



SHINE North of England Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

How much funding does SHINE provide?

The normal range of SHINE grant funding for the full duration of a 2-3 year project is around £20,000-£100,000. Projects that are new, or being piloted/tested for impact, or that impact on smaller numbers of students, will be funded at the lower end of this range, whereas projects with a stronger evidence base and that reach a greater number of beneficiaries will be considered at the higher end of this range. More guidance is available in our [Approach to Evidence](#).

SHINE can also award grants for over £100,000, in some circumstances. Such projects usually have a strong evidence base, a history of improving attainment for disadvantaged children, and will have the potential to have an impact on a larger number of schools, students or other beneficiaries (e.g. teachers or parents).

What evidence base does SHINE require to fund an intervention?

Our requirements for evidence are based on the size of the grant requested, and some guidance on this is provided in our Approach to Evidence.

Who can apply for SHINE funding?

We accept applications from individual schools, groups of schools (e.g. MATs or informal learning clusters), charitable organisations, research organisations, traded services of local authorities, and, in some circumstances, commercial businesses, where the proposal clearly meets our charitable aims. We are not able to accept any applications from sole traders, or individual contractors or consultants.

It is our aim to develop the very best practice in schools and make a lasting contribution to the capacity and potential of schools, teachers and students across the North of England. As such, we particularly welcome applications led by individual schools or groups of schools, and can provide additional support and advice to any schools wishing to apply for funding.

Do you provide core funding, bursaries or capital build costs?

SHINE does not provide core funding, bursaries, or simple resource, staff or capital build costs. All proposals to SHINE should be for a sustained project of 2-3 years duration that can be monitored and evaluated.

Does SHINE accept unsolicited applications?

SHINE is happy to receive unsolicited enquiries via the contact form on our website. Please provide an outline of the project, including an indicative budget and a summary of the expected number of beneficiaries.

How can I get an application form?

Our full application forms are not publicly available; please submit an outline proposal via the enquiry form on our website and a member of the team will be in contact to discuss your idea further.

How does SHINE's application process work?

Once an enquiry has been submitted, then the next steps are:

- We will contact you within 2 weeks to advise on whether your enquiry/outline proposal meets our criteria and priorities.
- If your enquiry/proposal meets our criteria and priorities, we will arrange a telephone call or meeting to discuss the project.
- We will then provide SHINE's application forms and advise of the next deadline for draft application submissions; if you have any additional queries about the forms, please contact SHINE by email.
- You should submit your application form and budget template by email, by the draft application deadline for the funding round you are applying in.
- SHINE will review this form, and then return it to you within 2 weeks, with comments and feedback. In some circumstances, SHINE may respond at this point and recommend that you do not proceed further with your application – again, this is generally to prevent people putting additional work and effort into an application that we think has a lower chance of success or that doesn't meet our requirements. If this happens, we'll always endeavor to give you feedback and information on why we have provided this advice.
- Applicants can then rework and amend their application based on this feedback, and should resubmit the forms by the final application deadline for the relevant funding round.
- We will provide a decision on whether your application has been successful within 1 month of this final application deadline.

What are your deadlines for submitting a funding application?

Our deadlines for submitting draft applications are usually around the end of January, the end of April, and the end of October each year; exact dates will be confirmed once you have submitted an initial enquiry.

How long does SHINE's application process take?

Applicants hoping to submit a proposal at one of the draft application deadlines should ensure they have submitted their outline via the enquiry form with sufficient time to establish a discussion with SHINE and complete the forms – this is frequently 1-2 months in advance of the draft application deadline.

What do you look for in a successful application?

We assess proposals against the advice provided in our Funding Guidance and the additional information provided in these FAQ, and the Application Guidelines you will receive with your application forms. We generally look for:

- Evidence that the project meets the needs of disadvantaged students, for example, by targeting Pupil Premium students, or working across schools that have a high overall proportion of Pupil Premium students.
- Evidence that the school or organisation has the capacity to deliver the project, e.g. evidence of previous similar work, managing educational projects, or managing other grant funding.
- A clear statement of what the problem is, that you hope to address. The more clear, specific, and evidenced this statement, the greater your chances of success.
- A clear statement of how you hope to address this problem, including a description of the structure of the project. Imagine you are describing what you wish to do, over 2-3 years, to someone who knows nothing about your plans.
- A clear statement of what you expect the outcomes to be. A small number of specific, attainment-related outcomes is usually more useful than a large list of less clearly-defined outcomes.
- Robust information on how you hope to measure these outcomes, and assess the impact of your project more broadly.
- A plan for the long-term scalability and sustainability of the project, including how you might share anything you have learned with other schools, settings or organisations, and how the intervention might be sustained once any grant funding has come to an end.
- Evidence of value for money. Broadly, we would look at the cost per student/child/beneficiary for this. Projects that have a high cost per beneficiary are less likely to be sustainable in the long-term and hence have a lower chance of success. We will also evaluate your budget to see if the costings are reasonable, and that there's nothing that seems excessive or inappropriate.
- Whether the project has any match funding in place. SHINE usually prefers that a project has some match funding in place. This can, however, be in the form of 'in-kind' funding, e.g. a school being willing to cover the cost of some teacher time or space for a project to take place, or contributions of time or resources from an organisation. Match funding is not essential, but will help strengthen an application if it is included.

SHINE hopes to identify the most innovative approaches to meeting the needs of disadvantaged children; projects that demonstrate innovation, either in type of intervention, or in the model or mode of delivery, are more likely to be successful.

How competitive is SHINE funding?

We hope, through our collaborative funding process, to identify the projects that most closely meet our criteria and priorities, and that have the greatest chance of being

approved by our Board of Trustees. However, our funding is still competitive at this final stage, and the Trustees will be reviewing more proposals than they are likely to be able to support. As a broad indication, in previous rounds, around 50-60% of applications that have reached this final stage and been reviewed by the Board have been approved. We are happy to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants on the reasons for this decision.

I am an organisation that wants to submit a proposal to work with schools. Do I need to have the schools signed up/committed before submitting an application?

We would prefer that schools were signed up before submitting an application, as this helps to confirm that there is sufficient demand and buy-in from schools for the intervention you are proposing. If it is not possible or practical to identify schools in advance of making an application, then evidence of your organisation's track record and capacity to develop partnerships with schools, evidence of demand for your intervention from schools, and a plan for identifying and establishing the commitment of schools should be included in your application.

Do you accept applications from organisations based outside the North of England?

We do accept applications from organisations headquartered outside the North of England, however, we would look to confirm that such organisations have a track record of working in the North of England and evidence of on-the-ground partnerships and capacity in the North of England. Proposals that do not address this sufficiently are much less likely to be successful.

Do you have any priority regions for funding?

SHINE will consider applications to work in any part of the North of England, however we are particularly interested in ensuring that all geographies, contexts and communities within the North of England are served by our funding, and we particularly welcome proposals for work that might take place in less well-served areas.

Is it necessary to focus on attainment? What about other skills or areas of focus, such as behaviour, motivation, engagement, or career development/awareness?

SHINE's mission is to improve the educational attainment of disadvantaged children in the North of England; we achieve this by supporting innovative interventions, within our core priorities. We recognise that interventions that support non-cognitive skills or attributes, such as engagement, motivation, communication skills, enquiry, creative thinking or aspiration, can contribute significantly to successful education outcomes, however, the links between these and attainment should be clearly articulated in an application. Proposals that solely address the personal, social or career development of children and young people are much less likely to be successful.

Does SHINE focus on any groups with particular needs, e.g. children from BAME backgrounds, girls or SEN students?

SHINE's core focus is on socio-economic disadvantage, and we usually use Pupil Premium as a top-level measure for this. We are interested in, and collect data on, how other needs may be addressed through our projects, however, the primary focus of any proposal should be socio-economic disadvantage.

What are SHINE's monitoring requirements once a grant is awarded?

SHINE usually requests termly reporting, with more comprehensive end-of-year reporting, and our monitoring requirements are based on the scale of the grant, the nature of the project, and the outcomes you discussed in your application. We broadly hope that projects can use data that is already collected by schools or settings to assess the impact on attainment. More information is available in our Approach to Evidence.

Successful applicants will also be invited to take part in SHINE's workshops from evaluation experts, and opportunities to collaborate with other grantees and obtain ad hoc advice and support, so that you can be sure that your project is having the impact you hope it will, and can identify any learning and scope for adaptation and improvement over the course of your project.

If you have any further questions or would like more information, please get in touch at info@shinetrust.org.uk or give us a ring on 0113 280 5872.