

# Funding and Learning Disability

This document is a collection of potential funding opportunities for those organisations involved in the engagement, development and support of people with Learning Disability issues.

The text on each potential funding body is compiled from extracts from their respective websites at the date stated in the document's filename.

Some of the funding opportunities listed below were closed at the date of the searches. If they are closed permanently then they have been omitted, but those that are likely to re-open later in the year have been included.

This document is not meant to be exhaustive, nor complete. It is a snapshot of the most relevant funding opportunities at that particular time.

## **Baily Thomas Charitable Fund**

<http://www.bailythomas.org.uk/>

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund was established primarily to aid the research into learning disability and to aid the care and relief of those affected by learning disability by making grants to voluntary organisations working in this field.

Learning disabilities (intellectual disabilities), and autism are their priorities for funding. They consider projects for children or adults. They do not give grants for research into or care of people with mental illness, dyslexia, dyspraxia nor ADHD, if they do not also have learning disabilities (intellectual disabilities).

Applications will only be considered from voluntary organisations which are registered charities or are associated with a registered charity. Schools and Parent Teacher Associations and Industrial & Provident Societies can also apply. The Fund does not currently accept appeals from Community Interest Companies.

The following areas of work normally fall within the Fund's current policy providing they benefit the learning disabled:

- Capital building/renovation/refurbishment works for residential, nursing and respite care, and schools;
- Employment schemes including woodwork, crafts, printing and horticulture;
- Play schemes and play therapy schemes;
- Day and social activities centres including building costs and running costs;
- Support for families, including respite schemes;
- Independent living schemes;
- Support in the community schemes;
- Snoezelen rooms.

They do not normally fund:

- Hospices;
- Minibuses except those for residential and/or day care services for the learning disabled;
- Advocacy projects;
- Conductive Education projects;
- Arts and theatre projects;
- Swimming and hydro-therapy pools;
- Physical disabilities unless accompanied by significant learning disabilities.
- Grants for acquired brain injury unless the resulting learning disabilities occur early in the developmental period (i.e. birth, infancy or childhood), impacting on brain maturation and development and learning in childhood.

- Appeals which are ethnically or religiously selective which the Fund defines as therefore not benefitting the wider community.

Grants are awarded for amounts from £250 and depend on a number of factors including the purpose, the total funding requirement and the potential sources of other funds including, in some cases, matching funding.

### **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**

<http://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/what-we-fund/sectors/education>

Their funding supports the social, emotional and learning needs of young people aged 0-25 at greater risk of being left behind educationally or who have been left behind educationally.

They fund work that challenges the public policies and practices that reinforce educational inequality. They are interested in early intervention and long-term support.

They welcome unorthodox approaches, work that looks at the whole picture and does not 'treat' its users in isolation. They believe this is best done by backing organisations that challenge, as opposed to alleviating the symptoms in, the system. For this reason they do not fund routine delivery in schools but rather prioritise work that interconnects school, home and the community and challenges inequality in the system.

Funding priorities:

#### Social and emotional development of disadvantaged children and young people

They are interested in the social and emotional development of disadvantaged children and young people as well as their learning. They are particularly interested in work that addresses this development in the earliest years, and also in work that helps young people make successful transitions throughout their childhood and into adulthood. They also support work that offers opportunities to those who did not get the most out of the education system (such as care leavers and pupils with special educational needs).

#### The rights of vulnerable children and young people

We aim to protect the rights of vulnerable children and young people and provide investment to tackle persistent inequalities that are difficult for others to support. We are interested in ambitious, expansive and innovative programmes of work that level the playing field for disadvantaged children and tackle inequalities in the system.

#### Addressing the root causes of low educational attainment and challenging behaviour

They are interested in early intervention and in ambitious schemes that identify and address the underlying issues in children and young people's lives which prevent them from achieving their full potential. They are looking for holistic approaches and long term impact (e.g. not just getting young talented people into university but also equipping them with the tools to thrive once there).

#### Civic and political participation for young people under-represented in decision-making

They are interested in organisations that can nurture and provide progression routes for young people who are under-represented in decision-making. They support organisations able to help create young leaders and empower them to influence change. We are looking for work that inspires leadership, enables social mobility and social action and encourages enterprise.

As a result of their funding, they hope to see:

- Previously unmet needs are identified and supported. This could include supporting those children and young people not yet identified in policy or services, such as gang-affected-girls.
- A lasting impact beyond the lifespan of the programme.
- Campaign work that 'speaks truth to power', advances the rights of the powerless and changes policy, including at a local level.
- More young people taking up leadership roles and becoming involved in civic engagement.

Their grants support organisations' core or project costs, including staff salaries and overheads. They do not fund building or equipment costs, or individuals. 2015 grants ranged from £5k to £1.5m (median average £100,000), with support lasting 1 - 5 years (45% 3 years).

There are no deadlines – you can apply at anytime.

### **Henry Smith Charity**

<http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/>

They make grants across a large number of categories, including:

#### **Disability**

Rehabilitation, support services, training and advocacy for people who are disabled; this includes people with learning disabilities as well as physical disabilities.

#### **Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

Rehabilitation and support services for people affected by, or at risk of, drug and/or alcohol dependency, and projects providing support to their families.

#### **Healthcare**

Residential, health and outreach services, such as home care support. NHS operated services will not normally be funded and, in the case of applications from Hospices, priority is given to requests for capital expenditure.

#### **Mental Health**

Advice and support services for people experiencing mental health problems, and projects that promote positive mental health.

Their Main Grants Programme is for Revenue grants of £10,000 a year and over. Grants can be for up to three years for things like running costs (including salaries and overheads), or the running costs of a specific project (including staffing costs). Please note that they are unlikely to make grants to organisations with income of £5million or above.

### **John Ellerman Foundation**

<http://ellerman.org.uk/>

Through the Welfare strand of their funding strategy they aim to help people facing poverty, hardship and other forms of disadvantage. It aims to help them lead fuller, more independent lives. They fund in two areas:

- realising individual potential
- strengthening personal and social networks.

They like to support smaller organisations whose work has reach and significance across the UK. In order for our funds to have as wide an impact as possible they look for charities that have a national footprint.

They will support core costs or projects, depending on what is most needed. They are happy for their grants to be used as matched funding. They do not usually fund work that benefits only one location.

Their minimum grant is £10,000. There is no maximum but grants over £100,000 are unusual.

Their average grant last year was £25,000 pa.

### **Will Charitable Trust**

<http://www.willcharitabletrust.org.uk/learning.htm>

The Trust provides financial assistance to UK registered or exempt charities whose activities fall within the following three categories, mainly within the United Kingdom:

- care of and services for blind people, and the prevention and/or cure of blindness;
- long-term care of people with learning disabilities *either* in a residential care or supported living environment in a way that provides a family environment and a wide choice of activities and lifestyle *or* by providing long-term day/employment activities;
- care of and services for people suffering from cancer, and their families;

Around 12 charities are supported each year with grants varying from £5,000 to around £20,000.

Charities which exist primarily to provide residential care are looked at most favourably, but the Trustees are happy to consider charities which provide other services for people with learning disability, provided that those services are long term for the individuals concerned. The Trust does not support charities that work in the field of mental illness.

The Trustees are unlikely to respond positively to requests for running costs of organisations unless there are exceptional reasons, preferring instead to support new or capital projects.

### **Ironmongers' Company**

[http://www.ironmongers.org/charity\\_organisations.htm](http://www.ironmongers.org/charity_organisations.htm)

The Ironmongers' Company wishes to support projects that provide opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people to fulfil their potential.

The Company is looking for projects that deliver clearly defined educational benefits to a specific group of children or young people. Items of equipment will be considered only where a full explanation is given of how they will support this activity.

Grants are only given to registered charities. Projects must meet all of the following criteria:

- For children and young people under the age of 25 who are disadvantaged
- Consist of educational activities that develop learning, motivation and skills
- Have clear aims and objectives to be met within a planned timescale
- Are within the UK

The Company is particularly interested in enabling primary age children to develop a strong foundation for the future. Projects could, for example, support special educational needs, address behavioural problems or promote citizenship, parenting or life skills. Preference will be given to projects piloting new approaches where the outcomes will be disseminated to a wider audience.

Grants range from a few hundred pounds up to around £10,000. The average grant awarded is £4,000.

### **Allen Lane Foundation**

<http://www.allenlane.org.uk/>

The Foundation is interested in funding work which benefits people in the following groups, or generalist work which includes significant numbers from more than one such group:

- Asylum-seekers and refugees (but not groups working with a single nationality)
- Gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender people
- Gypsies and Travellers
- Migrant workers
- Offenders and ex-offenders
- Older people
- People experiencing mental health problems
- People experiencing violence or abuse

The Foundation focuses on work which:

- will make a lasting difference to people's lives rather than simply alleviating the symptoms or current problems
- is aimed at reducing isolation, stigma and discrimination, and
- encourages or enables unpopular groups to share in the life of the whole community.

While recognising (and being willing to support) on-going, tried and tested projects, the Foundation is particularly interested in unusual, imaginative or pioneering projects which have perhaps not yet caught the public imagination.

Some examples of the kind of activities which might be suitable for funding follow and more can be found on the pages where their annual reports list all previous grants

- Provision of advice or information
- Advocacy
- Arts activities where the primary purpose is therapeutic or social
- Befriending or mentoring
- Mediation or conflict resolution
- Practical work, such as gardening or recycling, which benefits both the provider and the recipient
- Self-help groups
- Social activities or drop-in centres
- Strengthening the rights of particular groups and enabling their views and experiences to be heard by policy-makers
- Research and education aimed at changing public attitudes or policy
- Work aimed at combating stigma or discrimination
- Work developing practical alternatives to violence

The Foundation makes grants for start-up, core or project costs. These grants are relatively small. Examples of types of grants they make could be

- Volunteers or participants expenses
- Venue hire
- Part-time or sessional staffing costs
- Work aimed at strengthening the organisation such as trustee or staff training

Their maximum grant is £15,000. The average grant size is around £5,000-£6,000.

### **DM Thomas Foundation**

<https://dmthomasfoundation.org/what-we-do/grants/>

The Foundation has a rigorous grant process which aims to identify the most effective projects helping disadvantaged young people.

Applications are received for quarterly deadlines from **registered charities** are first assessed by the Foundation office, with a shortlist of approximately 20 of the strongest and regionally representative applications put forward for consideration by our Grants Committee. The Grants Committee comprises independent members and members nominated by the Foundation's business partners and meets quarterly to discuss the applications. There is approximately £200,000 available to distribute each quarter.

Applications working in the areas of education or health with one of their four chosen focus groups are selected or considered:

- Children and young people with disabilities
- Children and young people who are sick in hospital
- Children and young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Children and young people who are life limited (requiring palliative care)

If favoured, grant applications for up to £5,000 can be approved by the Director, applications for up to £10,000 can be approved by the Committee, and applications for more than £10,000 are recommended to the Trustees for final approval. The Foundation is a small charity and generally will not make awards of over £30,000 (per year). Funding can be requested for up to 2 years for any particular project.

### **Children in Need**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008dk4b/features/cin-grants-main-shouldiapply>

Children in Need give grants for children and young people of 18 years and under experiencing disadvantage through:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Any kind of disability
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- Living in poverty or situations of deprivation

Their Main Grants Programme is for grants over £10,000 to support projects for up to three years. There is no upper limit for Main Grants but they make very few grants over £120,000 and most grants are for much less.

### **Jill Franklin Trust**

<http://www.jill-franklin-trust.org.uk/applying.html>

Grants are typically £1,000 for one to three years (except for church restoration which is normally £500), and the trust has five areas for which it is soliciting grant applications:

- Self-Help groups, advice, training, and employment; to support people with a mental illness or learning difficulties, and their carers (parents etc.),
- Organisations helping and supporting refugees and asylum-seekers coming to or in the UK,
- Local schemes to help prisoners to resettle, or to inhibit delinquency,
- Bereavement counselling

### **Yapp Charitable Trust**

<http://www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk/>

They only offer grants to registered charities with a total annual expenditure of less than £40,000 who are undertaking work with their priority groups:

- Elderly people
- Children and young people aged 5 – 25
- People with physical impairments, learning difficulties or mental health challenges
- Social welfare – people trying to overcome life-limiting problems of a social, rather than medical, origin (such as addiction, relationship difficulties, abuse, offending)
- Education and learning (with a particular interest in people who are educationally disadvantaged, whether adults or children)

We only fund running costs. Grants are normally for a maximum of £3,000 per year and they will fund for up to three years. Most of their grants are for more than one year because they like to fund ongoing needs.

### **Access to Work**

<https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview>

An Access to Work grant can pay for practical support if you have a disability, health or mental health condition to help you:

- start working
- stay in work

- move into self-employment or start a business

The grant is not for business start-up costs.

The money doesn't have to be paid back and will not affect your other benefits.

There is no set amount for an Access to Work grant. How much you get depends on your circumstances.

The money can pay for things like:

- adaptations to the equipment you use
- special equipment
- fares to work if you can't use public transport
- a support worker or job coach to help you in your workplace
- a support service if you have a mental health condition and you're absent from work or finding it difficult to work
- disability awareness training for your colleagues
- a communicator at a job interview
- the cost of moving your equipment if you change location or job