

The Chagossian Community Fund

Impact report

February 2026





The Chagossian Community Fund

The Chagossian Fund at Sussex Community Foundation is a grants programme, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The Fund opened in December 2022 and made its first grant in March 2023.

It is particularly aimed at voluntary sector organisations, grassroots community groups and established local charities that support Chagossian people living in Crawley and other parts of Sussex.

Grants are given to organisations supporting the Chagossian community in areas such as:

- Education
- Health
- Employment
- Social Care
- Culture

Chagossian Community Fund Progress Report

Since the Fund started, awards have been made to the following organisations:

- Carers Support West Sussex £45,622
- Crawley Open House £83,301
- LVD Church - £10,000
- Marina Studios Foundation - £3,474
- Limitless - £21,875
- Chagossian Elderly West Sussex - £15,400
- Kreol Connect Services - £9,203.80
- Chagos TiZilwa UK - £6,690.00
- Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS), West Sussex County Council - £70,000.00
- Chagossian Elderly West Sussex - £9,050.00
- Citizens Advice in West Sussex - £77,251.00
- Limitless Youth FC CIC - £21,875.00
- Broadfield Community Centre - £5,460.00
- Balcombe Football Club - £1,750.00
- Crawley Community Youth Service - £50,769.97
- Crawley Community Action - £78,340.00
- Broadfield Community Centre - £4,200
- Limitless Football Club CIC - £15,990
- Crawley Town Community Foundation - £4,180
- Citizens Advice in West Sussex - £60,041.00
- Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service - West Sussex County Council - £29,743
- RPD Foundation - £10,000
- Crawley Community Action - £14,780
- Chagossian Elderly West Sussex Club - £10,270
- Crawley Community Youth Service (CCYS) - £22,000

This report outlines the outcomes and impact of the grants distributed in 2024/2025, highlighting the meaningful work undertaken in our communities.



Grants awarded

£687,606

awarded in grants since 2023

17

organisations supported

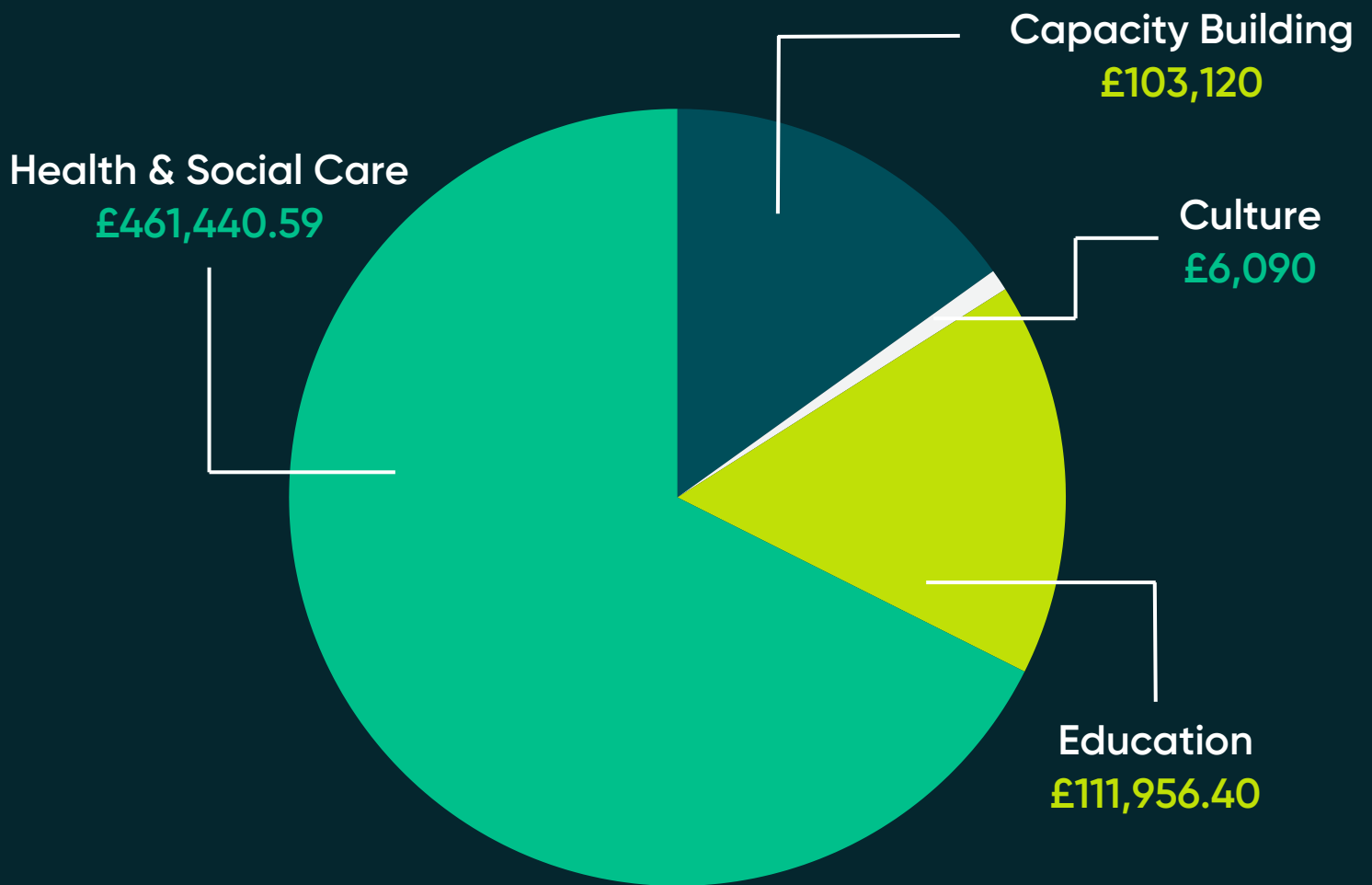
5,336

over 5,000 beneficiaries

“The Chagossian Fund continues to make a meaningful difference within the Chagossian community in Sussex. Each year, we are seeing more Chagossian-led organisations supported to grow and succeed and are encouraged by the progress reported. We remain committed to expanding opportunities, fostering collaboration, and working together through our partnership with Sussex Community Foundation.”

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Projects supported by theme.



Case studies

Limitless Youth Football Club CIC - £43,750



What activities were funded by the grant?

Based in Crawley, Limitless Youth Football Club is run by members from the Chagossian and Mauritian community. They arrange association football matches and social activities for members.

A grant went towards running weekly football sessions for young Chagossians, coaching qualifications and funding for a Youth Impact role.

50

Families supported

Difference the grant has made

The project has made a big difference for Chagossian families. With fee waivers in place, children who couldn't afford football before are now playing every week, building confidence, teamwork and friendships. Young leaders have stepped up, too. Around 15–20 are now helping with coaching and mentoring, which gives them responsibility and pride in their community. For young adults, the sessions have provided a safe space to stay active and connected, which is important for their wellbeing.

For the wider Crawley community, the project has helped integration by breaking down barriers and bringing people together through football.



“This has become more than football — it’s a place for Chagossian children and young people to build confidence, friendships, and pride in their identity. We’ve seen new families arriving from Mauritius where the children quickly make friends, improve their English, and feel like they belong.”



Chagossian Elderly West Sussex Club

- £15,400

What activities were funded by the grant?

The Chagossian Elderly Lunch Club is led and managed entirely by Chagossian people who organise a weekly hot lunch club for around 50 guests. This grant helped the Chagossian community come together and share stories over lunch.



Frankie, Community Leader, said:

"The elderly club every Wednesday is a valuable support for seniors in our community, offering social connection and meaningful activities. Building on the success of the lunch club, it helps reduce loneliness, encourages engagement, and gives elderly members a strong sense of belonging and something to look forward to each week. It also serves as a welcoming space where healthcare professionals, students, journalists and other visitors can meet and engage with the community."



Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS)

- £70,000

What activities were funded by the grant?

Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) is part of West Sussex County Council. Funding has enabled the continuation of the Bilingual Liaison officer (BLO) and has increased capacity by adding a second Mauritian-Creole speaking BLO.

EMTAS deliver support through a combination of remote communication (phone, text etc), school meetings with parents, direct work in school with individual children and some home visits.

The difference the grant has made

The grant has strengthened access to education for Chagossian families by improving understanding of the English education system through trusted, accessible advice delivered in families' first language and shared widely across the community.

Families have been supported to engage confidently with schools, complete applications and address practical barriers to education, helping children secure and sustain their place in school. Alongside this, targeted in-school support and increased professional awareness have ensured Chagossian children are better understood, better supported and encouraged to raise their aspirations, laying strong foundations for future learning and success.

Citizens Advice in West Sussex

- £77,251

What activities were funded by the grant?

Citizens Advice in West Sussex strengthened access to advice and support for the Chagossian community in Crawley through a trusted Community Liaison Officer. The Liaison Officer is from the community and speaks Creole and French which has helped engagement for those who cannot communicate well in English.

They built strong relationships through visible outreach, language support, and clear pathways into local services. Practical workshops and one-to-one advice helped people navigate life in the UK with confidence, covering areas such as housing, benefits, finances and employment, while reducing isolation through peer support and trusted interpretation.

The project also deepened local insight and collaboration, contributing to community-led research with the NHS and strengthening partnerships across Crawley.



The difference the grant has made

The grant has made a meaningful difference by providing trusted, specialist support that has helped members of the Chagossian community navigate housing, immigration and benefits systems with greater confidence and security. Feedback highlighted the positive impact on people's lives, with all clients reporting increased understanding of UK systems, feeling more in control of their circumstances and confident to recommend the service to others.

Beyond individual outcomes, the work is strengthening trust in local services and building collective knowledge and empowerment across the wider Chagossian community through responsive, culturally informed support.



Crawley Community Action

- £78,340

What activities were funded by the grant?

Crawley Community Action (CCA) is an independent charity that offers advice, information, help and support to local charities, voluntary and community groups.

The funding has enabled CCA to provide a dedicated support offer to Chagossian community groups for one day per week focusing on all aspects of best practice in governance, organisational development (including banking, insurance and policies) and funding. Since November 2023, the service has provided in-depth advice and guidance to build capacity, capabilities and connections with 10 local Chagossian-led groups and community interest companies.

Funding has also allowed us to appoint a full-time Chagossian Community Organiser who has helped ensure that CCA is recognised as a trusted and approachable organisation within the community and has supported people to access services that previously felt out of reach.



The difference the grant has made

The support has strengthened the confidence and capability of Chagossian management committees and community leaders, helping groups to clarify their purpose, focus their activities, and work more effectively while avoiding duplication.

Across the programme, good organisational practice is becoming increasingly embedded, with younger Chagossian-led projects in particular demonstrating strong leadership, adaptability, and a willingness to seek support when challenges arise. There is also growing awareness of the importance of good governance, accountability, and appropriate legal structures, reflecting a positive shift in mindset and laying strong foundations for long-term impact within the community.



“The Chagossian Fund grant has significantly strengthened CCA’s relationship with the Chagossian community in Crawley. Trust has grown to the point where community members now come to us regularly for advocacy, translation, support navigating statutory services, and general advice.”



Chagossian Community Fund Progress Report

Grants awarded since 2023

Date	Organisation	What did the grant fund?	Grant amount
December 2025	Carers Support West Sussex	A wellbeing worker of Chagossian descent to raise awareness of caring in the community and identify and support carers	£45,622
December 2025	Crawley Open House	Recruit two full-time specialist Chagossian Support Workers	£83,301
September 2025	Marina Studios Foundation	Series of taster dance sessions for young people - aiming to support a Chagos dance group to perform at Forward Motion dance show.	£3,474
October 2025	LVD Church	Youth development project delivering workshops, events, 1:1 mentorship and academic support.	£10,000
October 2025	Limitless	Weekly football sessions for young Chagossians, coaching qualifications and funding for a Youth Impact role.	£21,875
September 2025	Chagossian Elderly West Sussex	Ingredients and transport costs for weekly hot lunch for older members of the Chagossian Community at Broadfield Community Centre.	£15,400
July 2025	Kreol Connect Services	Interpreting, translation and form-filling service to access to services.	£9,203

Chagossian Community Fund Progress Report

Date	Organisation	What did the grant fund?	Grant amount
July 2025	Chagos TiZilwa UK	Saturday club to help children develop an understanding of Chagossian culture.	£6,690
April 2025	Chagossian Elderly West Sussex	Ingredients and transport costs for weekly hot lunch for older members of the Community.	£9,050
April 2025	Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service	Continuation of Bilingual Officer (BLO), increasing capacity with a second BLO.	£70,000
April 2025	Citizens Advice in West Sussex	Advice and advocacy support for Chagossian people, including employing a Chagossian Liaison Officer and a specialist case worker.	£77,251
April 2025	Limitless Youth FC CIC	Weekly football sessions for young Chagossians, coaching qualifications and funding for a Youth Impact role.	£21,875
April 2025	Broadfield Community Centre	Hall and kitchen hire at Broadfield Community Centre for the Chagossian Elderly Lunch Club	£5,460
February 2025	Balcombe Football Club	Player fees for Chagossian members	£1,750
January 2025	Crawley Community Youth Service	Fortnightly music sessions for young Chagossians.	£50,769
February 2025	Crawley Community Action	Dedicated Community Organiser role to support and deliver activities for the Chagossian Community.	£78,340

Chagossian Community Fund Progress Report

Date	Organisation	What did the grant fund?	Grant amount
June 2024	Broadfield Community Centre	Hall hire & kitchen use at Broadfield Community Centre for the Chagossian Elderly Lunch Club.	£4,200
May 2024	Limitless Youth Football Club CIC	Weekly football sessions for young Chagossian football players and coaching qualifications.	£10,000
March 2024	Crawley Town Community Foundation	Weekly football sessions for Chagossians aged 18+.	£9,150
March 2024	Citizens Advice in West Sussex	Advice and advocacy support for Chagossian people, includes employing a Liaison Officer from the local community and a specialist case worker.	£60,041
February 2024	Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service	Dedicated bilingual Liaison Officer to increase access, engagement and achievement of Chagossian children in education.	£29,743
May 2023	Crawley Community Youth Service	Weekly music sessions for young Chagossians.	£22,000
May 2023	Crawley Community Action	Advice, support and capacity building to Chagossian-led groups in Sussex.	£14,780
May 2023	Chagossian Elderly West Sussex Club	Weekly hot lunch and social activities as part of the Chagossian Lunch Club at Broadfields Community Centre.	£10,270
March 2023	RPD Foundation	Advice and support for groups on financial, strategy, and governance issues, including post-grant support.	£4,000



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Registered in England and Wales. Registered charity No 1113226

