



Dorset
Community
Foundation

Surviving Winter report 2020/21



Record donations for tenth year of appeal

"The grant enabled us to have the heating on at a comfortable level. We did not have to choose between buying food and having heating."

A record total

- WINTER 2020/21 saw our tenth Surviving Winter campaign and a record amount raised of **£102,298**
- It supports older and vulnerable people in Dorset age 50+ who are in fuel poverty
- People in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance are encouraged to donate it to the appeal if they can
- Citizens Advice manages applications and distributes grants of £200 on our behalf
- Purbeck is the lead office; Energy Advisors provide wrap around support, offering energy and income maximisation checks to try and prevent them being in the same situation next year
- **£70,800** of funding was distributed to **354** residents – an increase of **50 per cent** on the previous year (remaining funds kick start grants for 21/22)
- **17** per cent of recipients have a disability and **66%** have a long term health condition

Surviving Winter in numbers



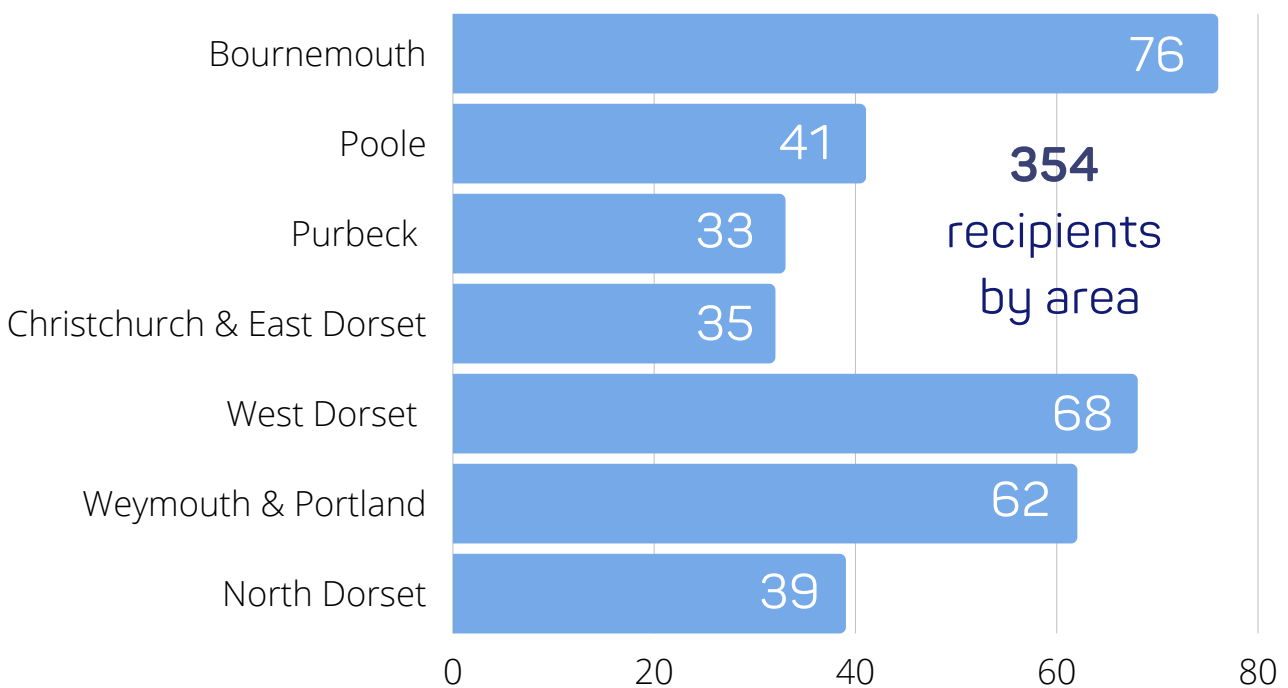
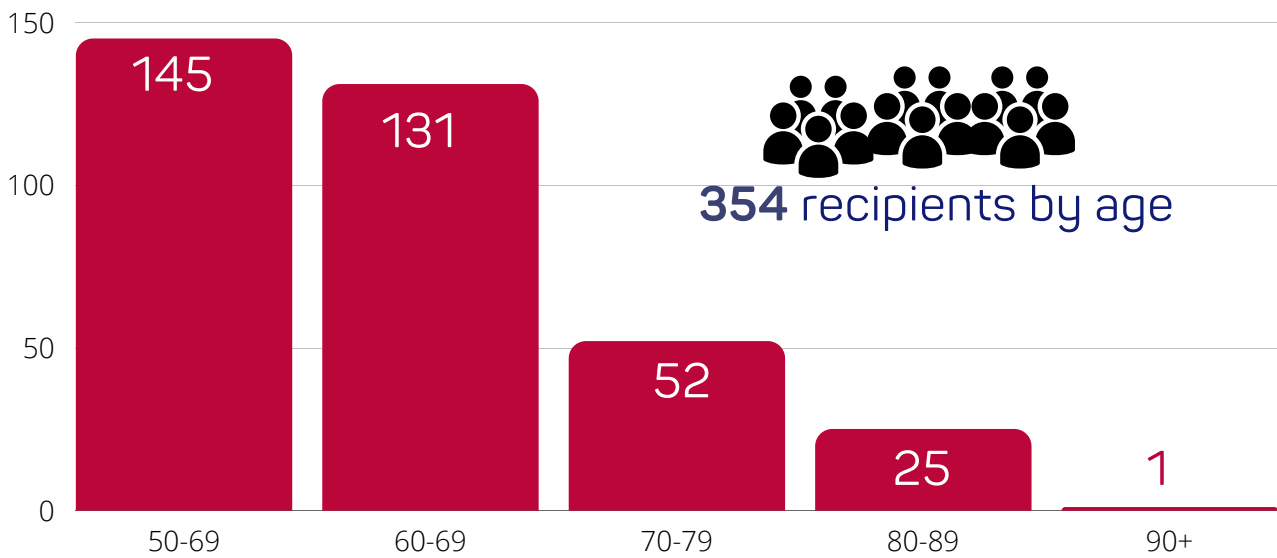
£102,298
raised



308 donors



£18,750
match funding



Timely funding

- DCF, in partnership with Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck, obtained match funding for an additional **125** grants from the Energy Redress Fund
- Winter 2020/21 came at the end of a challenging year due to Covid-19, and included the third lockdown
- Covid-19 emergency funds from government supported households in fuel poverty but many older people did not qualify for grants
- Those age 50-59 are often unable to access other discretionary funds and grants for those over pension age, despite vulnerability and financial hardship; Surviving Winter grants are available to those with health conditions and on the highest level of benefits
- Grant recipients report improved physical and mental health and are extremely grateful

"I have cancer and this has helped me improve my health as I feel the cold badly. I have been able to heat my home regularly and keep warm."

"I used the grant to buy a large 500L oil order. It was cheaper for me to buy more at once and I knew I could keep warm."

"I used the grant for my energy bills which meant I could spend a little more on food. I was able to heat my home all winter which improved my health."

"I used the grant to put credit onto my meter so I could do things around my home instead of sitting on the couch with a sleeping bag around me."

Thank you

We would like to thank all those who donated to the 2020/21 Surviving Winter Appeal, including DCF fundholders and the Big Give. Grateful thanks to Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck for the distribution of Surviving Winter grants, and to all the organisations and individuals who helped us, including BBC Radio Solent, Bournemouth and Dorset Echo, Dorset View, Dorset Business News, Energy Saving Trust, BCP and Dorset Councils. We simply could not reach the people who need our help without you.