

**Dounreay Communities Fund
22 April 2026**

FY 2026/27 FR-00003162 – Wick Netball Club		
<p>Small local netball club in Wick that hold junior and senior training sessions weekly run solely by volunteers. The club is a positive, welcoming community, encouraging socialising, alongside physical and mental health benefits of partaking in a team sport. The club rely weekly on regular numbers to cover the cost of the hall, insurance and equipment.</p> <p>The total cost of the project is £1,075, and a donation of £1,075 has been requested.</p> <p>The requested funding will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking additional funding for the current season to improve equipment, provide basic kit, and support member safety. • Funding would allow the club to provide club t-shirts for all members, ensuring inclusivity, team identity, and equality, as some members do not own sportswear. • New equipment would improve training quality and encourage regular attendance. • Aim to train more committee members in first aid, increasing safety during high-intensity sessions. • The club faces high weekly costs, including hall hire of over £100 per week and insurance. • Membership fees are kept deliberately low (£2 juniors, £3.50 seniors) to remain accessible and avoid excluding members. • Without increasing fees, funding is essential to replace ageing equipment and provide kit without placing financial pressure on members or the club. 		
Does it comply with DCF criteria:		YES/NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community • Supporting local sports club • Support for local sporting event • Supporting local youth group 		
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	
Recommended support:		£537.50

FY 2026/27– FR-00003130 – Dunbeath Primary School Parent Council – Goblin Car Project		
<p>The Goblin car project aims to inspire and encourage the primary 7 pupils at Dunbeath Primary School to take an interest in engineering in a fun and innovative way together with introducing children to basic mechanics and electrics. The four P7 pupils are building a car on a Friday and are working on building a portfolio to show their work. The Goblin car initiative is run by Greenpower Education Trust, a UK based charity which aims to get young people enthusiastic about science and engineering by challenging them to design, build and race an electric car inspiring the pupils to excel when they go to High School in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). The race cars are being built by pupils, including designing and sourcing the bodywork themselves, selecting materials (they have chosen recycling materials to reduce landfill waste) and understanding the functioning of components.</p> <p>The team of 4 pupils will have the chance to drive the car and compete against other local schools at a race day on the 12th of June in Alford Aberdeenshire.</p>		

<p>The total cost of the project is £1,000, and a donation of £1,000 has been requested.</p> <p>The requested funding will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School trip to Alford will ensure equal access for all pupils, regardless of financial background, preventing exclusion and reducing the burden on parents. • Supports educational, social, and emotional development by covering costs for transport, and an overnight hotel stay. This can help to increase the pupil's tolerance, empathy, and engagement with others. • The benefit of the Goblin Car will enhance the pupils learning opportunities by providing hands-on, real-world learning that complements the classroom curriculum. • Pupils involved the local community by holding a car wash at the fire station with a Bake sale to raise money for their trip. 		
<p>Does it comply with DCF criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community • Support for local children 	<p>YES/NO</p>	
<p>Funding received during last three years.</p>	<p>YES/NO</p>	<p>£</p>
<p>Recommended support:</p>		<p>£ 1,000</p>

<p>FY 2026/27 – FR-000003112 – Pennyland Primary School – Nursery Garden Enhancement</p>		
<p>Pennyland School are seeking funding to improve a garden area within Pennyland Nursery. The grass area which is on a slope currently becomes very wet in the winter months and we require the area to be excavated and rubber matting laid. This will ensure that the youngest pupils can safely access high-quality outdoor learning opportunities throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions.</p> <p>The total cost of the project is £4,000, and a donation of £4,000 has been requested.</p> <p>The requested funding will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden space supports physical development, social interaction, communication skills, and emotional wellbeing. This project will ensure our children can access this area in all weather. • In addition to benefiting the children currently enrolled, this project will strengthen our nursery's long-term sustainability. Reduced damage to grassed areas will lower ongoing maintenance costs and preserve the quality of our outdoor space. Families will also have increased confidence in our provision, knowing their children can access outdoor learning regardless of weather conditions. • Our garden space supports physical development, social interaction, communication skills, and emotional wellbeing. It encourages exploration, imaginative play, and early engagement with the natural environment. When outdoor access is limited, children miss valuable opportunities to develop gross motor skills, resilience, and independence. The current situation significantly reduces the effectiveness of a space that should be a key learning asset. • As a school nursery, families from a diverse range of backgrounds within the local community have access to safe, enriching outdoor space that is important for children who may not have gardens or green spaces at home. Enhancing the nursery garden will help reduce inequalities in access to outdoor learning and 		

support children’s physical health, mental wellbeing, and early educational development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have been awarded £500 from Tesco Community fund which will also go towards the project. 		
Does it comply with DCF criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total cost is less than £7.5k Provides benefit to the local community Support for local children 	YES/NO	
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£
Recommended support:		£2,000

FY 2026/27 – FR-000003081 – Thurso Football Academy – World Cup Football sessions		
Thurso Football Academy propose to hold a Scotland-themed professional coaching event for children aged 5 to 15 in the Caithness area. With Scotland qualifying for the World Cup, we want to use this significant national achievement as an opportunity to inspire young people locally. The event would give children the chance to meet and be coached by former international players, providing a unique and memorable experience that promotes participation, enthusiasm, and aspiration in sport. This initiative aims to engage young people in physical activity while celebrating national pride and supporting positive role models within the community.		
The total cost of the project is £4,000, and a donation of £1,200 has been requested.		
The requested funding will contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting young people to maintain a fit and healthy lifestyle by offering an affordable, in-person football coaching event delivered by former Scotland international players, providing a positive alternative to screen-based activities. Encouraging participation in sport among children and young people; without external funding, it would be difficult to deliver this opportunity for local youngsters. Enabling approximately 50 young people to attend and benefit from the coaching sessions, helping to increase confidence, skills, and long-term engagement in physical activity. 		
Does it comply with DCF criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total cost is less than £7.5k Provides benefit to the local community Supporting local youth group Supporting local sports club Support for local children 	YES/NO	
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£
Recommended support:		£ 1200

FY 2026/27 FR-00003080 – North Highland Cancer Information & Support Centre – Update of IT equipment and labour

A local charity established in 2008 by a small group of women undergoing breast cancer diagnosis. Since then, the organisation has grown significantly and now supports approximately 150 members. Our services include a group in Bettyhill, a dedicated men’s group, a full day of therapy each week, and a weekly Monday walk-in service, among other support activities for those affected by cancer.

The charity relies heavily on their own fundraising efforts and the generosity of local businesses to operate. However, the overhead costs are substantial, including high monthly heating and telephone bills.

Maintaining a warm and welcoming premises is essential, as many of their members are particularly vulnerable, with some undergoing aggressive cancer treatment.

Competing for funding alongside other deserving local charities remains a significant challenge.

Investing in a reliable, up-to-date IT system would be a major benefit to the centre.

The total cost of the project is £5,224, and funding of £5,000 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- Improved communication with members, allowing us to share information about services and activities more quickly and efficiently.
- Better record keeping and a reduction in paperwork within our administrative processes.
- Enhanced outreach to the wider community through improved digital communication and access to online meeting services, ensuring continued support for anyone affected by cancer.
- Supporting recruitment of future volunteers, helping to secure the long-term sustainability of the centre.

Does it comply with DCF criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community 	YES/NO
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO
Recommended support:	£900
	£2,500

FY 2026/27 FR-00003077 - Caithness Seal Rehab & Release - Seal Hospital Uniform

Caithness Seal Rehabilitation & Release is seeking funding to purchase new waterproof uniforms for volunteers working both within the seal hospital and for volunteer assessors operating in the field. Appropriate clothing is essential to ensure safety, professionalism, and effective delivery of our seal rescue and rehabilitation work.

We currently have 10 local volunteers working in the hospital and 12 volunteer assessors covering a wide geographical area including Helmsdale, Brora, Dornoch, Alness, Embo, Golspie, Nairn, and Tain. Volunteer assessors respond to seal stranding reports from members of the public, assess the condition of seal pups, and, where necessary, transport them safely to the hospital for care.

Providing waterproof clothing branded with our logo will ensure volunteers are clearly identifiable, helping to reassure the public and support safe working practices.

Assessors already wear high-visibility vests and ID lanyards supplied by the hospital; waterproof uniforms would further improve protection and professionalism.

<p>The total cost of the project is £639, and a donation of £639 has been requested.</p> <p>The requested funding will contribute to: Seal rehabilitation and release work is physically demanding and carried out in challenging coastal environments, often in harsh weather conditions. At present, volunteers rely on a mix of personal or non-specialist clothing, which can be unsuitable for prolonged outdoor work and wildlife handling. This creates risks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human safety, including exposure to cold, wet conditions and zoonotic diseases • Animal welfare, due to increased risk of cross-contamination without appropriate protective clothing • Operational effectiveness, as discomfort and inadequate protection can limit response times and the number of rescues undertaken • Volunteer retention, as a lack of proper equipment can discourage ongoing involvement • Specialist waterproof uniforms are essential to meet health, safety, and biosecurity requirements, improve working conditions, and ensure consistent, high-quality care for seals throughout the rehabilitation and release process. • As a small, conservation-focused organisation with limited core funding, Caithness Seal Rehabilitation & Release relies heavily on volunteers and donations. The cost of purchasing durable, specialist uniforms represent a significant investment that cannot be met without external support, and funding for this project would allow us to continue delivering our vital rescue and conservation work safely and effectively. 		
Does it comply with DCF criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community 		YES/NO
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£5,000
Recommended support:		£ 319.50

Summary as of 22 April 2026

2026/27 Funding	Funding for FY 2026/27 B/Fwd FY 2025/26 Available funding for FY 2026/27	£ 35,000.00 £ 0.00 £ 35,000.00
<u>Funds Requested/Committed</u>		
Current total requested		£ 12,914.00
Current total proposed		£ 7,557.00
Funds agreed YTD		£ 0.00
Balance available as at 22 April 2026		£35,000.00
Balance available less proposed and agreed		£27,443.00