



Meet The Funders

Community Works

Wednesday 29th April 2026

Rob Whitehead

Community Engagement Manager – GTR

Southern, ThamesLink, Great Northern and Gatwick Express

Responsible for the Your Station Your Community fund and community projects

Community Work and CSR at GTR

We support **162 station partners** and **4 Community Rail Partnerships**; we produce a seasonal **“Partners Platform” newsletter** for station partners; run an annual **Community Conference**; We are working to build **strong community partnerships** across our network with organisations ranging from Autism charities to football clubs; **Supporting Mind** as our corporate charity – with a plan to raise over **£100,000** over 3 years; We provide grant funding through the **Your Station Your Community fund** – supporting 104 groups over the last four years with approx **£2 million of grants** - working with groups in areas covering ASB to rewilding - the 2023/24 projects produced **£155 million** worth in Social Value from £380,000 of grants

Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

DfT - Customer Community Improvement Fund (CCIF)

2023/24

- **£380,000** for community-led social and environmental projects
- **19 charities and voluntary organisations supported.**
- Chosen from **373 applications.**



2024/25

- Applicants encouraged to bid at **£10,000** level
- **£2.2 million** worth of bids received
- **41 projects supported**

2025/26

- **£480,000** for community-led social and environmental projects
- **25 charities and voluntary organisations supported.**
- two NEW **Station Partner Support** grants of £25,000.

2026/27

- Budget reduced to **£300,000**
- **412 applications**
- **£6.2 million** funding requests
- **Funding programme is finalised**

2027/28 Fund – Launch date Autumn 2026

Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

- ❑ The fund supports causes that are of key importance to local communities on the GTR network which also impact on our work as a transport provider.
- ❑ The fund is for projects that can build lasting social value, as measured by the Rail Social Value Tool; under the following priority subject areas:
- ❑ **Priority Subject Areas:**
 - ❑ **Mental health,**
 - ❑ **Education, employability and confidence building**
 - ❑ **Diversity and inclusion**
 - ❑ **Environmental sustainability**
 - ❑ **Creating a welcoming station environment**



Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

❑ Where we can fund

- Initiatives taking place in communities around stations served by Great Northern, Southern, Thameslink or Gatwick Express on the GTR network.
- We only accept bids for work on station property where they are managed by GTR

Priority given to communities around managed stations

❑ Who we can fund

We welcome applications from registered charities, community of interest companies (CICs), Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs), community groups and other not-for-profit organisations such as community rail partnerships, schools & colleges, business partnerships, town councils and parish councils.



Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

Our Priority Subject Areas 2026/27:

- ❑ **Positive Mental Health** - Mental health activities that encourage working with local partners to signpost or refer people to support services or initiatives that have a positive impact on people's wellbeing. Connecting people together to take positive action to prevent suicide, an issue that has devastating and far-reaching impact on people, customers and communities.
- ❑ **Diversity and Inclusion** - Support for community projects that create opportunities for groups who are socially and economically excluded, in previous years the focus has been looking at digital exclusion and ASB issues that affect those groups. Building on the strengths and knowledge in the communities we serve. Our ambition is to create an inclusive culture where customers and colleagues feel able to be themselves and feel they belong to their local communities. Facilitate spaces or events where parts of communities that are often separated can come together.



Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

- ❑ **Education, employability and confidence building** - Promoting employability and education opportunities particularly amongst marginalised groups by investing in the skills development for now and the future, developing the creation of social enterprise within those communities, and working with young people to create positive opportunities and addressing such issues as anti-social behaviour

- ❑ **Environmental Sustainability** - Supporting environmental projects that address the climate crisis through:
 - Programmes that help in reducing emissions and/or increase recycling, helping to get us to a carbon-zero future
 - Conserving and restoring natural spaces – with a particular focus on the use of water and on the development of pollinator friendly planting
 - Encouraging sustainable mobility shift to encourage customers to make greener choices to travel by rail and getting to our stations sustainably - by bike, bus, foot or electric car.

- ❑ **Creating a welcoming station environment** - Regenerating redundant station spaces for community hubs, providing space for activities that enrich the local community and bring station estate back into use. Creating a welcoming ambiance to our stations enhancing our customers' experience and engaging with hard-to-reach groups and/or addressing issues such as anti-social behaviour that have wider social impact.

Issues with applications in the last round of funding

No clear alignment to the Rail Social Value Tool

Demonstrate how the project delivers measurable social value outcomes (e.g. healthier places, inclusive communities, environmental sustainability) that support the railway's wider social value priorities.

No clear alignment to the social issues that significantly impact the railway AND how they relate to your community/the work that you do

Clearly explain the social challenges relevant to the railway (such as accessibility, safety, wellbeing, skills or community cohesion) and how your project responds to these issues locally and through the work you do. Giving clear examples for evaluators to assess.

Unclear budgetary requirements

Provide a simple, transparent budget showing exactly how funding will be used, why costs are necessary, and how the project delivers value for money and sustainable impact.

2023/24

Abandofbrothers - Mentoring programme - that addressed the topics of mental health, addiction, relationships and work. The intention was to connect young men with older mentors from their local communities and prepare him to engage healthily with the wider world

AudioActive - Diversionary / desistance intervention through music workshops for those at risk of being criminally and/or sexually exploited, or involved in anti-social & criminal behaviour.

Citizens Online – Training to assist people & organisations to feel confident and motivated to engage with the digital world

Missing People – National advice and support to people who are missing or at risk of missing, and the families and friends left behind

SoutheastCRP – Additional support to the GoLearn – yr6 education safety programme



2024/25

Arun Youth Projects - Detached Youth Work around Angmering Train Station.

Clock Tower Sanctuary - Day-centre providing vital practical and emotional support to 16-25 year-olds who are homeless and insecurely housed

Dame Kelly Holmes Trust - Mentoring programme at all the Alternative Provision Colleges (APCs) in West Sussex, identified as having a high number of pupils who have been involved in ASB on trains and at stations along the south coast.

Grassroots Suicide Prevention – Development of the “Staying Alive” app providing information and resources to people contemplating suicide.

Thomas Pocklington Trust – Visual awareness training and the creation of 6 station audio guides and also guides to the main train types on our network for BPS people

Turning Tides Homelessness - Bespoke Digital Inclusion service for people experiencing homelessness in West Sussex.

Impact Initiatives - Wild Mind Project - Support and promotion for good mental wellbeing, providing services and resources for young people experiencing mental ill-health.

Breadwinners Foundation – Employment & mental health support for young refugees and people seeking asylum in Sussex

Landport Community Hub – Support for the community garden

Borde Hill Gardens – Greenway to the community facilities at the gardens

Moulsecoomb Forest Garden Wildlife Project - Butterfly garden and support at the station

Culture Shift – Autism & learning disability groups Sussex-wide activity programme

Brighton Toy & Model Museum – ASB suppression measure as part of redevelopment

2025/26

Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council - Improvements at Barnham Station and environs – ASB suppression

Bramber Bakehouse – Employability work and mentoring for women who have experienced violence, exploitation, and displacement across the South East

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership - Environmental behaviour change work with vulnerable adults and people experiencing marginalisation, isolation, poor health, and other life challenges

Greening Arundel – Railway 200 programme - "cleaner, greener welcome to Arundel"

Grace Eyre Foundation – Community art project celebrating the diversity of the community, raising awareness, promoting inclusion, providing opportunities for creative expression, by creating a mural at Preston Park station

Hydrocracker – Railway 200 Theatre performance – now scheduled for October 2026

Protection Approaches – Training provision reducing hate crime, harassment, and discrimination by equipping individuals, communities, and organisations with the practical tools and confidence they need to respond effectively

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew) - "Grow Wild on the Railway" Ten environment-themed projects at stations, bringing together young people (18-25) and station partner groups to champion UK native plants and fungi.

Techresort CIC - Work to tackle digital exclusion and share digital skills for everyone in their community in particular with young people experiencing obstacles transitioning to adult life and NEETs

Co-Creative Connection – Collaborative art practitioner supporting the Station Partner network

Wealden Citizens Advice – Funding core advice work programme

De La Warr Pavilion – Community art project at Bexhill station – ASB suppression

Crowborough Community Hub – Creation of community hub at Crowborough station

2026/27

Crawley Community Youth Services – Young peoples community engagement programme around Ifield Station – addressing key ASB flagged issues

Esteem - Targeted, trauma-informed employability and wellbeing intervention for young adults - addressing issues around ASB on the West Coastway

AudioActive – Young People mental health engagement - addressing issues around suicidal ideation - linking to ASB resources for BML, East and West Coastways

Protection Approaches – Extension funding

Priority 1-54 – Young Person led gender violence reduction programme

Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) - Early Intervention Youth Outreach along the rail network - a proactive partnership initiative designed to safeguard young people travelling into Brighton & Hove, particularly those arriving without support and at heightened risk of exploitation, criminal involvement and harm

Thomas Pocklington Trust - Accessibility improvements from BPS access assessments and developing user tested audio guides for trains and stations that improve confidence and independent navigation

Aldingbourne Trust – Gardening work at 20 stations mainly along the Sussex Coast and Arun Valley

CoCreative Connection – Extension of previous years work

The range of projects funded by YSYC.....





Thank You

For any further questions please contact the Community/CSR Team:

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We're with you

