

MOPAC VRU

Stronger Futures

3.0

FAQs

Q. Can we apply for existing work?

A. Yes – funding can be used for new or existing work

Q. Do we have to deliver every weekday and holiday?

A. Projects must operate within the agreed days, hours, and school holiday (Monday to Friday between 3pm and 10pm and School Holiday Periods between 12pm and 6pm) however they are not required to use all available days or hours, or to run during every holiday. Projects may choose the specific days and times that best fit their delivery model, staffing, and service-user needs, as long as these fall within the authorised operating framework.

Q. Can I apply for work on the weekends?

A. The main focus of the fund is after school activities. Applications may include some activity at the weekend but this should be in addition to weekday activities not instead of them.

Q. Do we need to provide food during holiday activities?

A. Yes all applications must include a food offer in all holiday delivery. Organisations can organise their own food provision, which must meet high nutritional and hygiene standards, or can access food kits through the Mayors Fund for London.

Q. What is the grant period?

A. All funded activities must be completed by 31 March 2028. Projects can start from week commencing 8th June 2026 when funding decisions will be announced. It is expected that delivery will start as soon as possible after grants are awarded.

The first period of the grant will run from June 2026-31 March 2027 (referred to as year 1) the second period of the grant will run 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028 (referred to as year 2). Grantees can split funds and activity evenly across both “years” of funding or may choose to request a higher proportion of funding in the longer year 2 period.

Q. Can I apply in partnership with three organisations?

A. No, partnerships can be a maximum of three organisations including the lead partner. Additional organisations may be subcontracted to deliver specific services but would not be considered a partner.

Q. Can I apply as a partnership and an individual organisation?

A. No, Organisations can only submit one application to the fund either as part of a partnership or an individual organisation.

Q. Can I apply for work in more than one borough?

A. Yes, you will need to be able to evidence the need in your delivery area and to demonstrate good local reach, knowledge and track record of delivery in your application.

Q. Can we apply for a short programme or one off intervention?

Based on learnings from Stronger Futures 2 the VRU will be prioritising "Locally embedded organisations that are deeply rooted within the communities they serve, with established trust and strong relationships among residents". Any short term or one off intervention would need to demonstrate how they would create the enduring supportive relationships with trusted adults that the fund is aiming for.

Q. Does the activity provided need to be free to access?

A. One of the areas identified by research ahead of the Stronger Futures launch was the need for "provision that facilitates healthy relationships between peers and trusted adults, youth practitioners and mentors and safe community-based settings which are accessible, local, and free to young people." therefore activities supported should be wholly or mostly free. If a mixed model is being used where some activities are paid for by some participants the application will need to clearly state the rationale for this and to explain what measures have been taken to ensure that cost is not a barrier to engagement.

Q. When will interviews take place?

A. The assessment process has been amended and formal interviews are no longer taking place – although some applicants may be contacted directly with clarification questions. Please see the timeline in the prospectus for key dates.

Q. What do you mean by youth violence?

A. The VRU currently supports the commissioning of services aimed at the prevention and early intervention of youth violence. This includes commissioning activity across a range of areas, such as education, youth work, and community-based services, among others, with the aim to reduce Knife crime, Domestic Abuse, Child Exploitation, Child

Sexual Exploitation. Stronger Futures is after school provision and the main aim is to reduce Child Exploitation and knife crime as the hours of 3-6pm are when children and young people are most likely to be impacted.