



Annual
Report

2023-2024

Our Chief Executive's Report

Thanks to the generosity of our fundholders and donors we're pleased to have given out over £2.6m in grants this year. This supported 449 organisations right across Sussex providing essential services during a challenging time for many.

We are now two years into our five-year strategy to build a fairer, more equal Sussex. In 2023 we introduced our four funding priorities: Tackling poverty, Reaching potential, Improving health, and Acting on climate. Through these, we continue to play a leading role in philanthropy across Sussex, as a trusted source of information on the issues that affect our local communities. Last year, we focussed on Tackling Poverty, producing an evidence-based report highlighting the inequality across the county. This has been a useful resource for the sector and widely read.

We continue working with our community of fundholders in long-term philanthropic giving, to understand and support their charitable aims. This includes informing them about local needs and understanding the difference local charities and community groups make. This ensures we maximise the impact of our supporters' donations and make sure our grants go to where they are needed most.

Kevin Richmond, CEO
September 2024



Our Chair's Report

I am delighted to present our Annual Report for 2023-24 in my first year as Chair of Trustees. In reviewing the year, the ongoing Cost of Living crisis, global economic uncertainties and conflicts have set a challenging environment for the many charities and community groups we support in Sussex. The gap between those coping and those struggling has widened significantly.

Despite tough times for the voluntary sector, we tirelessly advocate for and showcase its vital role locally. With more groups seeking grants and significant reductions in statutory funding, our efforts are more crucial than ever.

At the end of 2023, the Lawson Trust generously agreed to add a 50% boost to new donations to our endowment, helping us attract £1.8m in new endowment funds. We are very grateful for their support. During the year we were able to give out £2.6m, but with applications totalling over £7.5m, we could only support a third of the requests, demonstrating the immense need in our communities.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the trustees who stepped down in 2023 for their invaluable service and welcome our six new trustees to the Foundation. I also thank our dedicated staff team for their commitment and enthusiasm, which make our impact possible.

Mark Spofforth OBE, Chair
September 2024





Crawley LGBT+
Photo by:
RBC Photography

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.

Our funding priorities.



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

In November 2023, we produced our Tackling Poverty report to look at the data around poverty within our county. This year we launched our Reaching Potential report, looking at education, attainment and job opportunities in Sussex. We will continue to produce an evidence-led report on our priorities each year.

Both the voluntary sector and philanthropists use the report as an information source to identify the needs in our local communities. We hope it inspires everyone to work together to make Sussex a great place to live for everyone.

Making an *impact* across *Sussex*.



£2.6
million

Over £2.6 million awarded in 2023-24



668
grants

668 grants given



449

Groups supported

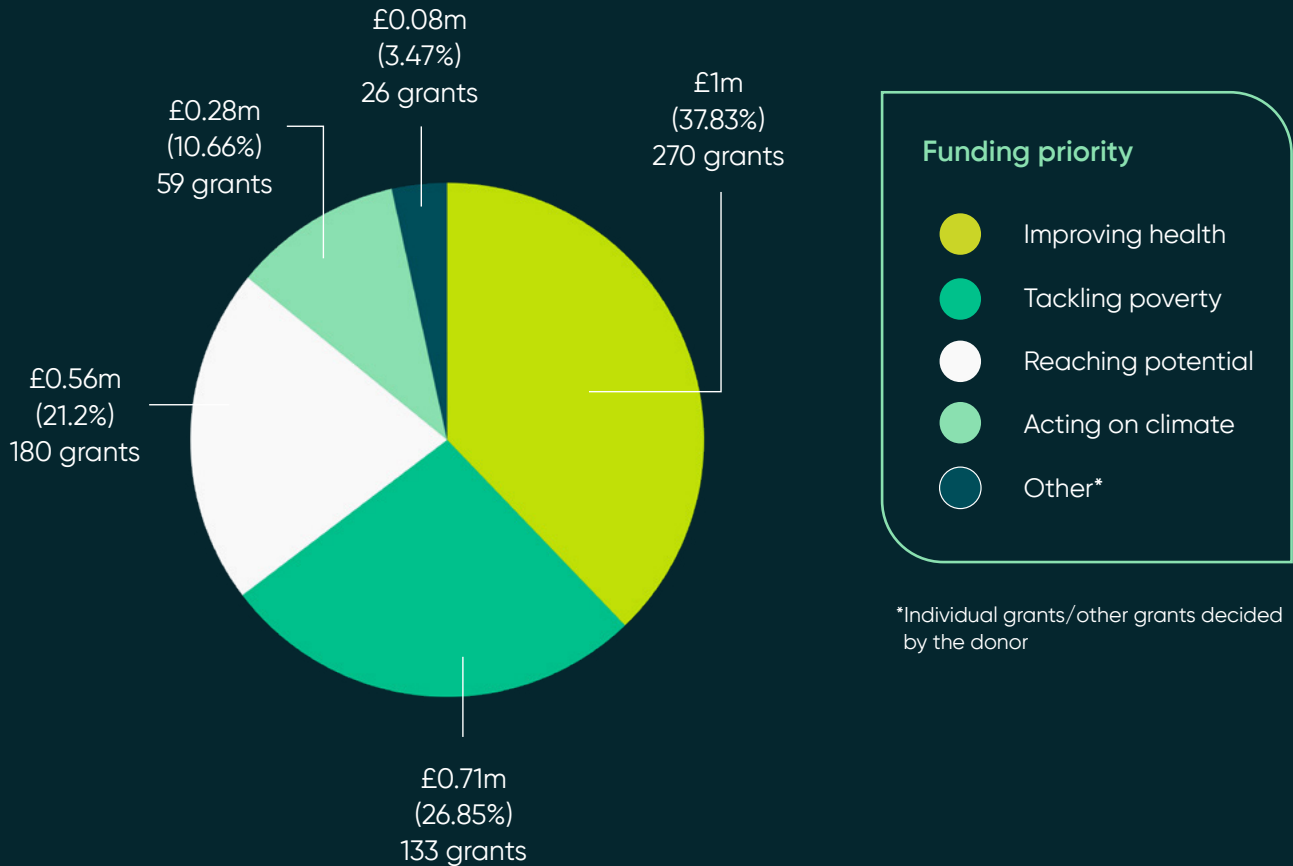


9,000

Volunteers supported – 3,000 who are new



Grants given by funding priority

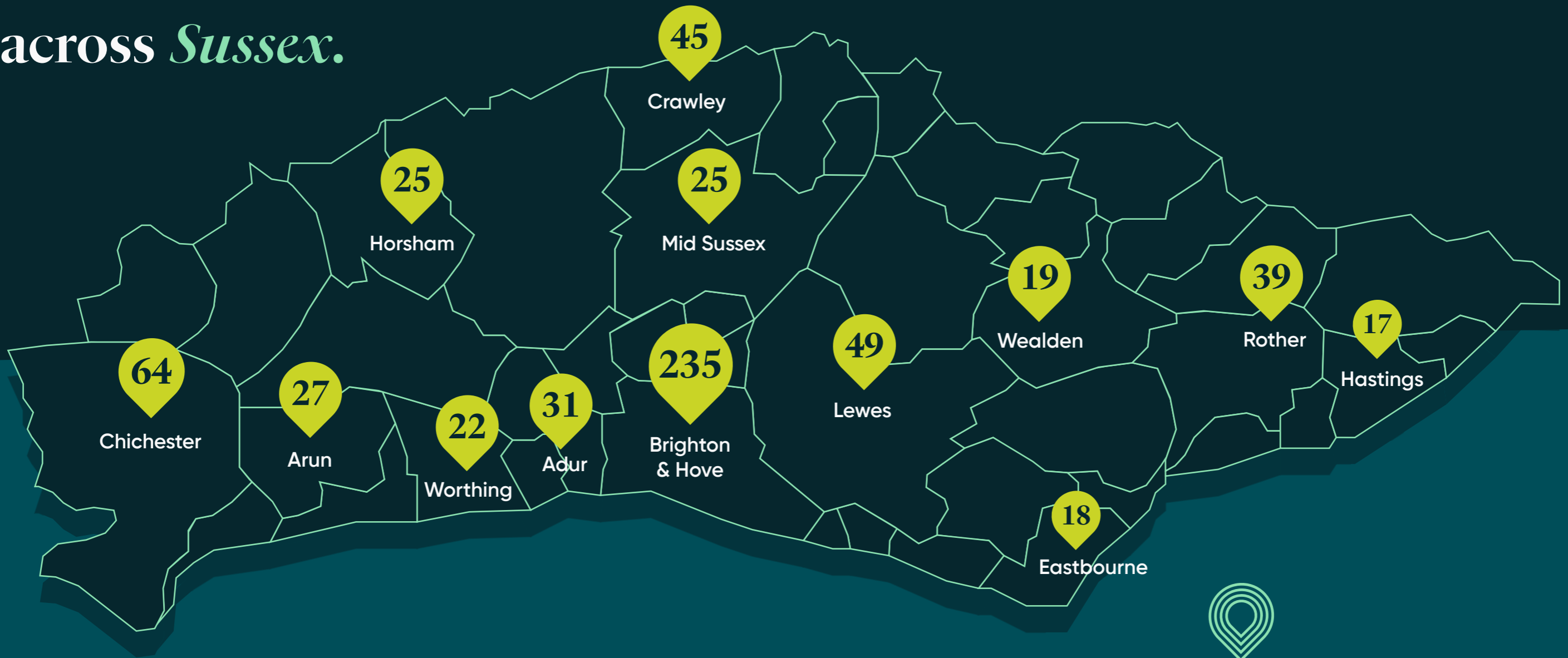


Project delivery area	Number of grants	Total given in 2023-24
Brighton & Hove	191	£656,970
East Sussex	158	£590,157
West Sussex	231	£1,125,844
Sussex Wide/Other	88	£277,451
Total	668	£2,650,423

“We have felt very supported by Sussex Community Foundation. It’s given us a boost of confidence that people trust us and think our projects are worthwhile.”

– Umbrella Sussex

Grants awarded across *Sussex*.



We are proud to have given 668 grants in the 2023-24 financial year to organisations across Sussex, reaching people in all corners of the county.

This map shows all grants awarded by Sussex Community Foundation, according to the local authority where the organisation is based. Many organisations are based in towns but provide support across Sussex. Please note, some grants are not geographically mapped for privacy reasons related to individual grants.



Over

300,000

people have benefitted.



Tackling *poverty*.

Reducing poverty and disadvantage in our communities

The data analysed in our Tackling Poverty report identified four key challenges that are particularly relevant to Sussex communities.

Challenge 1: An aging population

Challenge 2: High levels of long-term illness and poor outcome for those with a disability

Challenge 3: Inflationary pressures are contributing towards financial hardship

Challenge 4: Multiple deprivation challenges in coastal communities

Too many people across Sussex can't afford to meet their basic needs or take part in their communities. Many find themselves on the margins of society, left behind by a lack of services or support. This funding priority supports grassroots charities and community groups that are tackling poverty and disadvantage.

We gave 133 grants under our Tackling poverty funding priority totalling £711,690.



Horsham Matters

Horsham Matters provides services to support local people experiencing food and fuel poverty, including running the Horsham District Foodbank.



CASE STUDY

One foodbank user said:

"It feels physically and mentally crushing that we have gone from pay-check rich to pay-check poor.

I came across an advisor from Horsham District Foodbank. I was able to sit down with her and have a chat about my current situation. I was offered a referral for support from the baby bank and received a voucher code to visit a foodbank session.

Being able to tell someone about my situation and receiving additional support has been lifesaving. I never imagined we would ever be in this position; the stress has been unbelievable. For us, the Cost of Living crisis is much worse than the pandemic lockdowns."



Improving *health*.

Helping people live longer, better lives

Sussex has a higher proportion of people with a disability when compared to the South East and England. Across the county, people with long-term health conditions make up 72% of all people receiving out of work benefits, which is higher than the national average. Poor health is the key driver of worklessness in the county and contributes to higher levels of poverty experienced by those with a disability. Sussex's aging population is also likely to present a key challenge in the future in terms of rising social care and poor health burdens.

This year Improving health was our highest requested funding priority. We gave 270 grants to local groups totalling £1,002,628.

Our health and wellbeing are fundamental to our lives. But across Sussex, many people don't get the support they need. This funding priority addresses that gap, by supporting organisations that positively impact local people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.



Soundcastle

CASE STUDY

Soundcastle supports vulnerable communities by providing transformational music programmes that increase confidence, enhance wellbeing and bring people together.

Living with schizophrenia, T found it very hard to leave the house. When T first attended 'Singing for Wellbeing', it was his first social activity for many years.

T started playing a range of musical instruments. He bought himself a tongue drum to continue playing at home and started using music as a tool to support his wellbeing beyond the Soundcastle sessions.

"When I don't have things to do in the day, I find it hard to get up in the morning. Today I had a bath and put on clean clothes and ate breakfast because I knew I had music."

To finish the year, T evidenced a newly found confidence when he joined the other singers in his first community performance. He said "I'm starting to hear what my voice sounds like."





Reaching *potential*.

Providing life-changing skills, education and training

Our Reaching Potential report, published in September 2024, gives a detailed picture of the education status and work opportunities in Sussex.

The report shows the majority of areas in Sussex are underperforming at Key Stage 2 compared to their peers in the South East and England. Educational inequalities persist into adulthood, with many of the same communities seeing a high proportion of adults with no qualifications.

- Pupils in educationally disadvantaged groups experience lower pupil attainment in Sussex than those experiencing similar disadvantage elsewhere in England.
- Job opportunities are fewer, and access to jobs is harder, in many of the same communities across Sussex that also show poorer educational outcomes. This suggests multiple barriers to reaching potential.
- However, some of the most educationally disadvantaged communities have seen greater improvements in adult skill levels over the last 10 years.

This priority aims to ensure everyone has equal access to developing their potential. At the Foundation, we support many local organisations that build people's confidence and self-belief as well as supporting their skills development.

We gave 180 grants under our Reaching potential funding priority totalling £561,767.

CASE STUDY



Education Futures Trust

Education Futures Trust provides support and learning tailored to improve the life chances of vulnerable children and adults, particularly in Hastings.

"Thank you for the opportunity to offer the courses. The participants felt valued because of the investment in their skills and learning. We targeted some of the most vulnerable learners in Hastings, who told us they felt safe on the courses. They were proud of their work and recognised the growth in their confidence and self-esteem as a result of their learning."





Acting on *climate*.

Taking local action for the climate

The last decade has seen warmer and wetter weather than previous decades across the UK, including Sussex. It is projected that heat related deaths will triple by 2050, with the hottest summers on record that we have observed in recent years, becoming simply “normal” summers.¹

As global temperatures increase, we are expected to see more extreme weather, including heatwaves, storms, and flash flooding. The Met Office² predicts winter rainfall will increase by a third whilst we will have nearly half the amount of summer rainfall by 2070. Flooding can also have impacts on our health and wellbeing, with research showing that there are long-term negative impacts on the mental health of people whose homes are flooded, or lives affected by flooding.

The climate emergency is a global one, but the effects are local. The Acting on climate funding priority helps us reach those in our communities who are both affected by, and taking positive and proactive action on, the climate, nature and biodiversity.

Acting on climate is becoming more of a discussion amongst our networks, who are interested in supporting local projects across Sussex. This includes projects for wildlife conservation, helping communities become greener, creating community gardens and promoting renewable energy and carbon reduction.

1. Understanding the health effects of climate change – UK Health Security Agency (blog.gov.uk).

2. Met Office, UK Climate Projections Report

We gave **59 grants**
under our **Acting on**
climate funding priority
totalling **£282,439.***

*This aligns with the Funder Commitment on Climate Change, which we signed up to in 2020.



Sussex Green Living

Sussex Green Living engages and inspires people on living greener lives through education and outreach activities, recycling initiatives and pop-up repair cafes.

One teacher said:

“The children and I were very inspired by Sussex Green Living’s workshop about improving biodiversity at the E.Y.E (Eco, Young & Engaged) Eco Summit. The children who attended had lots of ideas about how our school could become more eco-friendly. As a school, we have already signed up for some potatoes so we can raise awareness of the importance of growing your own.”



CASE STUDY

Our *Finance*.

Statement of financial activities



For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Incoming Resources					
Total incoming and endowments	682,162	1,549,983	1,830,825	4,062,970	3,547,312
Expenditure On:					
Raising funds	160,174	-	-	160,174	140,618
Charitable activities:	-	-	-	-	-
Grants awarded	-	2,639,725	-	2,639,725	3,274,590
Other direct charitable expenditure	681,167	247,159	281,712	1,210,038	1,242,138
Total resources expended	841,341	2,886,884	281,712	4,009,937	4,657,346
Net gain / (loss) on investments	-	-	2,580,089	2,580,089	(942,547)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	(159,179)	(1,336,901)	(4,129,202)	2,633,122	(2,052,581)
Gross transfers between funds	-	1,130,228	(1,130,228)	-	-
Net movement in funds	(159,179)	(206,673)	2,998,974	2,633,122	(2,052,581)
Fund balances at 1 April 2023	502,490	1,611,698	24,034,460	26,148,648	28,201,229
Fund balances at 31 March 2024	343,311	1,405,025	27,033,434	28,781,770	26,148,648

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 25 July 2024 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
25 July 2024

Balance Sheet.

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2024



	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	0	0
Investments	26,889,251	23,781,307
	26,889,251	23,781,307
Current Assets		
Debtors	191,846	194,629
Investments	291,000	291,000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,473,179	2,038,168
	1,956,025	2,523,797
Creditors falling due within one year	(63,506)	(156,456)
Net current assets	1,892,519	2,367,341
Net assets	28,781,770	26,148,648
Represented by:		
Endowment fund	27,033,434	24,034,460
Restricted funds – grant funds awaiting distribution	1,405,025	1,611,698
General reserves – for core operating costs	343,311	502,490
	28,781,770	26,148,648

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 2024 on which our opinion was unqualified.

Knill James LLP

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditors

One Bell Lane

Lewes

East Sussex



East Side Print

For every £1 *invested* in fundraising, we *raised* £25

Our People.

Founder

10th Duke of Richmond and Gordon

Joint Presidents

Mr 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, 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, Keith Hollis, Rachel Misra and Pamela Stiles.

Ambassadors*

David Allam DL, Charles Drayson, Jeremy Field, Diana Garnham, Kathy Sambrook 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 Olsworth-Peter JP DL, Patricia Woolgar.

Staff team*

Sarah Ablett, Alessandra Calabrese, Hannah Clay, Zoë Gandey, Tracey Glendinning-Smith, Sally Horrox, Pete Jones, Louise Meehan, Laura Nuppola, Natasha Owen, Kevin Richmond, Alex Stewart, Nikki Wheeler, Jackie Wilkes.

* At time of publication



Our *fundholders, donors and supporters* make all our work possible. We are so *grateful* for their continued *support*.

Funds*

Acting on Climate Fund
 Adur Relief Fund
 Aisbitt Family Fund
 Albert Van den Bergh / Glover Fund
 Alex and William De Winton Trust Fund
 Alta Fund
 Ambergate Fund
 Amy Hart Fund
 ARDIS Fund
 Arthur & Doreen Green Fund
 Arthur & Rosemary Kay 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
 Cadet Fund
 Carpenter Box Fund
 Cecil Family Fund
 Chagossian Fund – FCDO
 CJR Family Fund
 Cockburn Family Fund
 Cost of Living Fund
 Cragwood Fund
 Cubitt & West Estate Agents Charity Fund
 Cullum Family Trust Fund
 Dame Elizabeth Nash Fund
 David & Karen Allam Fund
 David James Fund
 Davison Fund
 Dexam Fund
 Dr Joyce Lomas Fund
 East Brighton Trust Fund
 East Sussex Fund
 East Sussex High Sheriff Fund
 Elizabeth Tait Foundation Fund
 Fairfield Fund
 Fangorn Fund
 Field Family Fund
 Fleming Family Fund
 Gatwick Foundation Fund
 Glebe Fund
 Glenn & Phyllida Earle Fund
 Gurney Charitable Trust Fund
 Ian Askew Charitable Trust Fund
 Improving Health Fund
 Innes Fund
 Inspire Fund
 Isaac Ganas Fund
 Jim & Audrey Buttmer Fund

John Laing Charitable Trust Fund
 Joyce Lomas Fund
 Kevin & Anne Richmond Fund
 Kim Addison Fund
 Knighton Fund
 Laing Fund
 Lawson Endowment for Sussex
 Lewes & District Flood & Disaster Relief Fund
 Lewes Fund
 Leyden House Fund
 LF Fund
 Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm Fund
 Lynn Foundation Fund
 Margaret Greenhough Fund
 Marit & Hans Rausing Fund
 Martin Family 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
 Peel Family Fund
 Pegasus Fund
 Powell Family Fund
 Price Family Fund
 Pro Bono Fund
 Purple Fund
 Rampion Fund
 Reaching Potential Fund
 Rye Fund
 Sachs Trust Fund
 Selits Fund
 Sharpe Family Fund
 Sierra Gorda Fund
 Sir George Earle Benevolent Fund
 Spofforth Family Fund
 Tackling Poverty Fund
 The Wellcombe Group Fund
 Tiney Fund
 Tulip Family Fund
 Welton Fund
 West Sussex Fund
 West Sussex High Sheriff Fund
 Westdene Fund
 Westoute Fund
 William Reed Fund
 Woodley Foundation Fund
 Worthing & Adur Fund

*at 31 March 2024

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

Aldama Foundation
 APB Charitable Trust
 Ashburnam Thanksgiving Trust
 Birthday House Trust
 CAF UK
 Consuelo & Anthony Brooke Charitable Trust
 Cubitt & West Estate Agents
 Demigryphon Trust
 Eshcon
 Folkington Trust
 Friends of Sussex Community Foundation
 Hall & Woodhouse Ltd
 John Laing Charitable Trust
 Lynn Foundation
 Lawson Trust
 Mr James and Lady Emma Barnard (The Barness Trust)
 Patricia Routledge Charitable Foundation
 Rampion Offshore Wind Ltd
 River Trust
 RWE Innology
 UK Community Foundations

Special thanks to:

Mr Andrew Blackman, Lord
 Lieutenant of East Sussex

Lady Emma Barnard, Lord
 Lieutenant of West Sussex

CCLA Investment
 Management

Chariot House Ltd.

Cissbury Barns

Drapers' Hall

Knill James LLP

Andy Bliss, High Sheriff of
 West Sussex

Richard Bickersteth, High
 Sheriff of East Sussex

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.



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www.sussexcommunityfoundation.org

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UKCF
MEMBER



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