



RECONNECT

Kent Children
and Young People

Reconnect Funding

This leaflet is to provide an overview of the Reconnect Locality Grant funding and priorities.

It also includes information about the Early Help Grants and timelines for each grant round to share with your networks.

Discover more, visit:
kent.gov.uk/reconnect



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Overview

The Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme has a budget of £10m. It provides an umbrella under which other funding streams are sheltered, to ensure these are coordinated to maximise their impact in support children and young people to reconnect with their pre-pandemic lives, and experience some of the opportunities missed during that period. Currently, £5.3m Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) funding shelters under the Reconnect umbrella, which has enabled it to be combined with other funding streams, such as summer school funding received by schools, to maximise impact and participation.

As a programme involving the whole community of Kent, Reconnect's dedicated budget is just one aspect of the total resource supporting its aims and outcomes. The time of volunteers in community groups and clubs, the contributions of businesses and organisations, public donations, and the work of practitioners in the children's workforce all add to the resource supporting children and young people at this time. Reconnect is also helping to secure funds from external bodies, such as the Arts Council.

County-wide Commissioning

Three-quarters of the £10m budget is anticipated to be used for commissioning activity and support for children and young people across Kent. For example, it has funded additional youth services and enabled learners in Key Stage 1-4 to engage in online live lessons during the summer holidays, and it pays for additional mentoring of children and young people who need this support.

It is anticipated that most support and activities delivered County-wide will be formally procured and contracted. However, there may be circumstances which mean the provision of grants is the most appropriate mechanism for securing the opportunities sought for the County's children and young people. Either way, open and transparent processes will be applied. We do not anticipate ad-hoc, speculative requests for funding to be supported.

Local Commissioning

One-quarter of the Programme's funds have been allocated to Local Children's Partnership Groups (LCPGs) to enable grants to be provided at a local level, known as Reconnect Locality Grants. The £2.5m has been distributed on a formula basis, taking account of child population and deprivation. LCPGs ran their first grant round in the summer term of 2021. Two further grant rounds will take place, information on which can be found on the next page of this leaflet.

1. Autumn 2021 – to find support and activity which meet the priorities set out below. This is likely to be ongoing support and activity delivered following award of funding until the end of August 2022, when the Reconnect Programme is due to end.
2. Early 2022 – to fund support and activity during the summer holidays 2022 which delivers the priorities set out below.

Reconnect Locality Grant Priorities

Reconnect Locality grant applications must seek to achieve the following aims and priorities of the programme:

Learning Missed

- Address gaps in core learning in science, technology, English, art, and Maths.
- Support young people to develop their speech, language, communication, and social skills to support success in education.
- Engage those who are:
 - struggling to return to school
 - not participating in learning.

Health and Happiness

- Promote the health and happiness of children and young people from identified communities who emotional wellbeing has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic (including Black and Minority Ethnic, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, LGBTQ+, children with a social worker, children with special educational needs, young carers and siblings and children affected by domestic abuse or bereavement.
- Support young people whose school attendance is being affected by anxiety.

Sport, Activities and the Outdoors

- Promote sports and leisure opportunities for young people and make sure the opportunities are sustainable.
- Make sure there is a family approach to sports and outdoor activities.
- Offer training, development and volunteering opportunities for young people in sports and leisure settings.

Friends, Family and Community

- Deliver local events for children and young people.
- Make sure transport isn't prohibitive to young people accessing activities and events.

- Deliver support for early years, including provision for under 2s, to support childhood development and socialisation.
- Provide activities and support for vulnerable and hard to reach groups of young people (including children with a social worker and disabled children).

Economic Wellbeing

- Generate more work-related opportunities for young people (work experience, volunteering, part time jobs, apprenticeships, traineeships).
- Improve the delivery of careers and employability guidance in education settings.
- Support young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and those at risk of NEET.
- Support the transition of students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) into work.

Reconnect Locality Grant Criteria

- Small grass roots organisations, schools and early years settings can apply for up to £2,000 per application.
- Larger community organisations, who have received funding from KCC, district councils or the national lottery within the past three years, can apply for up to £8,000 per application. If providers are requesting between £2,000 - £8,000, evidence of previous funding must be submitted as part of the application.
- Organisations can submit up to three applications per LCPG.
- Organisations can submit applications to multiple LCPGs but no more than six applications can be submitted in total.
- Capital expenditure will not be funded.

Who can apply?

- Groups and organisations who deliver services for children and young people in Kent, and who are properly constituted and have a current bank account, can apply for a Reconnect grant.
- Religious group applications will be considered but must show that the project will bring wider community benefit.
- District, Town and Parish Councils can apply for this funding.
- Schools and early years settings can apply, but funding cannot be used for activity within funded session times (for example, additional classroom support or learning resources).
- Individuals and political party groups **cannot** apply.

Early Help Grants

Early Help Grants are separate from Reconnect Locality Grants and seek to achieve different aims and outcomes. These grants are also managed by Local Children's Partnership Groups, but the grant criteria, timetable and application process differ from Reconnect Locality Grants. We have provided information about the Early Help Grants to help potential applicants understand the differences.

Applicants may apply for both Reconnect Locality Grants and Early Help Grants, provided these applications would not result in double funding the same activity.

Early Help Grant Criteria

- The minimum level of application will be £500, with no single grant exceeding £15,000.
- Applicants can submit proposals to no more than four of the twelve districts.
- Multiple applications can be submitted to each district, but no organisation can be awarded more than £15,000 per district.
- All grants will operate on a 12-month basis.
- Grant funded projects and services must be able to provide evidence of impact against local priorities.

Timelines

	Reconnect Locality Grant (launch Oct 2021)	Reconnect Locality Grant – to fund provision for summer 2022 (launch early 2022)	Early Help Grant
Adverts released	1st October 2021	5th January 2022	5th – 18th November 2021
Applications close	24th October 2021	1st February 2022	13th – 17th December 2021
Funding panels review bids	5th – 18th November 2021	14th February – 4th March 2022	5th – 28th January 2022
Indicative letters sent to applicants	30th November – 3rd December 2021	17th – 22nd March 2022	7th – 14th February 2022

Please note: Having applied for either a Reconnect or Early Help grant previously does not preclude you from applying again for a different activity.

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