



2022-2023

*Annual* Report



## *Our Chief Executive's Report*

This year, we launched our new vision and strategy – to build a fairer, more equal Sussex. We are relentlessly focused on addressing today's challenges and building for a better tomorrow. Our society is facing urgent and enduring crises, requiring both immediate action and a sustained commitment to building a better world. And we believe that local community organisations play a crucial role in that change.

Through partnerships with people and organisations dedicated to supporting local communities, we have been able to provide funding to address the issues of the day, including providing £800,000 through our Cost of Living response.

Recognising that the need in our communities is greater than ever, we are determined to find new funding sources to ensure our sustained support for local communities whatever may come.

In order to broaden our support base and address key community issues, we've launched four funding priorities: Tackling Poverty, Improving Health, Reaching Potential, and Acting on Climate. Not everyone is in the position to set up a Donor Advised Fund, so we hope that these priorities will attract many more people to support grassroots charities through the Foundation.

Kevin Richmond, Chief Executive  
November 2023



## *Our Chair's Report*

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





Wild Gathering

## *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

£3.2 million awarded



**571**  
grants

571 grants given

**528**

To 528 charities and community groups

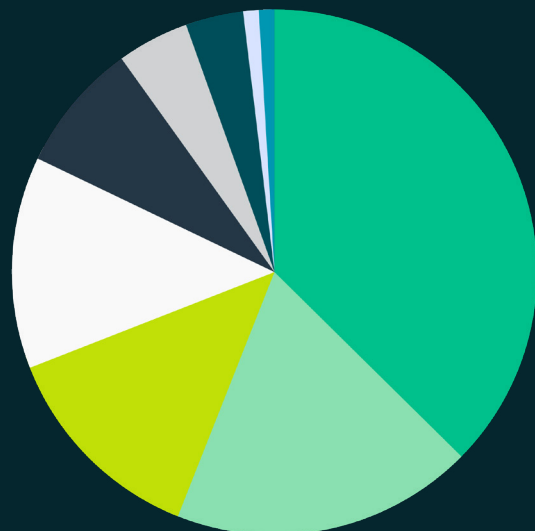
**9**

Across nine distinct funding programmes

### Primary Issue Supported

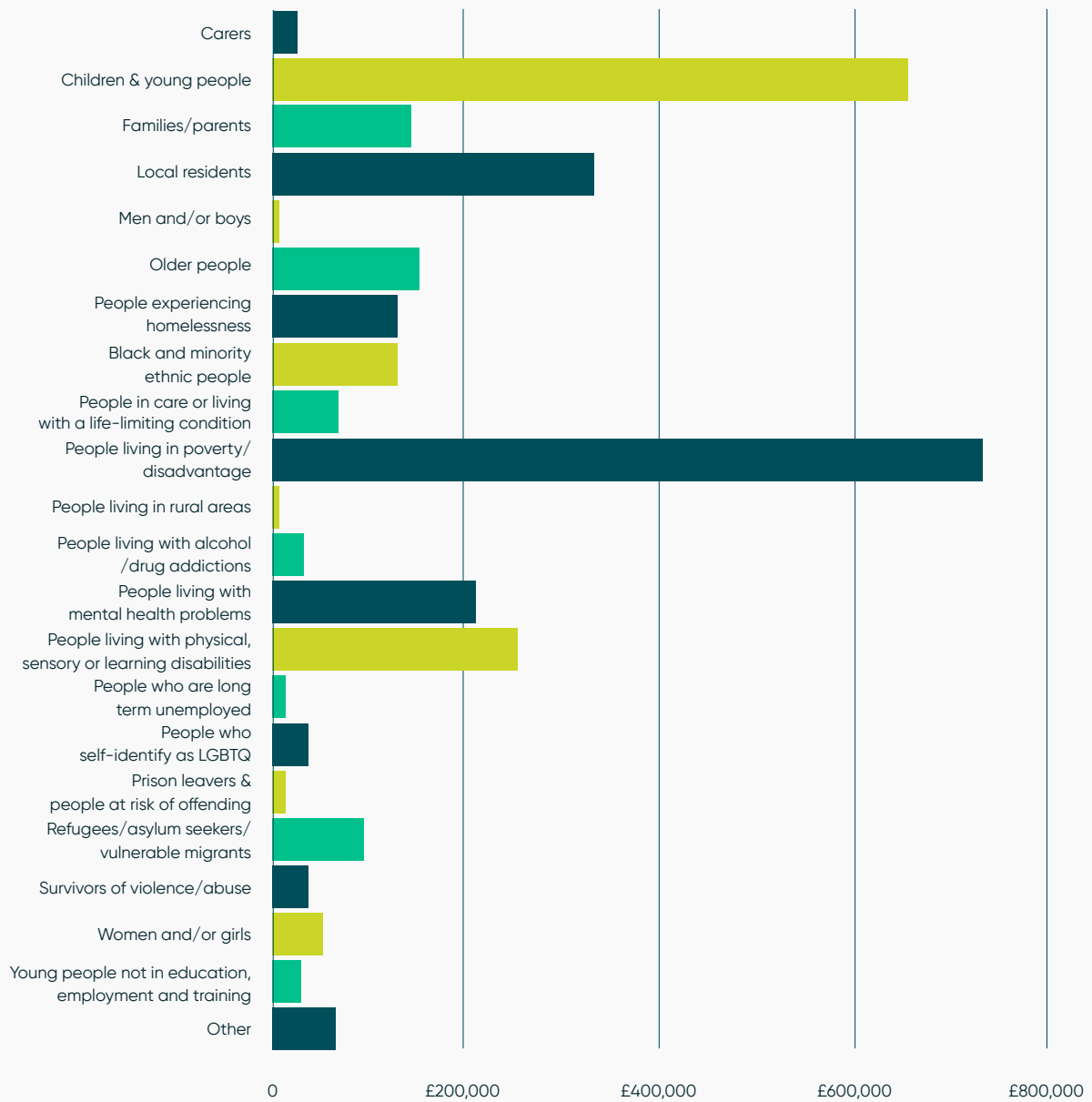
By value of grants awarded.

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



# 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.



**1** = Number of grants awarded

Local authority	Total given in 2022-23
East Sussex	£1,094,663.98
West Sussex	£983,073.72
Brighton & Hove	£871,463.45
Sussex Wide/Other	£263,388.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,212,589.55</b>

## 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



Our Neighbourhood





## 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



## To *increase* the amount and the effectiveness of *local philanthropy* in Sussex.

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



The Kiln



## To promote *equity, diversity* and *inclusion*.

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.

### This year we have:

- Delivered a specific fund for Ukrainian refugees, providing 16 organisations with £145,000 of funding to support people from Ukraine living in Sussex.
- Supported 26 organisations with funding of £128,000 to specifically work with and support people from ethnic minority backgrounds, many led by people from these communities.
- Funded over £250,000 to support people with physical, sensory or learning disabilities and provided £50,000 of funding for women and girls projects.
- Provided funding of £37,620 for LGBTQ projects.
- Brought in new eligibility criteria which ensures all organisations we fund have an EDI policy or similar which references the Equality Act 2010 and the nine protected characteristics.



**“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.



## To be an *open* and *trusting* grant maker.

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.



New Note Projects

### 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



	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Total incoming and endowments	708,438	2,272,451	566,423	3,547,312	4,376,619
<b>Expenditure On:</b>					
Raising funds	140,618	-	-	140,618	93,247
Charitable activities:	-	-	-	-	-
Grants awarded	-	3,274,590	-	3,274,590	4,254,358
Other direct charitable expenditure	617,731	360,429	263,978	1,242,138	1,121,824
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>758,349</b>	<b>3,635,019</b>	<b>263,978</b>	<b>4,657,346</b>	<b>5,469,429</b>
<b>Net gain / (loss) on investments</b>	-	-	(942,547)	(942,547)	1,826,903
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers</b>	<b>(49,911)</b>	<b>(1,362,568)</b>	<b>(640,102)</b>	<b>(2,052,581)</b>	<b>734,093</b>
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	-	1,290,726	(1,290,726)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(49,911)</b>	<b>(71,842)</b>	<b>(1,930,828)</b>	<b>(2,052,581)</b>	<b>734,093</b>
<b>Fund balances at 1 April 2022</b>	<b>552,401</b>	<b>1,683,540</b>	<b>25,965,288</b>	<b>28,201,229</b>	<b>27,467,136</b>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>502,490</b>	<b>1,611,698</b>	<b>24,034,460</b>	<b>26,148,648</b>	<b>28,201,229</b>

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



	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible assets	0	542
Investments	23,781,307	25,489,868
	23,781,307	25,490,410
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	194,629	55,756
Investments	291,000	291,000
Cash at bank and in hand	2,038,168	2,414,395
	2,523,797	2,761,151
<b>Creditors falling due within one year</b>	(156,456)	(50,332)
<b>Net current assets</b>	2,367,341	2,710,819
<b>Net assets</b>	26,148,648	28,201,229
<b>Represented by:</b>		
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

### Report of the Auditors

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



Burgess Hill Shed

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

David Allam DL, Charles Drayson, Jeremy Field, Diana Garnham, Kathy Gore OBE DL, Caroline Greenhalgh, Neil Hart DL, Georgina Hovey, Davina Irwin-Clark, Trevor James, Jonathan Lucas, Caroline Lucas, Michael Martin, Maj Gen John Moore-Bick CBE DL, Caroline Nicholls DL, Denise Patterson DL, Graham Peters DL, Juliet Smith JP DL, Patricia Woolgar.

## 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  
Alta 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  
Boltini 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  
CJR 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  
Dexam 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 Buttimer 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 Greenhough 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  
Now! 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 Wellcombe 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  
Westoute 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  
Folkington Trust  
Friends of Sussex Community Foundation  
Grocers' 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 Innology  
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 Dimpleby  
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](mailto:info@sussexcommunityfoundation.org)

[www.sussexcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.sussexcommunityfoundation.org)

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