

WINSFORD TOWN COUNCIL



GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS APPLICATION FORM

CONTACT DETAILS

Name of Organisation: Winsford United Youth FC U10's Lions

Contact Person: Lindsey Walton-Hardy (Parent Representative)

(Part of the broader Winsford United Youth structure: Winsford United, The Barton Stadium, Kingsway, Winsford, CW7 3AE)

E-Mail for grant application:

Team Email:

Winsfordunitedlions@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.winsfordunitedfootballclub.co.uk/teams/280621>

Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Winsford-United-Youth-FC-U10s-Lions-61555818850026/>

Telephone:

ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION

Type of organisation (please indicate)	• Voluntary/Community organisation • Community amateur sports club • Unregistered community group • Club/Society
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What is the purpose of your organisation?

Part of the broader Winsford United Youth setup, Winsford United Youth FC U10's Lions (Winsford Lions) are a community-focused team.

The **Winsford Lions** were established in March 2024 by Mike Greatbanks, a School teacher from Winsford. The team was formed, not because another universal generic football team was needed, but because there was evidence that a void existed that needed to be filled for those children who required additional support and a tailored approach and Mike stepped forward to do this.

The Winsford Lions Team consists of young boys who have consistently struggled to fit into other teams, be accepted for who they are or feel included or supported, often leading to a reduction in confidence, social interaction and friendship opportunities all resulting in a decline in behaviour and self-worth. The Winsford Lions team addresses these barriers and provides a safe, meaningful, supportive environment where the boys really feel valued and part of something bigger where they are creating lifelong friendships!

The Lions is made up of 16 members, 85% of whom are diagnosed with a **neurodivergent condition**, meaning they have sensory sensitivities, communication differences, social interaction challenges, intense interests or challenges in regulating their emotions, which on paper could pose a problem, however the team is managed by someone who truly understands neurodiversity and tailors the approach to achieve the best possible outcomes for all the boys.

The team trains twice a week at Knights Grange sports complex and plays a match weekly. Initially, losing the majority of their matches, but more recently the team has started to win! The time, effort, commitment and support for each other which they demonstrate, each and every week, has started to pay off and it is evident to see on their faces how proud they are of their achievements and support for each other. In saying that the result never bothers the boys or the coaches, it is about being together, turning up for each other, representing their community and enjoying the experience.

The team is run by volunteers, the coaches are phenomenal, and do so much for the members, not only as coaches but as role models for the boys. In 2025 they won the Winsford United FC coaching team of the year which is testament to their approach and commitment!

DETAILS OF FUNDING REQUESTED

What is your project called?

Winsford Lions - Belgium 2027 Football Tournament

Describe your project and what you would do with a Winsford Town Council grant:

The Winsford Lions team has been given the opportunity to represent Winsford and participate in an exciting football tournament in Belgium in 2027, playing against teams from across Europe.

The trip will take place from 28th May 2027-1st June 2027 and consists of travel to Belgium by Coach/Ferry, self-catering accommodation and enrolment into fast-paced football fixtures on an international stage, which will offer so many positive outcomes for the players as well as providing them with memories of a lifetime! For many of the players, this will be their first trip overseas!

The trip has a negotiated set cost of £465 per person which includes all of the above. If successful, the Winsford Town Council grant will contribute towards the costs of the players attending. The cost is not subsidised in any way, so parents/carers are having to raise the funds to enable participation in the event and for many, in the current climate, this poses a barrier.

The Team are undertaking many other activities in order to raise funds alongside this application, including; car wash, raffle, football cards, cake sales, car boot sales, silent auctions and applications for CWaC member budgets.

Tell us the main things your project is hoping to achieve:

1: Build Self Confidence and increase participation.

2: Improve mental health and wellbeing and independence.

3: Team Building and exposure to new cultural and social experiences.

Tell us about who within the boundaries of Winsford Town Council will directly benefit from your project i.e. how many, age range, special needs, location:

14 young people will be participating in the tournament all aged between 10-11 years. 12 of these players (and their parent/carers) are from within the boundaries of Winsford Town Council and **11** are diagnosed with a **neurodivergent condition**.

If working with children (i.e. anyone under 18 years) please append a signed, written statement of your child protection/vetting procedures. Please indicate here whether this includes police vetting request procedures

Safeguarding policy attached as required by the FA guidelines (Governing body). All coaches undergo enhanced DBS checks.

List three ways in which your project will make a difference to your organisation/the community of Winsford:

1. Gives the team the opportunity to represent their community on an international stage, raise the profile of the community and celebrate their achievements.
2. It enables the organisation to continue to demonstrate long term commitment for growth and improvement and sustainability to the team and its members.
3. It is giving the young members (and their parents/carers) of the Winsford Community the opportunity to adopt broader perspectives and appreciation of cultural differences.

Describe the geographical area in which your organisation works:

The team trains and plays home games at Knights Grange Sports Complex, Winsford, but travels across Cheshire to participate in away fixtures.

The team is run and managed by volunteer, Mike Greatbanks, who resides in Winsford and 100% of the team members are residents of Winsford and surrounding areas.

PROJECT COSTS AND FINANCES

How much will your overall project cost? £13,950.00

Overall project cost includes 30 attendees (14 members/players, 14 parents/carers and 2 coaches @ £465 per person) Parents and coaches will cover their own costs, however we are looking to raise the funds to cover the cost of the members/players.

What will funds from Winsford Town Council be used to pay for?

Item **	Total Costs £	Requested funds from Winsford Town Council£
Cost of 14 'Lions' (Members) @ £465 per person which includes, travel, accommodation and enrolment fee for tournament.	£6,510.00	£2,500
Grand Totals	£6,510.00	£2,500.00

** Where possible, please provide any quotes and estimates – **Please see attached**

Where else have you approached for funding for this project?

Please indicate if any of these contributions have been secured.

Contribution requested from	Total (£)
The 7 Cheshire West and Chester Councillors have been approached in relation to their member budgets and to date 3 have responded with offers of support.	To date, offers of support from Councillor Pardoe, Councillor Beveridge and Councillor Bingham. All happy to support the cost of one member each (£465 each). Total: £1,395.00 Pending
Currently fundraising via Raffles, cake sales, Car Wash, Car Boot Sales and silent auction.	Fundraising ongoing - events are planned for the coming weeks/months so have not yet completed/taken place. Please see attached Raffle poster. Income TBC – Pending

Currently looking at other small grant/donation opportunities which we may be eligible to apply for to make up the remainder of the funds.

TBC

Has the organisation applied previously to the Town Council for a grant?

NO

If yes, please give details, including – if you were successful, about the project funded by Winsford Town Council

(Unsure if Winsford United FC has applied separately for any funding in the past, however, I can confirm that this is Winsford United Youth FC U10's Lions first application).

If the organisation were to be successful in securing a grant, please provide payment details below

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DECLARATION

I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the above organisation.

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct.

If the information in the application changes, I will inform Winsford Town Council as soon as possible.

I give permission for Winsford Town Council to record the details of my organisation electronically and contact my organisation by telephone, mail or email with information from time to time.



Date: 6th May 2026

Please refer to the Winsford Town Council Grants Policy in making this application (the policy can be found at)

CHECKLIST

Please enclose the following with your application. Applications will only be processed once all this information has been received.

Latest annual accounts	Governing Document
Policy documents (if required)	Copies of written estimates
Copy of bank statements	

Please return completed application form to: Winsford Town Council, 2nd Floor, Wyvern House, Winsford CW7 1AH

Email: mail@winsford.gov.uk