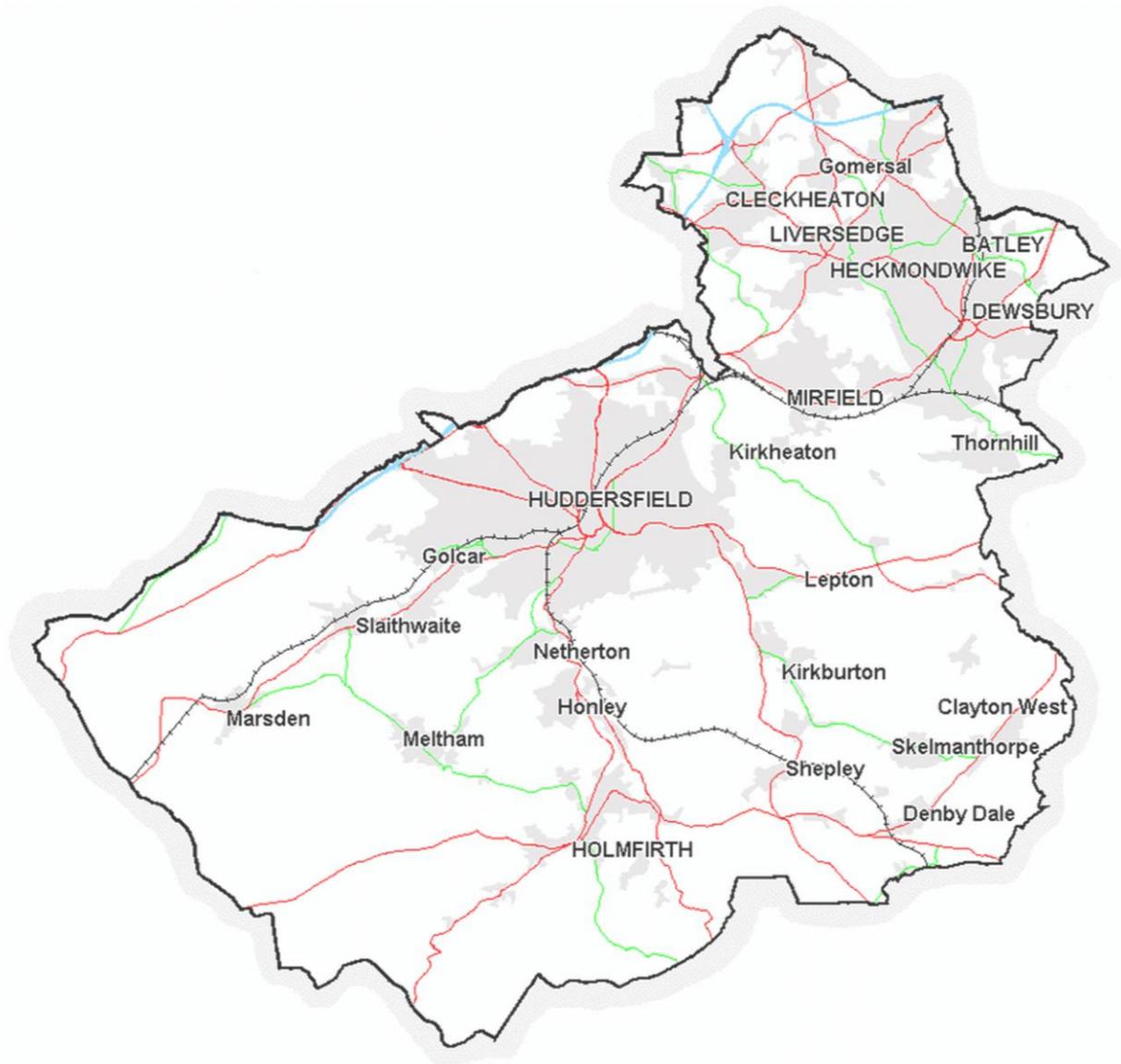


Kirklees Community Anchors Tender Information Pack 13 May 2026 – 31 March 2029

Context and background



What are Community Anchors?



Community Anchors:

- are **independent** organisations
- are **community-led** organisations
- meet the **diverse needs** of local people
- build on existing **relationships, strengths and alliances** to provide local services and activities
- give **local people a voice** for example through decision making meetings and co-designing work with community members to shape services and activities

Community Anchors have operated in Kirklees for the **last five years supporting local activities, community groups and community organisations** in their local areas.

Third Sector Leaders Kirklees has coordinated this effort across the district since 2021.



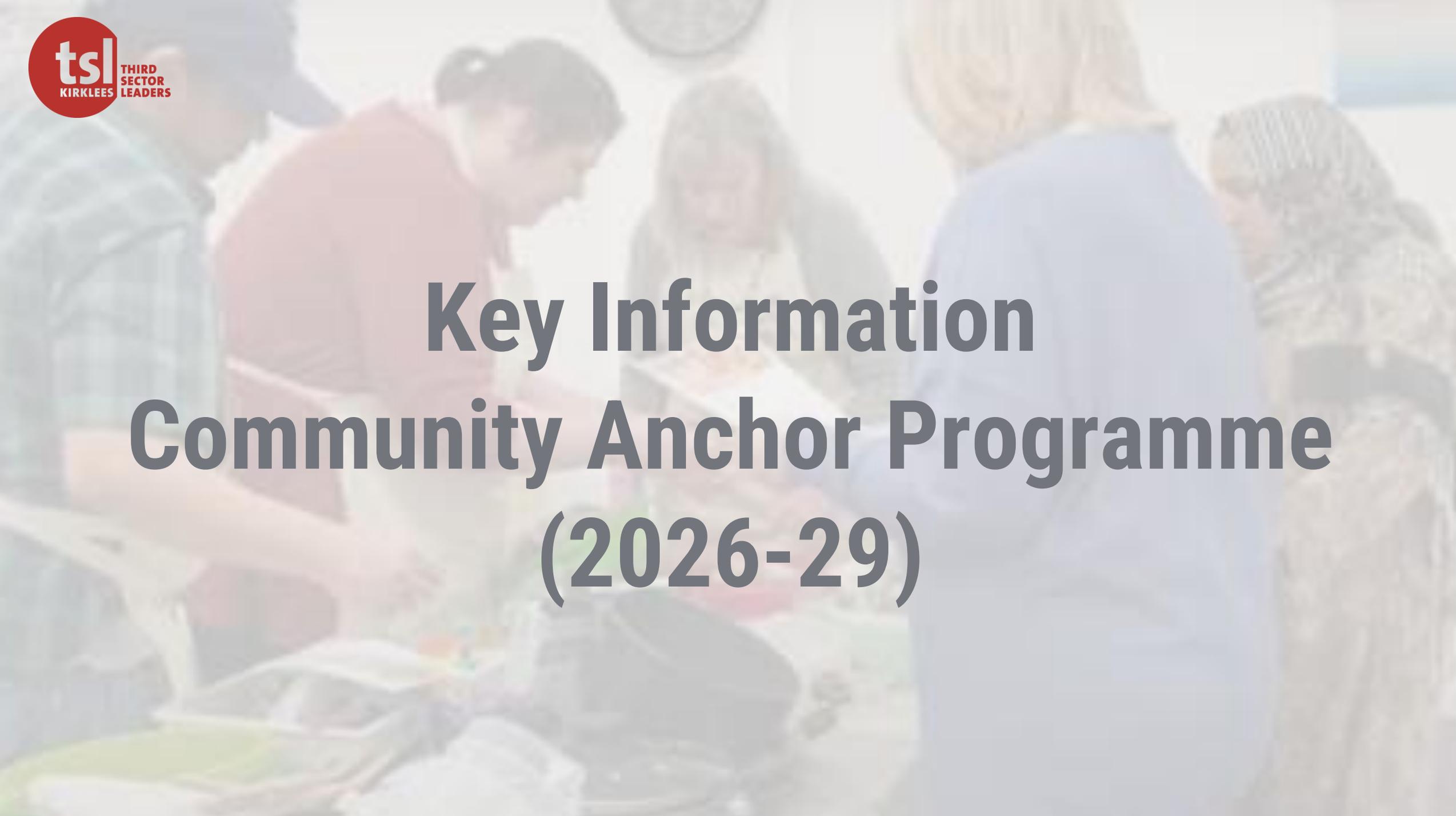
What do they do?

Community Anchors **Support** includes providing **training, advice on governance, information about funding, communications expertise** or anything which helps community groups and community organisations work in effective, inclusive and accountable ways.

Community Anchors **Connect** community organisations and community groups to other local groups, activities, building spaces and services for example **social prescribing or other health services**. Community Anchors can also make connections with decision-makers including local grant-makers, politicians and Council contacts.

Community Anchors **Unite** community organisations and community groups. This means bringing people together to share plans and ideas, have a strong voice on community concerns and work together on more ambitious community projects.

To understand what the impact and learning from the last few years has been, along with stories of impact, please click here: [Comm-Anchors-Impact-and-Learning-Jan-2026-1.pdf](#)



Key Information Community Anchor Programme (2026-29)



Getting started with your application

TSL Kirklees is inviting Kirklees-based Voluntary, Community and Social (VCS) organisations to apply for the Community Anchors programme. This is a £540,000 programme funded by Kirklees Council and will run for three years, from 13th May 2026 to 31 March 2029.

The next section outlines key information about the application and explains the steps you need to follow to complete your application. If anything is unclear or you're unsure about any of the requirements, please attend one of the Q&A sessions in March (see slide 14 for more information).

Kirklees wide coverage

Community Anchors will be based in and carry out activities in these **local areas**:

1. Huddersfield
2. Dewsbury and Mirfield
3. Batley and Spen
4. Rural - HD8
5. Rural - Colne Valley and Holme Valley



Nine factors to consider

There are **nine factors** that will be considered for the **decision making and selection process** of Community Anchors. Local VCS organisations should:

1. Be **well-known** locally and build **strong and positive partnerships** across sectors.
2. Deliver services to **high standards** and ensure these are consistently evaluated.
3. Have a **sustainable model** that is not solely reliant on Community Anchor funding.
4. Ensure **services are accessible** to individuals and groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.
5. Identify and **address local service gaps** in collaboration with partners.
6. Demonstrate **reliability** in **engagement and service delivery**.
7. Maintain **robust safety and safeguarding** policies, awareness and training.
8. Submit required **monitoring and financial data** promptly.
9. Use **feedback to actively improve** services.

Six outcomes

Six outcomes will underpin this programme of work.

In relation to their local areas, **local groups, community organisations and Community Anchors** will:

- improve people's **health and wellbeing, including mental health** (*outcome 1*)
- **reduce health inequalities** (*outcome 2*)
- **reduce social isolation** (*outcome 3*)
- **strengthen the sense of community and belonging** by increasing engagement of people locally to take part in events and activities. The events and activities may include bringing in new volunteers, supporting current volunteers, offering training, providing upskilling, mentoring, and hosting networking opportunities. (*outcome 4*)

Community Anchors are:

- the **first point of welcome for new local groups or new community organisations** that are emerging in the area, and they support them as they get started. (*outcome 5*)
- the first point of **welcome for existing local groups and community organisations and support** them with their requests. (*outcome 6*)



Further information on outcomes

Community Anchors can deliver and achieve outcomes 1-4 through supporting local groups, local community organisations and through their own organisation.

This programme **focuses on adults aged 18 and over**. Please note:

- Community Anchors can signpost and connect people with agencies that support children and young people.
- They are also expected to build partnerships with other organisations.

“Local groups” refers to informal (unincorporated) groups that have no legal status or governance structure.

“Local community organisations” and “Community Anchors” refer to organisations with legal status and the governance structure needed to run services and activities.

Annual funding approach

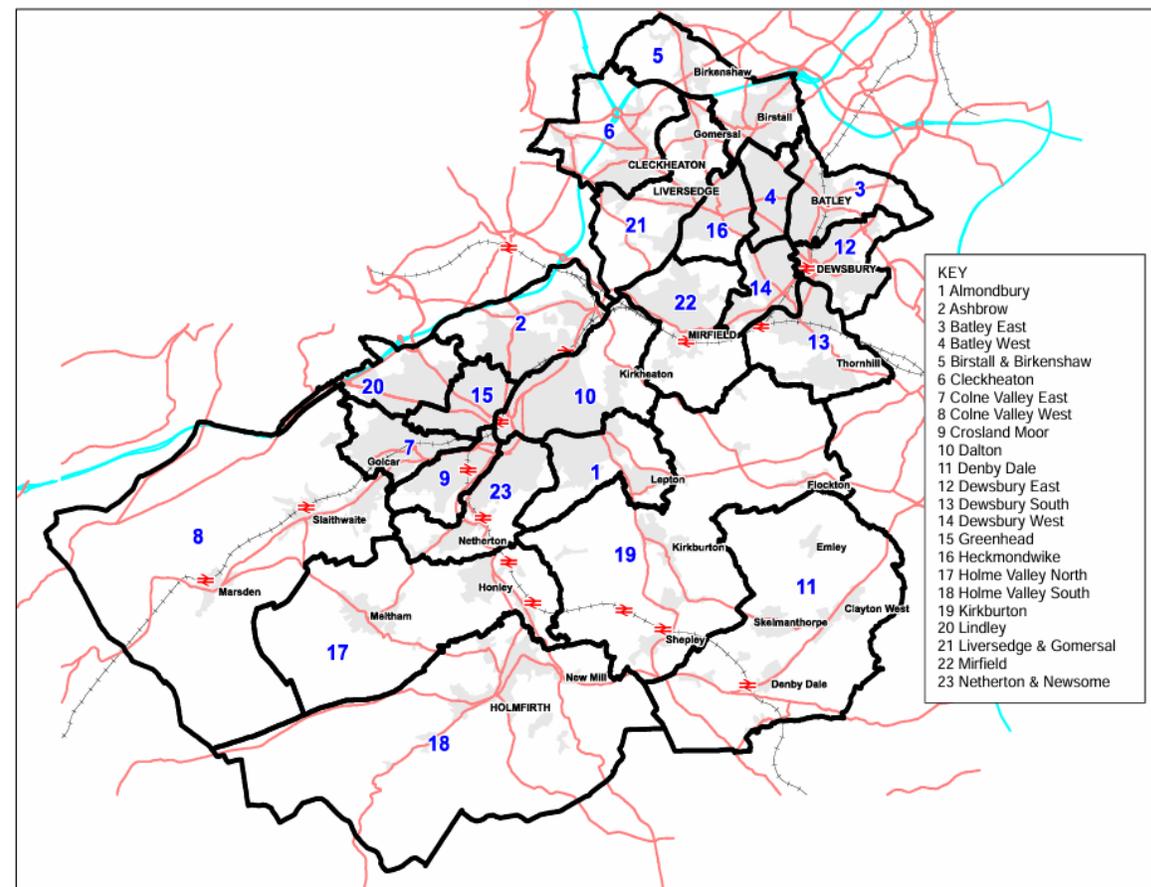
Annual funding will be allocated to each Community Anchor in the following way:

- **Fixed weighting per Ward area - £5000**
- **Higher/Medium/Lower Deprivation Weighting per Neighbourhood**
 - **H: £700**
 - **M: £500**
 - **L: £300**
- **Fixed Contribution Fee for each Community Anchor (e.g. to attend programme related events) - £250**

Deprivation weighting per ward is based on the number of neighbourhoods (“Lower Super Output Areas”) scoring as highly deprived (in the top 20%) in that ward according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. For more information click here: [Local Deprivation Explorer 2025](#)

You can find lists of **named Kirklees neighbourhoods** under the **two LSOA links** here: [Area profiles | Kirklees Council](#) Please use this list for your application.

Please note TSL has the **right to revise funding levels** indicated above depending on the applications we proceed with.





Forming partnerships and shaping budgets

Community Anchor Local Area Partnerships (CALAP)

We encourage forming CALAPs to ensure there is broad coverage in local areas and to **promote peer support, learning, and collaboration**. We suggest a partnership is formed of 3 partner organisations maximum to cover a local area. If you are partnering with others, please **submit one application that lists the individual organisations that form the CALAP** and identifies the target wards and neighbourhoods that partners will cover in their local area.

TSL Kirklees expects **1-2 named contact leads** to represent the CALAP at programme events and help coordinate activities as needed.

Each CALAP will receive a **single annual budget** for its local area, as outlined on slide eleven. One partner organisation should send the invoice to TSL Kirklees; budget distribution can be decided among the partners.

TSL Kirklees will establish **Service Level Agreements (SLA) with each CALAP partner** organisation. For example, if a CALAP has three partner organisations, there will be three separate SLAs.

Monitoring information will be **submitted by individual partner organisations separately** to the TSL Kirklees team.

If there are any issues with an individual partner organisation, TSL Kirklees will **liaise directly with this partner organisation** and keep the named contact leads updated, if this is required.

Shaping local budgets

Community Anchors or CALAPs can determine how to allocate their individual organisation budgets in terms of providing:

- **targeted support** in certain neighbourhoods where need against specific outcomes or all six outcomes is high; **AND/OR**
- **universal support** in their wards by meeting needs across all six outcomes

There are a **maximum number of neighbourhoods** that a Community Anchor and CALAP can focus on:

Community Anchor – two neighbourhoods maximum
CALAP - six neighbourhoods maximum

Community Anchors will focus on the **same wards and neighbourhoods during the three-year programme period** (13th May 2026 – 31st March 2029).

Six steps to shape your application

1. Check if the **nine factors** apply to your organisation.



2. Think about whether you want to apply as a **Community Anchor** or be part of a **Community Anchor Local Area Partnership (CALAP)**. If you are interested in being part of a CALAP, then connect with other local partners about this opportunity.



3. Check that the **six outcomes** align with your organisation's ambitions (and check this is the case for potential partner organisations).



6. Look at the **application timeline** and requirements and **coordinate your actions** accordingly.



5. Think about what the **budget** might look like for the wards and neighbourhoods that your organisation (and partner organisations) want to focus on.



4. Think about the **wards and neighbourhoods (LSOAs)** your organisation (and partner organisations) want to focus on.



Key dates for application

Tender published:	Monday 16th March 2026
Q&A Sessions <i>Please read the information pack and application form beforehand</i>	Current cohort of Community Anchors – Tuesday, 24th March (13.30pm) New organisations – Wednesday, 25th March (14.00pm) - please register here: Community Anchors (2026-29) Q&A Session Tickets, Wednesday, Mar 25 from 2 pm to 3 pm GMT Eventbrite
Deadline to submit application form:	Friday, 17th April 2026 (by 12.00pm)
All Applicants informed of decision:	Friday 8th May 2026
Community Anchor Programme – Launch Event	Wednesday 13th May 2026 (14.00 - 17.00pm) <i>Please hold this date and time in your diaries in advance.</i>

Please submit the following documents:

1. **Application Form** – there are separate application forms for Community Anchor and CALAP. Please submit the relevant application form.
2. **Declaration Form** - there are separate declaration forms for Community Anchor and CALAP. Please submit the relevant declaration form.
3. **Relevant insurance documents** - as requested in the declaration form.

You can download these documents here: <https://tslkirklees.org.uk/community-anchors/> Applicants might be asked to clarify or provide additional information, if required.

All application documents must be sent to **Paul Dowse** at paul@tslkirklees.org.uk

There will be an opportunity to ask questions in the last week of March. If you have not participated in the Community Anchor programme previously, please use the Eventbrite link (on the left-hand side) for 25th March to book a place.

TSL Kirklees reserves the Right to Reopen or Re-Tender for specific local areas.