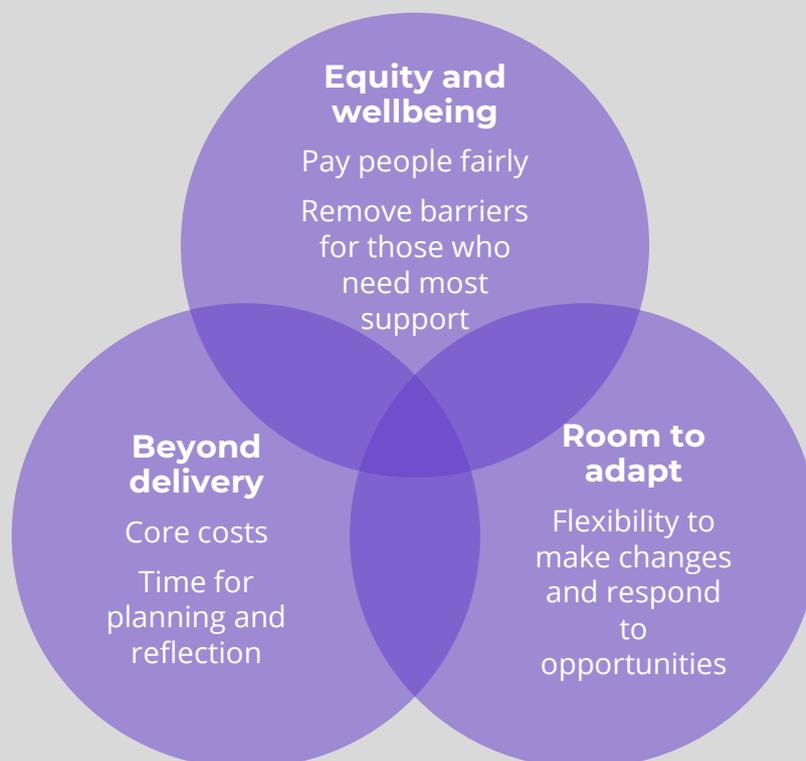


Budgeting Principles

What's the purpose of these principles?

These principles provide an approach to budgeting that is fair and sustainable. After consulting with applicants, we know there are lots of wrong assumptions about what funders want to see in a budget. As a result, people often present budgets to us that maximise delivery costs and so-called 'value for money,' and minimise overheads, planning and reflection time.

We've drawn up three principles that are important for quality and sustainability.



Budgeting principles explained

1. Embed equity and promote wellbeing

Paying people fairly should be a priority. A good hourly rate becomes a poor hourly rate if you budget one hour for a task that takes two. As a minimum, you should pay the [real living wage](#). But freelancers should usually expect more than this.

Include budget to remove barriers to access. These might cover things like travel, food, or equipment. If you charge young people to attend sessions, ensure this is not a barrier. A flexible and easy-access fee remission policy is a must. Access costs might also be relevant for the workforce, particularly if you're partnering with disabled people or people on low incomes.

2. Think beyond delivery costs

The delivery of music activity for children and young people is likely to form a large part of your overall budget. Venue hire, music leader fees and equipment are all essential elements of a Youth Music project. But time for planning and reflection is also essential. This will ensure that you execute well and adapt to what you're learning.

Many not-for-profits don't have the luxury of regular core funding. Ensure you recoup the real value of core costs from your project funding. This is essential if you want to be a sustainable organisation.

Youth Music funding proposals must contain a mix of delivery costs and core costs, but you can set the ratios for each. Think about project-based core costs as well as ongoing costs, for example updating your safeguarding or equality, diversity and inclusion policies.

3. Leave room to adapt

Build some flexibility into your budget by including some contingency costs. This gives you room to adapt in response to learning. It gives you more space to innovate, respond to young people or take up new opportunities.

We rarely increase overall grant amounts but have a flexible approach to budget changes, so long as our grants criteria are still met.