It gives me great pleasure to step into the role of Chair of Trustees at Sussex Community Foundation. Looking back at the Foundation's eventful 12 months, I'm proud of our achievements but anticipate challenges ahead for our organisation and the broader sector.

Comparatively, the UK lags behind in philanthropy compared to countries like Canada, New Zealand, and the USA. As societal disparities widen, it's essential for the more privileged to support those in need within our communities.

In Sussex, the unwavering dedication of volunteers, charity workers, and generous donors shines as a beacon of hope amid economic uncertainty. At the Foundation, we are passionate about the place we live and determined to do all we can to keep that beacon burning brightly.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Foundation's trustees and staff for enabling the incredible impact over the year, detailed in this Annual Report, and to particularly thank outgoing Chair Keith Hollis who has done an excellent job for the last six years, and hands the Foundation over in a strong position with clear ambition for the future.

Mark Spofforth OBE, Chair
November 2023
Who we are.

Sussex Community Foundation is a registered charity that exists to make Sussex a fairer and more equal place. We do this by enabling local people to support local causes, making vital grants through over 100 dedicated funds to small charities and voluntary groups working in communities across Sussex.

What we do.

In March 2023 we introduced our four key funding priorities. Using national and local data, we are focusing our impact on these priorities, where we believe we can make the biggest difference. It’s all part of achieving our vision of a fairer, more equal Sussex.

Through our philanthropy and impact advice, we help to match our supporters’ aims with the many small, effective local charities that are supported through the funds we manage.

Our four funding priorities are:

- **Tackling poverty** Reducing poverty and disadvantage in our communities
- **Improving health** Helping people live longer, better lives
- **Reaching potential** Providing life-changing skills, education and training
- **Acting on climate** Taking local action for the climate
Making an *impact* across *Sussex*.

£3.2 million awarded
571 grants given

528
To 528 charities and community groups

9
Across nine distinct funding programmes

**Primary Issue Supported**
By value of grants awarded.

- Health & Wellbeing
- Fairness, Equality & Inclusion
- Community Support & Development
- Education & Training
- Community Sector Development
- Environment
- Arts, Culture & Heritage
- Housing & Homelessness
- Sports & Recreation

Carers
Children & young people
Families/parents
Local residents
Men and/or boys
Older people
People experiencing homelessness
Black and minority ethnic people
People in care or living with a life-limiting condition
People living in poverty/disadvantage
People living in rural areas
People living with alcohol/drug addictions
People living with mental health problems
People living with physical, sensory or learning disabilities
People who are long term unemployed
People who self-identify as LGBTQ
Prison leavers & people at risk of offending
Refugees/asylum seekers/vulnerable migrants
Survivors of violence/abuse
Women and/or girls
Young people not in education, employment and training
Other
Primary **beneficiary** supported.

By value of grants awarded.
Grants awarded across Sussex.

We are proud to have given 571 grants in the 2022-23 financial year to organisations across Sussex, reaching people in all corners of the county.

The map below shows all grants awarded by Sussex Community Foundation, according to the postcode where the organisation is based. Many organisations are based in towns but provide support to rural communities in the area.

Over 400,000 people have benefitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local authority</th>
<th>Total given in 2022-23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Sussex</td>
<td>£1,094,663.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Sussex</td>
<td>£983,073.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton &amp; Hove</td>
<td>£871,463.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex Wide/Other</td>
<td>£263,388.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£3,212,589.55</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Commitments.

In our 2022 – 27 strategy, we made seven specific commitments across the next five years. In this report we are sharing our progress to date from April 2022 to March 2023.

- To focus our support clearly and openly on addressing poverty and disadvantage
- To help strengthen local communities and the voluntary sector
- To increase the amount and the effectiveness of local philanthropy in Sussex
- To use data and local knowledge to inform our work
- To promote equity, diversity and inclusion
- To support local action to address climate change
- To be an open and trusting grant maker
To focus our support clearly and openly on addressing *poverty* and *disadvantage*.

We continue to respond to the challenges of poverty and disadvantage in our communities. The current picture around the cost of living and higher inflation has worsened the quality of life for many, and we are seeing the impact of this across many of the applications we receive.

**This year we have:**

- Launched our Cost of Living appeal, which received its first donations in October 2022.
- Funded projects and organisations that explicitly address poverty related challenges through their work. For example, we supported 136 organisations working to address Cost of Living challenges with over £805,000 in funding.
- Developed a new set of four funding priorities including one on ‘Tackling Poverty’ – demonstrating our ongoing commitment and providing clarity for applicants about these priorities.
- Produced case studies and a Cost of Living video to demonstrate how organisations are helping to address these challenges.
- Encouraged more supporters to join us by setting up funds and contributing to our core commitment in this area.

“Thank you for your ongoing support. This grant has allowed us to test and build our model of supporting children and young people, which has become part of our core offer.”

Sussex Prisoners Families
To help *strengthen local communities* and the *voluntary sector*.

Since the Covid pandemic and subsequent Cost of Living crisis, the value of the voluntary sector has never been more evident. From the setting up of new mutual aid groups in the pandemic to the increase in numbers of food banks and other emergency response organisations, the voluntary sector has responded incredibly effectively to the ongoing challenges we face. Without the network of volunteer-led, locally based organisations, people would inevitably face even greater challenges and hardship. This is why our support for the voluntary sector is increasingly important.

This year we have:

- Continued to provide core funding, project funding and support for organisational capacity building and strategic work to ensure the survival of organisations.
- Developed our partnerships with the vital network of Voluntary Actions and other infrastructure providers and public sector organisations including County Councils.
- Participated in local networks, forums and events to share insights and provide funding advice and support to voluntary groups.
- Provided funding for eight Voluntary Actions and other voluntary sector support organisations to deliver projects, support training and engage in new initiatives.

“We continue to be in the very privileged position to receive such highly responsive support and communication from the Grants team. Thank you for all you do for the Crawley VCSE sector and for being such a flexible and empathetic funder!”

Crawley Community Action
Growing the pot of philanthropic giving is central to our ability to deliver on all of our commitments. By offering our services as a trusted, knowledgeable advisor to all those who want to give, we can also enable that giving to be as effective as possible.

This year we have:

- Supported donors to open three new endowment funds for long term and seven new flow-through funds for immediate grant making.
- Inspired local people, companies and charitable trusts to give £150,024 to an urgent Cost of Living Appeal.
- Continued working with solicitors, accountants and wealth managers to support their clients with expert local philanthropy advice, presenting to teams and speaking at events.
- Developed new funds for pooled giving aligned with our four new funding priorities.
- Delivered a varied engagement programme of face-to-face and online events and visits to funded organisations.

“At times it feels as if the big well-known national charities are always the most likely to receive donations. We wanted to find a way to support smaller local grassroots charities, specifically in the areas of health, education and disadvantage.

By donating through Sussex Community Foundation, we realised that we could be part of a well-established organisation specialising in giving and monitoring grants that will really make a difference to local lives.”

Simon and Vicky, supporters
To use data and local knowledge to inform our work.

We feel it is important to be able to demonstrate the real need in Sussex and have an evidence base on which to make decisions. We use publicly available community data as well as information from our networks to be certain we are focused on where the real challenges lie.

This year we have:

- Conducted grantee surveys to identify the impact of the Cost of Living crisis on voluntary sector organisations and wider communities.
- Taken feedback from statutory partners across East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove to inform guidance and criteria for new funds.
- Continued to invest in the Local Insight tool as part of our grants assessment process. Local Insight provides us with relevant and up-to-date data on Sussex communities as published by the government and other sources.
- Reviewed trends in applications and end of grant reporting to support decision making and inform priorities.
- Commissioned the next series of Sussex Uncovered reports with the first planned for later in 2023 on Tackling Poverty.

“We greatly appreciate the support that we have received from Sussex Community Foundation since 2015. Your repeat funding has been a source of encouragement to us and we are grateful to you for your partnership as we reach out to support women at risk of sexual exploitation in West Sussex.”

Yada
Our commitment to support and champion our diverse communities across Sussex has strengthened in recent years. We are tackling systemic inequality by challenging how we manage our grant making, widening who and what we fund and addressing the root causes of inequalities that exist in our communities.

“Another noticeable impact your funding has made is raising wider awareness on demand and need for food banks which in turn has led to increased community spirit, compassion and concern for those in need resulting in a wider pool of volunteers at the BMECP.”

BMECP (Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership)
To support local action to address climate change.

Only 2% of global philanthropy is devoted to climate change. Yet the climate crisis is a people crisis – and it’s one that’s affecting already disadvantaged communities in Sussex the most. We’re resolved to pull all the levers we can to support both people and planet and enable others who want to do the same.

This year we have:

• Developed a new fund for pooled giving aligned with our ‘Acting on Climate’ funding priority.

• Operated ten grant making funds with a full or partial focus on climate change and the environment. This includes one of our largest funds, the Rampion Community Benefit Fund which has now made a total of £2,047,000 in 200 grants since inception.

• Participated in the first cohort of the eight-week ‘Climate + Philanthropy: A Compact Learning Journey’ course to learn more about integrating climate protection into our work to grow local philanthropy.

• Developed a Sustainability Policy to measure and mitigate our own operational carbon footprint.

• Continued to assess how we deploy our own investments. Our two investment management firms are fully committed to the goal of net zero by 2050 and the Paris Climate Change Agreement to target a global temperature increase of 1.5 degrees.*

“Thank you for supporting local efforts to live more sustainably while building community resilience.”

Rye Community Garden

*Both companies are members of the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative, which is a collective responsible for £51 trillion of invested assets and therefore able to influence the policies and behaviours of global companies.
We are one of the Flexible Funders, signing up to IVAR’s eight funder commitments*, to fund charities in an open and trusting way. The eight commitments were designed by charities and funders to support the management of grants and relationships in a way that reflects funders’ confidence in and respect for the organisations they fund.

**This year we have:**

- Provided more feedback and clearer information on our eligibility criteria to avoid wasted effort for applicants.

- Reviewed our application and monitoring forms, ensuring only essential questions are asked.

- Continued to seek feedback from grantees and applicants on our funding and processes and are open to adjusting project timelines and objectives.

- Continued to publish information on our grant making on 360Giving and maintain transparency across our funding.

- Understood that for projects we support things may not always go as planned, so we continue to try and be flexible in our approach.

**“Sussex Community Foundation is an amazing funder. Once again we really appreciate the trust you place in us to understand our work, what needs doing and to get on with it!”**

Sussex Nightstop

*For more information on the IVAR commitments visit: [www.ivar.org.uk/flexible-funders/](http://www.ivar.org.uk/flexible-funders/)
## Our Finance.

### Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Endowment funds</th>
<th>Total 2023</th>
<th>Total 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming Resources</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total incoming and endowments</td>
<td>708,438</td>
<td>2,272,451</td>
<td>566,423</td>
<td>3,547,312</td>
<td>4,376,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure On:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising funds</td>
<td>140,618</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>140,618</td>
<td>93,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities:</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants awarded</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,274,590</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,274,590</td>
<td>4,256,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other direct charitable expenditure</td>
<td>617,731</td>
<td>360,429</td>
<td>263,978</td>
<td>1,242,138</td>
<td>1,121,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total resources expended</strong></td>
<td>758,349</td>
<td>3,635,019</td>
<td>263,978</td>
<td>4,657,346</td>
<td>5,469,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net gain / (loss) on investments</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(942,547)</td>
<td>(942,547)</td>
<td>1,826,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers</strong></td>
<td>(49,911)</td>
<td>(1,362,568)</td>
<td>(640,102)</td>
<td>(2,052,581)</td>
<td>734,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross transfers between funds</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,290,726</td>
<td>(1,290,726)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net movement in funds</strong></td>
<td>(49,911)</td>
<td>(71,842)</td>
<td>(1,930,828)</td>
<td>(2,052,581)</td>
<td>734,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balances at 1 April 2022</strong></td>
<td>552,401</td>
<td>1,683,540</td>
<td>25,965,288</td>
<td>28,201,229</td>
<td>27,447,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balances at 31 March 2023</strong></td>
<td>502,490</td>
<td>1,611,698</td>
<td>24,034,460</td>
<td>26,148,648</td>
<td>28,201,229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The statements on this page are a summary of information extracted from the statutory financial statements and may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of Sussex Community Foundation. For further information the full statutory accounts, the unqualified auditors report on the accounts, and the trustees report dated 27th September 2023 should be consulted. Copies of these (which have been filed at the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies) can be obtained from the charity at 15 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1RL.

Mark Spofforth
Chair
On behalf of the trustees of Sussex Community Foundation
27th September 2023
Balance Sheet.

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 March 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023 (£)</th>
<th>2022 (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>23,781,307</td>
<td>25,489,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23,781,307</td>
<td>25,490,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>194,629</td>
<td>55,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>291,000</td>
<td>291,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>2,038,168</td>
<td>2,444,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,523,797</td>
<td>2,761,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors falling due within one year</td>
<td>(156,456)</td>
<td>(50,332)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net current assets</td>
<td>2,367,341</td>
<td>2,710,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>26,148,648</td>
<td>28,201,229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Represented by:
- Endowment fund: 24,034,460 25,965,288
- Restricted funds – grant funds awaiting distribution: 1,611,698 1,683,540
- General reserves – for core operating costs: 502,490 552,401
- 26,148,648 28,201,229

In our opinion the summary financial statements on this page are consistent with the full annual statutory financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2023 on which our opinion was unqualified.

Knill James LLP

Our Advisors
Knill James LLP
Registered auditors
Sarasin & Partners LLP
CCLA Investment Management
Adams & Remers LLP
Solicitors

For every £1 invested in fundraising, we raised £25
Our People.

Founder and Presidents:
Founder: 10th Duke of Richmond and Gordon

Joint Presidents: Andrew Blackman, Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Lady Emma Barnard, Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex

Patron: 11th Duke of Richmond and Gordon

Trustees
Andrew Baird, Julia Carrette, Sally Case, Guy Davison, Corinne Day, Mebrak Ghebreweldi, Christine Gibbons, David Hill, Brian Mills, Rachel Misra, Nick Munday, Deirdre Prower, Martin Roberts, David Sampson, Mark Spofforth OBE (Chair), Patrick Stevens (treasurer).

Thank you to the following who served as trustees during the year: Maggie Burgess, Jonica Fox, Keith Hollis and Pamela Stiles.

Ambassadors

Staff team
Sarah Ablett, Adrian Barrott, Alessandra Calabrese, Stephen Chamberlain, Hannah Clay, Zoë Gandey, Sally Horrox, Pete Jones, Louise Meehan, Laura Nuppola, Kevin Richmond, Alex Stewart, Nikki Wheeler, Jackie Wilkes.

* At time of publication
We would be nothing without our **fund holders, donors** and **supporters**.

- Adur Relief Fund
- Aisbitt Family Fund
- Albert Van den Bergh / Glover Fund
- Alex and William De Winton Trust Fund
- Altia Fund
- American Express Fund
- Amy Hart Fund
- ARDIS Fund
- Argus Appeal Fund
- Arthur & Doreen Green Fund
- Arthur & Rosemary Kay Fund
- Ayton Family Fund
- Azalea Fund
- B&H Legacy Fund – Children & Young People
- B&H Legacy Fund – Libraries
- Beechlands Fund
- Bolton Fund
- Brenda Ford Fund
- Brighton & Hove Arts Fund
- Brighton & Hove Fund
- Brighton & Hove Homelessness Fund
- Brighton Rock Fund
- British Red Cross Cost of Living Fund
- Britton Family Fund
- Carpenter Box Fund
- Cecil Family Fund
- The Chagossian Fund
- Chris Smith Memorial Fund
- CJKR Family Fund
- Cost of Living Fund
- Covid Winter Support Fund
- Cragwood Fund
- Crucible Foundation Fund
- Cubitt & West Estate Agents Charity Fund
- Cubitt & West Estate Agents Emergency Fund
- Cullum Family Trust Fund
- Dame Elizabeth Nash Fund
- David & Karen Allam Fund
- Davison Fund
- DCMS Cost of Living Fund
- Dewani Fund
- Dr Joyce Lomas Fund
- East Brighton Trust Fund
- East Sussex County Council Winter Support & Recovery Fund
- East Sussex Fund
- East Sussex High Sheriff Fund
- East Sussex Women of the Year Fund
- Elizabeth Tait Foundation Fund
- Fairfield Fund
- Fangorn Fund
- Field Family Fund
- Fleming Family Fund
- Frank and Lorna’s Fund
- Gatwick Foundation Fund
- Glebe Fund
- Glenn & Phyllida Earle Fund
- Gurney Charitable Trust Fund
- Ian Askew Charitable Trust Fund
- Innes Fund
- Inspire Fund
- Isaac Ganas Fund
- Jim & Audrey Buttiner Fund
- John Laing Charitable Trust Fund
- Joyce Lomas Fund
- Kevin & Anne Richmond Fund
- Kim Addison Fund
- Knighton Fund
- Laing Fund
- Lawson Endowment for Sussex
- Let’s Create Jubilee Fund
- Lewes & District Flood & Disaster Relief Fund
- Lewes Fund
- Leyden House Fund
- Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm Fund
- Lynn Foundation Fund
- M&G Investment Bank Cost of Living Fund
- Made by Sport Clubs in Crisis Fund
- Margaret Greenough Fund
- Marit & Hans Rausing Fund
- Martin Family Fund
- MCF Ukrainian Refugee Support Fund
- Meads Fund
- Millicent Mather Fund
- Montagu Fund
- Munday Family Fund
- Newhaven EZ Community Fund
- Nick & Gill Wills Fund
- Nino Fund
- Noel Bennett Fund
- Nowl Charity Sustainable Communities Fund
- Open Door Fund
- Paddy Boyle Fund
- Peel Family Fund
- Pegasus Fund
- Price Family Fund
- Pro Bono Fund
- Purple Fund
- Rampion Fund
- Recovery Fund
- Rye Capital Projects Fund
- Rye Fund
- Sachs Trust Fund
- Selits Fund
- Sharpe Family Fund
- Shoreham Air Show Fund
- Sierra Gorda Fund
- Sir George Earle Benevolent Fund
- Sue Addis Memorial Fund
- Surviving Winter Fund
- The Willcocks Group Fund
- Tiney Fund
- Tulip Family Fund
- Welton Fund
- West Sussex County Council Small Grants Fund
- West Sussex Fund
- West Sussex High Sheriff Fund
- Westdene Fund
- Westeute Fund
- William Reed Fund
- Winter Support Cost of Living Fund East Sussex
- Worthing & Adur Fund

We would particularly like to acknowledge the support of the following:

- Aldama Foundation
- Arts Council England
- Band Trust
- CAF UK
- Chiltern Charitable Trust
- Consuelo & Anthony Brooke Charitable Trust
- Crucible Foundation
- Cubitt & West Estate Agents
- Donatello’s Restaurant
- East Sussex County Council
- Eshcon
- Ferring Trust
- Friends of Sussex Community Foundation
- Grocer’s Charity
- Hall & Woodhouse Ltd
- J Booth Charitable Trust
- John Laing Charitable Trust
- Lynn Foundation
- Miller Parris Solicitors LLP
- Mr James and Lady Emma Barnard (The Barness Trust)
- Patricia Routledge Charitable Foundation
- Rampion Offshore Wind Ltd
- River Trust
- Rock Solid Trust
- RWE Innogy
- Savills plc
- UK Community Foundations
- West Sussex County Council

...and the many generous donors to the Cost of Living Fund.

---

**Special thanks to:**

- Bluebell Vineyard Estates
- CCLA
- David Dimbleby
- James Whitmore, High Sheriff of West Sussex
- Jane King, High Sheriff of East Sussex
- Arthur & Rosemary Kay
Inspirational people *create* the change Sussex needs. People willing to give their money, time, expertise and passion to help their *communities* thrive. Thank you for being part of that absolutely vital group, and being part of our journey to a *fairer* and more *equal* Sussex.

info@sussexcommunityfoundation.org
www.sussexcommunityfoundation.org

15 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1RL