



THE CLOTHWORKERS' FOUNDATION ANNUAL REVIEW 2021



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Image courtesy of Venture Scotland.
Read more about the charity on p 14.



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DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

The Foundation's work in 2020 was dominated by the need for The Clothworkers' Foundation to respond swiftly to Covid-19, the restrictions it required, and the needs it created. 2021 was no less shaped by the pandemic, but we were able to develop our grantmaking to strategically address some of the long-standing inequalities highlighted by the crisis.

In our Covid-19 Phase II funding, we provided flexible core support to charities working with Black and minoritised communities to tackle structural racism and its effects. This included directing grants ourselves as well as providing funding to partners distributing grants to grassroots organisations. Our grantmaking was accompanied with light-touch reporting requirements – reflecting our commitment to, and trust in, the work of these organisations.

We were also pleased to fully reopen our capital grants programmes to support large capital projects again (in 2020, we restricted our support to smaller grants and projects while we responded to the pandemic). We saw demand for large-scale capital funding return, despite the ongoing uncertainty. At the same time, applications for small project support continued to grow, with our highest-ever number of applications. We believe this demand represents the commitment, imagination and ambition of our grantees. But we also know these applications are driven by the increasingly tough circumstances faced by the communities and individuals these charities serve.

In 2022, we continue to support charities and social businesses addressing these circumstances through service delivery, community building, and much more. We will also be carrying out a review of our grantmaking ahead of developing a new five-year strategy in 2023.

Full details of our 2021 grantmaking can be found in this report, across our Covid-19 programme, as well as our Open Grants and Proactive Grants Programmes. We are, as always, deeply grateful to our grantees, as well as their staff and volunteers, for enabling our funding to have the impact it does.

STAFF UPDATE

In August 2021, the long-standing Director of Grants, Philip Howard, left the team. In his 14 years serving The Foundation, Philip led the grants team through two strategic grantmaking reviews, which included the creation of our Proactive Grants Programme.

In March 2022, we welcomed Jenny North, who assumed the new role of Foundation Director. Jenny joined us from Dartington Service Design Lab, where she was Deputy CEO and worked closely with local authorities, funders, and charities to support strategy development, service and evaluation needs.

GRANTMAKING OVERVIEW

OPEN GRANTS PROGRAMME

In 2021, we awarded 320 grants through the Open Grants Programme. Most grants were for amounts of £10,000 or less, and the success rate (of eligible applications) remained consistently high at 50% (compared with 54% in 2020).

The Open Grants Programme solely funds capital projects for eligible UK-registered charities and not-for-profit organisations.

To be eligible for funding, organisations must work in one or more of these programme areas:

- ☑ Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- ☑ Disadvantaged Minority Communities
- ☑ Disadvantaged Young People
- ☑ Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- ☑ Homelessness
- ☑ Older People
- ☑ People with Disabilities
- ☑ Prisoners and Ex-Offenders
- ☑ Visual Impairment

PROACTIVE GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Proactive Grants Programme was launched in 2007 with proactive initiatives in Autism, Conservation, and Mathematics Education. Almost 15 years on, it continues to fund sectors in which we have identified a clear need, and where we believe our support can have a meaningful impact.

The Proactive Grants Programme allows us to fund more strategically while working in partnership with others, and to develop a greater level of knowledge and understanding of specific sectors.

In contrast with the Open Grants Programme, proactive grants are for multi-year revenue projects of which we are generally the sole funder.

This programme is not open to applications or enquiries. Our current proactive initiatives include:

- ☑ Better Futures
- ☑ Care Leavers
- ☑ Dramatic Arts

REGULAR GRANTS PROGRAMME

This programme makes annual awards to a small number of selected charities, including those making direct grants to disadvantaged people and UK-based charities working internationally.

The Regular Grants Programme is not open to applications and inclusion is by invitation only.



Right: Hebron Trust provides alcohol and drug rehabilitation services to women in Norfolk. Read the case study on p 8.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2021



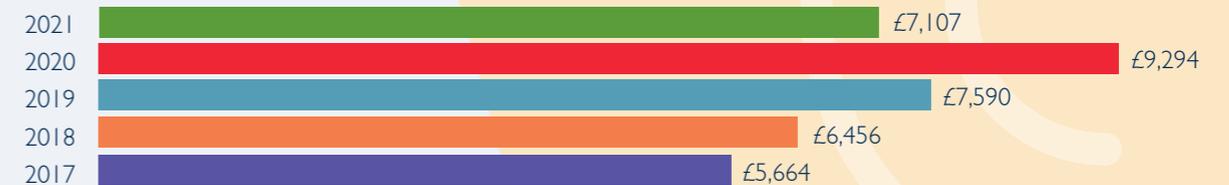
Image courtesy of Croydon Vision.

The full report and accounts of The Clothworkers' Foundation can be found on the Charity Commission website.

	2021 (£000)	2020 (£000)
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Donations and Gifts	6,973	5,776
Investment and Rental Income	4,669	3,509
Total Incoming Resources	11,642	9,285
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of Generating Income	202	155
Charitable Expenditure		
Grants	6,985	9,196
Support Costs	800	687
Total Resources Expended	7,987	10,038
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources	3,655	(753)
Gains on Investment Assets	28,931	4,967
Net Movement in Funds	32,586	4,214
Fund Balances Brought Forward at 1 January	232,701	228,487
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER	265,287	232,701
FIXED ASSETS		
Social Investments at Cost	1,473	200
Investments at Market Value	262,609	232,317
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
Current Assets	8,367	7,466
Creditors – due within one year	(6,797)	(6,968)
Net Current Assets plus Fixed Assets	265,652	233,015
Creditors – due after one year	(365)	(314)
Net Assets	265,287	232,701
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Permanent Endowment	65,816	58,580
Expendable Endowment	38,674	31,584
Members' Endowment	357	299
Social Investment	1,749	750
Other Restricted Funds	56,099	49,812
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Designated	101,778	90,550
General and Other	814	1,126
	265,287	232,701

WE AWARDED GRANTS IN EXCESS OF £7.1M IN 2021

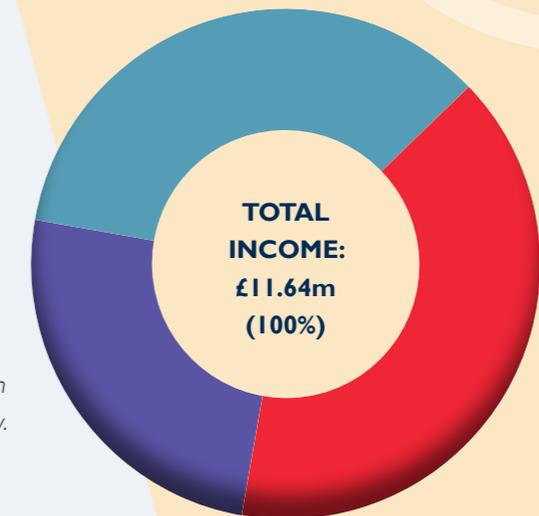
Grants Awarded in Recent Years (£000)



Donations* (investment):
£4.11m (35%)

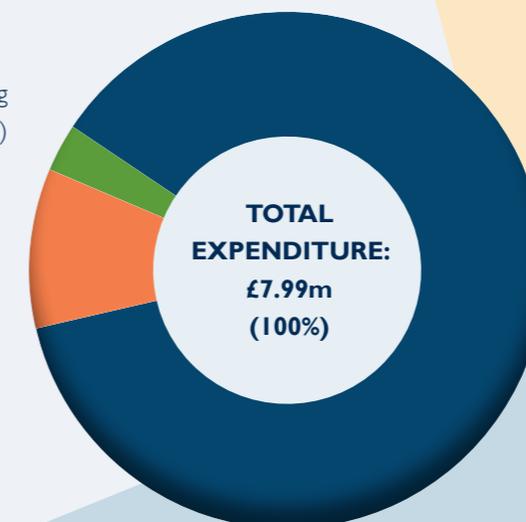
Donations* (grant-making):
£2.86m (25%)

*Donations were received principally from The Clothworkers' Company.



Costs of Generating Funds: £0.20m (3%)

Charitable Support Costs: £0.80m (10%)



Grants to Charities**:
£6.99m (87%)

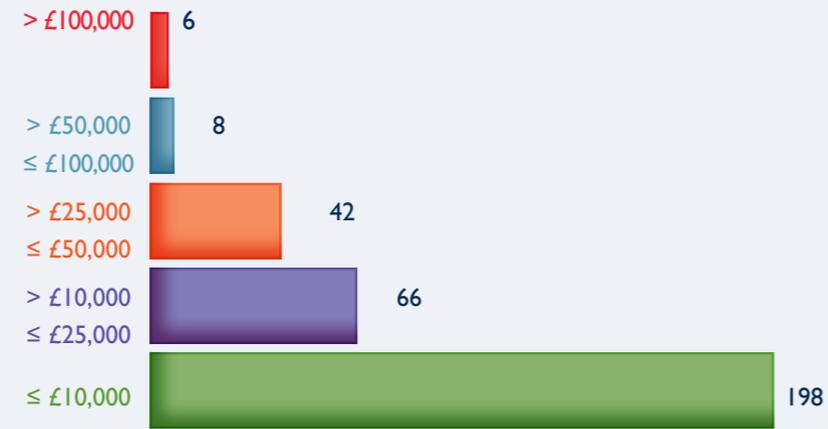
***'Grants to Charities' represents grants expenditure using new funds (£6.99m). We awarded £7.11m in grants in 2021, which included the recommitment of £0.12m.

OPEN GRANTS PROGRAMME SUMMARY 2021

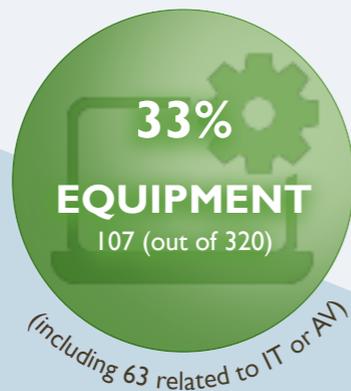
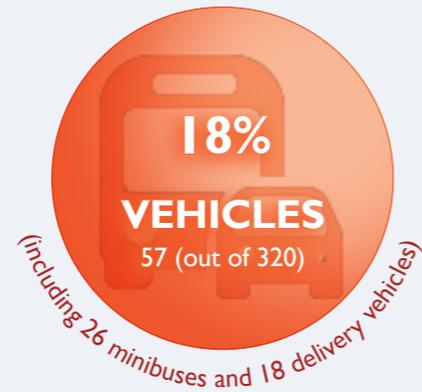
OPEN GRANTS PROGRAMME TOTAL AWARDS: 320

The figures here relate only to the grant awards made through our Open Grants Programme (via applications to our Main and Small Grants across our nine key programme areas).

More information on grants of £25,000 or more, as well as case studies on selected grants, can be found on pages 8-41.



WE FUNDED THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF CAPITAL PROJECTS IN 2021:



GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD OF OPEN GRANTS PROGRAMME (2021)

- Greater London (64)
- North West (41)
- Scotland (35)
- Yorkshire and Humberside (27)
- West Midlands (26)
- East (25)
- South West (21)
- North East (20)
- South East (17)
- Wales (14)
- East Midlands (14)
- Northern Ireland (9)

Seven grants were awarded to national organisations, and two additional grants were awarded to The Access to Justice Foundation (Community Justice Fund) and MakingThe Leap.

OPEN GRANTS PROGRAMME

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

HEBRON TRUST

Hebron Trust provides residential rehabilitation services for women with alcohol and/or substance misuse problems. Based on the outskirts of Norwich, the Trust offers a 12-step therapeutic programme that includes one-to-one support, group work, therapy sessions, life skills courses, and other education and training programmes.

Delivering services from a large, Victorian house, Hebron aims to provide a supportive environment where residents can focus on recovery without distraction. The

programme allows clients to detach from the outside world, move towards independence and responsibility, and then work on re-integration to society. Aftercare is then provided informally for as long as needed. Each stage works to address the individual, holistic needs of the client and focuses on building respect, trust and a feeling of safety in order to aid a successful recovery.

What We Funded

We awarded the Hebron Trust a grant of £37,000 towards the cost of renovating the cellar of the Victorian building that serves as the charity's

base of operations. The works will enable the Trust to make use of the space for storage, which will, in turn, free up rooms within the main building to facilitate the offer of a wider range of activities and create a new, welcoming lobby area. Plans also include a resettlement suite where ex-residents can return and receive aftercare support without having to enter the main building. Requested at a time when access to services for vulnerable women was limited due to the pandemic, this refurbishment will allow Hebron Trust to offer a safe environment in which women can receive the vital support they need to make steps towards a more positive future.

GRANTS ≥ £25,000

Hebron Trust

Refurbishment of a building for a charity supporting women with alcohol misuse issues in Norfolk
£37,000

Open Road Visions

Refurbishment of a building for a charity supporting recovery of alcohol and substance misuse in Essex
£35,000



9 GRANTS



TOTAL: £127,000

2 GRANTS (£72,000)



≥ £25,000

1 GRANTS (£15,000)



> £10,000 < £25,000

6 GRANTS (£40,000)



≤ £10,000



I imagined [rehab] to be very clinical and institutionalised. Hebron couldn't have been more different. The atmosphere was so loving and kind, like a family – not a treatment centre.”

- Hebron Trust Client



I think it's very important to be part of the change you want to see in the world – and be involved from the inside, and sit at the table to make decisions.”

- Mariam Mohamed,
Evolve Practitioner
(From the CSO video:
*Somalis in the UK:
Our Everyday Heroes*)

DISADVANTAGED MINORITY COMMUNITIES

COUNCIL OF SOMALI ORGANISATIONS

The Council of Somali Organisations was established with the support of City Bridge Trust and Trust for London in 2010 as a national second-tier organisation set up to support the Somali voluntary and community sectors. In 2019, The Office of National Statistics estimated there were 463,000 Somalis in the United Kingdom.

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted and exacerbated the inequalities impacting Black communities. The effect is that these communities have more difficulty in accessing education, employment, health, and housing. The resulting poor outcomes have been highlighted in a number of recent reports such as those from the NHS England and Ubele.

With more than 200 members across the UK, including 40 Somali-led Mosques, this charity's aim is to provide a collective voice for the Somali community in areas of health and well-being, criminal justice, education, poverty reduction and economic empowerment. The charity also seeks to address the specific and varied needs of the Somali diaspora and collaborate with other organisations working in this area.

What We Funded

The Foundation awarded the charity £10,000 to purchase furniture for the charity's new offices, and to buy equipment for remote-working adjustments to enable staff to continue work from home.

Left: Image of Mariam Mohamed, who is Somali and part of the Adolescent Exploitation Team at Wandsworth and Richmond Council's Children Service.

DISADVANTAGED MINORITY COMMUNITIES (CONTINUED)



COMMUNITY ON SOLID GROUND

Community on Solid Ground provides a range of services including holiday play schemes, sports sessions and educational activities to more than 460 local young people in the Whalley Range area of Manchester.

It is an organisation led by and for the local community. The area is in the bottom 30 per cent for

deprivation, bottom 20 per cent for income, and bottom 15 per cent for health outcomes. Almost 50 per cent of the population are from communities experiencing racial inequalities (CERI).

The pandemic had a negative impact on disadvantaged young people, particularly those from communities experiencing racial inequalities. In 2020, a survey of local young people, carried out by the charity, highlighted a lack of access to activity and leisure provision, affecting their physical and mental health.

What We Funded

The Foundation provided a grant of £102,000 to support the first part of a two phase project to fund the construction of a new gym and community sports hall. These facilities will increase the quality and quantity of sports, leisure and youth work opportunities the charity can offer to local young people. Foundation Trustees also noted an intention to provide capacity building support towards phase two of the large capital project in 2022.

YORK TRAVELLERS TRUST

York Travellers Trust (YTT) is the oldest charity in the UK working solely with Gypsy and Traveller communities (GTC). The Trust's work can be categorised into four areas: (1) education and training; (2) advice and signposting; (3) partnerships with agencies such as police, social services and housing; and (4) promoting an understanding of GTC culture.

Members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities regularly experience racism, have poorer health outcomes and are routinely reported to be overly represented in prisons. York Travellers Trust offers a safe space where individuals can receive support and advice without judgement. The organisation has been operating out of the same office space for a number of years, providing familiarity for members who have been attending for the majority of their lives. However, the Trust wanted to expand the services it offers, as well as create a space that welcomes new clients who are not part of the Gypsy Traveller Community, with the aim of helping to promote increased integration among GTC members and local residents.

What We Funded

We granted York Travellers Trust £35,000 to renovate and refurbish its offices.

GRANTS ≥ £25,000

Community on Solid Ground

Construction of a building for a Manchester charity supporting disadvantaged minority communities
£102,000

Bradford Trident Limited

Construction of a community centre for a Bradford charity supporting disadvantaged minority communities
£100,000

High Trees Community Development Trust

Refurbishment of a building for a charity supporting disadvantaged minority communities in Lambeth
£50,000

Full Circle @ Docklands

Refurbishment of building and grounds for a charity supporting young people and minority communities in Bristol
£41,500

York Travellers Trust

Refurbishment of building for a charity supporting Gypsy and Traveller communities in York
£35,000



5 GRANTS (£328,500)



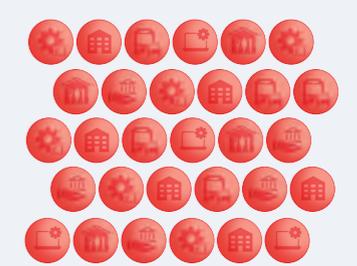
≥ £25,000

5 GRANTS (£76,500)



> £10,000 < £25,000

30 GRANTS (£228,325)



≤ £10,000

DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

VENTURE SCOTLAND

Venture Scotland works with young people aged 16 to 30, and empowers them to understand, maintain and improve their mental health and emotional well-being. Engaging with 100 young people annually who have commonly suffered trauma through abuse or neglect, or who are care experienced, Venture Scotland delivers four progressive programmes. These include Challenge, Discover, Explore and Leadership. Programmes run for the course of a year and the charity utilises Scotland's naturally challenging landscape to offer regular group-based outdoor activities, life skills sessions, remote residential experiences and one-to-one support.

In providing caring relationships, safe spaces, peer support and time away from technology, Venture Scotland aims to help young people recognise their

skills and strengths, build confidence and improve their mental and physical health. In addition, the organisation offers qualifications through the Scottish Qualification Framework and works with corporations and charity partners that can provide access to employment, education, training and volunteering opportunities.

What We Funded

We awarded Venture Scotland a grant of £15,000 to purchase a 17-seater minibus and enable them to transport young people, staff and volunteers outside the city so they can take part in activities such as rock climbing and canoeing or stay in remote bothies or campsites across Scotland. An essential item to enable the charity to deliver its programmes, a new, reliable minibus means it can continue to offer services to young people living in both Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Right: Venture Scotland participants can be seen 'coasteering' and gaining new experiences in the great outdoors.



One of the most valuable things I've gained is confidence. I no longer feel like my voice isn't worth being heard, and I have more self-compassion. Venture Scotland has been a source of unwavering support and stability and I can't begin to express what a massive difference that has made to my life."

- Graduate from Venture Scotland Leadership Programme



DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE (CONTINUED)



GRANTS ≥ £25,000

Family Futures

Purchase of a building for a charity supporting disadvantaged young people in the care system in Islington
£150,000

Possilpark People's Trust

Construction of a building for a charity in Glasgow
£125,000

Scotswood Natural Community Garden

Construction of a building for a charity in Newcastle Upon Tyne
£50,000

Harmeny Education Trust Ltd

Refurbishment for a charity in Edinburgh
£50,000

Hillwood Community Trust

Refurbishment of a building for a charity in Scotland
£50,000

The Boathouse Youth Ltd

Refurbishment of a building for a charity in Lancashire
£50,000

Exodus Project

Refurbishment of a building for a charity in South Yorkshire
£50,000

The Girls' Network

Funding to support a Development Manager responsible for enhancing and streamlining efficiency, consistency and programme delivery; expanding reach, and driving programme developments (Clothworkers' Charity Fund grantee)
£42,000

Skillway

Funding to develop a holistic educational experience in a woodland setting, teaching a range of practical skills and addressing mental health (Clothworkers' Charity Fund grantee)
£42,000

Reeltime Music

Refurbishment of a building for a charity in Lanarkshire
£40,000

The Ridge SCIO

Restoration of a building for a charity in East Lothian, Scotland
£40,000

Wallsend Boys Club

Construction of a community hub for a charity in Tyne and Wear
£35,000

Buttle UK

Funding for the Chances for Children small grants programme supporting families of disadvantaged and vulnerable children (Regular Grants Programme grantee)
£35,000

Athena Education Support

Renovation costs for a charity supporting disadvantaged young people with disabilities in Norfolk
£30,000

The Ben Kinsella Trust

Refurbishment of a building for a charity in London
£30,000

The Principle Trust Children's Charity

Purchase and renovation costs of a building for a charity in North Yorkshire
£30,000

Media Mania Ltd

Purchase of audio equipment for a charity in Coventry
£29,000

XLP

Purchase of a vehicle for a charity in London
£29,000

Big Brum Theatre in Education Company

Purchase of a vehicle for a charity in the West Midlands
£28,000

Young Futures

Installation of an air conditioning system for a charity in London
£25,000

Royal Institution of Great Britain

Continuation of the Mathematics Enrichment and Enhancement Programme for disadvantaged state schools in 2020-21 (Regular Grants Programme grantee)
£25,000



Image:
Artwork from the Hull Lighthouse Project's publication, *An Untold Story: Experiences of Life and Street Prostitution in Hull* (Chapter 6, 'Hope', page 81).

The puppet represents a self portrait, entitled 'Fabulous'.

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE

HULL LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

Hull Lighthouse is one of the few organisations providing unconditional, holistic and long-term support to women in Hull who are affected by sexual exploitation, including those working in street prostitution and those who have exited. It is often a critical moment of trauma or crisis that triggers women to seek help from the charity, and Hull Lighthouse steps in immediately to give intensive, one-to-one support to help women make positive changes.

In 2020, 126 women accessed the charity's daytime and evening outreach services as well as its 'Living Room'

groups, which provide social and learning opportunities.

What We Funded

Hull Lighthouse moved to new premises in 2020, which provided more space for one-to-one support, drop-ins, group sessions and peer support. The Foundation awarded a grant of £8,000 to support the refurbishment of the charity's ground-floor bathroom, converting it into an accessible wet room and toilet that provides shower facilities. The grant also enabled the charity to provide a laundry for the women using its support services.



LUTON ALL WOMEN CENTRE

Luton All Women Centre (LAWC) has been supporting women and girls living in Luton and Bedfordshire since the early 1990s, and aims to challenge gender inequality and empower women and girls to enjoy lives that are safer, healthier and fairer. LAWC's safe, women's-only space supports 700 women and girls each year, and many of those using the charity's services have complex or multiple support needs. Frequently, these have been caused by traumatic experiences such as domestic abuse, violence, coercion, harmful practices

or sexual exploitation.

LAWC offers a range of trauma-informed services including therapeutic support, well-being activities, employability projects and legal services. LAWC also plays a prominent role in the area in the domestic abuse space, lobbying for transformational change and improvements to health services.

What We Funded

LAWC's current building is not meeting the needs of its

expanding client group, which impacts on the charity's ability to improve the services it currently provides. Our grant of £220,000 is supporting LAWC to purchase and renovate a building that can house all its activities and support its expanding client group. The new facilities will allow the charity to fully embed a trauma-informed approach across all its services as well as adding new volunteering opportunities to clients.

By purchasing its building, LAWC will have reduced overheads as well as more options for diversifying income and reducing reliance on grant-funding.

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE (CONTINUED)

LAWC: HAZEL'S STORY

When Hazel came to the Luton All Women Centre, she was in an abusive relationship and extremely vulnerable to the abuse, financial control and manipulation she was experiencing.

After receiving support from LAWC's domestic abuse service, Hazel finally felt able to report an incident carried out by her boyfriend to the police. As well as supporting her throughout that

process, the charity invited Hazel to join its Freedom Programme so that she could better understand what had been happening to her. For Hazel, the programme was life changing, and it instilled her with the confidence to then pursue intensive counselling.

Due to her serious emotional vulnerabilities, it took 24 counselling sessions for Hazel to feel she could deal with all the issues causing

her pain and preventing her from moving on with her life. Finally reaching a position where she felt mentally and emotionally stronger, Hazel then worked with LAWC to explore her employment options and submit job applications. This was something Hazel had not been able to manage previously, but was now ready and able to proceed. With LAWC's support, Hazel applied for various positions and secured part-time work in a local charity shop.



“LAWC was there for me at my lowest point ... Having gone through such an abusive relationship, I felt normal again after realising it was not me or my fault. I would never have been able to believe in myself if it wasn't for the adviser, who supported me every step of my journey to freedom from all of the abuse I suffered ... Thank you!”

- Hazel, LAWC client

Left: Luton All Women Centre won the 'Keeping Luton Safe' award at Luton's Best 2021, awards that recognise community achievement.

GRANTS ≥ £25,000	
Luton All Women Centre Purchase and refurbishment of property supporting women affected by domestic and sexual abuse in Luton £220,000	Centre for Health and Pastoral Care Purchase of a property for a charity supporting domestic and sexual abuse survivors in North Yorkshire £45,000
Rotherham Rise Refurbishment of a building for a charity in South Yorkshire £150,000	Tender Education and Arts Funding to pilot a creative, online toolkit for preventing domestic abuse within four primary and secondary schools, over a year-long period. (Clothworkers' Charity Fund grantee) £42,000
Threshold DAS Ltd Refurbishment of building for a charity in Wales £64,000	
Aberconwy Domestic Abuse Service Refurbishment of a centre for a charity in Conwy £50,000	





HOMELESSNESS

YMCA HUMBER

Actively supporting the local community since 1882, YMCA Humber is a well-established and recognised organisation that develops services and works with a variety of partners to meet the challenges faced by young people in Northeast Lincolnshire. Providing accommodation to those who would otherwise be homeless, the charity works with residents through counselling and coaching sessions, supporting them with health and well-being training and education to help them move forwards with their lives.

What We Funded

The organisation received a grant of £75,000 towards a new build

that will replace its run-down hostel. The £8.4 million development will provide en-suite accommodation for up to 74 residents, as well as a public space on the ground floor that will offer a community café with a commercial kitchen, training and conferencing facilities, a small gym and offices for YMCA staff.

It is estimated that approximately 250 residents will benefit from the new accommodation each year, and approximately 2,500 individuals will be able to take advantage of the community facilities. The new building aims to provide an accessible space where the local community can come together and give YMCA Humber the opportunity to support more individuals to make steps towards a more positive future.



I like living here, as I get good support and it's helped me to stop drinking. I have not had a drink for seven months. I also like the variety of activities, and I enjoy going to these."

- Jane, a resident at YMCA Humber

ROWAN ALBA

Rowan Alba helps alleviate homelessness across Scotland by breaking the cycle of homelessness for people deemed 'un-houseable' by other services. It recognises the importance of understanding an individual's story in order to provide a tailored service and a successful route out of long-term homelessness. Rowan Alba's services include permanent accommodation for older homeless men with a history of rough sleeping and long-term alcohol issues; temporary supported accommodation for homeless women, including young people leaving

care, prison or fleeing abuse; and volunteer befriending for isolated older people with alcohol issues at risk of crisis and/or homelessness.

With staff on hand to provide 24/7 practical and emotional support alongside independent living and the security of a permanent tenancy, Rowan Alba offers the stability individuals need to make long-term life changes.

Residents currently supported by Rowan Alba report that the model provided by the organisation has enabled them to keep a home for

the first time and that the accepting, judgement-free environment helps them feel safe, valued and able to develop trusting relationships. Demand continues to expand for this style of accommodation, and the organisation is addressing this by increasing its provision.

What We Funded

We awarded a grant of £50,000 towards the purchase, renovation and refurbishment of an additional residential property. Based in Edinburgh, this site will provide a further nine supported, individual, permanent homes for older homeless men.

HOMELESSNESS (CONTINUED)

GRANTS ≥ £25,000

Cardiff YMCA Housing Association

Building refurbishment for a charity in Cardiff

£80,000

YMCA Humber

Building refurbishment for a charity supporting homeless people and the local community in Yorkshire and Humber

£75,000

Wrexham & District Citizens Advice

Building purchase for a charity in Wales

£50,000

Rowan Alba

Purchase and refurbishment of new accommodation for a charity in Scotland

£50,000

Caritas Anchor House

Building refurbishment for a charity supporting people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping in London

£50,000

Sussex Emmaus

Building refurbishment for a charity supporting previously homeless men and women in Sussex

£40,000

Stoll

Building refurbishment for a charity in London

£40,000

Helping Hands Essex

Building purchase for a charity in Kent

£40,000

Emmaus Mossley

Building refurbishment for a charity in Manchester

£40,000

Routes to Roots (Poole)

Building refurbishment for a charity in Dorset

£35,000



29 GRANTS



TOTAL:
£706,500

10 GRANTS (£500,000)



≥ £25,000

12 GRANTS (£81,600)



≤ £10,000

7 GRANTS (£124,900)



> £10,000 < £25,000

Image: Resident at the Rowan Alba Supported Accommodation Thorntree Street facility. Residents are men who have had a history of rough sleeping, living in insecure accommodation or homeless hostels.





OLDER PEOPLE

BOGSIDE & BRANDYWELL HEALTH FORUM

The Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum (BBHF) is a community-led healthy living centre based in Derry (Londonderry), Northern Ireland. Established to address health inequalities in the area, which is one of the most deprived in Northern Ireland, the centre provides a range of programmes to address problems surrounding nutrition and diet, sedentary lifestyles, mental health and isolation. With services available to all members of the community, BBHF recognises the importance of accessible, holistic support and advice to help people live a healthy lifestyle.

In 2012, BBHF launched a community-based Men's Shed in response to a defined need from local residents. It was recognised that older, vulnerable men face a range of health and well-being challenges, but lack access to services to support them with these additional needs. The Men's Shed model provides a safe space where members feel included, safe and part of a community. Using holistic initiatives – such as

practical skills classes alongside training to enhance skills, confidence and knowledge – members work together to address issues and devise solutions for improving mental and physical well-being.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the BBHF Men's Shed was based in a leased community building. At the start of lockdown, the room used was repurposed by the building's management team, leaving members with a gap in support. Following this, BBHF went about establishing a 'build back better' initiative and identified a space to build its own workshop in the area.

What We Funded

In 2021, we awarded the Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum a grant of £10,000 to use towards the cost of building and fitting out a new workshop to accommodate its Men's Shed. In addition to providing a space for their present members, this new workshop will enable BBHF to welcome new members to the Shed, providing more scope to deliver peer-to-peer support networks that have proved so beneficial in the past.

OLDER PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

GRANTS ≥ £25,000

Age UK West Sussex

Refurbishment of building for a charity in West Sussex, Brighton and Hove

£30,000

Friends of the Elderly

Support for individual grants for disadvantaged older people (Regular Grants Programme grantee)

£30,000

ELDER VOICE

In Perthshire, public transport does not meet the needs of older people. Many are unable to travel on public transport to local facilities and appointments because of their age, frailty, ill health and mobility issues.

ElderVoice matches older people to services that meet their needs. In doing so, the charity addresses older people's isolation and loneliness across Perth and Kinross. This includes befriending, shopping services, and community transport services.

ElderVoice volunteers have been

collecting clients from their home using their own cars as part of the community transport service.

What We Funded

Our grant of £13,300 helped ElderVoice to purchase an accessible minibus, which means more people can be transported at a time, while reducing carbon emissions. This has meant ElderVoice can support more older people to access hospital appointments, lunch clubs, friendship clubs and other outings – addressing isolation and helping older people to live happily and independently for longer.



31 GRANTS



TOTAL: £287,650

2 GRANTS (£60,000)



≥ £25,000

7 GRANTS (£105,300)

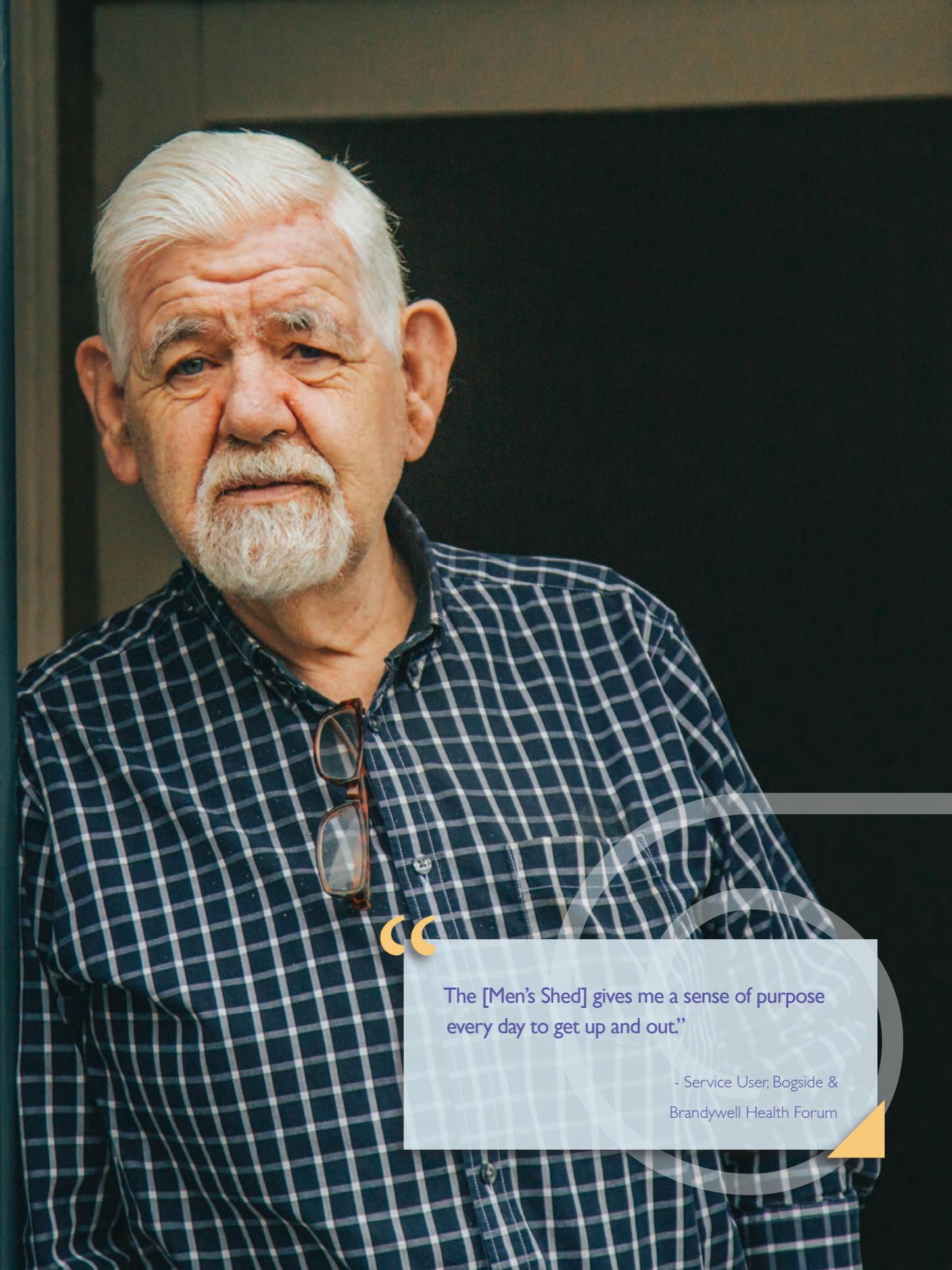


> £10,000 < £25,000

22 GRANTS (£122,350)



≤ £10,000



The [Men's Shed] gives me a sense of purpose every day to get up and out."

- Service User, Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum

Image: Hannah Dines competing at the ISA World Parasurfing Championships.
© 2021 . Sean Evans, WaterWorksMedia.



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SURFABILITY UK

Surfability UK is a Community Interest Company in Wales that provides surfing lessons and experiences for anyone with additional needs. Its students include those with autism, visual impairments, and cerebral palsy. Students gain physical skills, such as improved balance and coordination. They also develop social skills, forming strong friendships, and enjoy the benefits of immersive outdoors experiences.

Surfability is at forefront of adaptive surfing globally with accessible changing rooms, kit drying facilities and kit storage facilities. Its coaches have managed the Welsh Adaptive Surfing team and co-written internationally recognised adaptive surf instructor qualifications.

What We Funded

We gave the organisation a grant of £9,700 to purchase three

customised surfboards. These allow Surfability to offer improved adapted lessons for beginners with diverse disabilities, while also providing high-level training and lessons for elite athletes.

For example, Hannah Dines trained and competed using Surfability's customised board at the ISA World Parasurfing Championships, placing fourth in the womens' prone assist division.

REACH LEARNING DISABILITY

People with learning disabilities face a disproportionate risk of disadvantage – particularly through poor-quality healthcare, loneliness and social isolation, and increased risk of mental health problems. There are around 16,000 adults in Nottinghamshire with a learning disability, and Reach's overall goal is to enable them to live happier, healthier lives.

The charity started life as Southwell Care Project in 1999, set up by parents who were worried about the lack of local services for a family member with a learning disability. It now reaches people from across the county, supporting 250 regular clients a week, across five day centres. Services

include one-to-one support and care to people with learning disabilities.

What We Funded

Reach applied to the The Clothworkers' Foundation for support to realise a long-held ambition: to build quality accommodation for people with learning disabilities in Southwell.

Many Reach clients live at home with older family carers who are in their 70s and 80s. Others are living in short-term rental lets offering little security or stability. This is not unusual. Nationally, two-thirds of adults with learning disabilities live with their families, usually their parents. Often this is due to the lack of affordable, quality housing

in their local communities. Families delay decisions about the future because there is simply no acceptable alternative. Inevitably, alternatives must be found due to parental illness or death. People with learning disabilities often find they must move away from their community to new locations, losing friends, family and support all at the same time, sometimes facing multiple moves.

The new facility will comprise two linked houses, each providing safe and secure homes for six adults with learning disabilities. They will be completed to a high specification and environmentally sustainable standards to reduce maintenance and running costs. The houses will also sport communal areas and a one-acre plot for gardening and leisure.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (CONTINUED)



REACH: SARAH'S STORY

For people with learning disabilities, the prospect of moving away from friends, family and support can cause years of desperate worry for them and their families.

After Sarah moved out of her mother's Southwell home to accommodation in Newark 26 years ago, she lived in three different homes, but none worked out for her. She became lonely and isolated living on her own so far from her family, and found it difficult to get along with the others in shared accommodation, returning home when things didn't work out.

The uncertainty and unhappiness

that Sarah felt during this time had a huge impact on her mental health. She went from being an independent young woman who travelled on her own by bus, to someone reluctant to leave her room and join in any activities. Her mum, Ann, described the situation, 'I was constantly worrying. There were always different staff who didn't really know her. Twice, we agreed with her that she would come home as she was becoming depressed. She lost her confidence and her independence.'

Two years ago, Reach helped Sarah to secure a place in a rented house in Southwell, sharing with two other Reach clients, Chelsea and David. Sarah's mental health

started to improve, and she began to regain her independence skills. Ann observed, 'When Sarah moved into the house in Southwell, I felt more relaxed, and felt she was getting good-quality support. It was lovely to see her out and about in Southwell, where people know her.'

Sarah has regained some of her confidence and now enjoys shopping and cooking with her housemates. Unfortunately for Sarah and her housemates, the lease on her current house has come to an end, and they have had to move again to another rented property. They are all looking forward to living together in a long-term home with a sense of security.



Sarah's story really gets across the difficulty of finding suitable, independent living accommodation for adults with learning disabilities in the area where they were born and grew up – and how that impacts on their mental health and their families. This is why we are fundraising to build permanent accommodation in Southwell for 12 local people with learning disabilities. It will give them and their families the peace of mind knowing that they have a long-term solution."

- Steve Shatwell, Reach Chief Executive

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (CONTINUED)

SHIFT.MS

Shift.ms is the social network for people with multiple sclerosis (MS). Founded by MSers, for MSers, the charity supports many thousands of recently diagnosed people across the UK as they make sense of MS. It's independent, and it's free.

MS is the most commonly diagnosed neurological condition for people in their 20s and 30s in the UK, with approximately 131,000 people living with MS (MSers) – and many more partners, carers and

families are affected. With no cure and a huge range of debilitating symptoms, including vision problems and difficulties with balance and walking, a diagnosis is life changing. The emotional impact of a diagnosis can be overwhelming, and much of the support available for someone with a new diagnosis can be generic and confusing. This is compounded by the fact that MSers typically only have three hours per year with a healthcare professional.

Shift.ms exists to address these gaps in support, and today it is the only dedicated online peer support

community for young people living with MS or those recently diagnosed. Members report that peer support through Shift.ms has helped them get the information they need more quickly, come to terms with a diagnosis, and deal with the uncertainties of having MS.

What We Funded

Our grant of £7,700 enabled Shift.ms to replace old IT equipment and to meet the needs of staff who were working remotely permanently as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.



18 GRANTS (£778,000)



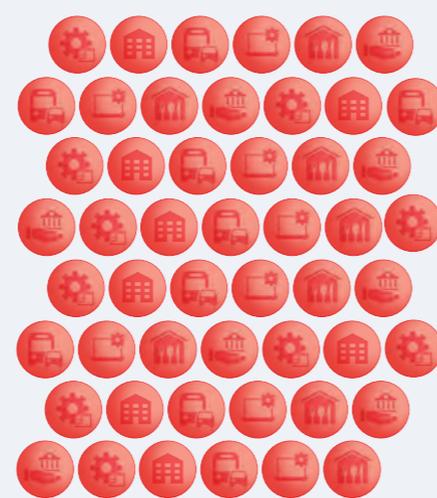
≥ £25,000

25 GRANTS (£406,200)



> £10,000 < £25,000

51 GRANTS (£383,220)



≤ £10,000

GRANTS ≥ £25,000

Family Care Trust

Refurbishment of a kitchen
£150,000

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (NW)

Building refurbishment
£75,000

Reach Learning Disability

Construction of a building
£50,000

Ambitious About Autism

Building refurbishment
£45,000

Wellspring Academy Trust (The Forest School)

Refurbishment of grounds
£40,000

Oakfield (Eastern Maudit) Ltd

Renovation of a building
£40,000

Autism Bedfordshire

Building refurbishment
£40,000

Kids Pony Foundation

Construction of a building
£38,000

Main

Building refurbishment
£35,000

Fleetwood Trust

Refurbishment of toilet facilities
£35,000

Bolton Deaf Society

Building refurbishment
£35,000

United Response

Small Sparks Programme for grants to help people with learning disabilities to engage with their communities (Regular Grants Programme grantee)
£35,000

The John Fielding School PTA

Playground refurbishment
£30,000

Paces Sheffield

Building refurbishment
£30,000

Horsley Bookham & Leatherhead RDA

Building refurbishment
£25,000

Inverclyde Association for Mental Health

Purchase of a pavilion
£25,000

Kyleakin Connections

Building construction
£25,000

Sea Sanctuary - Vessel for Change

Purchase of a boat
£25,000





PRISONERS AND EX-OFFENDERS

ZAHID MUBAREK TRUST

Zahid Mubarek Trust's (ZMT) aim is to reduce racial disparity in the criminal justice system by improving the treatment of and outcomes for ethnic minority prisoners and prison leavers.

The Trust was established by the family of the 19-year-old Zahid Mubarek, who was brutally murdered in a racist attack on the morning of his release whilst serving a short sentence at Feltham Young Offender Institution. The family successfully secured a public inquiry into Zahid's death after five years of campaigning. They subsequently established ZMT as a charity to create a legacy for change.

ZMT is a charity led by and focused on ethnic minority communities. It works across 20 prisons in England and Wales. This unprecedented access to nearly 20 per cent of prisons nationally gives ZMT a unique opportunity to deliver vital prison-based work locally, whilst also advocating for policy changes nationally.

The Trust is recognised and respected for its expertise on race equality issues in prisons, and is frequently consulted by decision-makers and asked to input into policy decisions. ZMT retains its authenticity of keeping Zahid's legacy alive by speaking truth to power and giving hope to prisoners, prison leavers and families.

What We Funded

We awarded a grant of £7,300 to ZMT to refurbish its office and purchase equipment. This also supported the implementation of the Returning Citizens project. Returning Citizens is a holistic support programme for ethnic minority prison leavers; it is a continuation of the Equality Advocate programme that ZMT offers to prisoners.

The Returning Citizens project creates a safe, effective and sustainable pathway for prison leavers, working with ZMT before their release, to successfully resettle into the community. The project also involves alumni in advocacy within prisons and the community to help promote structural and systemic change.

GRANTS ≥ £25,000

North Wales Women's Centre Ltd

Refurbishment of a building for a charity supporting women ex-offenders in Denbighshire
£70,000

Taymara

Purchase of a boat for a charity supporting prisoners and ex-offenders in Dundee
£30,000



10 GRANTS

2 GRANTS (£100,000)



≥ £25,000

7 GRANTS (£45,200)



≤ £10,000



TOTAL: £160,300

1 GRANTS (£15,100)



> £10,000 < £25,000



VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

CROYDON VISION

In Croydon, the most disadvantaged members of the community have an 80 per cent higher risk of sight loss, and people with sight loss have a life expectancy 14.7 years shorter than the general population. Sight loss can affect people's well-being, independence, and financial security.

Croydon Vision encourages independence, confidence and personal development among the blind and the partially sighted community of Croydon. It's free to become a Croydon Vision member, and members – and their families – can take advantage of a range of services that include advice and advocacy, low vision clinics, talking therapies, sight loss workshops, employment support, outreach, tech training and more.

Croydon Vision has expanded its outreach and engagement with the local community over recent years. Now, a key priority is to improve the accessibility of its premises and make the facilities fit for purpose. For example, the building has no lift, which makes a lot of space in the building inaccessible and unusable

to members.

What We Funded

We awarded a grant of £88,500 so that Croydon Vision could redevelop its building. The redeveloped building will be an accessible multi-purpose, multi-agency centre for people of all ages experiencing sight loss. As well as providing a venue to access practical support and to meet friends, the new building will provide space for the charity to offer an accessible technologies hub, learning centre and creative workspace for those starting businesses.



The technology expansion (IT Hub) will be great, to increase my knowledge and use of accessible equipment. Also, it will make me more independent when searching for employment.”

- Shalini, service user



VISUAL IMPAIRMENT (CONTINUED)

“The building is so much brighter and [more] spacious. I used to feel nervous to come down to the basement because the stairs were hard to climb, but now there is a clear path, and it is easily accessible with the lift, so I will be using it more often.”

- Anna, service user



GRANTS ≥ £25,000

Croydon Vision

Building refurbishment in London
£88,500

The Royal Society for Blind Children

Building refurbishment
£65,000

Blind Aid

Grants for disadvantaged visually-impaired people (Regular Grants Programme grantee)
£50,000

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

Continuation of general, unrestricted funding (Regular Grants Programme grantee)
£40,000

Pathfinder Guide Dog Programme

Purchase of a property in South Lanarkshire
£25,000



6 GRANTS



TOTAL:
£273,900

5 GRANTS (£268,500)



≥ £25,000

1 GRANTS (5,400)



≤ £10,000

OTHER GRANTS

OTHER GRANTS SUMMARY

3 Grants (£110,000 Total)

- 2 Grants ≥ £25,000 (£90,000 total)
- 1 Grant > £10,000 < £25,000 (£20,000 total)

GRANTS ≥ £20,000

Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief (REDR)

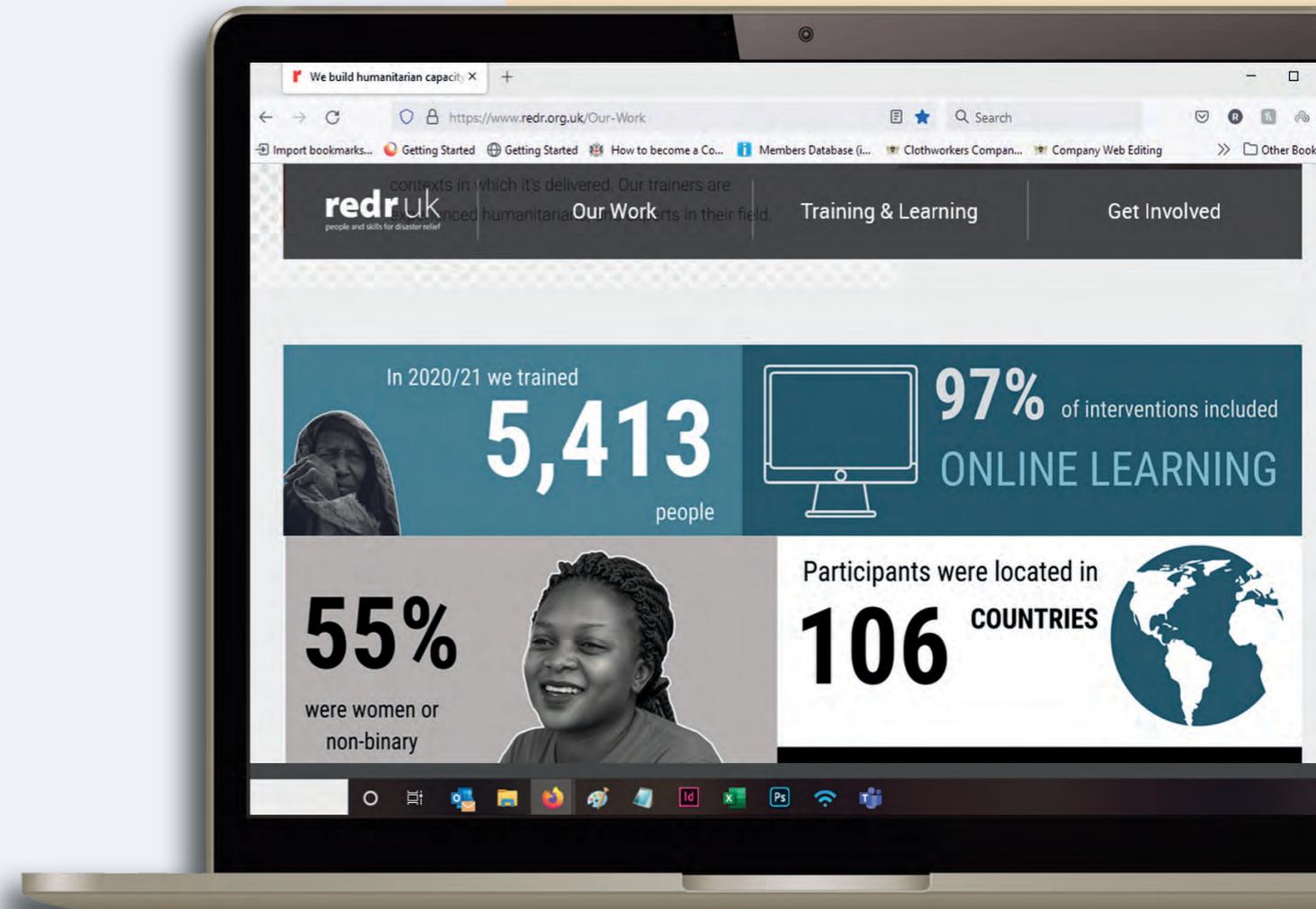
Disaster Relief (Regular Grants Programme grantee)
£60,000

Anna Plowden Trust

Funding for CPD conservation bursary scheme
£30,000

The Honourable The Irish Society

Funding for grants to charities in Northern Ireland (Regular Grants Programme grantee)
£20,000



COVID-19 FUNDING RESPONSE

In 2021, we continued Phase II of our pandemic funding response, which focused on proactive work supporting communities experiencing racial inequalities and the domestic abuse sector. The £650,000 in grant expenditure brought our total Covid-19 funding response to £3.1 million over the past two years, supporting 345 organisations.

Phase II focused on more than just supporting organisations responding to the pandemic, but also on supporting charities and communities to recover and become stronger in the longer term.

The following grants were awarded:

📄 **£200,000** towards The Rise Fund, a funding initiative focused on supporting organisations that are led by and for Black and minoritised women. The Rise Fund is delivered by Rosa, a grantmaking charity dedicated to funding grassroots women's organisations and helping to make the UK a fairer, safer place for women. Rosa is working with a team of Black and minoritised women to assess and shortlist applications, and decisions will be made by a panel of Black and minoritised women with relevant knowledge and expertise.

📄 **£200,000** towards the development costs of Baobab

Foundation (via Hackney CVS), a new funder led by the Black and minoritised community organisations it supports. This is in response to the clear evidence that these organisations have experienced a historic and ongoing deficit in funding compared to other organisations.

📄 **£100,000** to support Breaking Barriers in expanding its delivery model to regions outside of London. Breaking Barriers enables refugees to acquire the knowledge, confidence and experience they need to secure stable and fulfilling jobs.

📄 **£100,000** towards the core costs of The Ubele Initiative, which works with community leaders, groups, and organisations in the UK and beyond to strengthen the sustainability, resilience, and voice of Black and minoritised communities. Ubele is an important advocate for minoritised communities, and served as a key learning partner of The London Community Response Fund (LCRF).

📄 **£50,000** towards Ten Years' Time research paper: 'Racial Justice and Social Transformation; How

Funders Can Act on Both.' Ten Years' Time supports funders and philanthropists to learn more about the sectors in which they fund or are thinking about funding. Previous work has included research in the areas of mental health, homelessness, education and employability, and climate change.

The end of our Covid-19 funding response does not signal the end of our commitment to supporting communities and organisations as they recover from the pandemic. Our Covid funding response over the past two years has made us a stronger, more agile funder, and we are also moving towards a more equitable approach to funding.

Our short-term commitment for 2022 is modest – to ensure 20 per cent of our grantmaking budget reaches our Disadvantaged Minority Communities programme area. In 2023, we will launch a new five-year funding strategy that seeks to place equity at the heart of our grantmaking.



RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIP

The Clothworkers' Foundation occasionally funds work that complements its grantmaking in the Open and Proactive Grant Programmes or where projects may inform the wider grantmaking sector:

COMMUNITY JUSTICE FUND

Social welfare legal advice organisations can be a lifeline for disadvantaged and vulnerable people, and these organisations straddle many of The Foundation's nine programme areas. Specialist advice is free or low-cost, and advice includes debt, benefits, housing, social care, employment, immigration and human rights.

The legal advice sector has been significantly impaired by funding cuts over the past decade, and particularly by the LASPO (Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders) Act 2012, which severely restricted access to Legal Aid for social welfare issues. The poor financial state of the sector has been further exacerbated by Covid-19.

In February 2021, we awarded a grant of £200,000 towards the Community Justice Fund (via the Access to Justice Foundation). This is a partnership of legal advice funders, public funders, and private foundations that has distributed grants to help specialist social welfare legal advice organisations cope with

the immediate and unprecedented pressure caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and help lay the foundations for its long-term revival.

In September 2021, the Community Justice Fund published research that found:

📄 Organisations supported by the Community Justice Fund help 483,000 clients a year.

📄 The average net benefit to the Treasury for each client helped is £8,000, while the average cost of advice provision is just £510 per person. This equates to a net benefit to the public purse of £4 billion per year.

📄 In addition to government savings, the provision of free specialist legal advice by these organisations means each year 235,000 people who would otherwise have been unemployed, remain in or gain employment.

MAKING THE LEAP

Making The Leap (MTL) is a current grantee under our Better Futures II (Proactive) initiative, and our funding relationship with the charity dates back to 2012.

Based on learning from our Covid

Phase II work – which recognised the importance of both helping sustain and grow Black and minority-led organisations, and to improve opportunities for racialised people in the charity sector – we wanted to build on this and support MTL further.

Founded in 1993, Making The Leap helps young people (aged 11 to 25) from disadvantaged backgrounds in London by raising their aspirations and equipping them with the skills, behaviours and confidence to succeed while increasing their access to opportunities. Led by Tunde Banjoko OBE, MTL is one of the few, Black-led mainstream charities with a Black majority Senior Leadership team.

In August 2018, #CharitySoWhite launched, leading to a conversation about racial equality in the charity sector. As people from racialised backgrounds shared their experiences of working in the sector, it became clear that they experience racism, and a lack of opportunities.

Our grant of £100,000 was awarded towards MTL's core costs. This was to support the charity's expansion as well as the growth of Black Charity Leaders, a new initiative set up to advance professionals from racialised communities who have chosen to make a career in the charity sector.

SOCIAL INVESTMENT

In 2017, The Clothworkers' Company donated £750,000 to The Clothworkers' Foundation, enabling us to actively research and invest in suitable opportunities for social investment. We made our first social investment in 2018; by the end of 2021, we had fully allocated this donation and made a further social investment using funds from our expendable endowment.

2021 INVESTMENTS

Women in Safe Homes

The Women in Safe Homes (WISH) fund, believed to be the world's first gender-lens property impact investment fund, was launched in December 2020 as a solution to the lack of affordable, safe and secure homes across the UK for women and their children who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. They could be survivors of domestic abuse, have experience of the criminal justice system, or are otherwise experiencing personal challenges including poor mental health or illness.

Homelessness for women is a different experience than that for men. It is often rooted in trauma, domestic abuse and violence, and it therefore requires a gender-specific intervention and a bespoke solution

for housing and support that is often best delivered by specialist women safety officers (WSOs), with which the WISH fund partners.

The Foundation invested £250,000 as part of the second close, which took place in spring 2021 and brought the fund size to above £20 million. We also awarded a grant to the catalytic grantmaking component of the initiative, which provided capacity building support to women's sector organisations in 2020.

RefuAid

When arriving in a new community or country, people who have been forced to flee their homes face huge challenges in accessing education and employment. There are few initiatives successfully providing long-term solutions to forced migration, meaning those forced to flee end up dependent on aid and charity.

RefuAid focuses on three key barriers to access for refugees with leave to remain, as they try to restart their lives in the UK: (1) finance and re-qualification, (2) language tuition and (3) specialist employment advice.

The Foundation made a social investment of £200,000 towards RefuAid's Equal Access Loan Programme, which distributes interest-free loans of up to £10,000 to pay for the UK licensing or the

training refugees need to get to work in their professions in the UK. The Equal Access Loan Programme has now made loans amounting to approximately £1,331,400 to 233 individuals.

Charity Bank

Charity Bank is the bank 'of the social sector and for the social sector'. It is 100 per cent owned by charities and social purpose investors, and is wholly committed to supporting charities and social enterprises that facilitate positive social change across a range of critical issues such as housing, social care, and community regeneration.

Charity Bank is filling the gap in mainstream credit provision to impacted organisations. Of the Charity Bank borrowers that took part in a recent social impact study, 84 per cent reported that their Charity Bank loan enabled growth in their services, while 66 per cent said their projects could not have gone ahead without the loans.

In 2021, as part of a capital raise, we subscribed to new shares in Charity Bank, making an investment of £1 million from our expendable endowment. The new capital raised from our investment (and others) will enable Charity Bank to respond to a growing demand for repayable finance, including the significant unmet demand for unsecured funding.

WISH CASE STUDY

WISH: ALISON'S STORY

Alison* (*name changed to protect identity) experienced domestic abuse for a number of years. This is her story.

'I spent six years in an emotionally and physically abusive relationship. It slowly stripped me of who I was as a person, to the point I felt worthless and didn't even want to be alive. I kept leaving and spending time at my mum's, but then had to move back each time, as he wouldn't let me take my children with me. I have two children, who at the time were aged 3 and 5, and who saw and heard arguments most days, despite me trying to keep it hidden from them.

'On 7 January 2019, I went into the women's centre and spoke to one of the domestic abuse team members. The women's centre gave me keys to a crisis property **one** day later. They helped me with everything from there onward. Two workers from the housing team came to see if I had everything I needed. The crisis property had beds, a kitchen, a sofa – making it comfortable for us – as well as CCTV, an alarm and a button to press each day to say I was ok.

'The housing and domestic abuse teams helped me do almost everything step by step. During all this, I managed to come to an arrangement with the kids' dad, and my worker

also helped me put safety precautions in place for this, too. A worker from the housing department filled out my housing forms with me, came with me to meetings and set up appointments for me at the Council ... In April 2019, I was given keys to my own place!

'The women's centre then helped me by getting beds delivered on the day I moved in, and it also provided essentials like a kettle and toaster. I had left my family home with nothing but my kids and suitcases with our clothes; 18 months ago, I was a complete mess of a person, who had no idea what my life would be like, or if I would even still be alive. But I am. I'm alive, I'm happy, with two happy children, in a home I love and have made my own, and I work at a job, in a place I love, with people I love.

'The women's centre was my saviour in so many ways, and I will forever be grateful to every single person who helped me on my journey. I could never have imagined that I would be where I am today.'

This story comes from the previous experience of the WISH fund's charity partners, and indicates the need for and importance of the approach the fund is taking. It also indicates the impact that charity partners are having. Future impact reports will include stories from women whom the fund has helped to house.

WISH STATUS



WISH GOALS

WISH Funds are purchasing:



The fund aims to house more than 6,000 women.



PROACTIVE GRANTS PROGRAMME BETTER FUTURES

Better Futures launched in 2013, with an initial allocation of £1.25 million. Driving the programme was the 2011 riots as well as the underlying effects of the recession and economic downturns (and its significant impact on disadvantaged young people). From 2013 to 2017, six major projects were funded in support disadvantaged young people. A further £1.25 million was allocated to *Better Futures* in 2019.

In 2019, major multi-year grants were awarded to Blueprint For All (£301,000), Leap Confronting Conflict (£225,000), Making The Leap (£176,000), and Reachout (£176,000); a final grant was awarded to UK Youth (£150,000) in 2020.

nfpResearch, which undertook the evaluation of the first of *Better Futures* grants from 2013 to 2017, is undertaking an ongoing evaluation of the latest grants, providing us with annual interim insights and findings.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 caused considerable turbulence for our *Better Futures* grantees, forcing them to adapt. Despite a highly challenging

context, we saw the charities displaying considerable flexibility and ability to adapt their work in order to continue providing necessary support to young people, many of whom were experiencing additional hardships during the pandemic as well.

The Foundation undertook a flexible approach towards grantees' use of funding – for instance, allowing charities to repurpose funding to meet emergency needs in the community or to spend time and resources in digitising their services.

In 2021, charities were able to begin to make good progress against their original objectives, with changing delivery models that applied learnings around the longer-term application of digital in their work, whilst also reaffirming the vital nature of face-to-face delivery.

We have continued to take a flexible approach to our funding, recognising that grantees have been able to provide critical support to many young people over this period, supporting them not only in surviving an extremely challenging period, but also in developing and moving forward with their lives.

Image: Courtesy of grantee UK Youth.

CARE LEAVERS

In 2018, we used our *Care Leavers* initiative to partner with organisations working towards ensuring positive outcomes for young care leavers. Multi-year grants to Drive Forward Foundation (£151,000), Catch22 (£400,000), and Lighthouse (incubated by Catch22, £96,000) were followed, in 2019, by another to Become (£530,000). The aim of these projects has been to have a meaningful impact on the lives of young care leavers.

Some projects deliver this through improving the support and opportunities provided to young people who are leaving or have recently left care. Others provide earlier intervention for young people still within the care system, with the aim of contributing to better outcomes in the future.

Whilst the activities of all four projects aim to have tangible impacts for young people who use or benefit from the

services in the short term, many also have wider strategic aims – such as developing pilot models that will prove the value of new ways to better support young people in or leaving care that may influence policy and practice.

nfpResearch has been commissioned to evaluate the projects; an interim evaluation notes that: 'There is already a very strong case to be made for the value of The Clothworkers' Foundation's decision to fund these projects. We see that, where direct delivery is underway, the models are proving themselves to be of significant value through the direct impact they are having on young people.'

'For those projects in the set-up phase, we see signs of real progress in establishing, developing and strengthening their models and purposes – and excellent groundwork being put in place for these innovative models to thrive.'

Image: Courtesy of grantee the Drive Forward Foundation.





DRAMATIC ARTS

Launched in 2014 with a £1.25 million allocation, *Dramatic Arts* has two strands: bursaries for talented students from low-income backgrounds and an annual £150,000 Clothworkers' Regional Theatre Award.

In 2019, we committed a further £1.25 million to *Dramatic Arts*, awarding multi-year bursary grants to London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (£250,000), Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (£225,000), and Society of London Theatre (£50,000).

We also awarded a major grant of £490,000 to National Youth Theatre –

including £400,000 to plan, implement and evaluate a revised model for young people's participation; £60,000 for bursaries over five years; and £30,000 towards 'NYT on Tour.'

An interim evaluation report by Sam-Culture, who was commissioned to evaluate the National Youth Theatre grant, found that: 'The over-arching impact emerging so far is that this Clothworkers' Foundation funding is giving NYT the confidence and security to deliver more and higher-profile opportunities that are growing the numbers of members.'

Image: Stage production from the National Youth Theatre (2020).
Photography by Helen Murray.

Image provided by grant recipient Reach Learning Disability, registered charity 1076318.

Reach supports people with learning disabilities to achieve a happier, healthier life in their communities by providing care support, day service and accommodation.