6.1
Equalities	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	19/06/25	26/06/25	

REPORT APPROVAL TRACKING			
Equalities Your report will not be authorised for submission to Cabinet by your Strategic Director if you have not undertaken and included an initial equalities screening. All equalities analysis documents should be sent to Equality@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback prior to being included as appendices.	Initial Screening completed and included with report	YES	25/06/25
	Full Assessment completed and included with report	YES	25/06/25
Carbon Impact Assessments Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports. Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback prior to your report being sent to your Strategic Director for approval.	Carbon Impact Assessment completed and included with report.	YES	25/05/25
Background information MANDATORY: Insert headings for a few main public documents you have used or referenced to write this report. This is a legal requirement. For Cabinet reports, insert hyperlinks . Do not list private documents.	Rotherham Cultural Strategy 2019-2026		
Appendices If appendices are essential to the understanding of the report, list titles here. Ensure that appendices have proper titles. List any appendices relevant to the decision being taken first with the Equality Analysis documents coming next and the Carbon Impact Assessment being listed as the last Appendix for all reports.	Appendix 1 Equality Screening and Analysis Part A & B Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment		
Cabinet Member Approval You should retain an email confirming the Cabinet Member approval for your records. Strategic Directors should not authorise reports unless Cabinet Members have given sign off	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	
Report Authorised by Strategic Director	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	
Report Authorised for publication by Chief Executive	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 30 June 2025

Report Title

Children's Capital of Culture Family Learning Commissioning Community Grants

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Council's Museums, Arts & Heritage Service has been commissioned by the Cultural Partnership Board to deliver a programme of family learning activities as part of the Arts Council England Place Partnership Funding for Children's Capital of Culture.

The family learning programme includes targeted interventions bringing care homes and early years settings together and two rounds of open grants to support grass roots community organisations to deliver family learning programmes locally. programme between major events throughout the Summer season. The opportunity to submit proposals for grants was advertised openly via social media, flyers and an open drop-in grant surgery event where groups could discuss their ideas prior to submitting proposals.

The open call for this round of family learning grants received 26 applications, of which 22 met the criteria and 12 are recommended for approval.

Recommendations

1. To award one Family Learning Grants under £1,000 with a total value of £950 to support community event organisers to undertake activities in their locality.
2. To award seven Family Learning Grants of £2,500 - £5,000 with a total value of £25,830 to support community event organisers to undertake activities in their locality.
3. To award four Family Learning Grants of £5,000 - £10,000 with a total value of £34,122 to support community event organisers to undertake activities in their locality.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Museums, Arts & Heritage Equalities Action Plan

Appendix 2 Family Learning Grants Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Children's Capital of Culture Family Learning Grants

1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2024 the Children's Capital of Culture successfully secured a £1.2m grant from Arts Council England's Place Partnership Fund. The grant was support activities during the Festival Year and a finale Closing Programme. The nature of the grant terms and conditions required a consortium approach and as such partners were identified to undertake elements of the programme delivery including:
- Flux Rotherham to deliver the Gallery Town programme
 - Grimm & Co to deliver the Festival of Stories programme
 - Yorkshire Sport Foundation to deliver the UPLIFT Skate & Arts Festival programme alongside RMBC Events
 - Wentworth Woodhouse to deliver the Creative Health programme
 - Rotherham Museums, Arts & Heritage to deliver the Family Learning programme
- 1.2 Rotherham Museums, Arts and Heritage received a total allocation of £127,500 to support the delivery of the Children's Capital of Culture Family Learning programme across the following areas:
- £15,000 to support the development of a Family Learning Consortium to guide the decision making related to this area of the programme
 - £50,000 commissioning fund to support local organisations to deliver Family Learning activities as part of the programme during festival year
 - £25,000 commissioning fund to support local organisations to continue delivery of Family Learning activities in 2026
 - £37,500 to continue the Museum's successful Curiosity of Memories programme bringing care homes and early years settings together to explore heritage and family learning.
- 1.3 This report relates to the delivery of the first round of Family Learning Grants as part of the £50,000 commissioning fund for the Festival Year.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Grants Programme Criteria

- 2.1.1 The published criteria for the grants was shared widely online and on social media, with flyers and an open drop-in grants surgery for groups wishing to submit proposals. There were four categories of grant included:
- Under £1,000
 - £1,000 - £2,000
 - £2,500 - £5,000
 - £5,000 - £10,000

The categories were set to allow groups of all sizes and experience to apply.

In order to access the grants the proposed activity must deliver creative and play based activities and programmes for intergenerational families. To be eligible for the grants groups must:

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- Be based in Rotherham or be able to demonstrate a genuine connection to the borough
 - Host the proposed activity within the borough
 - Deliver the proposed activity between June 2025 and March 2026
 - Deliver a minimum of four workshops, weekly, monthly or as required
 - Deliver new activity, retrospective activity was not eligible for funding and the grants do not fund regular programmed activities that already take place
 - Work with intergenerational families supporting more than one generation across the planned activity
 - Involve children and young people in the development and design of the planned activity
 - Be able to demonstrate how the activity improves the health and wellbeing of families

In addition to the above criteria as the Family Learning Grants are offered as part of the Children's Capital of Culture Festival Year the activities proposed by groups must also align with one of the four programming themes for the Children' Capital of Culture festival year which include:

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- **You're Not From New York City, You're From Rov'rum:** supporting young people to have agency and create change, building pride in Rotherham as their home.
 - **Who We Are, Where We Come From:** enabling children and young people to develop a sense of community and belonging through the arts and culture, enhancing their mental health and critical thinking.
 - **Plug In & Play:** increasing opportunities for play in digital and physical spaces, as well as fostering physical activity and participation in sport.
 - **The World Beneath Our Feet:** enabling children and young people to engage with nature and their local environment and take action to combat climate change.

2.2 Grants Programme Decision-Making

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- As part of the funding allocation, £15,000 was ringfenced to the development of a Family Learning Consortium which brings together arts and cultural organisations providing family learning programmes, early years practitioners, representatives from the Council's Children and Young People's Services and youth representation. The consortium was established in January 2025 and is chaired by Elaine Burke, a specialist health and arts consultant working with a wide range of clients locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. She has a clinical background as an art psychotherapist in the NHS (child, adolescent and family mental health specialism), and established and led a unique arts and health service based in public health across Hull and East Yorkshire. A Family Learning Assistant has also been recruited to support with the administration of the grant programme and support organisations with delivery.

The consortium partners also includes representatives from:

- Rotherham Museums, Arts & Heritage

- 2.2. 2
- RMBC Family Hubs
 - Children, Young People & Families Consortium
 - Grimm & Co
 - Voluntary Action Rotherham
 - Age UK
 - Clifton Learning Partnership

The Family Learning Consortium worked together to design the criteria for the grants programme and form a decision-making panel to assess the grants against these criteria. This report contains their recommendations for grant awards.

2.2. 3

Grant Awards: Round 1

Applications for the programme closed on 27th May with the programme receiving a total of 26 applications with activity across 12 wards, with a total value of £146,184. Proposals were initially shortlisted for eligibility criteria on 28th May with five of the 26 not meeting the eligibility criteria.

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The remaining 22 applications were considered by the Family Learning Consortium Panel on 4th June with the following 12 grants recommended for approval which will see activities taking place across 7 wards.

2.3. 2

Ward	Organisation	Project	Activity	Grant Value
Category: Under £1,000				
Boston Castle	Rotherham Hospice	Sunbeams Family Fun Sessions	Deliver outdoor themed family sessions during the school summer holidays for bereaved children and their parents/carers/grandparents	£950
Sub Total				£950
Category: £1,500 - £2,500				
No applications supported				
Sub Total				£0
Category: £2,500 - £5,000				
Rawmarsh West	Memo Fitness CIC	Just Like Old Days	Take 'Memo Warrior's group out to neighbourhood centres delivering activities for older people	£2,840
Greasbrough	Rotherham Sudanese Community Group	Cultural creative sessions: Celebrating our heritage	Creative activities of traditional music, dance, arts, crafts. and sports for families	£3,000

	Rotherham East	Kashmiri Yemeni Older People's Group	Hawa (translated: wind)	Workshops to support the teaching of traditional practices from Pakistan. through storytelling and arts.	£3,000
	Boston Castle	Baby Care Reach	Family Connections: Play, Create, and Celebrate	Activities aimed at fostering intergenerational engagement, promoting physical activity and creativity	£3,500
	Maltby East & Hellaby & Maltby West	The Fun Hub CIC	Our Maltby Future Community Mural	Creating an artwork in Coronation Park with intergenerational groups celebrating the hopes for Maltby in the future.	£4,000
	Rotherham East	Unity Women's Group	Neya Purane	Creative activities aiming to promote relationships between older women and children/young people in the community.	£4,500
	Boston Castle	BME Young People & Carers CIC	Footprints of Change: Healing the Earth, Healing Ourselves	Using storytelling, photography, gardening, and eco-art to connect children, young people, parents, and grandparents through shared creative experiences.	£4,990
				Sub Total	£25,830
				Category: £5,000 - £10,000	
	Boston Castle & Rotherham East	Centre for Strategic Aesthetics CFSA	Family Electronic Music Club	Deliver free, hands-on digital-music workshops where whole families learn, create and perform together	£7,500
2.3.4	Keppel	Kimberworth Park Community Partnership KPCP	Community Threads	Generations coming together for creative and hands on activities to encourage collaboration, learning and storytelling	£7,597
2.3.5	Rotherham West	Steel City Community Consultancy Ltd	Fables that Unite Culture	Intergenerational groups will collaborate to produce story sacks and illustrations based on fables using asset based approaches.	£9,025

Boston Castle	Apna Haq	Humareh Zindgia (translated: Our Lives)	Intergenerational workshops around history and heritage of play with the games, pottery, doll making, and needle work, and gardening	£10,000
			Sub Total	£34,122
			Total	£60,902

The original proposal was to hold a commissioning programme for £50,000 in 2025 Festival Year and £25,000 in 2026. As the programme has taken a while to establish the first round of the commissioning fund will run over 2025/6 therefore £60,902 has been allocated in the first round leaving £14,098 for the second round of commissioning.

There were 14 applications this round that are not recommended for funding including applications from:

Ward	Organisation	Project	Justification	Request
	Category: Under £1,000			
Rother Vale	Catcliffe Glass Cone Community Group	Healthy Planet & Glasblowing Workshops	Did not meet eligibility criteria	£800
Rotherham East	REMA -Future stars Toddler group	MLB - Move, Laugh, Bound	Other similar applications had stronger approach	£900
Aston & Todwick	Aston Carnival	Aston Community Carnival	Did not meet eligibility criteria	£1,000
			Sub Total	£2,700
	Category: £1,500 - £2,500			
Rotherham East	La Roca Latin Church	Parent and child wellbeing	Did not meet eligibility criteria	£2,300
			Sub Total	£2,300
	Category: £2,500 - £5,000			
Keppel	YMCA White Rose	Art 4 All - Kimberworth Park	Other similar applications had stronger approach	£3,538
Rotherham West	Bright Stars Play CIC	Let's go to school together	Other similar applications had stronger approach	£5,188

Rotherham East	Afghanistan Cultural Centre Rotherham (ACCR)	Persian-Heritage and language	Did not meet eligibility criteria	£6,320
Rotherham East	Unity Boxing Centre CIC	Creative Knockout	Other similar applications had clearer project plan	£6,345
	Sub Total			£21,391
	Category: £5,000 - £10,000			
Maltby East	Maltby Community Hub	Bowls, Chats and Community Acts	Other similar applications had stronger approach	£7,500
Rotherham East	South Yorkshire WH Community CIC	Rotherham CCoC Project	Other similar applications had clearer project plan and budget	£8,300
Bramley & Ravenfield	Ravenfield Primary Academy	Together We Grow	Other similar applications had stronger approach	£9,420
Boston Castle	Hopian	Inter-Frith	Other similar applications had clearer approach	£9,908
Maltby East	Maltby Learning Trust	People Make Maltby	Other similar applications had stronger approach	£9,920
Rawmarsh West	Active Rawmarsh	The "We're from Rov'rum" Project	Other similar applications had stronger approach	£10,000
	Sub Total			£55,048
	Total			£81,439

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Do Nothing – Without the grants programme the Museums, Arts & Heritage service would not be able to deliver a Family Programme to the scale and diversity required by the Arts Council England funding as set out in the original bid proposal. In addition, many of the groups supported would not have the capacity to deliver grass roots activities to the scale and quality proposed in the programmes above.

3.2 Offer Grants to Recommended Recipients – The package of support outlined in this report will allow community groups to deliver tailored and targeted family learning activities across the borough. The activities supported will bring a programme of regular activities bringing generations together to build connections and cohesion. This options delivers against the requirements of the Arts Council England Grant.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Family Learning Grants programme was advertised as a borough-wide opportunity allowing all communities the opportunity to participate.

4.2 The final selection of proposed grant recipients has been proposed by the Family Learning Consortium which is chaired independently by Elaine Burke and has representatives from across cultural organisations and children and young people's services.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Applications for the Family Learning Grants programme has now closed with applicants informed of the outcome, subject to final approval.

5.2 The programme will be administered, managed and monitored by the Rotherham Museums, Arts & Heritage Service.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 The recommendation proposes the award of grant agreements and grants fall outside the scope of procurement legislation and therefore there are no direct procurement implications.

6.2 The grant awards proposed within this report are within agreed budgets for the Children's Capital of Culture. The first round was budgeted at £50,000 but grants awarded are £60,902. The £25,000 budget for the second round will be adjusted down by £10,902 to accommodate this.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 The distribution of grants as set out in the report is consistent with the terms of the funding from the Arts Council England Place Partnership Fund as well as being consistent with previous Council policies and plans. A grant agreement will be put in place with each event organiser ensuring delivery of the relevant project and protecting the Council's interests in respect of matters referred to within the report such as insurance and safeguarding and any other potential risks.

7.2 The grants are being made to community organisations in respect of the projects set out within the report. As such the grants are not being given to

enterprises, nor are they conferring an economic advantage on the relevant organisation, therefore there are no subsidy control issues.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no HR implications as a result of this proposal.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Family Learning Grants programme is focused on supporting a programme of intergenerational activities fostering better relationships, understanding and health and wellbeing for the children and their families.

9.2 The Family Learning Consortium includes five youth representatives who have been part of the decision-making process via the Children's Capital of Culture programme.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Equalities Impact Screening has been completed for this programme and can be found at Appendix 1.

10.2 Both Rotherham, Museums, Arts & Heritage and Children's Capital of Culture have established Equalities Action Plans which have been used to guide the creation of the programme and to determine the criteria for the grants.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed and can be found at Appendix 2.

11.2 The events and activities supported by the grants are relatively small in scale and therefore their impact is considered to be low.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The proposed events are delivered by community groups and organisation with support facilitated by the Council. The recommended proposals in this report are of benefit to community partners across the borough.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Insurance and risk assessments – The responsibility for the safe management and delivery of all activities lies with the organiser. Although the Council is facilitating financial support to groups as part of the programme, each group is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate levels of insurance and risk assessment are in place.

13.2 Safeguarding – As part of the application all proposals were asked to provide details of the safeguarding provision in place for each activity. This was assessed by the panel who are experienced in safeguarding protocols and measures. The responsibility for ensuring safeguarding protocols are in place and followed remains with the group organiser.

14. Accountable Officers

Leanne Buchan, Head of Creative Programming & Engagement
Lisa Howarth, Museums, Arts & Heritage Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	Click here to enter a date.

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