

Dorset Coronavirus Community Fund Phase 3 and 4 Impact Report

The final two phases of the Fund awarded £255,264.80

Phase 3

- Grants distributed in November and December to groups addressing food poverty during the winter months to the easter holidays:
 - **£71,781 to 17 groups in the Dorset Council area** – including distribution of £70,000 on behalf of Dorset Council
 - **£115,879.80 to 19 groups in the BCP Council area** – including distribution of £80,000 on behalf of BCP Council
- Grants supported:
 - People in financial hardship in need of crisis food supplies
 - People in financial hardship in need of essential equipment to store and prepare food e.g. fridge, freezer, cooker, cooking equipment and utensils
 - People in long term financial difficulty needing solutions to ongoing poverty (start-up grants for community fridges, pantries, social supermarkets)
- Phase 3 grants have **benefitted 26,369 people**, and **505 volunteers have been involved**

Phase 4

- Grants distributed from January to March 2021 to group supporting vulnerable people self-isolating during the winter lockdown, and groups providing services and activities for community cohesion and recovery during 2021, according to local needs
- **£67,604 to 28 groups**
- Grants supported:
 - People **shielding during the winter lockdown** and in need of delivery services, prepared meals and accessible transport for medical appointments
 - People in **long term financial difficulty** needing solutions to ongoing poverty (grants for community fridges, community growing & cooking projects)
 - People suffering **isolation & loneliness** in need of a return to community activities, including support for **older people** (grants village halls, community centres, sports clubs and other groups)
 - **People with physical disabilities and learning disabilities** suffering isolation & loneliness in need of specialist activities and wellbeing sessions
 - Disabled people suffering hardship and in need of specialist employment support
 - People suffering from **exacerbation of mental health or addiction issues** in need of mental health provision and a return to social activities support
 - **Young people** in need of mental health support, personal development and employment support
 - **Homeless people**, those at risk of homelessness and those in temporary housing, needing specialist housing support
 - People from **marginalised communities** needing support to address the impact of Covid in their lives and for those experiencing discrimination
- Phase 4 grants have **benefitted 4440 people**, and **350 volunteers have been involved**

Geographical distribution

Bournemouth	£22,128.80	BCP	50%
Christchurch	£5,000.00		
Poole	£6,432.20		
East Dorset	£0.00	Dorset	50%
North Dorset	£1,500.00		
Purbeck	£250.00		
Weymouth & Portland	£22,440.00		
West Dorset	£9,853.00		

Thematic distribution

Food/hot meal provision for those in hardship	£203,100.80	80%
Support to return to social and community activities	£12,161.20	5%
Supporting people with disabilities and serious illness	£11,050	4%
Mental health support	£10,603	4%
Supporting homeless individuals	£7,851	3%
Support for young people	£4,998.80	2%
Supporting the needs of the BAME community	£3,750	1.5%
Supporting those shielding during winter lockdown	£1,750	0.5%

Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Grants awarded in phases 3 and 4 include services benefitting the 11 most deprived wards in Dorset

Ward	IMD Ranking out of 32,844	Groups providing support
Boscombe West (Bournemouth)	978	Grounded Community Its All About Culture Lovechurch Safe and Sound Samee Umoja ArtsNetwork Vita Nova
Melcombe Regis (Weymouth)	1673	St Edmunds Church The Lantern Hub The Veterans Hub
North Fortuneswell (Portland)	1864	Island Community Action Opportunities R Un Ltd Portland Foodbank
Littlemoor West (Weymouth)	2187	St Francis Church
Kinson South (Bournemouth)	2446	St Thomas Church PCC West Howe Community Enterprise
Turlin Moor & Hamworthy West (Poole)	3859	Poole Communities Trust
Poole Town Centre	4707	Poole Community Exchange Poole Waste Not Want Not
Somerford West (Christchurch)	5886	Christchurch Activities for Young People (food pantry project) Somerford ARC
Bridport Court Orchard		The Friendly Food Club
Branksome	7742	Poole Community Exchange
Trickett's Cross (East Dorset)	8281	Bus Stop Club

Stories of change

Christ Church

"I have been coming to Creative Expressions at The Hub for six months, since it reopened after lockdown. I have literally found it a life saver. As a carer I don't get out very much but have managed to keep Thursday mornings free. The group that meets is of varying ages and they have multiple talents and loves. It has really broadened my horizons. We always have an uplifting reflection each week. We have a lovely lady who spoils us with tea and biscuits. I am so glad that I became a member, it's my special day of the week."

Dorchester Trust for Counselling & Psychotherapy

"I recently finished a period of long term low-cost counselling with one of the private therapists you are connected to. I just wanted to get in touch to thank the Trust for your work: your funding gave me the opportunity to access counselling over a much longer timespan, meaning my therapist and I could really go deeper and work on a full range of issues with my mental health. As a young adult who is unable to work due to my conditions, I would never have been able to afford private counselling for that length of time without your help. As such I am very grateful for your support and I wanted to let you know that I really appreciate the vital part you have played in my journey towards beating my mental health struggles."

Double Act Disability Theatre Company

Leigh joined the group in the summer of 2021. The carer who accompanies Leigh to workshops explained that due to his limited verbal communication it has been difficult for him to become fully integrated into group activities in the past. Consequently Leigh can be very reserved and can appear surly and difficult to reach. He was passionate about musical theatre however and liked to mime or dance along to show tunes. One of our volunteers is proficient in Makaton and quickly struck up a supportive relationship with Leigh. Through her Leigh was able to communicate his interests to the group and we all started to learn some basic conversational signs. Leigh's confidence has grown enormously through his involvement with the group. His enthusiasm is infectious and he has quickly become a core member of the group. In our end of year show Leigh performed his hilarious version of "Whose afraid of the Big Bad Wolf" as well as playing supporting roles in other sketches. Facilitating Leigh's involvement in the group has been a positive learning experience for all of us, particularly with the development of basic skills in Makaton.

Grounded Community

Valerie was becoming quite desperate. With the COVID situation as she had been working less hours. Every month she was having to make decisions about things they needed, for example paying her bills, rent or feeding her children, and as a mum she could not bear it. Having the regular support has made a massive difference to her and her family. Just knowing every week that the staples are accounted for. Her children have been amazed at quantity of food they have in their house, where they used to have very little. Valerie also volunteers with us by taking surplus bread and redistributing to her local community.

Lyme Regis Community Support

One of our volunteers delivered a prescription to a lady who had collapsed behind her door. He rang the ambulance and her son and was able to stop a fire because she had the oven on, and the contents were burnt and catching fire. This happened in a row of terraced bungalows and could have been a disaster. We were able to contact the medical center and get help for her from the social worker and he sorted out a friend to look after the cat while she was in hospital.



Opportunities R Un Limited

One woman who is very shy had never attended community activities before. She lives with two other people, both of whom have very strong characters and have a significant influence on her which has resulted in a lack of confidence to make decisions for herself. Having attended this project, she was introduced to a new circle of people and established strong and balanced friendships. She now independently attends a Women's Health and Wellbeing group with her new friends at a day service independently.



Poole Communities Trust

P and A are a couple in their 50's who care for their adult son with severe mental health problems. They have also fostered a number of children over the years, but since Covid they have not been able to foster due to their health difficulties which has had an impact on their income. They also help to look after their 2 grandchildren who live locally. They have come to the store every week since it opened in June 2020 and have said repeatedly that they do not know how they would have managed without the store over the past months. Each week they tell us that they always look forward to coming along to the store as not only does it help them to have a more varied and healthy diet over the week, but they also look forward to having a chat with some friendly faces.



Samee

Client A is disabled single parent living in Somerford, who we supported in 2018 with advice and guidance on setting up as a cup cake baker. Her small business was going really well until Covid-19 caused her orders to drop off drastically. She was desperately close to slipping back into poverty when we called to see how she was coping. Our adviser offered intensive advocacy support, and over three extended meetings helped to safeguard Client A's benefits by liaising directly with DWP. Our adviser also helped Client A to maintain good trade relations with suppliers that she owed money to, by negotiating a reduced pay-back instalment scheme. This helped to financially safeguard our vulnerable beneficiary, and also ensured that their mental health was maintained on a positive level.

Client B was a socially isolated disabled single male with no support network around him. He had just set up their self-employed venture as a dog walker when Covid-19 struck. The pandemic had a devastating impact on his start-up as 90% of customers could not allow him to walk their pets due to Covid regulations. Our dedicated Covid-19 Response adviser spoke with DWP and helped to claim Universal Credit and an emergency grant in order to temporarily escape poverty. Our adviser issued a foodbank voucher and collected the food as he was shielding. Probably the most important impact was our adviser making regular contact on a weekly basis to address the impact on his mental health. The recent lift in Covid-19 restrictions has meant Client B can finally launch their dog-walking business.

STAR (Steps to Active Recovery)

H is a young lady in her late 30's battling heroin addiction and also suffers social agoraphobia. She came to one of the churches involved with STAR in a fearful state, yet heard that a group of volunteers were running a simple recovery focused coffee group. This group, inspired through the STAR training plan was just the right thing for H. She began coming regularly and met another lady who was a little further ahead in her recovery walk, which inspired her. As she grew in confidence she has become less focused on substances and has managed to get a part time cleaning job at a local hotel. Seeing the complete transformation in H over the past 6 months has encouraged this church community and you can see the confidence growing in approaching such situations for the future.

The Lantern Trust

"Client B" had a long history of continued alcohol abuse, causing several relationship breakdowns which resulted in repeated homelessness. He also had various health complications, both with mobility and age-related issues. He was accommodated in Lantern Trust supported accommodation and received support to talk through his issues surrounding behaviour and alcohol. He showed a positive attitude towards the conversations and was able to reduce his alcohol intake, enabling him to be in control and responsible for his behaviour. He was also able to recognise the indicators of what may lead him to drink heavily and this put him in a position of choice. We supported him with his physical hygiene, cooking and cleaning skills to enable him to be ready to take on a tenancy. We were also able to support with GP appointments, benefit concerns and completing paperwork. We liaised with Dorset Council and a BCP Housing Officer to source suitable longer-term accommodation in the BCP area as this was his preferred relocation area. Once accommodation was offered, we were able to source and fund household items required along with coordinating delivery. We also referred him to First Point for ongoing resettlement support in Bournemouth.

The Shine Project

"In Autumn 2020 I had just started Year 9 in a new school and I didn't know anybody else. My main anxieties are around school so joining a new school just increased this anxiety. I found out about Shine from my mum who'd been told about it by the school. I didn't really know what to expect but I agreed to go. I was worried about going to the first session because I didn't know any of the other girls on the course, but it turned out that they were all really nice. I liked getting the bags of goodies for the activities each week and I remember using the face mask and treating myself with the haircare items.

We played a bingo game in session 1 where you had to find out things about other girls in the room to complete your bingo card. I really enjoyed this game and it helped me to get to know the other girls in the session. It's the first session that sticks out in my memory the most. All the subjects covered were interesting and relevant to me as a teenager. There was a good mix of listening, discussion, and activities. It gave me coping mechanisms to manage my anxiety and I still use the breathing techniques now. You also talked about physical exercise to help with mental health and I do find that going on walks with my family in the fresh air really helps my wellbeing. When we finished Shine I felt good about myself and that I'd accomplished something. It helped me get to know girls in my new school who I wouldn't have met otherwise because they're not in my class. Shine gave me coping mechanisms as well as making me feel more confident. I also noticed a change in the other girls on the course as they were opening up more and talking about things that mattered to them."



TRIP Community Transport Association

Mrs G had never used TRIP before. When she called she was anxious as her partner needed to go to Dorchester hospital for important health reasons. She was almost tearful, as she said he had always driven and their family was too far away, questioning if she should cancel /delay for few months. She didn't want to go on the bus, worried about the pandemic and his frail health. When I explained what we do she was over the moon, felt reassured it was 'safe' and didn't cancel this vital appointment.

All Phase 3 Grants

Group	Amount Awarded	Funded service/activity	Location of beneficiaries	Number of beneficiaries	Number of Volunteers involved
17 groups - Distribution of Dorset Council funds	70,000 <i>(+top up 1781 from DCF)</i>	See separate report	Dorset Council area	5382	200
13 groups - Distribution of BCP Council funds	80,000 <i>(+ top up 1659.80 from DCF)</i>	See separate report	BCP Council area	10,810	149
Citygate Church	7500	Core costs for community hub, which is a satellite distribution centre for Bournemouth Foodbank with other wrap around support	Bournemouth	606	30
Grounded Community	4760	Continuation of Feed our Community project, delivering food parcels in Boscombe – support with core organisational costs	Bournemouth	1008	25
Poole Community Exchange	7500	Contributing towards the continuation of food delivery services to agencies across BCP (e.g. foodbanks) and their new community fridge and food pantry at Parkstone United Reformed Church	Poole	7000	20
Poole Waste Not Want Not	7500	Supporting existing charity providing free/low cost food to residents in Poole suffering financial hardship - hire of an additional vehicle, insurance and fuel to meet increased demand	Poole	1450	56
Safe and Sound Dorset	4960	Funds to support a new key worker to provide emotional support, and to co-ordinate care package deliveries of food, household items and craft kits for wellbeing.	Bournemouth	63	10
St. Thomas Church PCC	2000	Providing fortnightly food boxes during the winter for local families in need, identified by local schools in Bournemouth.	Bournemouth	50	15
	187,660.80			26,369	505

All phase 4 grants

Group	Amount Awarded	Funded service/activity	Location of beneficiaries	Number of beneficiaries	Number of Volunteers involved
Charmouth COVID-19 Volunteers	200	Doorstep delivery of shopping and medication, and distribution of information leaflets - supporting those self isolating during the national lockdown in early 2020	West Dorset	158	40
Dorchester Community Support Group	500	Supporting doorstep delivery service of shopping and medication to those self isolating during national lockdown in early 2020	West Dorset	46	10

Lyme Regis Community Support	300	Doorstep delivery of shopping and medication, practical tasks and befriending phonecalls - supporting those self isolating during the national lockdown in early 2020.	West Dorset	130	40
Morden Parish Council	250	Grant to support food and packaging for community meals service during national lockdown beginning in January 2021	Purbeck	15	3
TRIP Community Transport Association	500	To support medical transport service in Lyme Regis and Charmouth during national lockdown in early 2020	West Dorset	62	5
Bournemouth Churches Housing Association	351	A community allotment at Bournemouth Refuge for victims of domestic abuse and their children, providing meaningful occupation of time and mental health benefits by spending more time outdoors	Bournemouth	20	18
Broadwindsor Cricket Club	1500	To replace loss of income caused by the pandemic and support Covid safe community activities when government restrictions allow	West Dorset	100	60
Faithworks Wessex	2500	Green Team recruits those in temporary accommodation to undertake garden maintenance/enhancements skills training/work locally for churches - increasing skills/confidence/qualifications of those who are escaping homelessness	Bournemouth	27	2
Kushti Bok	2500	Towards 6 events that will enable us to listen to Dorset Travellers experiences of Covid and lockdowns, and build resilience via advice and advocacy for those experiencing discrimination and deprivation.	West Dorset	200	12
Owermoigne Village Hall	1500	Application for overheads of Village Hall to support people isolated in the village	West Dorset	100	7
Poundbury Village Hall	1500	To allay the threat of the viability or closure of the Brownsword Hall having been severely affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic lockdowns.	West Dorset	1000	10
Shaftesbury Bowling Club	1500	To replace loss of income caused by the pandemic and support Covid safe community activities when government restrictions allow	North Dorset	98	16
South West Dorset Multicultural Network	1250	Towards the costs of activities in Gypsy, Roma and Travellers Month in June 2021 and Black History Month in October 2021.	West Dorset	150	14
Christ Church	902	Support for Communications Co-ordinator to promote community activities at this newly expanded Community Hub in Creekmoor; activities to support recovery from Coronavirus	Poole	500	0
Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy	103	Charity offering low cost professional counselling for people with mental health issues, which have been exacerbated by Coronavirus – core cost funding application	West Dorset	2	5
Double Act Disability Theatre Company	4050	Continuation of virtual programme (and return to face to face programme when able) of drama activities for people with disabilities, addressing social isolation and to enhance wellbeing	Bournemouth	32	3
Opportunities R Un Limited	2000	Art therapy sessions for people with learning disabilities, to address isolation and mental health & wellbeing	Weymouth & Portland	21	0

Poole Men's Shed	259.2	To connect the workshop to mains sewer & water and to provide a toilet and washing facilities enabling the shed to open 7 days a week; project addresses & isolation in older men plus respite for carers	Poole	50	8
STAR - Steps to Active Recovery	5000	New charity offering training and advice to local churches and voluntary groups interested in developing services & support to people with addiction issues or those recovering from addiction	Bournemouth	230	11
The Colour Works Foundation	271	Programme of workshops designed to improve the life chances of disadvantaged young people by improving interpersonal skills and confidence – grant to support delivery of workshops as part of Employability Programme with MyTime young carers charity	Poole	34	2
The shine Project	4727.8	Core cost funding for charity delivering early intervention programmes for young women who need support with mental health and other social issues effecting their lives	Bournemouth	53	6
The Veterans Hub, Weymouth & Portland	5000	One to one counselling and substance misuse therapy for veterans in Weymouth, including those suffering PTSD	Weymouth & Portland	10	0
Vita Nova	500	Core costs for charity supporting those in recovery from additions; the pandemic has had an impact on mental health due to loneliness and increased risk of relapse	Bournemouth	10	10
Poole Communities Trust	5000	Supporting the development of Moor Community Food, set up by members of the local community with the support of the charity, as a response to Covid-19 in Turlin Moor and the exacerbation of food poverty	Poole	400	17
Samee	5000	Boscombe based charity providing employment support for disabled people including business start up, and addressing the financial and emotional impact of Covid-19 on disabled beneficiaries by providing advice and advocacy support, and wellbeing checks	Bournemouth	219	12
Somerford ARC Community Centre	5000	Supporting a local community centre in a deprived area to stay open during the pandemic, to maintain critical services run by voluntary sector partners, and to safely re-launch community activities	Christchurch	300	6
The Lantern Trust	5000	Key charity in Weymouth supporting people in crisis including experiencing homelessness, maintaining and extending services during the pandemic	Weymouth & Portland	155	15
Island Community Action	10,440	Development of project to address local food poverty, including community growing and cookery courses	Weymouth & portland	318	18
	67,604			4440	350