



somerset
COMMUNITY | FOUNDATION



Annual Review 2019/2020



Message from our Chairman and CEO

As we write this introduction to the 2019/20 Annual Review, the 'business as usual' we are reporting on feels like a very distant memory in the light of the way all our lives have been turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic.

However, I'm pleased to say that 2019/20 was a very successful year for Somerset Community Foundation: we increased the amount of funding we provided to our local charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises through our Foundation grants programmes by 52%. This was supported by solid growth in the number of donors and fundholders giving through the Foundation.

In particular, we continue to provide essential funding to small, local grassroots organisations that are committed to the health and wellbeing of their local communities. In our beautiful county it is often easy to overlook the hardships and challenges too many people face on a daily basis. As a rural county, smaller organisations are vital to addressing needs of national significance like loneliness, low social mobility, and mental health.

We have always been proud to support their work and to be a champion for the sector. Helping people change the world on their doorstep is a tremendous privilege – whether they are running a project receiving funding from us or making a donation to fund those projects.

The importance of the organisations we fund has been brought into sharp relief by the pandemic. The ingenuity and commitment the sector has shown in its response to the pandemic has been incredible to see and we are so proud to be able to support them in partnership with local and national funders. As they have stood by us and our loved ones through 2020, we will stand by them in the months and years to come.

We wish to personally thank our small but very committed team of staff, volunteers, and trustees for their tremendous efforts throughout 2019/20 and during the ongoing pandemic. We particularly wish to thank Richard Lloyd, who has been a trustee since 2015 and is retiring from the Board at the 2020 AGM, for his dedicated service. Above all, and on behalf of all of us at the Foundation, we want to express our deep gratitude to our donors and partners for everything they do for Somerset.

01 Our impact in 2019/20

02 The need for our work

02–03 Changing the world on your doorstep: Giving through Somerset Community Foundation

Somerset Philanthropy Network

Named funds

Gifts in Wills

The Somerset Fund

04–05 Creating strong, vibrant communities

06–07 Reducing loneliness and disadvantage

08–09 Advancing health and wellbeing

10–11 Transforming lives

12–13 Enriching lives through arts and the environment

14 Helping communities through the coronavirus outbreak

15 Hidden Somerset

16–19 Hinkley Point C Community Fund

20–23 Foundation grants made to organisations during 2019/20

24–25 Our supporters



JANE BARRIE OBE DL
CHAIRMAN



JUSTIN SARGENT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Our impact in 2019/20**

Value of regular SCF funding: **£1,181,405** ↑ Overall funding has grown by 52% since last year

405 Grants awarded to organisations and individuals

Somerset residents supported **109,244**

£2,462 Average grant size

* Not including the HPC Community Fund

* These financial results are subject to auditor and trustee approval as at 1/11/20

WHAT LOCAL CHARITIES SAY ABOUT US



We'd like to thank SCF for all of the support we and our communities have received, especially during the recent and very challenging times

We have always found the SCF team to be very professional, helpful and responsive. Thank you!

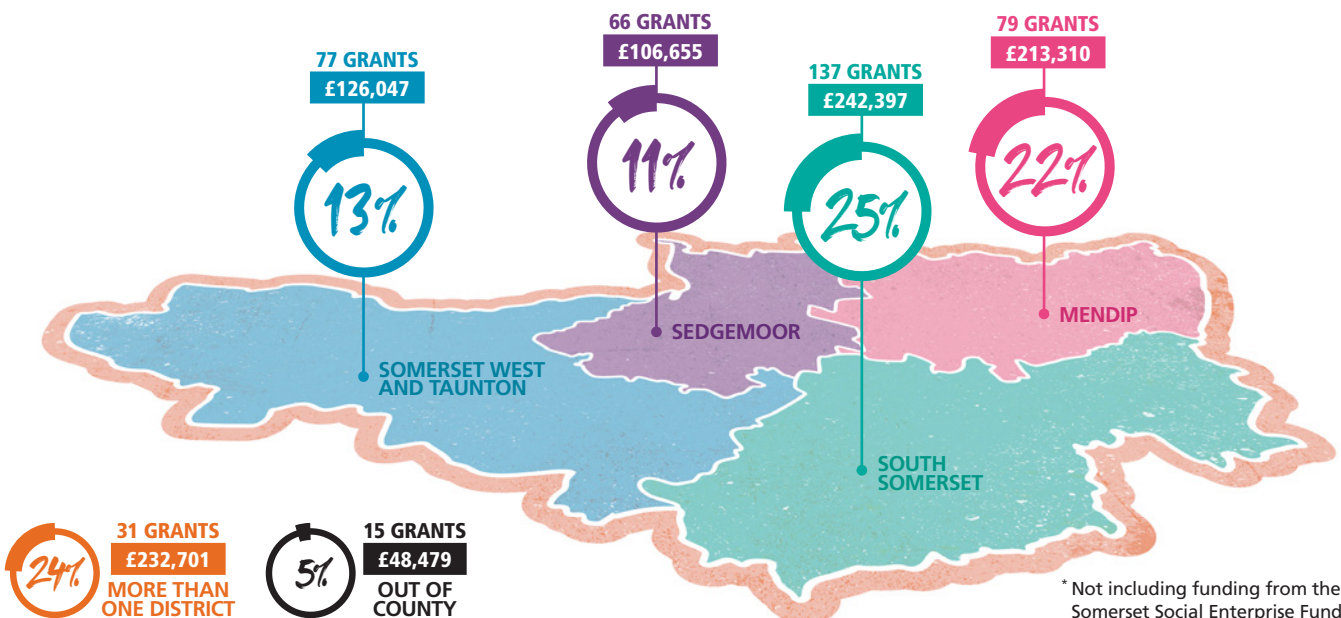
Applying for funding or seeking support for a charity can be daunting but the team make it easy. SCF are very keen to encourage networking between organisations which helps everyone to maximise their opportunities

The SCF team understand the challenges faced by charitable organisations and the application process is timely, efficient and easy to understand

SCF provides the right support exactly where it is needed and the staff are always supportive and helpful



GRANTS AWARDED: THE DIFFERENCE WE'RE MAKING ACROSS SOMERSET



* Not including funding from the Somerset Social Enterprise Fund

The need for our work

There are many reasons to love living in Somerset: plentiful green space, beautiful countryside, fantastic local food and drink, a relaxed pace of life, to name a few.

But the rural idyll masks rural realities. For those facing extreme financial hardship, getting to the nearest foodbank or Citizens Advice service to access help can seem insurmountable. For a young person growing up in a low-income household, travelling miles on rural roads to get to college or undertake an apprenticeship can put opportunity too far out of reach. For older people, or those living alone without transport, isolation and loneliness are often made worse by the physical distance from support groups or social activities.

Which is why we're passionate about funding small, local charities that change lives at hyper-local level. As 2019/20 drew to a close and the coronavirus outbreak turned our lives upside down, we saw them come into their own as they worked tirelessly and creatively to help those in need and keep our communities strong.

But research published in March 2020 showed that 25% of local charities had less than 3 months' reserves, and 65% stated that funding was a key challenge.

As more people in Somerset face difficult times ahead, our ambition is to inspire more generous local donors and partners to give through the Foundation to help us to help our communities build a strong and robust future.

Changing The world on your doorstep: Giving Through Somerset Community Foundation

SOMERSET PHILANTHROPY NETWORK

CONNECTING PASSIONATE PEOPLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Somerset Philanthropy Network is an influential and engaged group of donors who are passionate about supporting Somerset. Members donate £1,000 a year or more to the Foundation and have networking opportunities to deepen their understanding of local needs, network with other members, and be inspired and uplifted by people and projects that change lives every day.



NAMED FUNDS:

MAKING GIVING SIMPLE

Named Funds offer families and businesses all the benefits of a charitable trust, without time-consuming administration. We provide expert philanthropy advice and ensure your donations make a real difference to the places and causes you care about most.

You'll get regular updates and case studies from projects you've funded alongside opportunities to visit local charities and network with like-minded supporters. In essence, we make local giving simple, rewarding and impactful.

JANE'S STORY:

FINDING JOY THROUGH GIVING

Jane and her husband have a Fund with SCF that supports a range of good causes.

“The Foundation is the only organisation that supports lots of different charities in the county; we didn't want to just focus on one charity but wanted our giving to reflect the variety of our interests.

By having a Fund with SCF we can really see the impact – directly and easily. I've been able to get involved with some of the charities we've supported and can really understand the need and see that our donations are being used effectively. It's a very fruitful and life enhancing thing to do.” Jane, Fundholder



Highbridge Food Bank, who received a recent grant from Jane's Fund

GIFTS IN WILLS:

COULD YOU SUPPORT SOMERSET FOR GENERATIONS TO COME?

Leaving a gift in your Will is an incredible way to change lives in Somerset for generations to come. Donors can name Somerset Community Foundation as a beneficiary in their Will to help us respond to urgent need, or can set up a Named Fund that will be held in our endowment to support a place or theme they are passionate about.

You can leave a gift of cash, shares, or property in your Will, and donating 10% or more of your net estate to charity can reduce the Inheritance Tax on the remainder of your estate from 40% to 36%.

DONALD'S STORY: THE DONALD LAKE MEMORIAL FUND

Donald Lake, from Yeovil, was a widower when he passed away and he left his entire estate to charity. His executors decided to invest the proceeds from the estate in our endowment, creating the Donald Lake Memorial Fund in 2010.

Since then, in Donald's name, we have awarded more than £15,000 of grants to support older people in Somerset. A recent grant has enabled an After Stroke Group in Chard to help people to recover from the life-changing impacts of a stroke.



Kate Lawson, volunteer at Chard and Crewkerne After Stroke Group

THE SOMERSET FUND:

CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

In 2018, we established The Somerset Fund to unite local businesses and families in support of small, local charities. All donations to The Somerset Fund are matched by 50% before being awarded as grants, meaning every gift makes an even bigger impact.

The Fund offers an easy and rewarding way to support a wide range of causes, from youth clubs to village halls and social clubs for older people. Donors can benefit from networking and volunteering opportunities, as well as regular updates on the difference their donations have made.

PURPLE ELEPHANT RECEIVED A GRANT IN 2019 TO RUN SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES IN FROME

“A lot of families struggle in the school holidays. Funding from The Somerset Fund helped us to run our summer activities programme, which aims to reach those facing challenges in their lives. For those who can't drive or who struggle to afford activities for their kids, having something on their doorstep is crucial. We also provide lunches every day, making sure those struggling families can have a wholesome, healthy meal. A lot of parents tell us our activities are a godsend.” Sue Willis, Founder Purple Elephant



A Purple Elephant summer family activity day in Frome

Creating strong, vibrant communities

£116,351

Value of grants awarded

67

Number of grants awarded

12%

Proportion of grants awarded

Over the next ten pages, we aim to give a sense of the breadth of life-changing work we fund across Somerset. Most importantly, we want to give a platform to some of the local charities we've funded in the last year and the brilliant people who, through these groups, work tirelessly to make a difference.

This year we've chosen to focus on groups we funded in 2019/20 who then sprang into action to support our communities through the coronavirus outbreak. Their stories are a testament to our nimble, innovative and dedicated local voluntary sector.

It has never been more important to build and sustain strong communities. Communities where people feel like they belong, where they feel looked after and supported, and where they share history, experiences and a common cause with others.

Over the last year, we've funded a wealth of projects that have helped to bring people together, strengthen community infrastructure and facilities, and build those emotional connections that make people feel like they belong.

We've supported community buildings from the planning phase right through to ongoing maintenance and essential adaptations. In Coxley, we helped the Community Land Trust pay for the professional fees incurred to progress a land purchase. This is an ambitious project that will see the village gain its own community hub.

Building your own village hall or community centre is a huge challenge, but as any trustee of a community building knows, the work does not stop there. We've also helped the trustees of Brent Knoll Parish Hall to improve the audio in their building and helped the members of Lymsham Sports Club to install energy efficient lighting.

Many rural communities have seen their access to essential services taken away with closures of Post Offices, GP surgeries or village shops, leaving many isolated and struggling. With that has come a surge of communities that have taken matters into their own hands, like the villagers of Roadwater, who have come together, bought their village shop and now run it with a team of dozens of volunteers, with support from our Somerset Social Enterprise Fund.



Volunteer Janet tends to the raised beds at Roadwater's new shop and community hub



The Roadwater shop and post office starting to take shape, thanks to investment from the SSEF

Cherry Bird, Secretary to the Community Benefit Society (CBS) Roadwater Community Shop tells us about how the finance package from the **Somerset Social Enterprise Fund (SSEF)** to rebuild and expand a crucial village shop and add a café has created a hub that supports the whole community.



"Roadwater is in a very rural location in west Somerset. Ours is the only shop for miles around and used not only by people in the village but also from surrounding hamlets and farms. A lot of older members of our community are less able or willing to go out to larger shopping centres – even more so since the coronavirus outbreak – so the service we provide here is much appreciated by many.

The finance from the Somerset Social Enterprise Fund was enormously helpful in helping us get the project off the ground. Since the rebuild many villagers have been astounded at the variety of products they can buy from us. And as a result of the renovation, the shop is spacious enough for our customers to socially distance, so everyone feels safe.

There are a number of cottage industries in the area and we are an outlet for their produce: the jams, honey, meats, cheeses etc., are very popular with customers, so it's also good for the local economy.

One elderly gentleman was delighted when he discovered we had everything he needed and he would no longer have to travel miles to get his shopping from a supermarket.

Our Post Office service also means the local business owners don't have to travel miles to make postal transactions.

A lot of young families use us too. The nearest bus stop is around 1.5 miles away so it can be quite difficult for a one car family once the main income earner for that household has driven the car to work.

There's always been a very strong sense of community in the village, and we have around 50 volunteers helping to run the shop. At the beginning of the lockdown we started a home delivery service and many volunteers helped us with that. It has since evolved and we now have a 'pairing service'; members of the community who are shielding or unable to leave their homes easily have been paired with a dedicated volunteer who will do their shopping or drop off a prescription, which is another service we provide.

And once the café is back up and running fully, it will also serve as a community centre and information hub that hosts drop-ins such as a talking café and digital advice for the community."

Reducing loneliness and disadvantage

£310,268
Value of grants awarded

123 Number of
grants awarded

32% Proportion of
grants awarded



Loneliness affects people of all ages and can have a profound impact on our quality of life, happiness and health. Research has shown that, perhaps surprisingly, young people aged 16–24 report feeling lonely more often than older age groups.

We are inherently social creatures and human connection and friendships are a vital part of a happy, well-rounded life. But thousands of local people struggle to make those connections without access to private or public transport.

A recent survey showed that 94% of local young people stated that transport is a barrier to them accessing opportunity.

Lack of transport is a common challenge in Somerset. Around 4,000 local older people live in a rural village with no access to transport. Many of our poorest families also struggle to afford public transport or social or extra-curricular activities, which can make parenting an intense and lonely experience.

We're proud to have funded many wonderful charities and community groups who are working tirelessly to bring people together. From local Men's Sheds that bring older people together to talk, create and have fun, to support groups for new mums, and summer holiday clubs for low-income families. Their work is vital to reducing loneliness and disadvantage and increasing the sense of belonging people feel within their communities.

2019/20 also marked the 10th anniversary of our Surviving Winter campaign, which encourages those who don't need their Winter Fuel Payment to donate it to some of the 10% of Somerset households living in fuel poverty.

Surviving Winter



Every year, we support around 500 older households with a financial grant to help them stay warm, safe and well alongside helping them to access specialist support and advice on everything from finance and benefits to social and community groups.

"The Surviving Winter campaign appealed to me right from the start. If everyone who can afford it gave their Winter Fuel Payment to Somerset Community Foundation's Surviving Winter appeal, hundreds of our pensioners across Somerset would have a more comfortable winter."

**Michael Eavis,
Founder of Glastonbury Festivals**



Mildred's story is testament to how your incredible support of the campaign makes a very real difference in difficult times.

When she became widowed, Mildred found it increasingly difficult to afford to heat her home on just a state pension alone. She told us how a Surviving Winter grant, and the support and advice she received from our Surviving Winter partner, has had a life-changing affect.



I've lived on my own since my husband died a few years ago. My cottage doesn't have central heating, and it can be quite draughty as it's an old place. The doors don't really shut properly anymore. I have to buy logs and coal to keep the place warm. It can start to cost quite a lot, especially in the winter, and your state pension doesn't go far.

It's always a concern to me, whether or not I'll be able to afford to pay for the fuel throughout the winter, and it causes me a great deal of worry every year. My health is not what it was and I feel cold all the time, now.

The Surviving Winter grant made a huge difference to my situation. It felt like a great weight was lifted and I felt more settled knowing that with that extra help I could afford to keep my home warm. It also meant I worried less about my health, which is deteriorating.

Since receiving the Surviving Winter grant, with the help and support of the Surviving Winter partner, I'm now receiving Pension Credit too, which is a great help financially.

I'm very grateful for the extra support from Surviving Winter, it's improved my situation so much for the better."



Advancing health and wellbeing

£290,877
Value of grants awarded

115 Number of grants awarded

30% Proportion of grants awarded



Ups and Downs Southwest offers support to families of children with Down Syndrome

In their Women's Centre in Bridgwater, The Nelson Trust supports vulnerable women and girls with multiple and complex needs with practical and emotional support



There are steps we can all take to improve our health and wellbeing. They include being physically active and connecting with others. They also include learning new skills, and giving back to the community.

That's why, in the last year, we've supported amateur football clubs in Porlock, Watchet, Bridgwater and elsewhere. We've also supported short mat bowls in Brompton Regis and disabled and visually impaired cricket teams. We've even given grants to support American football, basketball and Taekwondo.

It's also why we helped to train over 20 community groups in Mental Health First Aid. Each group now has at least one member who knows how to identify, understand and help someone who may be experiencing a mental health problem.

These grants can bring positive health benefits to many people in our communities. But it's important to remember that some people may need some more targeted support. That's why we're passionate about funding groups that are led by and for people who face barriers to improving their health and wellbeing. In the last year that's included projects that work with women, such as The Nelson Trust, who support women to overcome addiction and trauma, and Frome Birth Talk, who provide counselling for women experiencing post-natal depression, and Bridgwater and Taunton Deaf Club, who provide support and friendship for people with hearing loss.

We've also funded several groups that work with homeless people, who often have complex physical and mental health needs that require specialist or intensive support. With the support of our partners, we're helping to ensure everyone has the opportunity to build healthy and happy lives.

Ian McLaren, Trustee,
talks about how
funding has ensured
The Minehead Hope
Centre Trust can
continue offering vital
support to people with
complex needs in West
Somerset



The people who use the Centre tend to be people who feel excluded from society generally: rough sleepers, those with drug or alcohol problems, people who feel isolated or lonely, or those with mental health problems. We promote social inclusion by seeking to relieve their needs and helping them to find hope in their lives. Alongside emotional support, we offer regular free haircuts, foot care, food and clothes.

At our drop-ins, people can come along and feel listened to and accepted. And we find that after a while they will open up to us, allowing our project workers to help them to find a way forward, by encouraging them to reach out for other help they may be entitled to, so they can live their lives to the fullest. We'll also make phone calls on their behalf if they don't have access to, or in some cases don't know how to use, a mobile phone.

Before the coronavirus pandemic around 20 people per session would come to our drop-ins, which were held twice a week. We would see different faces every week, and the people who came along were aged anywhere from 20 to 70-something. During the crisis, we've opened three times a week and see up to 15 people at each session. We're keeping in touch with people by phone every week, too.

We rely very heavily on our volunteers and simply couldn't do the job without them, but the funding from Somerset Community Foundation has meant we've been able to keep our two part-time project workers, and it has paid for further training and the longer hours they have had to work since the coronavirus outbreak. The support we've received from SCF has allowed us to feel more secure about delivering our work now and in the future."

Our message is:
We're here to
give people a
helping hand.



Transforming lives

£192,496
Value of grants awarded

53 Number of grants awarded

17% Proportion of grants awarded



Youth Unlimited deliver outreach youth work at Lyngford Park, where many young people from Taunton spend their spare time

We support projects across Somerset that help to transform lives, improve social mobility and provide life-changing opportunities that remove barriers to help both children and adults reach their potential.

In the UK, one in eight young people have a diagnosable mental health problem. It's not always easy for young people and their parents to access the support they need, especially in a rural county where services may be far from home.

We're proud to support a number of local projects providing counselling and therapy for young people, including The Space in Cheddar which helps to improve young people's mental and emotional wellbeing and resilience. Early interventions such as these can have a huge impact on a young person's life.

More than 15% of young people in Somerset have special educational needs or a disability, which can mean families face additional financial challenges, care needs and a lack of respite from their caring responsibilities. Projects that help young people and families access therapeutic and fun activities, as well as much-needed respite, are vital. Escape Support Group supports families with children with disabilities, organising subsidised activities and days out for the whole family, alongside regular peer support groups for parents and carers.

Our grants also help marginalised and isolated groups, such as young LGBTQ+ people. Acceptance is crucial to the many young people who are coming to terms with their identity, and we have awarded grants to 2BU Somerset to deliver their LGBTQ+ peer led support to help reduce isolation, improve mental health and give young people across the county a safe space to open up and be themselves.



2BU Somerset offers a safe, peer-led space for young people exploring their identity

**Lisa Snowdon-Carr,
Youth Worker and
Director, tells us how
funding for remote
support helped
2BU Somerset reach
more LGBTQ+ young
people during
lockdown**



**Our message is:
if you're
struggling,
speak out and
let us help you.
It's OK to be you.**

We support LGBTQ+ children and young people up to 19 years of age, who live in Somerset and are exploring their identity, alongside running a peer-led group for young adults. Young people come to 2BU for many reasons: they may be struggling on their journey towards a healthy self-acceptance, they may feel isolated or alone, they could have had a difficult experience while coming out, or they might be scared about coming out.

We know it can be a difficult process; as an LGBTQ+ team, we've all been there. Meeting other LGBTQ+ people is a hugely validating experience, and finding a community and realising that you are not alone can be life changing.

We're a small, go-to organisation. Since the coronavirus lockdown, the funding from Somerset Community Foundation allowed us to quickly establish our support online. We subscribed to Zoom to secure our online provision, which we discovered had many benefits with regards to improving accessibility too. We were always very aware that some young people were unable to attend face-to-face support groups due to location or transport issues. With group and one-to-one remote online support, we're able to book in sessions, which has proved to be a huge success. An incredible 92% of our referrals have attended two or more sessions since we've moved to online – an increase of over 20% in engagement.

The funding has also helped us extend our staff hours and we now have someone looking after our social media presence, which has been another crucial means of communication during the pandemic."



Enriching lives through arts and the environment

£87,263

Value of grants awarded

47

Number of grants awarded

9%

Proportion of grants awarded

We believe it's important that everyone can access the arts and the great outdoors, and the multitude of benefits they offer our health and wellbeing.

Here in Somerset, we are lucky to be surrounded by beautiful countryside. Our breath-taking landscapes have inspired some of our most celebrated poets and give us ample space to walk, explore and enjoy the wildlife. With one in four of us experiencing poor mental health at some point in our lives, the benefits of art and nature on people's mental health and wellbeing are proven to be significant.

We're proud to have funded projects that help to remove barriers to accessing the great outdoors, like Mind in Somerset, who have been working in collaboration with the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to reduce isolation and build confidence for people with poor mental health by taking part in countryside activities within a supportive group.

Our funding also helped establish a permaculture community project in Shepton Mallet. The Food Forest Project works at a community level to help combat mental health issues, social isolation and chronic loneliness through the planting of food



Having this group gives me the opportunity to not only get outdoors but to spend time with other people and I have learnt new skills."

forests. The project helps low income households gain access to free nutritious foods and supports children and families to learn more about growing their own food whilst enjoying the great outdoors.

There is growing evidence that the arts, in all its forms, can improve the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of those who engage with it. The Cheese and Grain in Frome, which offers live music, artisan markets and other creative resources for the community, recently received investment from our Somerset Social Enterprise Fund to further improve its facilities.

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**Jenny Archard,
Director and Wellbeing
Lead, tells us how
funding for **Neroche
Woodlanders** allows
families to develop in
a safe place**



We work with disadvantaged families, and those who are in greatest need, from Taunton and the wider area. We also work with adults with mental health problems, and those who are socially isolated, homeless, or have a range of other needs.

A lot of people we work with don't have easy access to outdoors or don't feel confident about being outside and engaging with nature. Some are struggling with their confidence in parenting. Many experience stress and anxiety, which has increased since the coronavirus pandemic.

Social distancing is stunting people's development and growth because of the lack of interaction and experiences. We have seen how children have been 'wrapped up' and protected at home in confined spaces since the outbreak.

Our focus is a positive one: on healthy lives and a real relationship with the natural world. We enable families to find their own connection with nature.

We provide minibus transport to our place in the woods, which is one hundred acres of magical and beautiful forest on the edge of the Blackdown Hills. It's a safe space where parents can relax or sit in a quiet spot and talk, and the children have the freedom to go off and play on the rope swing or build dens in the woods.

Funding from Somerset Community Foundation has helped us to provide sessions in the woods that encourage families to play together, cook together, explore, take part in creative crafts and spend time around the campfire as a community. At the start of the crisis a further SCF grant allowed us to have a dedicated person who kept in weekly contact with 40 of our most vulnerable adults, providing an important lifeline for those who are isolated and experiencing mental health challenges, until we can start bringing them back to the woods once again."

**Our focus is a positive one:
on healthy
lives and a real
relationship
with the natural
world.**



Helping communities through the coronavirus outbreak

Wellington Carers Support Group delivered boxes of fruit to carers during Carers Week



We launched The Somerset Coronavirus Appeal in late March 2020 just before the lockdown came into place.

Since then, we have built a fund worth more than £1.25m thanks to the incredible generosity of local charitable trusts, businesses and individual donors, and funding from the National Emergencies Trust's Coronavirus Appeal.

Within a week of the lockdown being announced we had awarded our first grants to local foodbanks. Thanks to our generous donors, since then we have awarded £800,000 of grants to over 250 local charities, with two thirds of all grant applications funded within five days in the first 10 weeks of the appeal.

This **response phase** supported vital frontline services including food banks, Citizens Advice, mental health services, support for the homeless and local coronavirus volunteer groups and networks.

In July 2020, we moved into our **transition phase**, through which we provided a blend of different types of grants to help local charities and community groups respond to the medium-term impacts of coronavirus. This saw us offer funding for essential frontline services alongside vital core funding to help offset the significant losses in income many local charities have experienced as a result of coronavirus restrictions.

We are lucky in Somerset to have an excellent voluntary sector that has proven itself to be nimble, responsive and innovative.

Charities, community groups and volunteers have worked tirelessly and collaboratively to look after our most vulnerable. Groups have created new services and adapted existing services to continue supporting those in need online or by phone.

But the latest State of the Sector survey on Somerset's voluntary sector, published in March 2020, showed that **25% of local charities had less than 3 months' reserves, and 65% stated that funding and sustainability was a key challenge.**

As the largest dedicated funder of small charities and community groups in Somerset, we will do everything we can to help our charities and communities through the next year and beyond.

We will need them more than ever in the years to come.



Volunteers at Taunton Scrubbers made over 10,000 items such as operation gowns and scrubs caps for health care workers

Hidden Somerset



During the year, with the support of The Fairfield Charitable Trust, we were privileged to be able to produce three new research reports on areas of hidden need in Somerset.

Our Hidden Somerset reports are designed to raise awareness of some of the important issues affecting people in Somerset and deepen the understanding of the great work being done by local charities and groups to tackle some of our biggest challenges. The reports use a mix of local data and intelligence and case studies from dozens of local charities across the county to bring each issue to life. Our first reports focused on rural isolation, homelessness and youth disadvantage.

In addition to raising awareness, our aim through Hidden Somerset was to attract new funding to tackle the key issues the reports addressed. With that in mind, we held panel events to launch each report, bringing together SCF supporters and partners from the public sector to hear from charity leaders.

Our Hidden Somerset: Homelessness report has already leveraged funding which led to the creation of The Somerset Move-In Fund (launched in September 2020) which will provide grants to local charities to help local homeless people to furnish accommodation, helping them move into independent living. After a hiatus in 2020 during the coronavirus outbreak, we plan to continue our research and highlight new issues through Hidden Somerset from spring 2021.



The Hidden Somerset: Homelessness panel event, which leveraged funding leading to the creation of a new fund to help local homeless people furnish their homes



HPC Community Fund grants programmes



£1,161,605
Amount awarded

43 Grants awarded
this year*

£1,233,711
Amount of match
funding secured

April 2019 – March 2020

* Not including multi-year grants
awarded across all programmes

The Hinkley Point C (HPC) Community Fund continues to benefit local communities since its launch in late 2017. It has supported a diverse range of projects and initiatives, largely set up and run by local charities, community organisations and social enterprises, working at the heart of our local communities. During the year, over £3m has been committed to these projects, reaching a range of smaller 'grassroots' groups as well as larger organisations.

The Fund is part of a broader £20m community funding programme created through the planning agreement for Hinkley Point C and funded by EDF. It is helping to mitigate the impact of the construction of Hinkley Point C in local communities by improving local quality of life and wellbeing, whilst also ensuring opportunities created can be of direct benefit to people living in the area.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, some of the work we funded had to be paused, while some organisations were able to find safe ways to quickly adapt their methods of working to continue their projects.

For further detail and more stories from organisations the Fund has supported, visit: www.hpcfunds.co.uk or contact us to request a copy of the HPC Community Fund Annual Report 2019/20.



OPEN GRANTS

The Open Grants programme is available for any Somerset VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) organisation to apply for funding in response to the impacts or opportunities being felt in their communities as a result of the Hinkley Point C development. It was launched in autumn 2018. Thirteen new grants have been awarded in 2019/20 and one group received funding from a previously awarded multi-year grant.



“HPC funding is enabling PROMISEworks to expand and embed mentoring for vulnerable children and young people in the Bridgwater and wider Sedgemoor area. The recruitment of a dedicated member of staff to forge links with both sources of volunteer mentors and other organisations working within the community will ensure we are able to allocate long term mentoring support to those most in need.”

Ali Hart, Caseholder, PROMISEworks

OTTERHAMPTON RING FENCED FUND

The parish of Otterhampton was allocated funding of £500,000 within the Hinkley Point C site planning agreement. A team comprising members of the Parish Council and community representatives identify projects and schemes put forward by the community to mitigate impacts being felt within the parish. This year, four grants have been awarded.

SMALL GRANTS

This programme offers grants of up to £5,000 for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises with an annual income of less than £100,000. The Fund will also consider applications for up to £10,000, awarded over a three-year period, if the projects can demonstrate that they are addressing 'exceptional circumstances'. In this financial year, 35 groups received funding through the Small Grants programme, and the total amount awarded through this programme was £104,222 in grants*. Projects include supporting young people, improving employment opportunities, enhancing the local environment and developing local amenities.



“The grant from the HPC Community Fund allowed us to continue the story-telling and poetry workshops promoting the values of cultural diversity and building a true sense of community cohesion with newer members of our community, who moved here recently from overseas.”

Peter Stevenson, Chair,
The West Somerset Inter Cultural
Friendship Group

STRATEGIC GRANTS

This programme targets specific impacts felt within Somerset communities, identified through consultation with communities and their representatives in 2017/18. The Strategic Grants were awarded in 2018/19 and Community Cohesion was the first theme to be identified.

The second theme was Out of Hours Social Activities. These grants are now in their second year of three and we are reporting on their continued impact.



“Our aim was to minimise the impact of coronavirus on people's mental health by reducing the feelings of isolation that many were struggling with. The HPC Community Fund grant enabled us to adapt our work to fit the current situation, by creating an online event. In these unprecedented times we need to find different ways of coming together and this event really achieved that.”

Michal Puzynski,
BAME Community Engagement Officer,
Community Council for Somerset

* including multi-year grants

HPC Community Fund

Grants made to organisations during 2019/20

Hinkley Point C Community Fund Grants	Value of grants	Project description
Ashcott Village Hall	£5,000	Replacement chairs for community group use
Axbridge Cheddar Cycle Walkway	£5,000	Repair of the Axbridge-Cheddar cycle walkway offering a safe route between the communities
Bridgwater & Taunton College	£60,000	Working with young people from local schools to take advantage of opportunities presented by Hinkley Point C through apprenticeships
Bridgwater Parent Support Group	£2,845	A volunteer-led group offering support, advice and advocacy for families of children with additional needs
Bridgwater Talking News	£1,050	A volunteer-led project to deliver the news in audio format to isolated visually impaired people in Bridgwater
Bridgwater Unit 517 of the Sea Cadet Corps	£84,850	Renovation of the Sea Cadets' building widely used by the community
Burnham & Highbridge Sea Cadet Unit	£1,500	Installation of energy-efficient lighting for classroom and outdoor facilities to strengthen a valued community resource
Burnham and Highbridge Community Association	£1,700	The installation of new heating and lighting in three rooms at the Community Centre
Carry Me Kate Parenting Services CIC	£1,785	Parenting support for families in Bridgwater and west Somerset
Chedzoy Pre-School	£3,227	Educating the next generation by expanding curriculum topics and resources at Chedzoy Pre-School
Cheeky Chimps Pre-School	£1,000	A new range of children's play equipment for use during the day, as well as breakfast and after school sessions
Chilton Trinity Village Hall	£3,861	New equipment for the village hall to help support existing groups and open the hall to new users from the wider community
Community Council for Somerset	£132,634	Providing support, events and training to existing and incoming ethnic minority group workers and their families
Diversity Voice	£115,000	Providing legal and welfare advice, English language support, and events and training for incoming workers and their families
Escape Support Group	£5,000	Summer activities and excursions for families with children with disabilities in Sedgemoor and west Somerset
Friends of Somerset Bridge (PTA for Somerset Bridge Primary School)	£1,652	Summer holiday activities and experiences for disadvantaged young people involving crafts, healthy eating and sport

Continued

Hinkley Point C Community Fund Grants	Value of grants	Project description
Grace Advocacy	£5,000	Funding for a senior advocate to train new team members
Halsway Manor	£39,000	A creative arts project in four primary schools and their communities to celebrate local heritage
Harbour View Bar	£1,272	A new glass washing machine for a social club
I CAN	£69,748	A project of speech, language and communication interventions for children and young people in Sydenham and Hamp including support for parents and training for professionals
Magna Housing	£3,595	Activities for isolated elderly residents in Stogursey, to create bird, bat and hedgehog boxes
Mind in Somerset	£94,359	Funding a support worker to lead a team of volunteers offering mental health support in Bridgwater and coordinating community events
Minehead EYE CIC	£148,840	Funding of two youth workers to work in schools, youth groups and a college to deliver a resilience and wellbeing project for young people
Otterhampton Parish Council	£3,571	Community safety works
Otterhampton Primary School	£8,585	New IT equipment for the school and pre-school to deliver a broader curriculum and enable extra-curricular activity
Parochial Church Council for Stockland & Steart Peninsula	£4,911	Planning and preparation activities for refurbishing the church to become the local community space
PROMISEworks	£11,639	A mentoring project for vulnerable disadvantaged children and young people
Rusty Road to Recovery CIC	£4,783	Equipment for mechanical training sessions
Samaritans of Taunton and Somerset	£3,407	Focused outreach supporting vulnerable people in Bridgwater, Taunton and west Somerset
Sedgemoor District Council	£126,000	A support project run by Under Construction for women in Sedgemoor, involving mentoring, training and qualifications enabling them to move closer to employment
Somewhere House Somerset	£1,350	Workshops in schools concerning positive life choices, maintaining mental health and the dangers of drug-taking
St Francis Social Club for Visually Impaired People	£1,500	Providing support for transport and entertainment costs
State of Trust	£4,750	A series of events for schools to promote cultural diversity and social cohesion
Sydenham Rangers JFC	£1,777	New equipment for a community junior football club
Sydenham Table Tennis Club	£2,387	New equipment for a table tennis club
The Gift of Giving – Shoebox Appeal	£3,217	Expanding the storage area, supporting running costs and developing sustainability in a volunteer-led community project
The Hope Centre	£5,000	Extending the services available to homeless people in Minehead
The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey	£75,000	Employment of a Centre Manager to develop outreach and community use of the library
The West Somerset Inter Cultural Friendship Group	£2,200	Events for care homes, pre-schools and schools to highlight cultural diversity and foster understanding through music and stories from around the world
Wembdon Parklands and Community Together	£52,960	A project to re-develop parklands and make them more accessible and inclusive to the wider community
West Somerset Railway Association (WSRA)	£24,712	Funding a Community Engagement Manager to develop outreach work and create a volunteer programme to use the railway for community development
Work-Wise	£39,345	Funding for a job-club service in Bridgwater, encouraging and guiding those furthest from the job market back into work

Foundation grants made to organisations during 2019/20

Grants over £2,000

Mendip	Number of grants	Value of grants	Project description
Active and In Touch	4	£8,750	Tackling loneliness in the Frome area
Aster Communities	1	£5,500	Surviving Winter grants
Chewton Mendip V A Primary School	1	£4,111	Enhancing the play area
Children's World	2	£5,600	Support for young people
Citizens Advice Mendip	3	£6,500	Support for Citizens Advice services & Surviving Winter
Coxley Community Land Trust	1	£2,000	Community hub development in Coxley to address loneliness and isolation
Draycott Community Shop Ltd	1	£3,295	Improvements to community-run shop
Edventure Frome Community Interest Company	1	£5,000	Community enterprise courses for unemployed young adults in Frome
Elim Connect Centre	3	£3,500	Supporting vulnerable people in and around Wells
Fair Frome	1	£4,500	Emergency food provision
Federation of Priddy and St Lawrence's Primary Schools	1	£2,000	Development of a Forest School site
Frome Medical Practice CIC	1	£10,000	Surviving Winter grants
Mendip Community Credit Union	1	£2,000	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter
Mendip YMCA	1	£5,000	Routes drop-in centre in Frome
Openstorytellers	1	£20,320	Community hub for adults with learning disabilities and autism in Frome
Orchard Vale Trust	1	£15,651	Digital inclusion for adults with learning disabilities in Mendip
Project Factory CIC	1	£2,500	Community training sessions for disadvantaged people in Wells
Red Brick Building	1	£45,080	Therapeutic garden development for adults with learning disabilities in Glastonbury
Rotary Club of Frome Selwood	1	£4,350	Surviving Winter grants
Royal Bath & West Show Sports for the Disabled	1	£4,000	Renovation costs of a sports centre for the disabled
South Somerset MIND	1	£5,000	Mental health drop-in for young people in Frome
Sunny Gardens	1	£2,000	Social group for isolated, older people
The Dorothy House Foundation Ltd	1	£3,500	Hospice at Home service
The Food Forest Project	2	£4,000	Establishing a permaculture community project in Shepton Mallet
The Friendship Club Shepton Mallet	1	£2,000	Friendship club for older people
The Lawrence Centre	1	£4,700	Refurbishment of a community centre for older people in Wells
The Pod Youth	1	£7,500	Social club for young adults with learning disabilities in Frome
Wells Art Contemporary	1	£4,250	Displaying the work of adults taking part in therapeutic art programmes

Grants over £2,000

Sedgemoor	Number of grants	Value of grants	Project description
Brainwave	1	£3,750	Virtual therapy for children with disabilities
Bridgwater & Taunton Deaf Club	1	£4,760	Support for people who are deaf and hard of hearing
Bridgwater Foodbank	1	£2,000	Emergency support for foodbank
Cheddar Community Partnership CIC	2	£3,500	Mental health support for young people
East Brent Mini Day Centre	1	£2,300	Audibility improvements for a village hall
On Your Bike (Recycle) Ltd	1	£2,500	Purchase of van to support the social enterprise
Rodney Stoke Parish Council	1	£2,500	Improvements to a children's play area
Seed of Hope CIC	2	£5,000	Scaling up a therapeutic horticulture intervention in Sedgemoor
Somewhere House Somerset	1	£5,000	Counselling for people living with and recovering from mental ill health
The Nelson Trust	2	£9,000	Running costs of a new women's centre in Bridgwater
The United Parish of Crook Peak	1	£3,500	Renovation of a community space
Trust of Ellens Cottages	1	£10,000	Essential repairs and improvements to Almshouses
Wedmore Tuesday Club	2	£2,250	Social group for older, isolated people
Westfield United Reformed Church	3	£5,922	Support for vulnerable residents and the homeless in Bridgwater
Youth UnLimited CIC	2	£11,640	Developing skills in young people in Bridgwater

Grants over £2,000

South Somerset	Number of grants	Value of grants	Project description
Active Living – The Friday Club	1	£2,000	Social club for older, isolated people
ArchiesXtra	1	£3,000	Youth club activities for young people of Somerton aged 11–18
Art Care Education	2	£4,200	Using arts to promote wellbeing
Carymoor Environmental Trust	1	£2,500	Support for young carers
Citizens Advice South Somerset	2	£15,693	Support for older people, including Surviving Winter
Escapeline	1	£5,000	Supporting young people at risk from county lines gangs
GAPS	1	£2,500	Support sessions for families who are affected by special guardianship orders and adoption
Henhayes Centre	1	£2,500	Social group for older, isolated people
Henstridge Village Hall	1	£2,125	Refurbishing hall lighting and heating
Hidden Needs Fund Closure	1	£7,741	Support for children with additional needs
Hinton St George & Locality Rural Community Services	1	£3,000	New equipment for community owned shop
Langport Church Community Trust	1	£3,120	Support for older people and adults with learning disabilities
Lord's Larder Yeovil Foodbank	1	£2,000	Emergency food bank funding
People First Dorset	2	£44,985	Support for people with learning disabilities
Prodigal Bikes	2	£5,000	Bike maintenance skills for disadvantaged people in Yeovil
Seavington Playing Field Association	2	£4,000	Renovation of an outdoor play area and community garden
South Somerset Community Accessible Transport	1	£5,000	Community transport for isolated older people in Yeovil
The Balsam Centre	2	£7,250	Support for a Men's Shed and other mental health initiatives
The Lord's Larder Chard Foodbank	1	£2,000	Emergency food bank funding
The Wayfarers Club	1	£3,672	Social club for adults with learning disabilities in Martock
WHERE	3	£3,250	Social group for older, isolated people
Wild Roots	1	£2,000	Environmental conservation sessions for those who are isolated
Yarlington Housing Group	1	£5,000	Surviving Winter grants
Yeovil Shopmobility	1	£6,000	Providing a service to people with mobility problems

Grants over £2,000

Somerset West & Taunton	Number of grants	Value of grants	Project description
1st Wellington Scouts	1	£2,100	New camping equipment for a local scout group
aKa Dance Theatre Company	1	£2,514	Pilot partnership project delivering arts for health and wellbeing
Arts Taunton	2	£5,651	Young peoples' engagement in the arts
Blackbrook Friendship Club	1	£2,500	Friendship Club for older people
Brompton Regis Short Mat Bowls Club	1	£3,736	Equipment for a club in a remote rural community
Brushford Parish Hall	1	£3,500	Improving facilities and services for isolated men
Calvert Trust Exmoor	1	£3,333	Bursaries for adults with learning disabilities
Carry Me Kate Parenting Services CIC	2	£4,000	Parenting advice
Churchinford & District Village Hall	1	£2,100	Repairs to village hall
Citizens Advice Taunton	1	£4,000	Surviving Winter grants
Compass Disability Services	1	£2,000	Community kitchen to supply hot meals to vulnerable people in Taunton
Conquest Centre	1	£2,000	Equine therapy sessions for young people with disabilities
Dulverton and Brushford Pastimes Club	1	£2,250	Meals for isolated people
Engage Voluntary Sector Development	1	£2,500	Networking for community groups
Escape Support Group	2	£3,000	Support for children with additional needs
Exmoor Stars Festival	1	£2,520	Community music event
Forum 21	1	£15,500	Surviving Winter grants
Friends of Taunton Library	1	£2,255	Equipment for community-run library
GoCreate Taunton CIC	1	£5,000	Art exhibition at Taunton Pride 2020 for LGBTQ+ young people
In the Mix Youth Project	1	£3,250	Community cafe to bring together the generations in Wiveliscombe
Love Musgrove	1	£9,679	Neonatal equipment and support for people living with dementia
Luxborough Village Field and Hall Charity	1	£2,500	Contribution towards a playground for a rural community
Men in Sheds Taunton	1	£2,000	Set up costs of a new Men's Shed
Minehead EYE CIC	5	£16,613	Support for young people in Minehead
Neroche Woodlanders Ltd	2	£6,878	Outdoor education sessions for disadvantaged families in Taunton
Nether Stowey Wednesday Club	1	£2,000	Social group for older, isolated people
Newton Road Active Living Friendship Group	1	£2,000	Group for older people in Taunton
North Taunton Partnership	1	£3,850	Support for isolated people in North Taunton
Oake & District Community Shop Ltd	1	£4,000	Contribution towards community shop and Post Office relocation
Onion Collective	1	£3,000	Coordination of local volunteers and targeted support for vulnerable groups in Watchet
Parochial Church Council St Bartholomews Oake	1	£2,000	Improvements to a rural community building
Reminiscence Learning	2	£3,000	Supporting people living with dementia and their carers
ROC Taunton Deane	1	£4,000	Community mentor scheme for disadvantaged families with young children
Taunton Area Debt Advice	1	£2,500	Training for local debt advisers
Taunton East Development Trust	1	£2,000	Emergency food provision
Taunton Foodbank	1	£2,000	Emergency foodbank funding
Taunton Stroke Club	1	£2,000	Support for those who have had a stroke
The Milverton Mini Day Centre	1	£2,000	Friendship club for older people
The Minehead Hope Centre	3	£6,500	Support for local homeless people
The Salvation Army	1	£2,500	Food parcels for vulnerable people
Trinity Scout Group	1	£2,000	Storage shed for camping expedition equipment
Wimbleball Sailability	1	£5,000	Contribution towards core running costs
Wivey Cares	1	£5,000	Development of support service for older people in Wiveliscombe

Grants over £2,000

More than one district	Number of grants	Value of grants	Project description
Community Council for Somerset	4	£59,500	Support for rural communities, including Surviving Winter
In Control Partnerships	1	£56,580	Leadership for adults with disabilities and their carers
Mind in Somerset	1	£2,500	Mental health drop-in for young people in Frome
Navigate	1	£5,000	Capacity building for a financial literacy project
PROMISEworks	3	£19,000	Mentoring service for young people on the edge of care
Somerset Art Works	2	£6,600	Community arts projects in Taunton & Shepton Mallet
Somerset Counselling Centre	1	£3,000	Virtual counselling service for people with mental health needs
Somerset County Council	1	£3,000	Annual Achievements Awards for children looked after and care leavers
Somerset Cricket Board	1	£3,000	Disabled and visually impaired cricket
Somerset Wildlife Trust	2	£6,000	#YESS – Somerset's Youth Environment Summit 2020
Spark Somerset	10	£25,041	Training and coordination of local groups
SWEDA	2	£10,250	Support for people with eating disorders
Ups and Downs South West	1	£2,000	Educational film about Down Syndrome

Grants over £2,000

Out of County	Number of grants	Value of grants	Project description
Blagdon Parish Council	1	£2,000	Environmental enhancements for the community
Friends of Grove Park	1	£2,500	Creating recycling facilities
Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity	1	£30,000	Blood test research to detect genetic heart defects
Vision North Somerset	1	£2,500	Upgrade to charity's premises
XTND – Improving Futures	1	£2,000	Seating area to encourage relationships between families

In addition...

218 grants under £2,000 were awarded to 200 organisations, totalling £130,974

60 grants were awarded to individuals, totalling £27,666

Social investments awarded in 2019/20

Organisation	Grant	Loan	Project description
Creative Innovations CIC	£2,000	£8,000	Arts programme for rural communities
Frome Cheese and Grain	£7,230	£25,000	Expanding café facilities
Oake & District Community Shop	£10,000	£20,000	Contribution towards community shop and Post Office relocation
Roadwater Village Shop	£34,000	£66,000	Support to create community owned shop & café
SSVCA	£0	£15,000	Financing fleet renewal

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Dyke Exhibition Fund

Eagle House Trust

EDF Energy Site Director's Discretionary Fund

Elliot's Touch

Exmoor Community Trust Fund

Field House Trust

Glemsford Fund

Graham Burrough Charitable Trust

Grave Family Fund

Hector Tanner Memorial Fund

Hidden Needs Trust

Hinton St George Community Fund

HPC Community Fund

Huish's Exhibition Foundation

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Somerset Giving Fund

Somerset Grassroots Grants Fund

Somerset Masonic Fund

Somerset Mental Wellbeing Service Fund

Somerset Restorative Justice Fund

Somerset Social Enterprise Fund

Somerset West & Taunton Voluntary and Community Sector

Small Grants Fund

Somerset West Lottery Local Community Fund

Somerset Youth Fund

Summerfield and Tauntfield Fund

Surviving Winter

Tampon Tax Fund

Taunton Deane Borough Council Defibrillator Fund

Taunton Youth and Community Centre Fund

T & PJ (Milborne Port) Fund

The Active Living Programme

The Aequitas Fund (previously Myakka Fund)

The Burford Fund (previously Party Packs Fund)

The Charlie Bigham's Fund

The Corton Hill Trust

The Old Mill Fund

The Somerset Fund

TSSC Healthy Living Fund

VCSE Strategic Co-ordination Fund

WCS Pickford Trust

Wessex Water Community Fund

West Somerset Relief Fund

West Somerset Youth Trust

Wilton Trust

Yeovil Town FC Fund

#iwill Fund

We're hugely grateful to all our supporters who make our work possible. We can only give vital funding to hundreds of life-changing small charities across Somerset thanks to the generosity of individuals, businesses and public sector organisations. Together, we change the lives of many thousands of local people for the better, every year.

We would also like to say a big thank you for the dedication and support of our volunteer Trustees, panel members and office volunteers for generously giving their time and expertise to support the Foundation.

THE SOMERSET FUND

Thanks to Somerset County Council for partnering to provide 50% matched funding for every donation, which means our supporters make an even bigger impact in our communities.



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SOMERSET PHILANTHROPY NETWORK

We're hugely grateful to each and every member of Somerset Philanthropy Network, a community of passionate people who want to change the world on their doorstep and who provide vital support for the work of the Foundation.

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