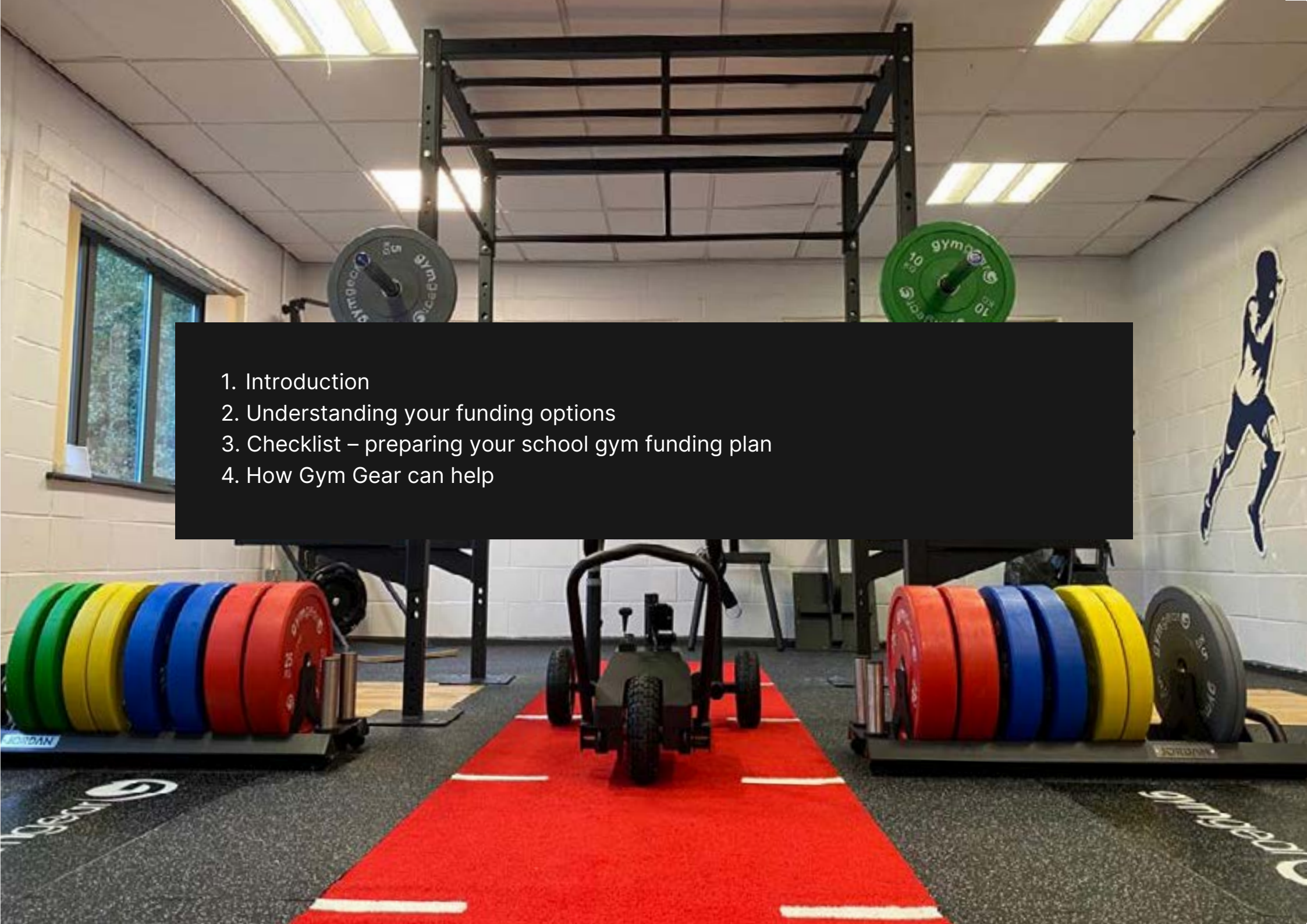




School gym funding checklist

Active Futures

Building confidence through school gym design

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1. Introduction
2. Understanding your funding options
3. Checklist – preparing your school gym funding plan
4. How Gym Gear can help

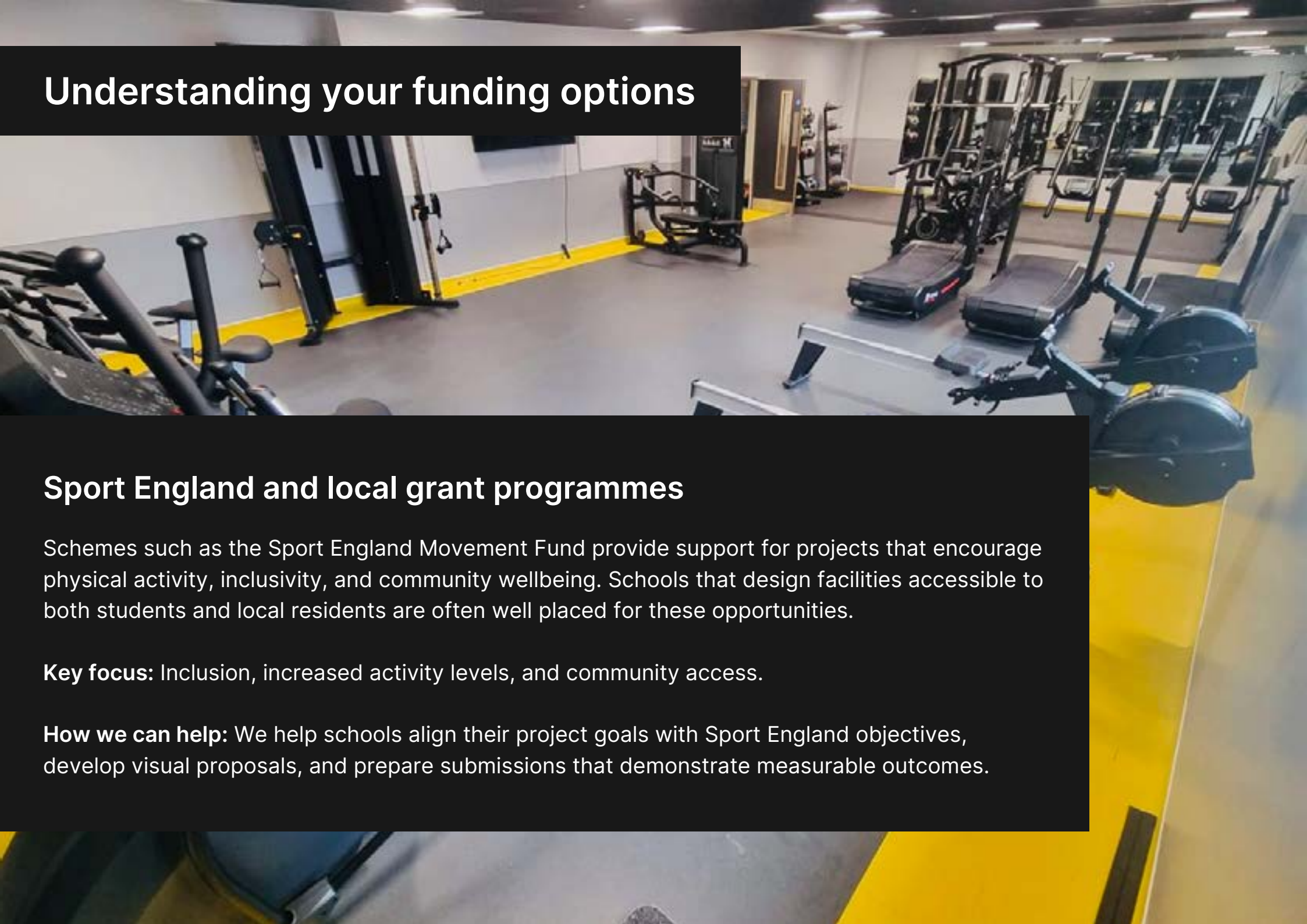
Introduction

Upgrading or installing a school gym is one of the most effective ways to improve student wellbeing, participation, and confidence. The challenge for many schools isn't the why - it's the how.

A range of funding routes exist to support fitness and wellbeing projects in education, but understanding which one fits your facility's needs can be complex. Each has its own objectives, eligibility criteria, and evidence requirements.

This guide gives you a clear overview of the main funding options available, along with practical steps to help you prepare your project. Whether you're modernising an existing gym or creating a new space from the ground up, Gym Gear can help you identify the right route and design a facility that meets both your educational and funding goals.

Understanding your funding options



Sport England and local grant programmes

Schemes such as the Sport England Movement Fund provide support for projects that encourage physical activity, inclusivity, and community wellbeing. Schools that design facilities accessible to both students and local residents are often well placed for these opportunities.

Key focus: Inclusion, increased activity levels, and community access.

How we can help: We help schools align their project goals with Sport England objectives, develop visual proposals, and prepare submissions that demonstrate measurable outcomes.

Understanding your funding options

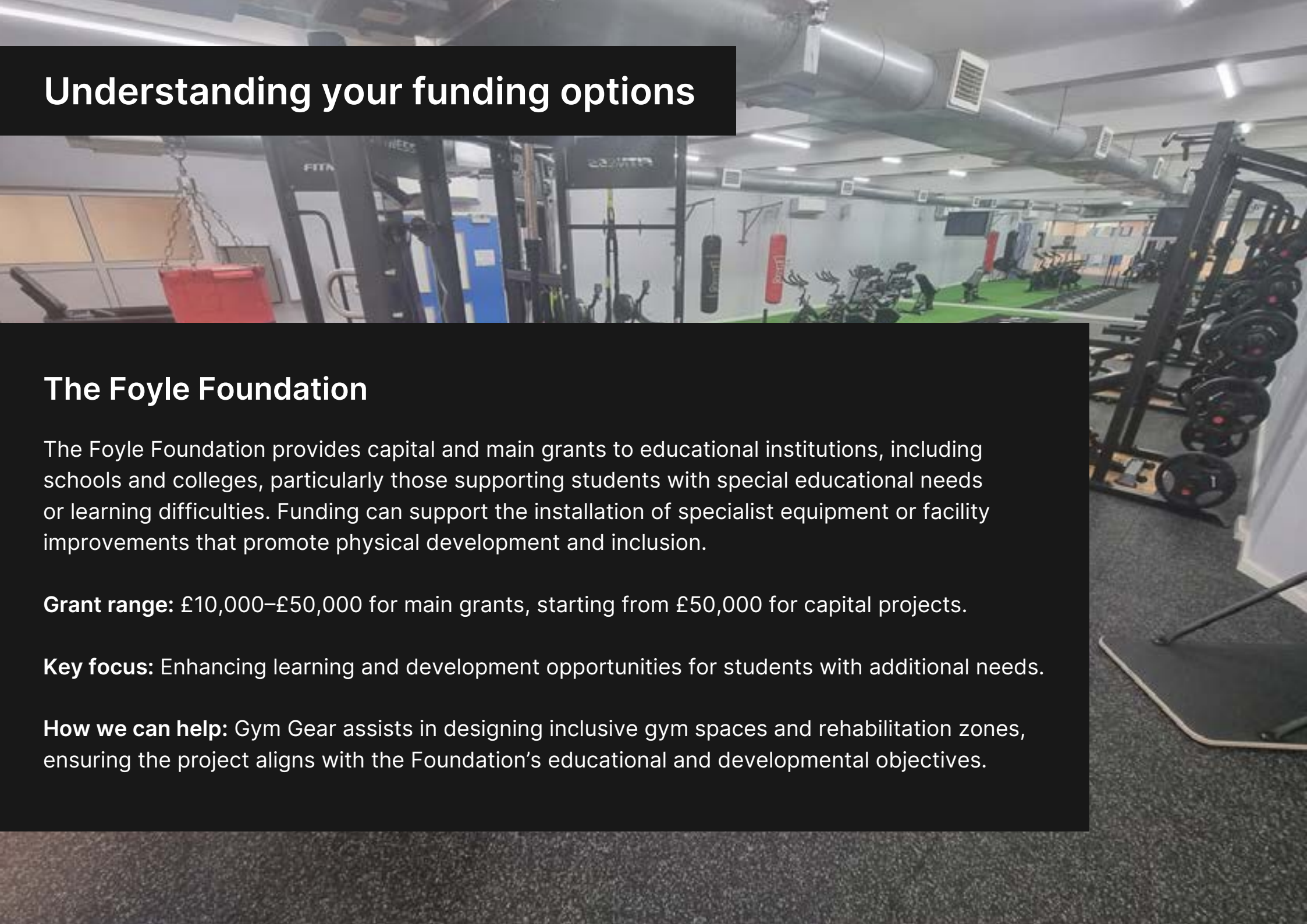
The Foyle Foundation

The Foyle Foundation provides capital and main grants to educational institutions, including schools and colleges, particularly those supporting students with special educational needs or learning difficulties. Funding can support the installation of specialist equipment or facility improvements that promote physical development and inclusion.

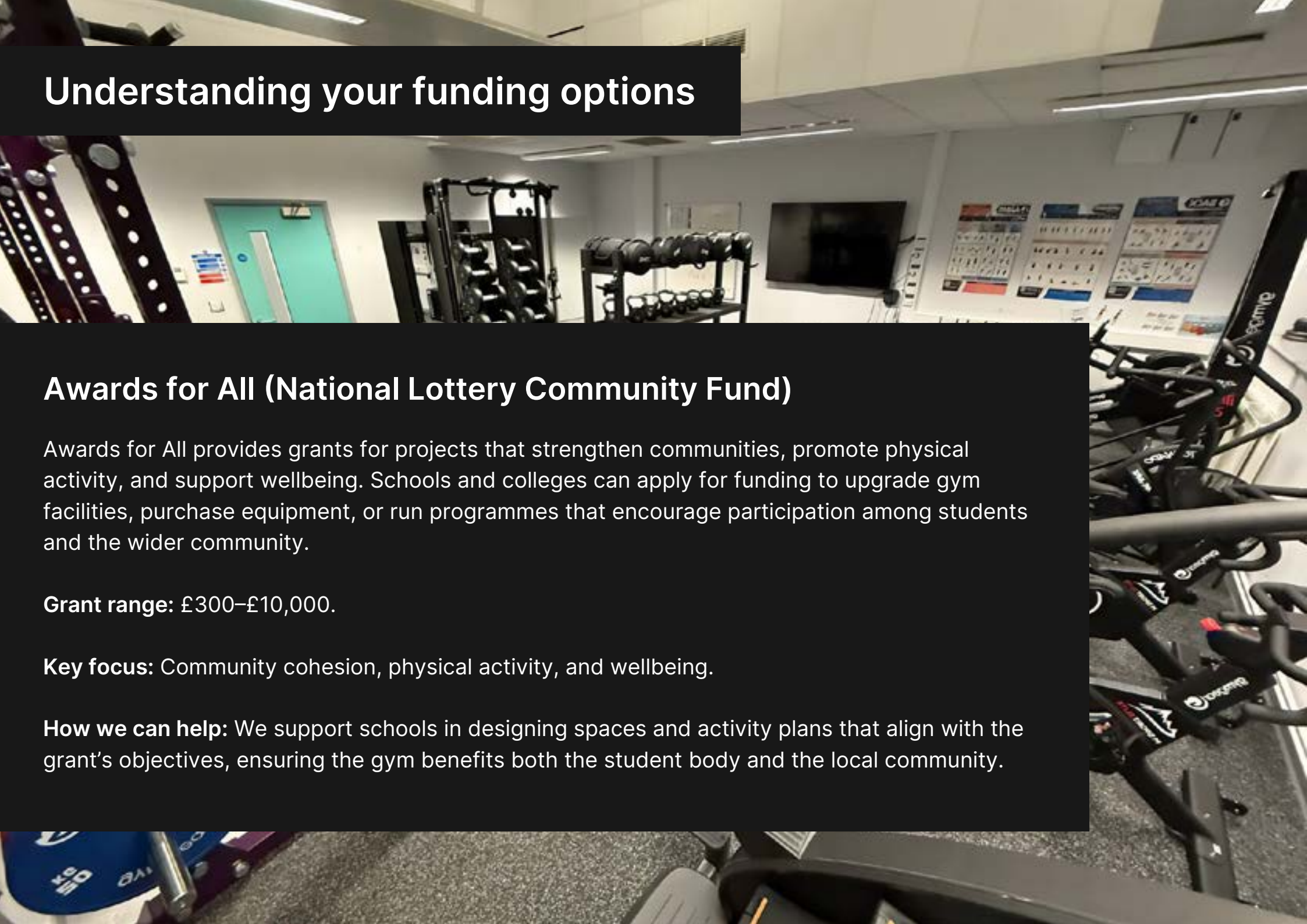
Grant range: £10,000–£50,000 for main grants, starting from £50,000 for capital projects.

Key focus: Enhancing learning and development opportunities for students with additional needs.

How we can help: Gym Gear assists in designing inclusive gym spaces and rehabilitation zones, ensuring the project aligns with the Foundation's educational and developmental objectives.



Understanding your funding options



Awards for All (National Lottery Community Fund)

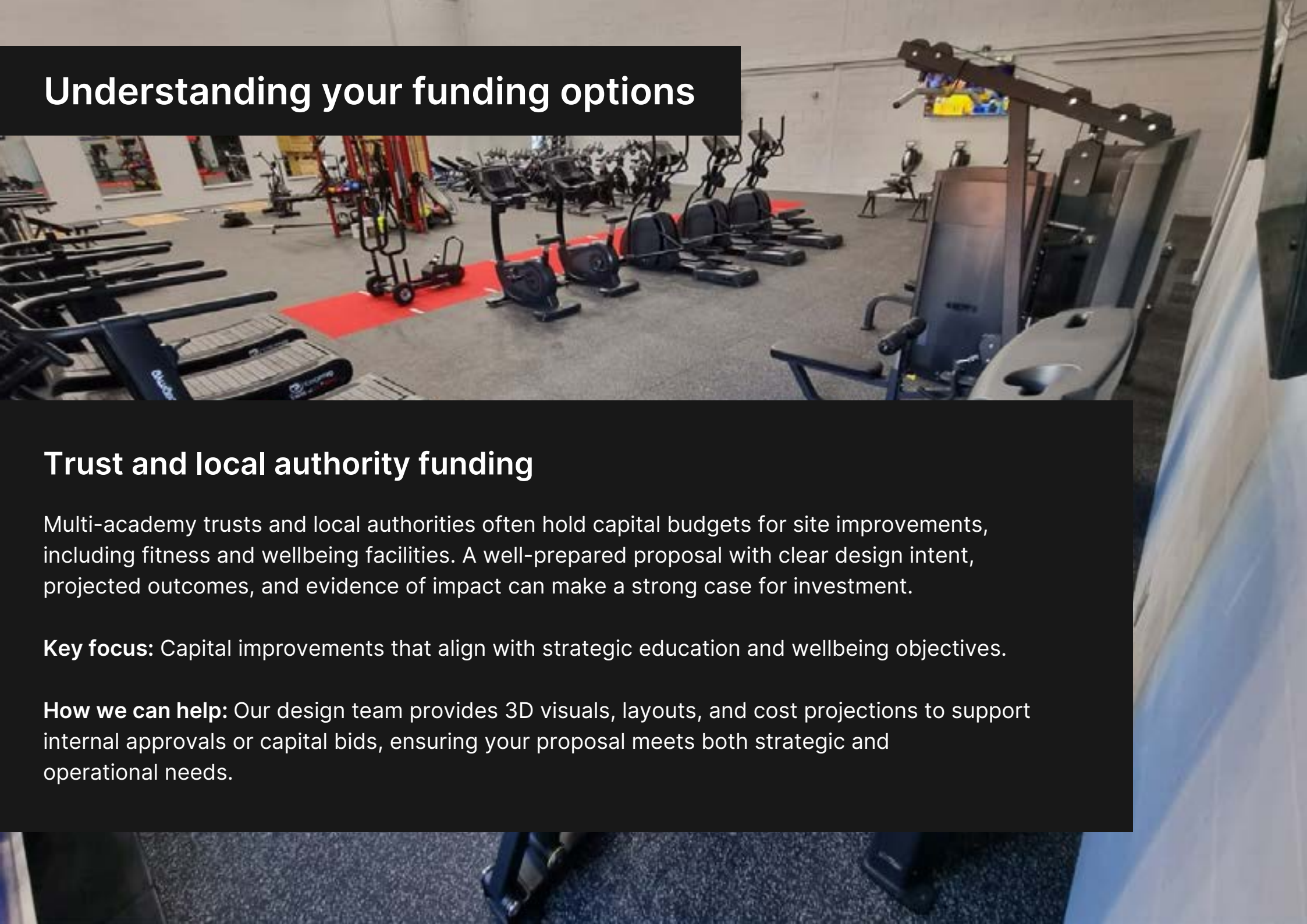
Awards for All provides grants for projects that strengthen communities, promote physical activity, and support wellbeing. Schools and colleges can apply for funding to upgrade gym facilities, purchase equipment, or run programmes that encourage participation among students and the wider community.

Grant range: £300–£10,000.

Key focus: Community cohesion, physical activity, and wellbeing.

How we can help: We support schools in designing spaces and activity plans that align with the grant's objectives, ensuring the gym benefits both the student body and the local community.

Understanding your funding options



Trust and local authority funding

Multi-academy trusts and local authorities often hold capital budgets for site improvements, including fitness and wellbeing facilities. A well-prepared proposal with clear design intent, projected outcomes, and evidence of impact can make a strong case for investment.

Key focus: Capital improvements that align with strategic education and wellbeing objectives.

How we can help: Our design team provides 3D visuals, layouts, and cost projections to support internal approvals or capital bids, ensuring your proposal meets both strategic and operational needs.

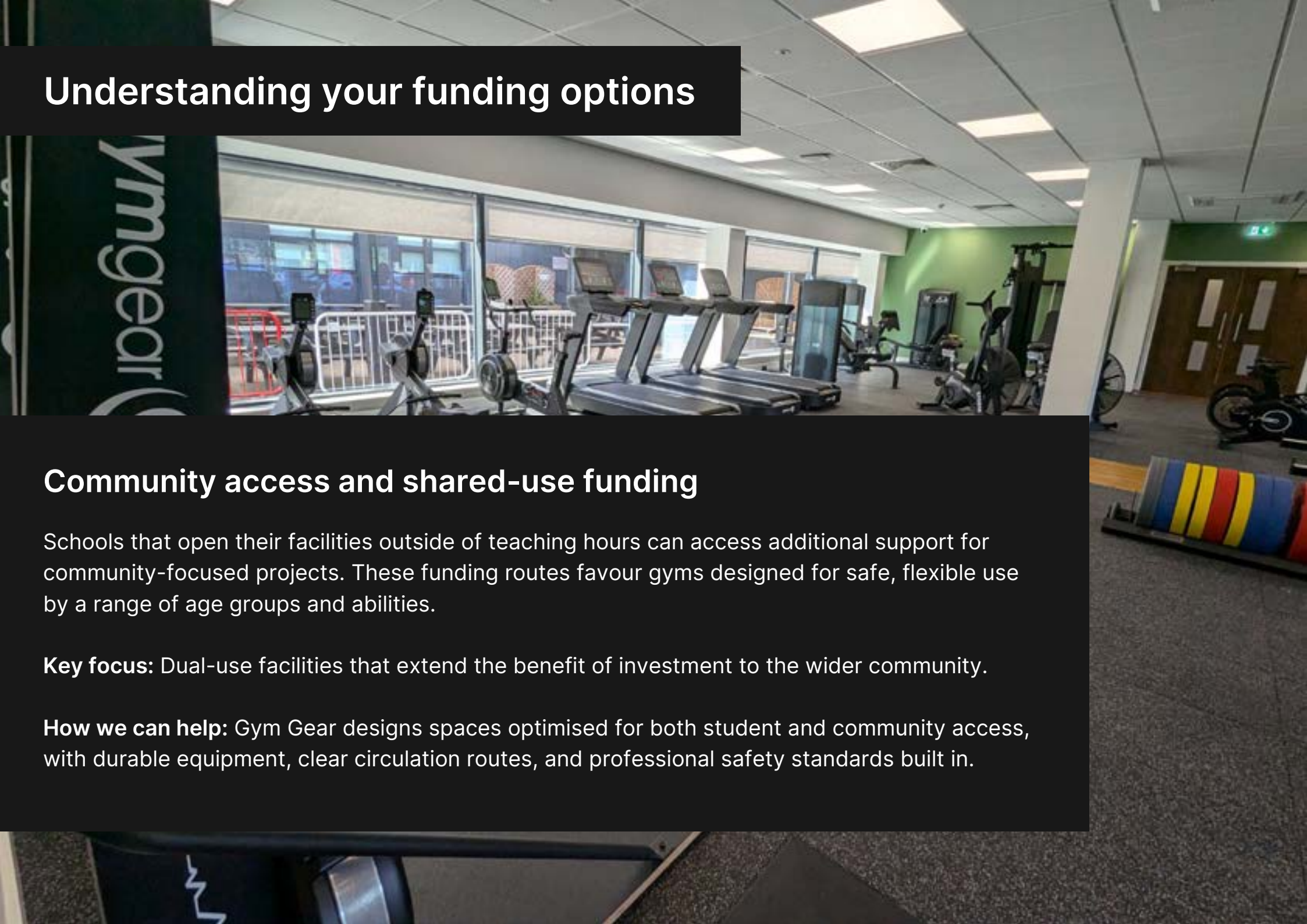
Understanding your funding options

Community access and shared-use funding

Schools that open their facilities outside of teaching hours can access additional support for community-focused projects. These funding routes favour gyms designed for safe, flexible use by a range of age groups and abilities.

Key focus: Dual-use facilities that extend the benefit of investment to the wider community.

How we can help: Gym Gear designs spaces optimised for both student and community access, with durable equipment, clear circulation routes, and professional safety standards built in.



Understanding your funding options

Leasing and flexible finance options

When funding is limited or unavailable, leasing provides a practical way for schools to complete gym projects without large upfront costs.

Gym Gear offers direct leasing and rental solutions with no third-party lenders or inflated fees allowing schools to spread the cost of equipment and installation over manageable terms.

Key features:

- Flexible structures including finance lease, operating lease, and rental agreements.
- End-of-term options to extend, upgrade, or purchase equipment.
- Inclusive packages covering equipment, flooring, accessories, delivery, installation, and ongoing maintenance.
- Direct partnership with Gym Gear – no brokers or hidden costs.

How we can help:

Our team will guide you through the best leasing structure for your project, helping you maximise value and complete your gym installation even when budgets are tight.

Checklist – preparing your school gym funding plan

Keep this checklist handy as you plan your project - print a copy of this page to share with your team. [Print here](#)

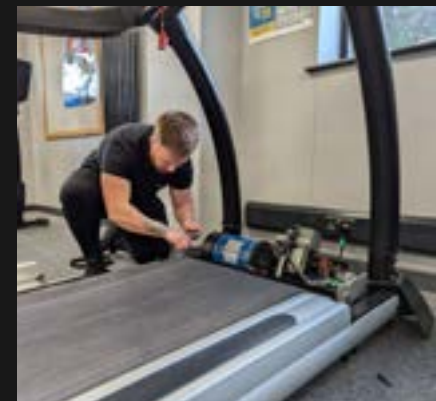
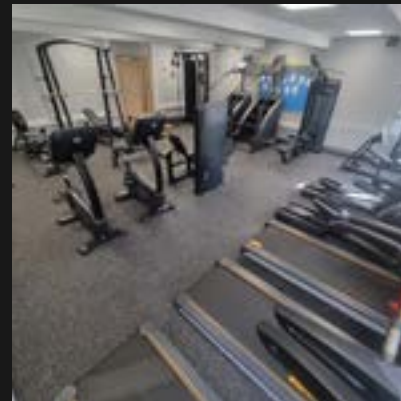
- ☐ Define your project goals and who it will benefit (students, staff, or community).
- ☐ Identify available space and any refurbishment needs.
- ☐ Research which funding options align with your objectives.
- ☐ Gather data to support your case (participation rates, wellbeing metrics, curriculum links).
- ☐ Prepare a design outline or 3D visual to help decision-makers picture the outcome.
- ☐ Source costed equipment quotes that meet safety and inclusion standards.
- ☐ Plan for sustainability and maintenance to show long-term value.

If you would like support working through these steps, our team can guide you from planning to proposal and delivery.

How Gym Gear can help



- Free design consultation including detailed 3D visuals.
- Advice on aligning your project with PE & Sport Premium or Sport England funding priorities.
- Proven experience delivering successful education installations across the UK.
- Complete design, installation, and aftercare service for lasting results.



Every successful funding application starts with a clear, credible plan. Whether you are exploring options or ready to move forward, our education team can help you find the right path and turn your vision into a space that inspires activity and confidence.

Speak to our team at: gymgear.com or 01772 428434 for a free consultation.

