

Sector News, Opportunities and Consultations - June 2026

UK grantmaking rises above £24bn, research estimates



Funding from UK grantmakers to good causes has risen by 4% year-on-year to more than £24bn, marginally outpacing inflation, according to new research. Read the full [Civil Society article](#).

How can the government better support social enterprises?



Social Enterprise UK have launched two new reports outlining their recommendations for how the Government can further support social enterprises to create fairer, more resilient, and healthier communities.

[Accelerating NHS reform: levelling the playing field to unlock social enterprises](#) looks at the disadvantages that social enterprises encounter in delivering health and social care services.

[A £400bn opportunity: unlocking social value for a fairer, more resilient UK](#) focuses on changes to procurement that could help the government achieve the kind of 'good growth' that raises living standards and reduces inequality.

Pubs, shops and local assets protected with communities in charge



£61m fund to encourage people to save treasured local assets announced as part of a set of reforms to put more power in the hands of communities has been launched through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. [Community Right to Buy Fund press release](#).

Every child to get access to enriching activities to build skills and confidence for life



The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Education have introduced their new Every Child Can programme. Children in every part of the country to get access to enriching activities to beat isolation online and build connections in the real world. The £132.5 million 'Every Child Can'

programme will fund activities within school and in communities at weekends and in the holidays, ensuring enrichment is a common entitlement for all — not just those who can afford to pay. [Every Child Can Press Release](#).

Accessible communication: A starting point to foster more inclusive comms



Charity Comms have written some useful tips on Accessible Communication, pointing out that people consume content in different ways. Many of the 2 million people living with sight loss in the UK rely on assistive technologies, like screen readers, to access digital content.

Here are some useful tips shared by Charity Comms' Kate Bennell in their accessibility guide:

1. Write in plain language, avoiding jargon, acronyms and abbreviations.
2. Structure your text with proper headings.
3. Write in short, simple sentences.
4. Check your reading order.
5. Avoid using colour to convey meaning.
6. Justify text to the left to enable the reader to find the end and start of new lines easily.

View their [Accessibility Guide: A starting point to foster more inclusive comms](#)

How charities are adapting to a more volatile operating



Charities are increasingly operating in what is being termed Protection Mode. According to NCVO, rising demand, financial pressures, misinformation, online hostility and rapid technological change are reshaping how organisations deliver their work.

NCVO in partnership with Zurich have produced a report that explores how charities are adapting to a more volatile environment and the support needed to build resilience for the future. To read the full Spring briefing visit the [NCVO Website](#).



The Solidarity Fund: £60 million awarded to tackle root causes of poverty, disadvantage and discrimination

The Solidarity Fund goes beyond short-term fixes. It brings people together across different issues, places and communities. It helps them to act on shared challenges and build long-term solutions.

This funding complements vital services by investing in lasting change. It supports people closest to the issues to lead and organise. It helps communities build knowledge. And it strengthens relationships across different communities and issues.

We are backing organisations with strong community relationships and a track record. The funding gives them the stability to build on what already works. To strengthen community leadership. To share learning and tackle root causes over time.

Our focus is practical and long term: using truly life-changing National Lottery funding responsibly, where it can make the greatest – lasting – difference. To read more about the fund visit the [National Lottery Community Fund website](#).

Regulators join forces to remind the public of their responsibilities when fundraising



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Charity Commission and the Fundraising Regulator have published new, joint guidance to

help people who want to raise funds for charity. The regulators are advising members of the public to follow [this latest guidance](#) so that people can fundraise in a way that protects themselves and the charity they are raising money for.

Each year, almost a third of sector income is raised from donations and legacies, including fundraising by the public. The guide sets out practical steps for anyone thinking about setting up a fundraising appeal, including in response to an emergency. It is important that people follow the guidance because, when someone decides to raise money for charity they, not the charity, are responsible for ensuring the money goes where intended.

Built to last, built to borrow? Legal structures and social investment readiness



Good Finance

Good Finance have published a [blog](#) for organisations focused on their social mission, commenting that legal structure can feel like an administrative detail. In practice, it shapes the financing options available, the confidence investors place in your governance, and the flexibility you have to grow and adapt.

Companies House to bring in changes to accounts filing from April 2028

The government has announced that Charitable Companies, small companies and micro-entities will need to file profit and loss accounts but can opt out of publication. All companies will need to file accounts via commercial software with more time to prepare.

To give companies more time to prepare, this package of accounts reforms will now come into effect from April 2028, rather than April 2027. This means all companies will have one full accounting year, plus 9 months (21 months) to get ready. The government will be contacting all companies via their registered email address to tell them about these changes and signpost available guidance.

The changes will affect charitable companies but not charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs), which only file with sector regulators including the Charity Commission.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/companies-house-to-bring-in-changes-to-accounts-filing-from-april-2028>

Approved mileage rates from tax year 2026 to 2027



The government has increased the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) rate for employees and volunteers using their personal vehicles for business or volunteering purposes.

For cars and vans, the approved rate is now 55p per mile for the first 10,000 miles travelled in a tax year and 25p per mile thereafter. The change applies retrospectively for the 2026–27 tax year and therefore covers mileage travelled since 6 April 2026.

The approved rate represents the maximum amount that can be paid without creating a tax liability. Organisations can decide whether to adopt the new rate in line with their own expenses policies and arrangements. Organisations should also note that paying above the approved rate may have tax implications. [More information is available on the GOV.UK website.](#)

Real time guidance for serious on-farm accidents

FarmersAid is a long-term initiative from RABI, designed to strengthen emergency preparedness across the farming community. It has been developed with clinical and

frontline expertise to ensure guidance is accurate, practical and usable in real on-farm conditions.

The FarmersAid app is designed for use in high-stress situations and can be accessed on any smartphone. Guidance is structured, clear and easy to follow, helping people act confidently until emergency services arrive. Visit <https://farmersaid.org.uk/> for more details.

Breaking the Cycle: Tackling Fly-Tipping and Waste Crime – A Roadmap for Reform

Future Countryside and the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) have published a new report warning that fly-tipping and waste crime have evolved into a large-scale criminal industry that is devastating rural communities, damaging the environment and costing the UK economy hundreds of millions of pounds every year.

The report has been produced jointly by Future Countryside and the National Rural Crime Network and draws on official statistics, industry evidence, academic research and testimony from across the rural sector. Future Countryside and the NRCN are calling on ministers, regulators, police forces, local authorities and the Environment Agency to work together to deliver a more coordinated and effective national response. [*Breaking the Cycle: Tackling Fly-Tipping and Waste Crime – A Roadmap for Reform*](#) is available to read in full now.



Skills England

Skills England Annual Skills Report and Sectoral Skills Needs Assessments 2026

The annual skills report sets out the key challenges facing England's skills system in 2026 and how

Skills England is responding. It highlights the need for a more flexible, employer-led and evidence-driven system to address skills shortages, support young people, and align training with economic priorities.

The Sectoral Skills Needs Assessments (SNAs) go on to provide an overall view of current and future demand for skills, map pathways from courses to occupations, and identify where current provision can be developed to meet skills needs.

The assessments are designed to support engagement with employers, and support policy making. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-england-annual-skills-report-and-sectoral-skills-needs-assessments-2026>

Menopause in the Workplace



This resource is part of MENO-kit: an online toolkit to help organisations address menopause in their workplace (www.meno-kit.org.uk). MENO-kit was developed as part of a research project by Lancaster University, University of Nottingham and King's College London. It was funded by the charity [Wellbeing of Women](#).

Switched On to Privacy



Switched on to privacy is a campaign from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to help parents and carers of 4–11-year-olds talk to their children about online privacy.

If you work directly with families or parents this Switched On to Privacy guidance offers simple tools and conversation starters to help families navigate conversations about online privacy. They have got tools and resources that organisations can use to promote the guidance on their website. <https://ico.org.uk/switched-on-to-privacy/switched-on-to-privacy-campaign-toolkit/>

Delivering for All: Rural Realities



The Rural Services Network have launched their Delivering for All: Rural Realities survey findings, capturing the lived experiences of more than 2,400 rural residents across England, highlighting both the very real challenges facing communities and the untapped potential within rural places. <https://rsnonline.org.uk/delivering-for-all-rural-realities-research>

From Good Work to Good Health: Employers' Role in the Health of the UK Workforce



A new report from the Living Wage Foundation exploring the links between work, health, and financial security, funded by the The Health Foundation has recently been published. Alongside a review of the evidence, the report includes new polling on workers' experiences and what people

most want from employers — from fair pay and secure work to flexibility and better support for paternity and sickness. It demonstrates what really makes a difference to people's wellbeing.

<https://www.livingwage.org.uk/good-work-good-health-employers-role-health-uk-workforce>

Making grants to charities and other organisations



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

The Charity Commission have published new guidance to help charity trustees make confident, responsible grant-making decisions. Thousands of charities carry out their purposes by making grants to other organisations. The new guidance covers the fundamentals of effective grant-making, from setting funding priorities and carrying out due diligence, to monitoring grants and reporting impact.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulator-publishes-new-guidelines-on-grant-making-as-charity-sector-continues-to-feel-financial-squeeze>

The Digital Exclusion Risk Atlas (DERA)

The DERA is an online, location-based analytical tool designed to help health and care system teams understand and identify patterns of digital exclusion across England. It brings together a range of data indicators to highlight areas where people may face barriers to accessing and using digital health and care services. By improving visibility of these patterns, the Atlas aims to support more targeted interventions and contribute to efforts to reduce health inequalities. [DERA User Guide](#)

The new high street playbook: Community-led innovation in action



Power to Change have produced a 'new high street playbook' which shares lessons from their Community-Led High Street Innovators programme, and shows why they matter now. Connecting real world practice to the current policy window, this report reflects a growing focus on the conditions needed for longer-term stewardship, particularly the role of community influence, governance and ownership in shaping the future of our high streets.

<https://www.powertochange.org.uk/evidence-and-ideas/research-and-reports/the-new-high-street-playbook-community-led-innovation-in-action>

June 2026



Watch this Space: A New Strategic Direction for UK Media is a major Government consultation major consultation on the future of UK media, television and public service broadcasting, setting out proposals aimed at ensuring trusted news and high-quality content remain accessible in an increasingly digital world.

It explores issues including the future of television distribution, support for public service broadcasters, media literacy, access to trusted news, and how audiences discover content online. It also considers the long-term transition from traditional broadcast television towards internet-delivered services.



The Rural Service Network noted that while the shift to digital viewing may offer new opportunities, it also raises important questions for rural communities. Reliable broadband and mobile connectivity cannot be taken for granted in many rural areas, and some households continue to rely on traditional television services due to limited internet access, affordability concerns or digital exclusion. Any future changes to TV distribution will need to ensure rural residents are not left behind. Get your views heard by going to <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/watch-this-space-a-new-strategic-direction-for-uk-media-green-paper-and-public-consultation>

Suffolk County Council urges communities to help shape 2,200-acre solar farm project

Suffolk County Council is encouraging residents, businesses and parish councils to take part in EcoPower Suffolk's public consultation for its proposed solar farm and battery energy storage project.

This statutory consultation launched on Monday 22 June 2026 and closes on Sunday 16 August 2026.

Following a first consultation held last year, changes were made to the project after feedback from residents, businesses and parish councils was taken into account.

The proposed development is for a 250-megawatt solar farm and battery energy storage system, which will be spread out over 2,200 acres across five areas in Mid Suffolk:

- south and east of Stuston
- north and east of Eye

- north of Gislingham
- north of Occold
- between Thrandeston and Mellis

Cllr Tristan Gale, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service, said:

"The local community helped shape EcoPower's proposals once before, and they can do so again. The feedback received during last year's consultation led to changes, demonstrating the value of community engagement.

"I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to review the latest plans and share their views – this is our last opportunity before EcoPower Suffolk submits its application to the Planning Inspectorate.

"There will remain issues that require greater clarity and scrutiny, and it is important that anyone affected has their say while there is still time to influence the plans.

"Although I look forward to examining the revised proposals, I remain deeply concerned about the potential impact on high-quality agricultural land, our highway network, local amenities, the landscape and the wellbeing of local communities.

County council officers will now scrutinise the proposals in detail and prepare a report with recommendations for cabinet members. The council's formal response to the consultation will then be considered and agreed at the cabinet meeting on 14 July 2026.

EcoPower Suffolk will hold in-person events in Gislingham, Occold and Eye, alongside three online webinars, giving residents multiple opportunities to learn more about the proposals and share their views.

Further details about EcoPower Suffolk's proposals, consultation events and how to submit comments before the 16 August 2026 deadline can be found on its website www.ecopowersuffolk.com

Access to Banking Services Review: Call for Evidence



HM Treasury has launched a Call for Evidence seeking views from stakeholders to inform the Access to Banking Services Review.

The Access to Banking Services Review, chaired by Richard Lloyd, was commissioned in May 2026 to consider whether declining access to in-person banking services is causing

consumer detriment, and the scale of any detriment, including to any specific cohort or demographic.

The Call for Evidence is seeking evidence in order:

- To identify which in-person banking services are essential or important to consumers
- To understand which groups need access to in-person banking services
- To assess whether any detriment is being caused to consumers and the extent and materiality of this detriment
- To examine both the current provision (including existing mitigations) and the future trajectory of in-person banking services in the UK.

The Call for Evidence will close on 20th July 2026. Visit

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/accesstobankingservices> to take part.

Norfolk and Suffolk ICB - Audiology Service Review



Norfolk and Suffolk
Integrated Care Board

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk Integrated Care Board is currently reviewing audiology services in our area. They would like to hear

from:

- People who use audiology services
- Family members or carers
- Community groups or organisations who support people to access audiology

If you would like to tell them about your experiences with audiology and hearing support services and help them understand what works well and what could be improved, then please complete the survey by the **28th June**. Visit

<https://www.letstalkhealthandcare.co.uk/audiology-services-review>

Farmer Welfare Grant

Defra is tripling previous funding for farmer mental health and wellbeing support, with a total of £1.5 million available over three years from this summer. This funding will support targeted interventions to strengthen personal and business resilience in the agricultural sector.

We are getting in touch as you have previously engaged with us on the Farmer Welfare Grant and we are now finalising our application guidance.

To help us understand the level of interest in the Farmer Welfare Grant, we welcome your views through our [pre-market engagement survey](#). All questions are

optional, and responses will not be linked to any application, but we would greatly value your views on potential applications. The survey also includes an opportunity to share feedback on the grant, and it will close at the end of **Tuesday 16th June**.

Information sharing duty introduced in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act.



The Department for Education is seeking views on their statutory guidance on the information sharing duty introduced in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act.

They are seeking views on draft statutory guidance, including a data sharing agreement template. These are designed to:

- set out the new information sharing duty, and who it's for
- help organisations and practitioners to interpret and apply the legislation in practice

The duty will apply from September 2026.

The statutory guidance is intended to:

- promote consistent implementation
- support a cultural shift in how information sharing is understood and practised across sectors

It will replace the [Department for Education's existing guidance on information sharing](#). The statutory guidance on [working together to safeguard children](#) will still apply.

They are seeking responses from safeguarding organisations and their practitioners.

To support responses to this consultation, they are hosting a number of national webinars on the information sharing duty to provide more information, foster discussion and answer any questions. You can visit the website

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/mais-strategy-policy-and-programme-unit/statutory-guidance-for-information-sharing-duty/> for more information.



Making care home choices

Knowing Works (previously Healthwatch Suffolk) are working with Suffolk County Council to understand people's experiences of choosing a care home – whether for themselves or for someone else. They want to hear from anyone who has faced making this decision, so we can help to improve the information and support available to families across Suffolk. <https://knowingworks.co.uk/choosingacarehome/>

A survey for home schooling young people



This is an opportunity for young people educated at home to participate in Suffolk's biggest survey of young people's wellbeing - My Health, Our Future.

Please encourage young people to take part if you can.

<https://knowingworks.co.uk/mhof-athome/>

Have you needed to use non-emergency patient transport?



Since 1 April 2026, Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services in Suffolk have been operated by Health Transportation Group (HTG-UK). Knowing Works (previously known as Healthwatch Suffolk) know people's experiences can be affected when services change hands, both in positive and negative ways. They want to know what is working well, and what could be different about your experiences.

<https://healthwatchesuffolk.co.uk/news/neptsfeedback/>



Call For evidence: Rural Resilience and Off Gas Grid Heating

The APPG for Rural Services has launched a new inquiry into Rural Resilience and Off-Gas Grid Heating, focusing on the challenges facing rural households as they navigate rising energy costs and the transition to net zero.

The inquiry will explore:

- The affordability of heating for off-gas grid homes
- Practical pathways to decarbonisation
- The suitability of current Government support for rural communities
- Barriers to achieving net zero in rural areas