

Focus Charity Guidelines

How it works

Sing Live Foundation (SLF) is established to help charities/groups whose aims and activities resonate with the strong sense of 'family spirit' and mutual support that is apparent throughout all the Sing Live UK companies. (SLF) therefore selects a number of Focus Charities when funds become available and will normally make a modest, one-off monetary donation.

To be eligible to apply, the charity/group must:

- Operate for the benefit of local people who reside in one of the areas that a Sing Live company operates (see list below). We will support a maximum of one charity/group per Sing Live region, per year, and aim to select different Focus Charities each year
- Meet the SLF values and priorities
- Be a not-for-profit, registered charity or properly constituted group
- Be nominated by a current Sing Live UK singer

To apply, the charity/group will need to complete an application form and supply some supporting documents. Full details and the application form will be posted on the Sing Live UK website and it will normally take two to four months for applications to be processed, evaluated and final decisions made – payments will be made as soon as possible thereafter.

Selection of Focus Charities is by the SLF Management Board, according to the eligibility criteria (above) and the SLF values and priorities. All decisions are final and appeals cannot be considered.

Sing Live regions (England and Wales)

Northern (Leeds, West Yorkshire)

Central (Coventry, Stratford, Warwick)

North West (Bolton, Stockport, Greater Manchester)

South Yorkshire (Sheffield, North Derbyshire)

North East England (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

Merseyside (Liverpool, The Wirral)

East Midlands (Nottinghamshire)

West Midlands (Birmingham)

SLF values and priorities

When SLF evaluates an application, they will prioritise charities/groups:

- Whose activities are aimed at improving the quality of the lives of the people they choose to serve
- Whose beneficiaries have clearly demonstrated needs, normally arising from disadvantage, that the charity/group understands and is able to support
- Whose beneficiaries have limited access to support from elsewhere
- That are run by and for local people and try to involve the wider community in their activities
- That rely heavily upon volunteers but preferably those who are not the group's beneficiaries. We are especially keen to help groups who are usually considered recipients of voluntary action (for example old age pensioners or young offenders) when these people themselves become involved in helping other groups
- That can demonstrate good value for money on a 'per head' basis
- That can demonstrate long-term benefits for the people involved, beyond the year that they are a SLF Focus Charity
- That do not have access to significant alternative funding sources

Grants can be put towards capital (e.g. buying equipment) or revenue (e.g. running costs) expenditure or a combination of both.

What we do not fund

Unfortunately, we are unable to support the following:

- Charities/groups that have substantial unrestricted funds in their accounts
- National charities (but locally constituted branches can apply)
- Groups that are funded from statutory sources e.g. schools
- Contributions to large appeals or large capital expenditure projects, such as buying minibuses, or buildings, repairing or restoring buildings, or providing sports facilities
- Projects that have already happened
- Sponsorship or fundraising events
- Individual applicants
- Research projects
- Charities/groups whose sole activity is to promote political or religious beliefs or where people are excluded on political or religious grounds
- Endowments or repayment of debts
- Charities/groups that seek to redistribute grant funds for the benefit of third party organisations

Publicity

Where appropriate, we hope to engage with our Focus Charity(ies) on a face-to-face basis. We fully anticipate that SLF representative(s) will attend one of the group's events or regular activities, to present the initial donation.

Selected Focus Charities will be included on Sing Live Foundation publicity materials and we hope that our Focus Charities will support this partnership approach by acknowledging the support of SLF in an appropriate manner.