

# Surviving Winter

Impact report 2021/22



**Dorset  
Community  
Foundation**



# Another successful year of fundraising

OVER the winter of 2021/22 Dorset Community Foundation ran its 12th Surviving Winter campaign, raising £59,230 in the process.

Funds were raised from 207 donors, including 82 who supported the appeal previously, 46 new donors and 79 anonymous donors. Gift Aid is retained by DCF as a contribution to the costs incurred in running the campaign.

The appeal raises funds to support older and vulnerable people in Dorset over the age of 50 who are in fuel poverty. We especially encourage those in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance who feel they can manage without it, to consider donating to the appeal and helping someone in less fortunate circumstances.

Being in fuel poverty means you can cannot meet the costs of adequately heating your home. This could be because of low income, the cost of energy (eg expensive prepayment meters) or the type or age of the heating system. Surviving Winter grant recipients include park homes, households with no access to mains gas and using more expensive alternatives such as oil, electricity, coal and bottled gas (the costs for which have risen exponentially).

A Surviving Winter grant of £200 supports energy bills and enables households to switch their heating on during cold weather. Feedback from grant recipients illustrates that receiving a Surviving Winter grant not only enables households to



**Surviving Winter grant recipient Pat Turkiss of Christchurch. "There were days when I used to think 'shall I have a hot meal or shall I have the heating on?'," she said.**

keep warm over the winter but supports improved mental health.

The stress and worry about affording to pay bills has an enormous impact and recipients are extremely grateful for the grant.

Living in a cold home puts health at risk, especially for those with health conditions that are exacerbated by the cold. Older people over 60 are particularly at risk from the impact of cold weather.

We also offer Surviving Winter grants to those age 50 – 59 where they have health conditions and are on the highest level of benefits.

A third of this year's grant recipients were in this group, who are often unable to access other grants available to those over pension age, despite their vulnerability and financial hardship.

"I have been scared to put my heaters on due to the cost. They literally burn up my meter moneywise. Storage heaters are the worst form of heating and should be banned."

"It was hugely beneficial to me and my household. The worry I have over heating my flat every winter is enormous and weighs heavy on me each year."

"Thank you for helping me, It made such a difference to be able to keep my house warm without worrying about how I was going to pay for it."

"This grant is invaluable especially for those (like me) who have scarcely any money to spare at all. It really does alleviate the constant worry of how to cope."

"Incredibly important grant for me. Without it I would have definitely finished the year with a fuel debt. I am disabled with a condition that becomes unbearable in the cold and damp of winter."

# Declining energy market narrows choices



**Advisors at Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck, our partner in the Surviving Winter campaign**

DURING winter 2021/22, our partner Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck distributed £86,400 of funding to 432 Dorset residents in fuel poverty.

Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck, distribute Surviving Winter grants of £200 per household by co-ordinating applications made via Citizens Advice offices across Dorset.

It receives a contribution of £5 per grant awarded towards its costs and we also make a £500 contribution to support their Fuel Poverty Advice Line. Funding distributed this year includes £25,000 of match funding from the Energy Redress scheme, secured following a partnership proposal from Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck and Dorset Community Foundation. Remaining appeal funds are used for grants early next winter, while the new appeal launches.

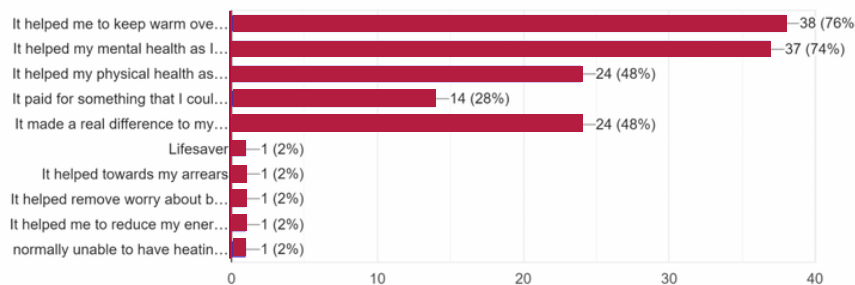
Winter 2021/22 coincided with the increasing cost of living crisis in the UK and huge uncertainty in the

energy market, with energy companies going out of business and the significant increase in the energy price cap coming into force on 1 April, 2022.

This has meant traditional cost saving measures such as switching tariff or supplier, were no longer available. Households on a low income with no ability to increase it continue to be under a huge pressure to meet the increased

energy costs. The Surviving Winter scheme was an important part of available funding via Citizens Advice for Dorset households, complimenting statutory funds from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund prioritising families and younger households. These vital sources of support supported households choosing between heating and eating.

What difference would you say receiving this grant made to you? Please tick all that apply.  
50 responses



**A survey of the impact of Surviving Winter grants on recipients**



Households applying for a Surviving Winter grant have a follow up call with a Citizens Advice Energy Adviser, part of the Fighting Fuel Poverty service delivered by Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck.

This enables full exploration of the household's situation, relevant energy advice to try to reduce costs, as well as other income maximisation checks to help prevent the need for future Surviving Winter grants.

Although the service supports financial resilience and grants clearly help households to manage their current situation, many households are nevertheless anticipating that they could still need help next year; 94% of households were significantly worried about meeting future costs. This is likely to be due to the increasing cost of living crisis.



**Surviving Winter grant recipient Rachel Stokes of Swanage. She said: "I was so pleased to get the grant because I do get anxious about how I'm going to pay the bills."**

"Thank you so much for the help, it really helped me get out of that debt and keep warm that winter, my mental health was better in regards to this, as I didn't have to worry about owing money or having my supply cut off at all, bonus that I could use my heating properly for the first time.."

"The service was fantastic. I wasn't initially aware that I could get help. Again. I am extremely grateful for all your help. I think I would have been very poorly as I couldn't afford the heating."

"All the help and advice made such a difference, not just at that moment but also the ongoing advice and support I was given. I appreciate all they done for me and my family."

## Case study

**JEMMA lives with her adult daughter who has mental health issues. Her daughter's DLA ended and PIP was refused, so Jemma lost her Carers Allowance and Carer's Premium.**

**Jemma's boiler was broken, she had an energy debt of £1500 and her in-home display was not working properly.**

**Fighting Fuel Poverty helped her to:**

- **Negotiate affordable debt repayments with her provider**
- **Apply for a Surviving Winter grant**
- **Apply for energy debt write-off**
- **Request her supplier to fix the in-home display**
- **Get the boiler replaced via external referral**

- **Ensure she was getting full welfare benefit entitlement**

**Jemma got her energy debt written off through an Energy Trust, she received full funding for a new boiler, light bulbs and radiator foils.**

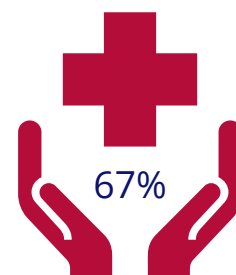
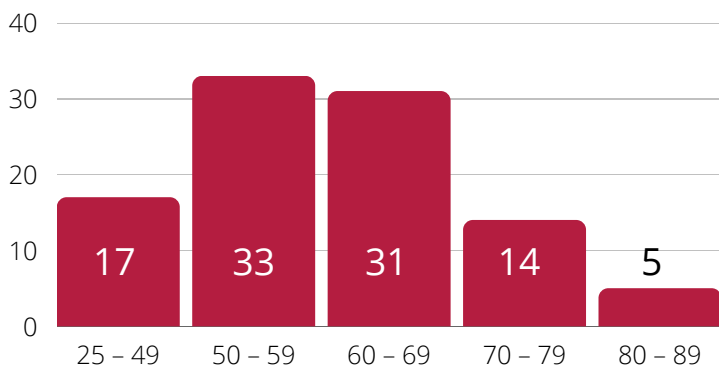
**Her income increased by £151 per month through benefits applications.**

**She received a £200 Surviving Winter grant, and her in-home display was fixed which has reduced her anxiety around energy spending.**

**She said: "You have not just helped me, you have given me tools to help myself. You are a brilliant, amazing group of people who have completely changed my mindset and I can't thank you enough."**

# Surviving Winter 2020/21 in numbers

## Grant recipients by age



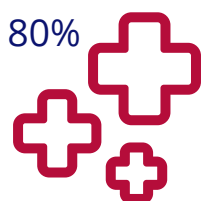
67%

Have a long-term health condition



13%

Have a disability

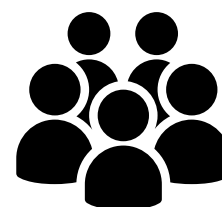


80%

Have a long-term health condition or a disability



£59,230 raised



207 donors

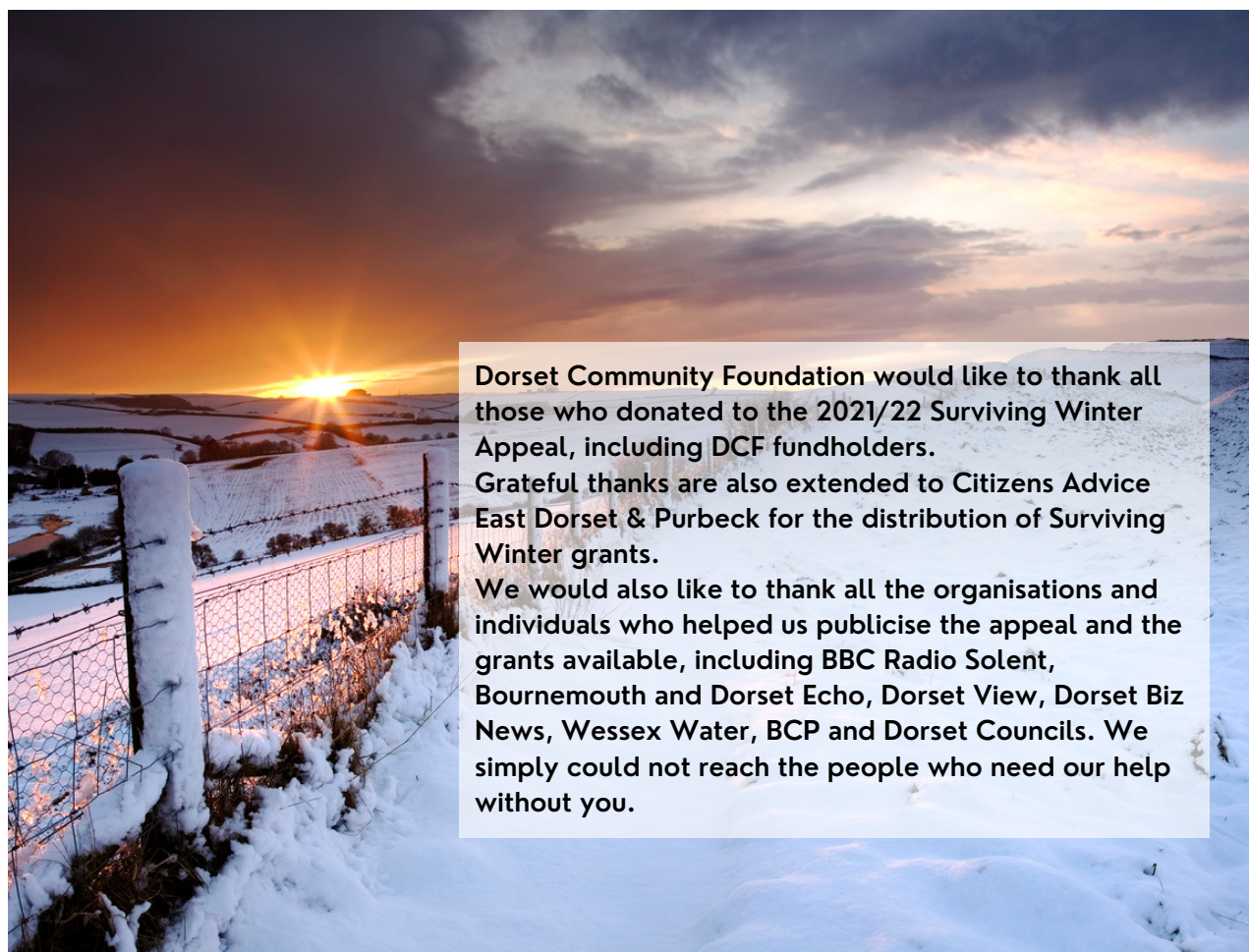
## Grants by postcode area

The highest number of grants were awarded to households living in Bournemouth and Weymouth and Portland, areas known to be the areas with highest levels of fuel poverty and or vulnerable households, as detailed in DCF Hidden Dorset 2 Report. [Read the report here.](#)

Post code	Post code area	No. of grants	Area
BH1	Town Centre, Springbourne, East Cliff	14	
BH2	Bournemouth Central, West Cliff	4	
BH3	Talbot Woods, Winton	0	
BH4	Westbourne, Branksome Woods	5	
BH5	Boscombe, Pokesdown	4	
BH6	Southbourne, Tuckton, Wick	13	
BH7	Littledown, Iford	2	
BH8	Malmesbury Park, Queens Park, Strouden Park, Townsend, Holdenhurst, Throop	23	
BH9	Winton, Moordown, Throop, Muscliff	7	
BH10	Kinson, East Howe, Northbourne, Redhill, Ensbur Park	13	
BH11	Kinson, Bear Cross, West Howe, Wallisdown	27	<b>Bournemouth: 112</b>
BH12	Branksome, Alderney, Upper Parkstone, Wallisdown, Newtown	22	
BH13	Canford Cliffs, Sandbanks, Branksome Park	0	
BH14	Lower Parkstone, Lilliput, Penn Hill	9	
BH15	Town Centre, Hamworthy, Oakdale	14	



BH16	Upton, Turlin Moor, Lytchett Minster, Lytchett Matravers	4	
BH17	Canford Heath, Creekmoor	8	
BH18	Broadstone	1	<b>Poole: 58</b>
BH19	Swanage, Studland, Langton Matravers	14	
BH20	Wareham, Wool, bere Regis	18	<b>Purbeck: 32</b>
BH21	Wimborne, Corfe Mullen	14	
BH22	Ferndown, West Moors, West Parley	7	
BH23	Christchurch, Mundeford, Highcliffe	28	
BH31	Verwood, Three Legged Cross	1	
SP5	Sixpenny Handley	1	
SP6	Alderholt, Fordingbridge	2	<b>Christchurch &amp; East Dorset: 53</b>
DT1	Dorchester	20	
DT2	Dorchester	25	
DT6	Bridport	12	
DT7	Lyme Regis	0	
DT8	Beaminster	6	
DT9	Sherborne	19	<b>West Dorset: 82</b>
DT3	Chickerell, Broadwey, Radipole, Osmington, Preston, Littlemoor, Portesham, Abbotsbury, Langton Herring	19	
DT4	Weymouth town centre, Melcombe Regis, Wyke Regis	38	
DT5	Portland, Fortuneswell, Easton, Southwell, Weston, The Grove	13	<b>Weymouth &amp; Portland: 70</b>
DT10	Sturminster Newton	6	
DT11	Blandford Forum	8	
SP7	Shaftesbury, Compton Abbas, Fontmell Magna, Donhead St Andrew, Donhead St Mary, Berwick St John, Motcombe	5	
SP8	Gillingham, Stour Provost, East Stour, West Stour, Kington Magna, Buckhorn Weston, Milton on Stour	6	<b>North Dorset: 25</b>



Dorset Community Foundation would like to thank all those who donated to the 2021/22 Surviving Winter Appeal, including DCF fundholders. Grateful thanks are also extended to Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck for the distribution of Surviving Winter grants. We would also like to thank all the organisations and individuals who helped us publicise the appeal and the grants available, including BBC Radio Solent, Bournemouth and Dorset Echo, Dorset View, Dorset Biz News, Wessex Water, BCP and Dorset Councils. We simply could not reach the people who need our help without you.