

The Essential Guide to SKMoney

April 2010 – March 2011

The Basics

What is SKMoney?

SKMoney provides money for young people from Stockport to have more things to do and places to go. The money is from funds from the government (called the **Youth Opportunity fund** and **The Youth Capital fund**).

If you are a young person you can apply for money by linking up with a worker from a youth or community organisation (called a **sponsor**) who will support you with your idea, and by completing an application form.

Who runs it?

The money is held by Stockport Council (Services for Young People), but the decisions on which ideas should be funded are made by groups of young people from across Stockport who have been trained to do this (they are called **grant-making panels**). They meet up to consider and discuss your applications and decide on how the funds will be given out.

You can apply for money if...

- You are aged 13 – 19 (or up to age 25 if you have a disability or special need)
And.....
- You live or attend school or college in Stockport
And.....
- Your sponsor organisation works in the Stockport area

More about the funds

There are 3 categories of funding and they all have different application forms, so make sure you complete the right one!

The Youth Opportunity Fund (Individuals)

If there are circumstances, where you have an opportunity to take part in an activity that will be of major benefit to you, and you cannot afford to do so, you can apply for individual funding. For example you may need the fees to join a sports or arts programme, clothing for a job interview or equipment for college.

- We cannot fund ICT equipment or driving lessons
- We will look favourably on bids that include extra benefits to the local community or to other young people
- The maximum you can apply for is £750
- The total funding available for 2010 – 2011 is £7255 (5% of the Youth Opportunity Fund budget)

The Youth Opportunity Fund (Groups)

This fund allows you to apply for money for youth activities and projects. For example sports, creative projects, community events, visits and outings. The more imaginative the idea the better! The money can be used to pay for things like hire costs, tickets, transport, staff costs, equipment and resources.

- There needs to be at least two young people writing the application form and taking lead roles in the project if it gets funded.
- Schools can not apply for activities taking place in school time.
- If you are applying for funding for activities providers may have to be checked and approved by Stockport Council
- The maximum you can apply for is £5000
- The maximum you can spend on equipment is £2500 (If you want to spend more than this on equipment you will need use a Youth Capital Application, see below)
- The total funding available for 2010 – 2011 is £137,846

The Youth Capital fund

This fund allows you to apply for money to improve youth facilities for young people. For example redecoration of a youth centre, fitting a new kitchen or music studio, or putting up a new teen shelter in a park. The money can pay for things like large items of equipment, fixtures and fittings, and the costs of design and installation.

- There needs to be at least two young people who are writing the application form and taking lead roles in the project if it gets funded.
- If your project needs planning permission, or permission from any other organisations to go ahead, we expect you to have got this in place by the time you make your application.
- We can not fund mini-buses
- We cannot fund projects in schools that will be mainly used within school hours
- The minimum amount you can apply for is £2500
- The maximum you can apply for is £20,000
- The total amount of funding available for 2010 – 2011 is £138400

All projects must be completed and the funding spent by 31st March 2011. Any unspent money has to be returned to SKMoney. If you receive funding you and your sponsor will have to supply evidence of everything you spend, (usually receipt or invoices). You will also have to tell us how it goes and your sponsor will have to fill out forms giving us information on the numbers of young people who have benefited (We call this [monitoring and evaluating](#)).

More about sponsors

What is a sponsor?

A sponsor is a worker from an organisation that works with young people in Stockport. It might be a local youth worker or youth leader, a Connexions Worker, a Key worker, social worker, community worker, housing worker, volunteer or teacher.

If you receive funding the organisation will hold the money on your behalf, and must support you in completing the application and in running the project. They will have to work with you to tell us how the project goes and collect the financial evidence.

If you don't have a sponsor you should contact your local participation worker for advice. (See contacts on the back page).

More about how the grant making panel make decisions

Applications are more likely to get funded if they fit in with lots of the factors shown below. (These are called the **criteria**)

The most important thing is that project **ideas come from young people** and not adults. The strongest applications will also show clear evidence of the work young people have done in putting together the application and show that, if funded, young people will be involved throughout the whole project.

Young people on grant making panels give priority to projects which help young people in at least one of the following ways:

Be healthy

e.g. have good physical fitness; a balanced diet; good emotional health; be able to make the right choices concerning smoking, alcohol, drugs and sexual health.

Stay safe

e.g. have safe places to go; be free from fear, bullying, abuse and discrimination.

Enjoy and achieve

e.g. have things to do and places to go; have opportunities to learn new things.

Make a positive contribution

e.g. help improve things for other young people or the local community; be a good citizen.

Achieve economic wellbeing

e.g. have enough money to access learning opportunities; know what you want in the future and be able to achieve it; learn how to manage money.

Any young person can apply for money but, some young people in particular circumstances may get priority. This is because sometimes they may get fewer chances to take part in activities and for various reasons, may have fewer places to go. These young people include:

- **Young people from disadvantaged areas**
- **Young people with disabilities**
- **Young care leavers**
- **looked after young people**
- **Young offenders**
- **Young carers**
- **Young refugees**
- **Young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people**
- **Young people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds**
- **Young people from travelling communities**
- **Young people from rural communities**
- **Young people not in education employment or training**

Grant makers will try to make sure that the projects we fund are **good value for money**.

It doesn't matter what day of the week you want your activities to take place, but young people on grant-making panels will be using the funds to try and increase activities and youth provisions which take place on **friday nights and at the weekends**. This is because research shows that there is not enough for young people to do on these days.

Ideas for **new activities and new groups** will also get priority.

What are the main reasons why ideas/projects are not funded?

- The application does not fit in with the SKMoney criteria, or does not fit in as well as other applications
- The group is still running another project funded by SKMoney
- Groups/sponsor organisations have not completed monitoring and evaluations from previously funded project
- Groups/sponsors have previously been funded and not completed their project as agreed
- The application is for an activity/resource which is substituting mainstream funding for SKMoney funding.
- All funding has already been given to other projects

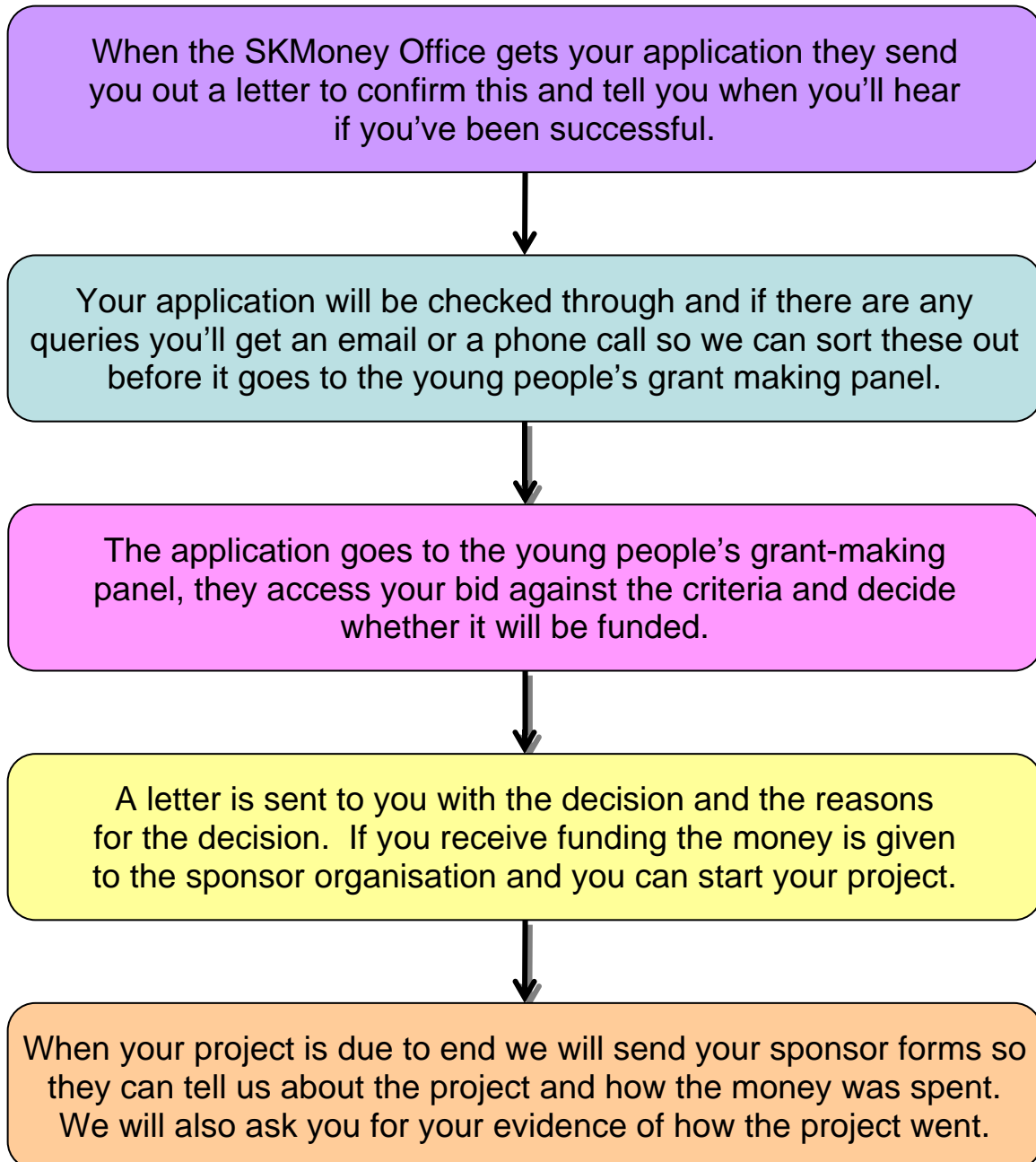
Getting help and advice from the SKMoney Team

- 1) If you don't have a sponsor organisation we can help you find one
- 2) If you need extra advice on filling out the form we can talk to you over the phone, give email advice, or come out and meet you or your group
- 3) If you are working really hard on your application and would like this to be recognised by gaining some accreditation, we can help you achieve this. (We help you work towards a certificate from AQA which shows that you have learnt key skills for writing funding applications)
- 4) If you are interested in joining one of our grant making panels we can arrange this

To get help and support please contact the worker who is based in your area (see contacts on the back page).

If your application is turned down and you would like feedback or advice on what to do next please contact the Participation manager (see contacts on the back page).

What happens when you submit an application?



Key Dates

Youth Opportunity fund

Date application submitted by.....	Date you will be informed of decision by.....
30 th April	28 th May
4 th June	2 nd July
9 th July	6 th August
20 th August	17 th September
24 th September	22 nd October

Youth Capital fund

Date application submitted by.....	Date you will be informed of decision by.....
28 th May	2 nd July
27 th August	1 st October

Contacts

Participation Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Georgina Edye georgina.edye@stockport.gov.uk ○ 0161 474 3637 07800 618 080
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Administration and Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helen Forber skmoney@stockport.gov.uk ○ 0161 474 4438
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