

Round 1: Connect Fund Successful Applications

Organisation	Grant Awarded	Project summary	Location	Area of Partner Organisation
Beat Carnival	£2,546.00	Beat Carnival (Belfast) will undertake a short research and partnership visit to Global Grooves (Tameside) in February 2026 to explore shared challenges and opportunities in income diversification, female leadership in community music, youth leadership development and the recognition of carnival arts as a diverse and culturally significant UK-wide art form.	Belfast	Mossley (England)
Castle Community Trust	£9,960.00	This project forms part of a two-year programme to build positive relationships between NI and GB veterans. Hosting two workshops for 22 veterans, curbing social isolation.	Belfast	Shrewsbury (England)
Centre for Democracy and Peace Building	£25,000.00	Will fund part of an annual leadership development programme, that aims to empower NI civic leaders through a residential in GB (Oxford).	Belfast	Oxford
CO3 - Chief Officers Third Sector East West Forum	£49,505.00	This project aims to establish a collaborative East-West leadership forum for 30 Chief Executives from the voluntary and community sectors across the UK, including a two-day residential at Corrymeela for workshops and knowledge sharing.	Belfast	London, Edinburgh
Communities 1st	£9,634.00	A two-day exchange programme between Volunteer Now and Communities 1st focusing on how each group delivers services, supports leadership development and uses digital tools.	St Albans (England)	Belfast
Community Development and Health Network	£39,700.00	This project unites two community development organisations, one in NI and one in Scotland. Consists of six events, including networking and in-person meetings. Aims to combat health inequalities and poverty.	Newry (NI)	Glasgow (Scotland)

Community Places NI	£9,977.00	This project aims to deliver targeted planning advice and build capacity for disadvantaged communities using Spatial Place Plans. This will be accomplished via two key events: a Cross-National Learning Visit to Wales, where CPNI will collaborate with Welsh leaders to implement place-based plans and develop a community empowerment tool; and a Four Nations Learning Workshop that brings together all UK Planning Aid Services to share lessons, address challenges, and establish long-term cooperation.	Belfast	Cardiff, Edinburgh, London
Grow the Glens CIC	£9,975.00	This project will see a collaboration between Scotland and NI, facilitating face-to-face meetings in each respective areas of collaboration. This will involve a working party from each area hosting a workshop and visit to relevant assets in Antrim and Argyll. These events aim to build solutions around mutual issues, such as: Access to services, tourism, transport, and ageing population.	Ballymena (NI)	Isle of Gigha (Scotland), West Darlochan (Scotland) Edinburgh, Belfast
Holywell Trust	£9,999.00	This project is a scoping exercise between Holywell Trust and the Eden Project. There will be in-person visits to Cornwall and six collaborative sessions to enable this partnership to strengthen connection, explore shared challenges, and foster long-term relationships.	Derry / Londonderry (NI)	Cornwall (England)
JoinHer Network CIC	£44,310.00	This project includes a seven-month fellowship for emerging leaders, a civic and cultural dialogue series, and the launch of a digital bridge platform; aimed at underrepresented individuals from African, Caribbean, and other racialised communities.	Newtownabbey (NI)	Belfast, Austell (England), Chelmsford (England), London
Kabosh	£9,825.00	This project will deliver a touring programme for a Kabosh production (Not on Our Watch) across England, Scotland, Wales, and NI. The project will also deliver a subsequent post-show discussion based in each nation, which will be hosted by regional Women's Committees facilitating informed dialogue through lived experiences.	Belfast	London
Live Music Now	£9,944.00	This project will host 'The Lullaby Project Information Sharing Day' in Belfast, delivered in collaboration with organisations across England and NI. The project will bring together 30 delegates including musicians, health partners and community experts to engage in training, collaboration, and peer learning on songwriting, trauma-informed practice, and perinatal mental health.	Strathfoyle (NI)	Belfast, Wickford (England)

Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action	£45,462.00	The project aims to connect UK voluntary and community sectors by facilitating shared-knowledge, and developing a UK-wide toolkit of resources.	Belfast	London, Edinburgh, Cardiff
Northern Ireland Women's Budget Group	£9,500.00	The project will join the 4 WBGs for a two-day, in-person summit to produce a 5-year, cross-nation strategy. A facilitator will direct strategic conversations and produce a strategy for the groups to agree and enact. Travel will be included to ensure equal representation and participation from each of the nations.	Belfast	London, Cardiff, Glasgow.
Photo Festival Belfast	£9,630.00	A one day in-person director-level meeting to connect Directors from Belfast, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Bristol to share learnings and experiences, building on becoming a collective national voice for photography.	Belfast	Cardiff, Bristol (England), Liverpool
Save the Children	£9,950.00	The project aims to connect leaders across England, Scotland, Wales to share learning around tackling child poverty through community-led approaches.	London	Belfast, Buckfastleigh (England)
Sole Purpose	£9,972.00	This project will bring the production 'The Marian Hotel' to theatres across NI and Liverpool, partnering with Liverpool organisations to aid delivery. The project will also host an exhibition with artistic outlets for victims and survivors.	Derry / Londonderry (NI)	Leeds (England)
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme	£47,775.00	This project aims to facilitate dialogue on shared environmental challenges, specifically the degeneration of Lough Neagh, by learning from organisations in Scotland through field trips and stakeholder conferences.	Dungannon (NI)	Belfast, Surrey (England), South Uist (Scotland)
The Rainbow Project Ltd	£46,515.00	This project aims to establish an East-West LGBTQIA+ Forum to build connections and working relationships between LGBTQIA+ organisations in Britain and Northern Ireland.	Belfast	Exeter (England)
The Women's Organisation	£8,450.00	This pilot project is a cross-border partnership between England and NI. It aims to bring together women from disadvantaged and rural communities with civic and health stakeholders. Activities include two collaborative sessions, insight-gathering, and a joint workshop. In order to produce recommendations and lay foundations for long-term collaboration between GB and NI to improve women's health access.	Liverpool (England)	Cookstown (NI)
Ulster Touring Opera	£9,995.00	This project will see a collaboration between Welsh and NI based Youth Opera performers to perform at the Belfast Children's Festival.	Belfast	Cardiff

United Youth Alliance	£9,584.00	The project will see the co-creation of a 4 nations strategy and increase opportunities for young women in Northern Ireland to engage in youth-led social action.	Blackpool (England)	Belfast, Dumfries (Scotland) Newport (Wales),
Volunteer Now	£12,494.00	Volunteer Now alongside its partner organisations will use the Connect Fund to re-engage members and refocus its work through facilitated meetings, including two for Chief Executives. The core aim is to develop a five-year Strategic Plan and Communications Plan to strengthen leadership within the volunteering sector.	Belfast	Stirling (Scotland), London (England), Cardiff (Wales)
YouthAction Northern Ireland	£46,339.00	Aims to strengthen East-West civic relationships through a Youth Leader Summit in Belfast for young leaders (18-35) and a Cross Nations Leadership Summit for the leadership teams of existing cross-nation partners.	Belfast	Christchurch (England), Edinburgh, Treforest (Wales)