



Enrichment Fund Panel: How It Works

1. What's This About?

The Enrichment Fund panel makes sure money from the Enrichment Fund goes to care-experienced young people in Cumberland who want to try new things, learn new skills, and have experiences they might have missed out on. The group is run fairly, openly, and led by young people.

2. What We Do

- Make sure the fund is used in a way that helps care-experienced young people.
- Give young people the power to decide where the money goes.
- Spread the word so more young people can apply.
- Keep track of how the money is spent and how it makes a difference, collate case studies for impact tracking.

3. Who's Involved?

The Enrichment Fund Panel includes:

- **Chair:** A representative from Cumbria Youth Alliance (CYA).
- **Young People:** A panel of care-experienced young people who review applications.
- **Cumbria Youth Alliance Representative:** Providing administration and oversight.
- **Cumberland Council Representative:** Someone from Cumberland's children's services.

Other people might be invited if needed.

4. The Decision-Making Panel

A group of care-experienced young people will:

- Read and review applications.
- Decide who gets funding based on clear guidelines.
- Get support and training to help with decision-making.
- Decide what evidence should be provided to show how the funding has been used, such as:
 - A picture of a new bike.
 - A diary of swimming lessons and how they helped.
 - A short video or written reflection on the experience.

5. Meetings

- The panel meets **fortnightly** to review applications and decisions.
- Meeting minutes will be recorded for transparency.
- The agenda for each meeting will include (this will change slightly each meeting):
 1. Welcome/apologies
 2. Review last meeting
 3. Financial update (remaining funds for the year)
 4. Application reviews
 5. Any other business
 6. Close/next meeting

6. Required Members Rules

For a meeting to go ahead and make decisions, at least the following must be present:

- **Two care-experienced young people**
- **One Cumberland Council representative**
- **One Cumbria Youth Alliance representative**

If these members are not present, decisions may need to be postponed until the next meeting.

7. What Can Be Funded?

Funding is for things that:

- Help you develop new skills, education, or hobbies.
- Give you access to cultural or social activities.
- Provide experiences you may have missed out on.
- Are realistic and good value for money.

8. What Can't Be Funded?

The fund won't cover:

- Everyday living costs (e.g., rent, bills, food), **unless there is a critical situation such as a young person being at risk of homelessness. In such cases, applications will be reviewed on an exceptional basis.**
- Things that should be paid for by other services. (e.g. covering in the Cumberland Council financial policy)
- Gambling, alcohol, drugs or anything illegal.
- Requests that don't clearly show how they will help the applicant.
- Anything that's already happened (you must apply before the event/activity takes place).
- Medical-related expenses, including but not limited to medicine/procedure costs.

9. Keeping Things Fair

- The panel members will make sure the money is managed properly.
- Regular updates will be given to funders and supporters.
- The impact of the fund will be reviewed every year to see how it can be improved.
- If a member of the panel submits a referral, they will not be present in the meeting in which their referral is to be discussed.
- If an applicant has previously made a referral, the panel will be made aware of their previous referral.

10. Reviewing These Guidelines

These guidelines will be checked every year to make sure they still work well and reflect what young people need.