Weybridge Youth Centre Legacy Fund 2026

Funding Guidelines

For 40 years, Weybridge Youth Centre has been part of the Elmbridge community, supporting generations of children and young people to thrive. As the charity brings its work to a close, its commitment to local young people will continue through the Weybridge Youth Centre Legacy Fund.

The purpose of this Fund is to ensure that Weybridge Youth Centre's remaining assets continue to benefit children and young people in Elmbridge. It will support local registered charities delivering recognised youth work, that helps young people build confidence, develop new skills, improve their wellbeing and reach their full potential.

The Weybridge Youth Centre Legacy Fund is administered by the Berkeley Foundation on behalf of the Weybridge Youth Centre. The Berkeley Foundation is an independent charitable foundation (registered charity number: 1152596), established by The Berkeley Group plc.

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible to apply for the Weybridge Youth Centre Legacy Fund, your organisation must:

- be registered with the Charity Commission;
- only deliver recognised youth work benefiting children and young people;
- deliver all its work in the borough of Elmbridge;
- have at least one year of published accounts;
- have an up-to-date safeguarding policy in place.

Exclusions

The Weybridge Youth Centre cannot fund organisations that:

- are not registered with the Charity Commission;
- work outside of the borough of Elmbridge;
- do not have at least one year of published accounts;
- do not have an up-to-date safeguarding policy;
- have political affiliations;
- are local Authorities and other statutory agencies;
- are schools and PTAs; OR
- individuals.

Further guidance for uniformed youth organisations is provided below.

Funding

The total amount of funding available is **£129,426** and the Weybridge Youth Centre is expecting to award between **5 and10 grants**.

Organisations can apply for up to **£25,000 or 20% of their most recent annual income**, whichever is lower.

All grants will be unrestricted. This means successful organisations can use the funding flexibly to support their charitable work, rather than having to apply for a specific project or activity.

Uniformed youth groups

Applications for uniformed youth groups must be submitted by a county-level organisation (or equivalent) that is a registered charity and can distribute funding to local Elmbridge units. All eligible groups or units should be included within a single application. We will not accept applications directly from individual uniformed youth groups or units.

County-level organisations (or equivalent) can apply for £2,500 per local Elmbridge unit included in the application, up to a maximum of £25,000.

Funding awarded to county-level organisations must be distributed onwards to units operating in the borough of Elmbridge.

Application process

The Foundation will run a simple two-stage application process.

1) A **short application form** will be made available online, on the Berkeley Foundation's website. Eligible organisations can apply between **26 November 2026 (2pm) and 8 January 2027 (5pm).**

   Two members of the Berkeley Foundation team will assess each application.

2) Shortlisted organisations will be asked to provide additional supporting documents (i.e. management accounts, safeguarding policy) and meet with the Foundation team.

   We expect to recommend 5-10 organisations for funding, with grants being paid by the end of April 2027.

General feedback will be offered to all applicants.

The Foundation team can be contacted directly at info@berkeleyfoundation.org.uk for any questions related to this Fund.

Timeline

Date	Activity
26 November, 2pm	Applications open
8 January 2027, 5pm	Applications close
End of January 2027	Shortlisted applicants will be notified
February 2027	Due diligence & meetings with Berkeley Foundation team
End of April 2027	Grant notifications and payments

Key assessment criteria

We ask all applicants to answer four core questions about their organisation, local expertise and knowledge of the children and young people they support.

Once we have confirmed that an organisation is eligible for funding , we will assess the application based on its responses to these four questions.

Shortlisted eligible organisations will also be required to provide an up-to-date safeguarding policy and an overview of their financial situation.

Questions	Assessment
Tell us about your organisation and the work you do in Elmbridge.	• Reach and breadth of youth work in Elmbridge. • The extent to which organisations applying run programmes and activities that enable children and young people to build confidence, learn new skills, improve their wellbeing and reach their full potential. • Quality of youth work provision.
What needs, challenges or opportunities are you seeing for children and young people in Elmbridge, and how is your organisation responding to them?	• Local context, understanding of young people's needs, challenges and opportunities. • On-the-ground knowledge.
How would unrestricted funding strengthen your organisation and the support you provide to children and young people in Elmbridge?	• Likely impact of unrestricted funding.
How much are you applying for?	• Alignment between application and amount requested.

Reporting

We want to keep the administration associated with this funding proportionate. As the grants are unrestricted and Weybridge Youth Centre is closing, successful organisations will not be required to submit formal end-of-grant reports.

Where a uniformed youth organisation (county-level or equivalent) receives funding on behalf of smaller local units, it should distribute the funding to those local units through its existing internal processes. Again, formal end-of-grant reports will not be required.

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FAQs

- ***What do you mean by 'recognised youth work'?***
  By 'recognised youth work', we mean activities that support young people's personal, social and educational development outside formal education. Youth work is typically voluntary for young people to participate in and is built around their needs, interests and experiences. Organisations applying could run programmes and activities that enable children and young people to build confidence, learn new skills, improve their wellbeing and reach their full potential.

- ***We are based in Surrey and deliver work in Elmbridge. Are we eligible?***
  To be considered eligible for the Weybridge Youth Centre Legacy Fund, all your work must be delivered in the borough of Elmbridge. This includes work delivered in one or more of the following areas: Molesey, Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Weston Green, Hinchley Wood, Walton on Thames, Hersham, Weybridge, Esher, Claygate, Cobham, Oxshott or Stoke D'Abernon.

  Specific guidance for uniformed youth organisations can be found below.

- ***Can uniformed youth groups apply?***
  Uniformed youth groups play an important role in delivering recognised youth work in Elmbridge. However, we recognise that many uniformed youth groups operating in Elmbridge are part of wider charitable structures and may not be registered charities.

  For this reason, we will not be accepting applications directly from individual uniformed youth groups or units. To ensure that the Fund can still benefit the children and young people these organisations support, we encourage applications from relevant county-level organisations (or equivalent) that represent the uniformed youth groups operating in Elmbridge.

  The organisation applying must be a registered charity and have the ability to distribute funding to the local units it represents. County-level organisations (or equivalent) should include all eligible Elmbridge groups or units within a single application, rather than submitting separate applications on behalf of each individual group.

  You can apply for £2,500 per Elmbridge group or unit included in your application, up to a maximum of £25,000 in total.

Any grant will be awarded and paid to the county-level (or equivalent) organisation making the application. The organisation will be responsible for distributing the funding to the eligible uniformed youth groups or units operating in Elmbridge that are included in the application.

Applicants must be able to clearly identify the Elmbridge groups or units that will benefit and demonstrate that the funding can be distributed to and used specifically for activity within Elmbridge.

- ***What do you mean by 'uniformed youth groups'?***
  We welcome applications from the following organisations: The Scout Association, Girlguiding, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Army Cadets, Fire Cadets, Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade, Royal Air Force Cadets, Sea Cadets, St John Ambulance, Volunteer Police Cadets, Royal Navy Cadet Forces and Woodcraft Folk.

- ***Can I use AI tools to help with my application?***
  We accept responsible use of AI where it makes applying for funding easier or more accessible. This might include helping you structure or shorten an answer, improve clarity or overcome language barriers. The information you submit should remain accurate and reflect your organisation's own experience, views and work.

  If you choose to use AI tools, please read our guidance overleaf, which also explains our own use of AI in the application and assessment process.

Using AI in the grant application process

We understand that charities and community organisations are increasingly using AI to support their work. We acknowledge the potential value that AI tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot and Claude can bring when preparing a grant application.

We accept responsible use of AI where it makes applying for funding easier or more accessible. This might include helping you structure or shorten an answer, improve clarity or overcome language barriers. The information you submit should remain accurate and reflect your organisation's own experience, views and work.

If you choose to use AI tools, please consider the following guidance:

- **Show us your authentic voice** – AI tools often produce generic content that doesn't capture your unique perspective. Keep it personal with community stories, impact and insights – this is more powerful than an overly polished application.

- **Ensure AI doesn't undermine your credibility** – AI can make mistakes in facts or details. Proofread your application carefully to ensure a small error doesn't impact your credibility.

- **Be aware of data privacy risks** – Not all AI tools are secure so be cautious about sharing sensitive or confidential information with a public tool.

- **Be mindful of its environmental impact** – AI tools require large amounts of energy and fresh water to power their data centres. Only use AI when it will significantly improve the quality of your application.

Our approach to AI

First and foremost, all applications are assessed by at least two members of the Foundation team. We do not use AI for assessment or decision-making and funding decisions will always be made by people.

We use Microsoft 365 Copilot, which secures all data within the Berkeley Group's infrastructure. We will not enter any information into a public AI tool.

This statement explains our approach to helping organisations navigate this new technology right now. As technology evolves, we may update our perspective and update this guidance.

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Application form

This provides a preview of the questions covered by the application form. Please complete your application online here.

If you have difficulties accessing the online form, please contact us at info@berkeleyfoundation.org.uk or call us on 01932 868 555 and we will be happy to explore alternative ways for you to submit your application.

Question	Notes
Q1 – 5	Eligibility criteria
Q6 – 15	Contact and organisational details
Q16 Tell us about your organisation and the work you do in Elmbridge	We'd like to get a sense of who you are as an organisation and the youth work you deliver in Elmbridge. If you are a uniformed youth organisation applying on behalf of local groups or units, please tell us which units you are applying on behalf of, and how many units are included.
Q17 What needs, challenges or opportunities are you seeing for children and young people in Elmbridge, and how is your organisation responding to them?	We want to hear about what you're seeing on the ground. What matters to the children and young people you support or represent in Elmbridge? What needs, challenges or opportunities are emerging, and how is your organisation responding? You don't need to provide statistics or formal evidence. We're interested in what you know through your relationships, experience and work with young people.
Q18 How would unrestricted funding strengthen your organisation and the support you provide to children and young people in Elmbridge?	Tell us how you think unrestricted funding would make a difference to your organisation and your work with children and young people. We'd like to understand the areas you might prioritise and why these are important for your organisation. You don't need to provide a detailed budget or commit the funding to specific costs.
Q19 How much are you applying for?	Grants are available for up to £25,000 or 20% of your organisation's most recent annual income, whichever is lower. If you are a uniformed youth organisation applying on behalf of smaller units in Elmbridge, you can apply for £2,500 per unit, up to a maximum of £25,000.