

These guidelines are for the purpose of assisting those making a grant or loan application to The William Leech Charity or those seeking grants from The Lady Leech Fund.

The William Leech Charity

The William Leech Charity is an independent grant and loan making Trust based in North East England. Set up by Sir William Leech in 1972, the trust supports North East based volunteers and charitable projects that positively impact communities across Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

The Trust is administered by a board of Trustees who ensure the funding makes an impact on the people who need it most.

grants

Eligible Applicants: UK-registered charities with a focus on the North East of England or those with a significant connection to the region.

Project Type: Innovative and impactful charitable activities, particularly those that can demonstrate measurable benefits to the community.

Financial Need: Applicants must provide a detailed breakdown of project costs, current funding, and the gap that the grant would help to fill.

Exclusions: Grants are not typically awarded to organisations that have received funding within the last 12 months, individuals, or projects related to personal travel, gap years, or non-charitable activities.

loans

Eligible Applicants: UK-registered charities, or charitable organisations particularly those based in or benefiting the North East of England.

Project Type: Typically for capital projects or unexpected crises requiring immediate financial support.

Financial Stability: Applicants must demonstrate the ability to repay the loan within the agreed-upon timeframe, typically five years.

Exclusions: Individuals, organisations with sufficient funds for the project, and organisations that have received funding in the past 12 months are generally ineligible.

The Lady Leech fund

The Lady Leech fund exists to support charities & projects in underdeveloped areas of the world that have a connection to the North East. Eligibility for the Lady Leech Fund is focused on charities that support disadvantaged children, particularly in developing countries.

Eligible Applicants: UK-registered charities, preferably with a connection to the North East of England.

Project Focus: Projects aimed at improving the welfare of disadvantaged children, especially in the Third World.

Geographical Focus: While the focus is global, a strong connection to the North East is preferred.

Exclusions: Grants are not awarded to individuals, for gap years, or for personal travel.

Volunteer support

Eligibility for volunteer grants is focused on small, registered charities where most of the work is done by volunteers.

Eligible Applicants: Small registered charities where at least two-thirds of the work is done by volunteers, excluding administration and fundraising.

Project Focus: Projects that rely heavily on volunteer support and have limited paid staff.

Exclusions: Organisations with substantial paid staff or those that have received recent funding from the charity may not be eligible.