



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Equality & Human Rights Division

Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Small Grants Scheme

(2025-2026)

Application Form

- Applications are invited for small capital projects.
- Applications will need to identify that the funding is to improve existing facilities on site and that works will be completed by the end of March 2026. Only applications for small grants which can be completed in this financial year will be considered.
- Completing this form does not guarantee all or any of the funding you require.
- You should complete all sections which are applicable.
- You may be asked to clarify the information provided in the application.

1: APPLICANT DETAILS

1.1 Contact details

Local Authority	Flintshire County Council
Address	Chapel Street, Flint CH6 5BD
Date bid submitted	12/02/26

1.2 Project Manager contact details

Name	[redacted]
Position	[redacted]
Tel no	[redacted]
Email	[redacted]

2: PERMISSIONS

2 Do you have planning permission in place?	Yes X	No ☐
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3: THE PROJECT

3.1 Please provide a summary of the project below, including the outcomes the Local Authority wishes to achieve and how this funding would support its realisation.

This project will provide high-quality, inclusive play opportunities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and young people living on Riverside Local Authority Site in Flintshire. The project involves the purchase of a wide range of play equipment, stored securely in a purpose-built shipping container located on site, to ensure consistent, sustainable and safe access to play resources. The initiative directly supports Welsh Government ambitions to improve children's health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities, and uphold children's rights through play.

The project is underpinned by the Playwork Principles, which recognise play as an innate, biological, psychological and social necessity, essential for individual and community wellbeing. Play is understood as a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. The equipment provided will support children and young people to determine the content, intent and direction of their own play, enabling them to explore, take risks, socialise and express themselves in ways that are meaningful to them.

A broad range of loose parts and fixed play resources will be purchased to support multiple play types. Equipment will include outdoor physical play items such as scooters, balance bikes, footballs, skipping ropes and climbing frames to promote physical activity and gross motor development. Creative and imaginative play resources will include den-building materials, role-play equipment, art and craft resources, chalk, storytelling props and sensory materials. Social and cooperative play will be supported through games equipment, seating areas and shared play resources that encourage peer interaction and relationship building. The use of a purpose-built shipping container ensures all equipment can be safely stored, maintained and accessed locally, supporting regular use and long-term sustainability.

The project strongly aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, contributing to the well-being goals of a Healthier Wales, a More Equal Wales and a Wales of Cohesive Communities. By embedding accessible play opportunities within the site, the project takes a preventative, long-term approach to health by encouraging physical activity, improving emotional wellbeing and supporting resilience from an early age. These outcomes directly reflect the Act's emphasis on prevention, early intervention and reducing health inequalities.

This initiative also supports Flintshire County Council's statutory duties under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and the associated Play Sufficiency Assessment, which requires local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for all children. The project addresses identified gaps in play provision for children from marginalised and seldom-heard communities by increasing the availability, quality and accessibility of play where children live, rather than expecting them to access distant or unfamiliar services.

The project responds directly to evidence of poorer health outcomes within the GRT community. Research consistently shows that GRT populations experience significantly poorer physical and mental health than the general population, including higher levels of respiratory problems, chest pain and reduced self-reported general health. Providing opportunities for outdoor, active play supports physical fitness, respiratory health and overall wellbeing, while the social and emotional benefits of play help to reduce stress, anxiety and isolation for children and young people.

The project also reflects the Welsh Government's Travelling to Better Health guidance by addressing barriers to participation and engagement. Locating play provision on site removes barriers such as transport, cost, discrimination and lack of culturally appropriate services. The approach promotes trust, participation and inclusion, and supports equality of access to health-promoting activities.

In line with the Equality Act 2010 and the Socio-economic Duty, the project actively works to reduce disadvantage experienced by GRT children and young people. It also supports the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Article 31, which recognises every child's right to rest, leisure and play.

The project explicitly promotes the principles of the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan by recognising and challenging structural inequalities faced by GRT communities. By investing in culturally respectful, community-based play provision, the project affirms the value of GRT children and young people, promotes inclusion and visibility, and contributes to a Wales that is actively anti-racist and fair.

Overall, this project delivers meaningful, rights-based play provision that improves health, wellbeing and equality outcomes for GRT children and young people, while supporting national and local policy commitments across play, health, equality and social justice.

3.2 Explain how the project meets a clearly assessed need.

This project directly responds to a well-evidenced and long-standing need for accessible, high-quality play opportunities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and young people living on local authority sites. Research and national data consistently demonstrate that GRT communities experience poorer health and wellbeing outcomes compared to the general population. The 2021 Census identifies that GRT populations have the highest proportion of people reporting 'not good' general health in Wales, while studies such as Parry et al. (2004) highlight elevated rates of respiratory problems, chest pain, musculoskeletal conditions, and emotional stress. Barriers to accessing health-promoting activities, services and inclusive play contribute to these inequalities.

Flintshire County Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment confirms gaps in play provision for seldom heard and marginalised groups, including children living on GRT sites. These assessments highlight that children often lack access to safe, culturally sensitive and locally accessible spaces for physical, creative and social play. The assessment also stresses that equipment and resources should be flexible, age-appropriate, and able to respond to children's self-directed play choices, consistent with the Playwork Principles and Welsh Government guidance on equitable play provision.

The project has been designed to meet these needs through the provision of a wide range of portable, durable and culturally appropriate play equipment stored on-site in a secure shipping container. The equipment portfolio has been selected to support multiple types of play: outdoor physical activity to promote health and gross motor development; creative and imaginative play to support emotional wellbeing, problem-solving and communication skills; and social/cooperative play to foster relationships and peer interaction. This approach ensures that all children, across age ranges and abilities, have access to resources that meet their developmental, social and emotional needs.

Furthermore, the project aligns with Welsh Government guidance such as Travelling to Better Health (2015), which highlights disparities in access to health and social services for GRT communities and advocates for interventions that are culturally sensitive, locally accessible, and inclusive. By locating play resources on the site itself, the project removes barriers related to transport, cost and cultural exclusion, ensuring that children can participate safely and

consistently in play activities.

The design and delivery of the project have been informed by ongoing engagement with site residents and stakeholders, ensuring that resources reflect children and young people's preferences and that the play environment is respectful of cultural norms and lifestyles. This guarantees that the intervention addresses a genuine, identified need, rather than a perceived or generic requirement, and ensures maximum uptake and impact on health, wellbeing, social inclusion and equality outcomes.

In summary, the project meets a clearly assessed need by addressing documented health and wellbeing inequalities, responding to gaps identified in local play sufficiency assessments, and providing culturally sensitive, locally accessible, and child-led play opportunities that are both preventative and sustainable.

3.3 Explain how investment into the project will be sustainable. Please include how the sourcing of materials and the development itself will contribute towards improved social, economic or environmental outcomes. Explain how the proposed work meets the 'sustainable development goals' under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015?

Investment in this project is sustainable because it takes a long-term, preventative and place-based approach to improving outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and young people. By embedding high-quality play provision directly within the local authority site, the project reduces reliance on short-term interventions and addresses health, wellbeing and inequality at an early stage. Play is recognised as a protective factor that supports physical health, emotional resilience, social connection and positive childhood experiences, all of which contribute to reduced demand on health, social care and crisis services over time.

The sourcing of materials and equipment has been carefully considered to maximise environmental and economic sustainability. The project prioritises the purchase of durable, high-quality, outdoor-rated equipment designed for repeated use and long service life, reducing the need for frequent replacement and minimising waste. Portable and modular equipment has been selected so that resources can be reconfigured, repaired, stored and reused across seasons and age groups. Where possible, suppliers will be selected based on ethical sourcing, robust manufacturing standards and the use of recyclable or low-impact materials. The use of a purpose-built shipping container for storage further extends the lifespan of equipment by protecting it from weather damage and vandalism, reducing replacement costs and material waste.

Environmentally, the project promotes low-carbon, nature-based and outdoor play that encourages children and young people to be physically active in their local environment rather than relying on energy-intensive indoor or digital alternatives. Loose-parts play, den-building and creative outdoor resources support reuse, imagination and problem-solving using minimal fixed infrastructure. The project therefore contributes to reduced environmental impact while fostering environmental awareness, curiosity and respect for outdoor spaces among children and young people.

Social sustainability is central to the project's design and delivery. The investment directly addresses long-standing inequalities experienced by GRT communities by providing equitable access to play, health-promoting activities and safe shared spaces. Locating provision on site removes barriers related to transport, cost, discrimination and service access, supporting inclusion, trust and community cohesion. The project strengthens relationships between children, young people and families, supports peer interaction across age groups and creates

opportunities for positive engagement with local services, contributing to stronger, more cohesive communities.

The project also delivers economic sustainability by representing strong value for money. Upfront investment in durable equipment and secure storage reduces ongoing revenue costs and supports long-term use. By improving health, wellbeing and resilience for children and young people, the project contributes to preventative outcomes that can reduce future public expenditure linked to health inequalities, poor mental health and social exclusion. Where possible, local or regional suppliers will be used, supporting the local economy and supply chains.

The proposed work strongly aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and contributes to several of its well-being goals. It supports a Healthier Wales by promoting physical activity, emotional wellbeing and preventative health outcomes. It contributes to a More Equal Wales by addressing disadvantage and inequality experienced by GRT children and young people. The project fosters a Wales of Cohesive Communities by creating safe, inclusive spaces that support social connection and belonging. It also contributes to a Responsible Wales by adopting sustainable sourcing, reducing waste and investing in long-term outcomes rather than short-term solutions.

In line with the Act's five ways of working, the project is long-term in its focus on early intervention and lasting impact; preventative in addressing health and wellbeing inequalities through play; integrated by aligning with play, health, equality and community strategies; collaborative through engagement with the GRT community and local partners; and involving by enabling children and young people to shape and direct their own play.

Overall, the investment represents a sustainable, rights-based and future-focused approach that delivers enduring social, economic and environmental benefits while supporting Wales's national commitment to sustainable development and equality.

3.4 Explain the land ownership arrangement for the development land, including confirmation that the Local Authority possesses all the rights of an "owner", as set out in the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013. Please also confirm that the land will continue to be used as a Gypsy and Traveller site for at least 21 years beyond this development being finished.

Land is owned by Flintshire County Council and will continue to be used beyond twenty-one years.

3.5 Explain the site management arrangements, including whether the Local Authority or another organisation/individual will be responsible for managing the site. If a third party will manage the site a management contract must be enclosed with the bid.

Site is managed by the Local Authority

3.6 How many residents will these proposed works support? Please include the amount of pitches and families that will benefit from your proposals. Please also include any relevant feedback from Gypsy and Traveller residents about this work being undertaken.

Riverside has twenty pitches which are currently supporting the needs of circa thirty five families.

4: FUNDING

4.1 How much funding are you requesting in 2025-26?

Amount	Works
Capital costs £19,100	Capital Costs Capital funding will be used to purchase durable, portable and long-term play assets that can be dismantled, reconfigured and securely stored, ensuring flexibility, sustainability and safe access on the local authority site. Capital expenditure will include modular, free-standing physical play equipment such as portable climbing and balance structures, stackable crates, balance beams and large outdoor loose parts that support active play, risk-taking, coordination and physical challenge. These items can be adapted for different ages and play preferences while remaining robust enough for repeated outdoor use. The estimated cost for this equipment is approximately £3,800. Capital costs will also include wheeled outdoor play equipment such as heavy-duty scooters and balance bikes suitable for children and young people of different ages. These items support cardiovascular health, balance and confidence, and are designed for long-term shared use rather than short-term consumption. The estimated cost for scooters and balance bikes is £1,600. Further capital investment will support the creation of inclusive social spaces through the purchase of robust, portable outdoor seating such as benches or picnic tables. These will enable rest, observation, social interaction and cooperative play for children, young people and families, and can be repositioned or stored as required. The estimated cost for outdoor seating is £1,350. Capital funding will also cover the purchase and installation of a purpose-built shipping container to provide secure, weather-resistant storage for all play equipment. The container will enable safe management of resources, protect equipment from damage, and ensure consistent availability of play opportunities on site. The cost for the purchase and installation of the shipping container is £3,600, excluding VAT. In addition, internal storage infrastructure such as racking systems and lockable storage units will be installed within the container to support safe, organised and accessible storage. This element is estimated at £750. Funding will support the purchase of consumable, replaceable

Total Costs £18,100	and frequently used play resources that enable a wide range of freely chosen, child-led play opportunities for approximately 50 children of all ages. This includes outdoor physical play items such as footballs, skipping ropes, cones, hoops and protective equipment, which encourage regular physical activity, cooperative play and inclusive participation. The estimated cost for physical play consumables is approximately £1,400. Expenditure will also include creative and imaginative play resources such as den-building materials, tarpaulins, ropes, pegs, role-play equipment, dressing-up clothes, art and craft supplies, chalk, storytelling props and sensory play materials. These resources are central to supporting creativity, communication, emotional wellbeing and imaginative exploration, and will require replenishment over time due to regular use. The estimated cost for creative and imaginative play resources is approximately £3,600. Funding will support social and cooperative play through the purchase of shared games equipment, large-format board and outdoor games, loose parts and construction materials that promote interaction, teamwork and relationship building. This element is estimated at £2,000.
4.2 Explain how the Local Authority has considered Value for Money in compiling this application. Please also provide information on the quality of contractor you plan to use, including how they will be respectful and considerate of residents' cultural sensitives and lifestyles.	
The Local Authority has considered Value for Money in the development of this application, ensuring that the proposed investment delivers high-quality, sustainable outcomes while making effective use of public funds. Costs have been benchmarked against comparable play and community infrastructure projects, and expenditure has been deliberately focused on durable, multi-use equipment and infrastructure that will provide long-term benefit for a large cohort of children and young people. By prioritising portable, robust play resources and secure on-site storage, the project minimises future replacement costs and maximises the lifespan and flexibility of assets, ensuring strong return on investment over time.	

Value for Money has also been achieved through a preventative approach. The project is designed to address health inequalities, improve wellbeing and support positive childhood development at an early stage, reducing the likelihood of higher-cost interventions linked to poor physical health, mental health challenges and social exclusion in the future. Embedding play provision directly on the local authority site further improves efficiency by removing ongoing transport costs, reducing barriers to engagement and ensuring that resources are consistently accessible to those who need them most.

The Local Authority will use contractors from its approved contractor framework to deliver the purchase and installation elements of the project, including the provision of the purpose-built shipping container. Approved contractors have already met the Authority's standards for quality, safety, compliance and cost effectiveness, ensuring competitive pricing and robust contract management. This approach reduces procurement risk, avoids duplication of processes and provides assurance that public funds are being used responsibly.

The contractors selected have demonstrable experience of working on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites and have established positive working relationships with residents. This experience is critical to the successful and respectful delivery of the project. Contractors understand the cultural sensitivities, traditions and lifestyles of GRT communities and are familiar with the need for flexible, considerate working practices. This includes clear communication with residents, minimising disruption, respecting privacy and ensuring that works are carried out at appropriate times and in an agreed manner.

The use of trusted contractors also supports community confidence and engagement, reducing the risk of delays, objections or misunderstandings during delivery. Contractors will work closely with local authority officers and, where appropriate, site residents to ensure that installation is completed safely, efficiently and in a way that respects the lived environment of the community.

Overall, the Local Authority's approach demonstrates strong Value for Money through careful cost control, use of established procurement frameworks, investment in long-term assets and the selection of experienced, culturally competent contractors who are trusted by residents. This ensures that the project can be delivered efficiently, respectfully and to a high standard, while achieving meaningful and lasting outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people.

5: DELIVERABILITY

5.1 Explain the timescale for completion of this small grants project within this financial year.

The Local Authority has developed a realistic and proportionate delivery timescale to ensure that all works associated with this small grants project are fully completed within the current financial year and no later than 31 March 2026.

Following confirmation of grant approval, the project will move immediately into mobilisation. Procurement will be undertaken using the Local Authority's approved contractor and supplier frameworks, enabling orders for play equipment and the purpose-built shipping container to be

placed without delay. Because suppliers and contractors are already pre-approved, lead-in times are well understood and procurement risks are minimal.

During the early delivery phase, play equipment will be ordered and scheduled for delivery, alongside the purchase of the shipping container. In parallel, site preparation will be coordinated with site management to ensure that installation can proceed efficiently and with minimal disruption to residents. Contractors experienced in working on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites will be used, ensuring that works are carried out sensitively and in line with agreed timescales.

Installation of the shipping container, including positioning and internal storage fit-out, will be completed well in advance of the end of the financial year. Once storage is in place, play equipment will be delivered, assembled where required, and securely stored on site. Any necessary safety checks and handover arrangements will be completed promptly.

The final phase of the project will focus on completion checks, confirmation that all equipment has been installed or made available for use, and financial reconciliation to ensure that all expenditure is incurred and recorded within the 2025–26 financial year. The scale of the project, combined with the use of existing procurement routes and experienced contractors, means that delivery is low risk and achievable within the available timeframe.

Overall, the proposed timescale is realistic and deliverable, with all works concluded and the project fully operational by 31 March 2026, ensuring compliance with grant conditions and effective use of funding within the financial year.

5.2 Explain any significant risks over the lifetime of the project and planned mitigation by the Local Authority.

The Local Authority has undertaken a careful assessment of potential risks associated with the delivery and lifetime operation of this project and has developed a clear mitigation strategy to ensure that the project delivers safe, sustainable and inclusive play opportunities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and young people.

1. Damage, Wear and Vandalism of Equipment

As play equipment and resources are intended for frequent outdoor use, there is a risk of accidental damage, wear or vandalism over time. To mitigate this, the project will use durable, outdoor-rated materials designed for high-frequency use. All portable equipment will be stored securely in the purpose-built shipping container when not in use. A revenue allocation has been included to cover ongoing replacement, minor repairs and maintenance, ensuring resources remain safe and functional. Regular safety inspections will be conducted in line with Local Authority policies.

2. Cultural or Community Sensitivities

Working on a GRT site presents the risk that works or equipment could be perceived as intrusive or culturally inappropriate. This will be mitigated by using contractors who are approved by the Local Authority and have prior experience working on GRT sites, including a track record of building trust with residents. All works will be planned in collaboration with site management and residents, ensuring that installation schedules, positioning of equipment and any activity on site are respectful of residents' routines, lifestyles and privacy.

3. Delays in Procurement or Delivery

There is a risk that supply chain issues could delay the delivery of play equipment or the shipping container. To mitigate this, the Local Authority will use pre-approved suppliers with known delivery lead times. Orders will be placed promptly following grant approval, and contingency arrangements will be maintained to source alternative suppliers if unavoidable delays occur.

4. Health and Safety Risks

All equipment and installation works carry inherent health and safety risks. The Local Authority will ensure that all contractors comply with statutory health and safety requirements, and that all play equipment meets current safety standards. Staff and play supervisors will receive guidance on safe use, and risk assessments will be undertaken prior to installation and on an ongoing basis during operation.

5. Underutilisation or Low Engagement

There is a potential risk that play equipment may not be used as intended, reducing the health, wellbeing, and social outcomes of the project. This risk is mitigated through active engagement with children and young people to ensure that equipment and resources reflect their interests and needs. Equipment has been selected to provide a broad range of play types—physical, creative, imaginative and social—appealing to different ages and preferences. The on-site location ensures consistent accessibility, removing barriers related to transport or exclusion.

6. Environmental Risks

Outdoor play equipment may be affected by adverse weather conditions. Mitigation includes selecting weather-resistant materials, securing portable equipment when not in use, and storing resources inside the shipping container during extreme weather. Regular maintenance checks will ensure that equipment remains safe and durable.

7. Financial Risks

There is a risk of unforeseen costs exceeding the budget. To mitigate this, the Local Authority has included a contingency within the revenue allocation and has rigorously costed all equipment and installation. Using approved contractors and procurement frameworks reduces the likelihood of cost inflation or unexpected charges.

By identifying these risks and implementing proportionate mitigation measures, the Local Authority ensures that the project remains safe, inclusive, culturally sensitive, cost-effective and sustainable over its lifetime, maximising benefits for GRT children and young people.

5.3 Explain whether any permissions are required to enable this project to be delivered. Are all permissions secured?

All permissions secured

Signed

[redacted]

Date	08/02/26
Name (<i>block capitals</i>)	[redacted]
Position	[redacted]

Completed Application including any queries regarding eligibility should be emailed to:

E-mail: **[redacted]** (cc in **[redacted]**)