



Our proposals for projects in the North West region

In Round Two of BASIS we have up to £8.2 million to distribute for projects in the North West. We expect to be able to fund between 15 and 20 projects with this money. We have identified the following issues and want to know which you think are the most important.

Region-wide projects

- A regional Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy is at the early stages of development and will address the development of a united VCS, the need for a strong representative voice and encourage collaborative working. We believe partnership working is crucial for the success of any regional project and would like to invite a partnership application from Voluntary Sector North West, North West Network and Five Counties Partnership for work in support of the emerging strategy.

Sector specific projects

We wish to support groups working with diverse communities, including:

- the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) sector, where investment is needed to develop support in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. In our view this is best achieved through the existing specialist organisations working in partnership with generalist organisations.
- the disability sector, where very little support is available. The type and extent of need in this sector should be clarified by the review commissioned by Capacitybuilders and we will use this needs analysis to help clarify what we can do to ensure this sector gets support and representation.

Sub-regional projects

- Strengthening support in Lancashire. We want to ensure that support for organisational development is strengthened across Lancashire. Our priority areas

are Ribble Valley, Blackburn, Chorley, South Ribble, Preston and West Lancashire. We would like to fund one project in each of these areas to ensure existing infrastructure services are strengthened. We would also welcome a Lancashire wide project to provide support to funding advisors.

- Specialist infrastructure support for organisations serving rural communities in Lancashire and Cheshire.
- Volunteering infrastructure at both a local and sub-regional level, particularly work in Cheshire and Warrington and Wirral.
- Local support for VCS organisations in the following local authority areas: Bury, Bolton, Vale Royal, Macclesfield and Knowsley.

Current issues in the North West and our vision for the future

In the North West, infrastructure organisations support a diverse population and geography. Whilst 80 per cent of the region is comprised of rural communities, there are also large and dense urban areas with high levels of need and deprivation. This diversity means that pressures are varied and demanding.

Three main infrastructure organisations work at a regional level, Voluntary Sector North West, North West Network and One North West (a BME specialist infrastructure organisation and a project of North West Network). The Five Counties Partnership is a network of the five sub-regional ChangeUp Consortia leads (Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, Cheshire and Warrington, and Merseyside) and provides sub-regional representation. There is currently no North West VCS Regional Strategy and limited mapping has been done of existing infrastructure provision across the region.

Through ChangeUp, infrastructure support within the North West has developed at a sub-regional and local level. The region comprises 43 Local Authority (LAs)

areas, all of which are served by at least one Council for Voluntary Service (CVS). In some areas one CVS covers two or three LA areas. In Cumbria, all CVSs (bar one) have merged to form Cumbria CVS, a single delivery agency that has been supported by BASIS Round One.

Applications from sector specific infrastructure were low in BASIS Round One compared to regional needs. Consequently investment in this area has been limited and there is a need for additional support to BME, disability and rural specific organisations. In contrast, BASIS-funded projects will be providing good support for youth infrastructure projects, with projects in three of the five sub-regions (Lancashire, Cheshire and Merseyside) being supported in Round One.

In future we would like to see third sector infrastructure bodies offer a cohesive and accessible support service to front-line organisations across the whole region and be fully reflective of the sector. We want to ensure that the voluntary and community sector has an effective and influential voice, which is fully representative of the diverse needs of the VCS in the North West. Building partnerships and relationships is an important part of this vision. We also want to see sustainable infrastructure services that enable the sector to function effectively in their increasing role in public service delivery.

BASIS Round One has already contributed to this by inviting 33 projects to submit full applications. Improved knowledge and skills, increased resources and improved learning and knowledge sharing for voluntary and community organisations have been important outcomes for Round One. Projects will also increase influence and support the voice of voluntary and community organisations and establish networks and information sharing. A list of these projects can be found at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_basis_round1_projects

Consultation questions on our proposals

Optional: What is the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of, or your name if this is an individual response?

1. How important is each of our proposals for the North West?

Very important	Quite important	Less important	Don't know	Specific proposals
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partnership between Voluntary Sector North West, North West Network and Five Counties Partnership to support voice and collaborative working
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BME support in Greater Manchester
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BME support in Lancashire
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional-level support for the disability sector
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in Ribble Valley
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in Blackburn
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in Chorley
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in South Ribble
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in Preston
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in West Lancashire
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sub-regional project to strengthen infrastructure across Lancashire
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support for rural organisations in Lancashire
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support for rural organisations in Cheshire
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support for volunteering in Cheshire
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support for volunteering in Warrington
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support for volunteering in Wirral
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in Bury
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in Bolton
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in Vale Royal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening infrastructure in Macclesfield

2. If you think other things are more important than some or all of our proposals, please list them here:

3. What evidence do you have that they are needed, and why are they more important than our proposals?