

## **BCP Change for Good Fund** **Impact report for grants made in 2020 and 2021**

**The BCP Change for Good Fund** aims to award grants that support homeless individuals to move away from the streets of Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole, and increase the likelihood of success in accommodation/tenancies in the short or long term to avoid a return to homelessness. Grants are awarded to community groups who are member organisations of the Homelessness Partnership, and directly supporting the individuals who will benefit from the grant. The BCP Council team may also apply for grants to purchase specific items that will directly support individuals who are moving away from the street.

**The Homelessness Partnership (BCP)** is made up of those with lived experience of homelessness, plus representatives of statutory bodies (Council, Police, Health, Probation), businesses, charities, faith groups, universities and other educational institutions; it calls on all citizens and organisations in the conurbation to join together to deliver their vision “to end homelessness in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole by ensuring everyone has a safe place to live that they can call home.”

The funds distributed via the BCP Change for Good Fund are raised by the Change for Good initiative run by the Homelessness Partnership, which attracts donations from local residents (<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/changeforgoodBournemouth>), and from contributions made by DCF fundholders.

***We would like to thank everyone who has donated and made it possible to award life changing grants for homeless individuals in our local community.***

### **Summary**

- £10,250 awarded via 20 grants
- 142 beneficiaries in total supported so far, with 44 volunteers involved (***4 grants are yet to report on use of funds***)
- 19 beneficiaries who were rough sleeping or in emergency accommodation, received enhance services that improved relationships and communication with support workers and housing agencies, leading to temporary, supported or permanent accommodation
- 48 beneficiaries struggling with addiction issues and either rough sleeping or in supported accommodation, received support to increase the likelihood of remaining abstinent, with housing support where needed leading to temporary or supported accommodation
- 56 beneficiaries in temporary housing or supported accommodation were provided support with mental health issues, supporting them to maintain their accommodation and work towards personal aspirations to build confidence, begin work, develop social skills and move to independent housing
- 15 beneficiaries received items to support a move into new permanent accommodation such as flooring, white goods and furniture, supporting them with the transition to independent living and increasing the likelihood of success; all remain living in their new homes
- 4 beneficiaries recently settled in independent housing, received ongoing support with activities to support self-care, enhance self-esteem and life skills

## Feedback from groups

*“Your support has been a key part of helping to change this girl's life around. It is a privilege to support her with your support and to see the results.”*

*“The process was straight forward and really easy, it is a huge life changing grant that would benefit anyone who applies for it immensely.”*

*“Thank-you very much! This has really helped us to help rough sleepers with a very practical need.”*

*“The system is so very easy to use and the forms for reports are clear and to the point which is helpful.”*

*“Very easy process - thank you for all of your support. It really does make a difference.”*

*“I am so grateful for the support that you provide. Your grants manager Ellie is so helpful and approachable. It makes a real difference to the work that we do with our clients when we can easily contact providers throughout the grant application process. Thank you so much.”*

*“It has been a tremendous help to us as a growing, expanding charity to have had such a lot of help from DCF... These little projects make such a difference to people in their everyday lives, as well as the larger amounts which help with our staffing and core costs. Thank you so much.”*

## Feedback from beneficiaries

*“I want to thank everyone at **Helping Homeless Veterans UK** for everything you have done. I honestly thought I would spend forever in my car and you have now given me the courage to face up to my own issues and I can now deal with these from the comfort of my own home. I will forever be grateful.”*

*“I was doing drugs off and on and drinking too much. I used to have suicidal thoughts too. Really dark times. I was living on the street for a short while before I came into **Hope Housing**, I'd been inside before that. I was so glad to have a bed for the night – and be in from the cold... And I was safe! You don't know how important those things are. I felt I could control my life again. I stopped doing drugs and got my drinking under control... I like it over here (new accommodation). I was worried about it before as I don't like to change, but my support worker helped me a lot. They got me a washing machine which I needed as I need to make sure things are clean... It feels good to be independent and I don't have to worry about possibly being homeless again... I get ongoing support from my support worker and that helps me not to worry.”*

*“When **Safe and Sound Dorset** offered me a veggie box to grow in I couldn't believe it. Being a new gardener and having my first little space to use has brought me so much joy. I call it my little urban farm. It's done wonders for my mental health and physical health too. It's a small manageable space that brings me so much peace, contentment and tasty treats. I'm growing onions and lettuce in it at the moment. I'm so grateful for the opportunity.”*

*“I came in here broken, starving and cold. I had my struggles to begin with and then one day I decided to ask for help... I've now moved out into my own place and I'm doing well. I'm looking forward to coming back and serving over Christmas and hopefully be an example of what can happen when you choose to accept the help that's on offer. You can come into here and resist the help and continue to go down the hole of addiction and struggle. Or you can ask for help and succeed. **Bournemouth YMCA** saved my life and saved me from me.”*

## Grants table

Date awarded	Grant recipient	Use and impact of grant	Amount Awarded	Number of beneficiaries	Number of volunteers involved
April 2019	Hope Housing	Items to support two clients moving into independent accommodation including white goods, bed & sofa. One client has been living in our supported accommodation for over 9 years. Before that, he was homeless, with a history of drug misuse and petty crime. Confident in our ongoing support, he expressed a wish to move on into his own independent accommodation and we continue to support him with his mental health issues.	500	2	0
July 2020	Bournemouth Churches Housing Association	To support a care leaver into new accommodation by purchasing a washing machine. This was a huge luxury for her and helped her move into independent living much more comfortably.	250	1	1
July 2020	POOLE FOODBANK - a project of Faithworks Wessex	The grant enabled the individual to move from emergency temporary bed accommodation to a permanent one bedroomed flat. Our client has now moved from being a traumatised individual to growing in self-esteem. She has been volunteering with us at Poole Foodbank and has become an essential part of the team. She is now actively seeking permanent stable employment.	250	1	0
July 2020	Safe and Sound Dorset	50 hours of support for 4 women over 6 months, who are homeless, in temporary lodgings or vulnerably housed; to help them access and maintain stable accommodation. Trauma support workers empower clients to make good choices, build resilience and strength in the face of adversity. Work includes accompanying to housing appointments, 1-1 coaching or counselling sessions, and encouraging engagement and participation in our creative sessions or home craft kits to build confidence.	500	4	5
August 2020	Bournemouth Christians Alongside Roughsleepers (BCARS)	4 mobile phones and 10 powerbanks to charge mobile phones, for use by rough sleepers at Community Meals in order to improve communication with housing agencies. Mobile phones have enabled clients to be in contact with us, the council, St Mungos, housing providers, health professionals etc, and be housed or rehoused; mainly in temporary housing and two in permanent housing. Some are still in contact with us for ongoing support.	240	8	8

August 2020	Bournemouth Churches Housing Association	To support an individual into new accommodation by purchasing a bed and a mattress. This was something she was unable to afford since moving out and she had been sleeping on the sofa. She now feels this was the 'finishing touch' to her accommodation. She loves where she is living and has successfully maintained this accommodation since the grant was issued.	250	1	0
Sept 2020	Bournemouth Christians Alongside Roughsleepers (BCARS)	To support social activities by using grant to purchase a portable badminton net, racquets, shuttle cocks, dartboard and darts for use at our Staysafe provision - a place for purposeful activity and support for those in emergency accommodation or rough sleeping. The guests relax and become more open to input from staff and volunteers. They gain social skills and form healthy friendships, away from those who are heavily in addiction and in street life. Physical activity can help change the mood of the guests and relieve stress.	260	11	6
May 2021	Faithworks Wessex	50% of costs for weekly Recovery Days, supporting people in recovery from addictions (50% of members are rough sleeping or in supported accommodation). The homeless team at Faithworks work alongside the Recovery team to provide a multi support model. By being around people that have lived experience of addiction and homelessness in the staff and volunteer teams, we were able to assess individuals and support them to move into temporary, supported or independent accommodation.	1000	48	16
June 2021	Safe and Sound Dorset	To support women recently moving into new accommodation through visits from housing support workers who encourage gardening for wellbeing - grant used for staff hours, vegetable boxes/pots, soil, seeds and tools. The skills learned involve not just a new hobby but engages personal responsibility and builds transferable skills. When clients started to take responsibility in one area we noticed other areas improving such as wanting to get out of debt and wanting to get a job. This supports long term stable accommodation.	1000	4	2
July 2021	Bournemouth Ymca	Purchase of under counter fridge and washing machine for client moving into independent accommodation. He is an ex-offender and spent time during his life in prison and hostels. Whilst at YMCA he remained abstinent from drugs and alcohol. He describes moving into his own accommodation as like a dream come true. He was able to get some items with the help of Faithworks and through Dorset Reclaim, but the grant funded items have helped him to regularly invite his children to stay as he can wash and cook for them.	500	1	0

July 2021	Helping Homeless Veterans-UK	Purchase of white goods for two Veterans that we housed in the Dorset Area who unfortunately found themselves homeless due to relationship breakdowns caused by Mental Health Issues that were exasperated at home due to the pandemic. The two Veterans are now off the streets and in their own affordable accommodation which has taken them off the streets and they are now living in their own affordable accommodation sourced by ourselves using our contacts with Local Landlords in the Dorset Area.	500	2	2
July 2021	Hope Housing	Weekly mental health support group over 26 weeks. It was a difficult period of time for most of our residents due to the constant changes to covid restrictions together with changes to the benefits system which caused a great level of anxiety. However, some of those that attended, managed to start volunteering to obtain work skills in areas such as retail (charity shop volunteer) and maintenance here at Hope Housing.	1000	52	0
Sept 2021	BCP Council Housing Team	A client received carpeting for their new social housing tenancy, supporting them to move into independent accommodation successfully and comfortably. Without the grant the client would not have been able to afford carpeting in the new property, this would have seriously effected their ability to keep the tenancy going as the client's daughter has a number of disabilities that, without floor covering, would've made it very difficult to live there.	350	1	0
Sept 2021	BCP Council Housing Team	Flooring and white goods for two individuals in new accommodation who were previously rough sleeping. One client otherwise had bare cement floors. It has helped make their accommodation feel more like a home and easier for them to manage daily chores. The expense that it has saved on laundrette travel and costs helps them to prioritise their money more effectively toward other essentials like food and energy bills. One client laid the flooring himself and spoke about the sense of adulthood and control that it has given.	500	2	2
Sept 2021	BCP Council Housing Team	Washing machines for clients moving into new accommodation. One client was trying to save to purchase one, which was proving difficult. The concern that this would drive him further into poverty was significant, as he wanted to get back to work, and having a presentable appearance is a necessity for success. He has been able to begin applications to get back to work by being able to manage his finances and time better, leading him further away from the cycle of homelessness and increasing the success of his tenancy.	300	3	2

Sept 2021	Bournemouth Ymca	Purchase of fridge, freezer and washing machine for a client moving into permanent accommodation, after 4 years in YMCA accommodation. He is very grateful for the appliances that have helped to make his new flat feel like a home. Hopefully by making the transition as smooth as possible this will prevent him from relapsing which would inevitably result in his losing his accommodation.	500	1	0
Sept 2021	BCP Council Housing Team	Carpet for a client moving from temporary accommodation into a permanent property <b>Extension granted to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b>	350	tbc	tbc
August 2021	Bournemouth Christians Alongside Roughsleepers (BCARS)	Purchase of laptop and mobile phone to enable homeless people to access online resources during Community Meals, taking steps to access support and move away from the street <b>Grant period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>	550	tbc	tbc
August 2021	Bournemouth Christians Alongside Roughsleepers (BCARS)	Larder Boxes (basic dry/starter ingredients) for people moving into new accommodation provided by the council, or a sheltered accommodation charity. <b>Grant period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>	450	tbc	tbc
August 2021	The HealthBus Trust C/O St Peters Church	Contribution to core costs for charity offering healthcare to homeless individuals, and introduction to other services <b>Grant period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>	1000	tbc	tbc
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£10,250</b>	<b>142 beneficiaries</b>	<b>44 volunteers involved</b>