



**Dorset
Community
Foundation**

Impact of grants awarded in 2021/22

**"The whole Dorset
region is fortunate to
have an organisation
such as DCF"**



An event organised by People First Forum, a recipient of a DCF Neighbourhood Fund grant in 2021

Headline figures 21/22



Total amount awarded
£796,170.37 *



169 grants to groups via 16 programmes
£668,956.52



484 grants to individuals via five programmes
£127,213.85



Average grant size to groups
£3,958



Average grant size to individuals
£263

50%

Groups funded with annual expenditure less than £50,000

63%

Groups funded with annual expenditure less than £100,000

77%

Groups funded with annual expenditure less than £200,000



Total beneficiaries supported
52,685



Supported by funded groups
52,201



Supported by individual awards
484



Volunteers delivering funded activities 3,016

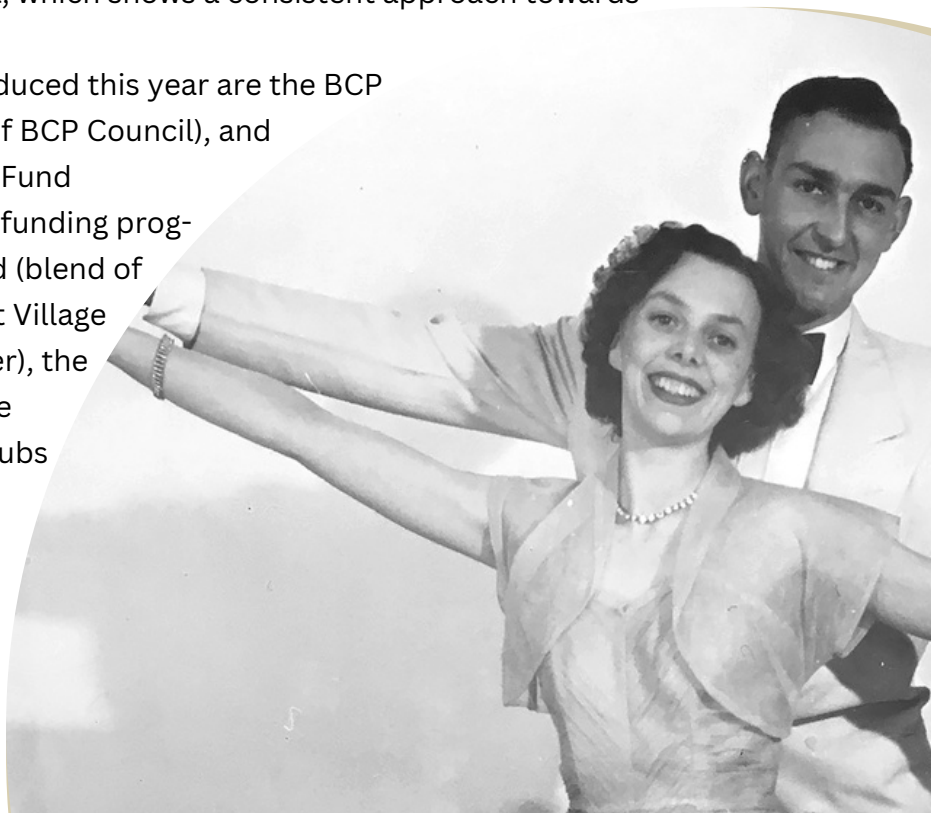
*£353,898.50 also awarded via NHS Charities Together Partnership Grants Programme. DCF responsible for application and panel decision, monitoring and reporting from grantees. Funds awarded via Dorset County Hospital Charity.



DCF at Townsend Community Association and donors Leon and Dorren Samuels who left a legacy to DCF, below

Comparison to 2020/21

- We distributed less funding than in 20/21; a decrease from £1,356,574.21 to £796,170.37. This was due to the loss of significant flow through funding raised by our Coronavirus appeal, including funds from the National Emergencies Trust
- However, the funding distributed is more than double the amount distributed in the year previous to the pandemic (19/20), which was £393.786.23
- The total beneficiaries supported through grants is less than in 20/21 but remains approximately proportional to the amount of funding distributed; a decreased from 101,197 to 52,685
- The proportion of the groups we supported which have annual expenditure less than £50,000 remains at 50 per cent, which shows a consistent approach towards prioritising smaller groups
- New funding programmes introduced this year are the BCP Food Support Fund (on behalf of BCP Council), and the Wessex Water Environment Fund
- We also delivered three one off funding programmes; BCP Living legacy Fund (blend of funding from BCP Council, Talbt Village Trust and an existing fundholder), the Arts Council Let's Create Jubilee Fund, and the Made by Sport Clubs in Crisis Fund
- Comments about us received in End of Grant reports remain overwhelmingly positive – only 4 per cent of comments provided constructive feedback





Above, a SturYouth day out, above right, Jubilee tea at Somerford ARC and a People First Forum outing



Impact on organisational development

(based on a sample of 43 groups)

- **40 per cent** of the groups said the grant enabled them to recruit new staff or volunteers
- **28 per cent** of the groups said the grant helped them to raise funds from other sources (a total of £164,059 was raised by 12 of the sample groups)
- **53 per cent** of the groups said the grant helped them to develop new working relationships or partnerships with other organisations
- **53 per cent** of the groups said the grant helped them to raise awareness of their organisation/services
- **56 per cent** of the groups said the grant helped them to improve their future planning, governance or sustainability
- **33 per cent** of the groups said the grant helped to provide training for staff or volunteers

Feedback

"We are grateful for the funding which formed a contribution to our core costs. In particular, we are grateful for the flexibility. The application and end of grant reporting process was, as always, straightforward and relatively simple to complete."

"We received great support from the Grants Manager who was open and honest about our application and how our organisation could operate more effectively. This was our first ever grant application and without this level of help none of this would have been possible."

"As always, we want to thank Dorset Community Foundation for their role in securing and distributing the funding... you are embedded within the community and have first hand knowledge and experience of the challenges faced by our county."

"DCF has been a key funder for us. You have enabled us to start delivering the activities we set out over five years ago to do. We are so very thankful and encouraged for the future, as you have given us a springboard to build on... it was really valuable having a DCF trustee visit a session."

"Offering grants for core funding, and trusting us to use this towards supporting our beneficiaries is extremely valuable. In effect, this money is worth more to us than a restricted 'project' grant. As always, the process is straightforward and proportionate to the amount of money available."

Outcomes for beneficiaries

Disadvantage and Poverty – 21,975 beneficiaries

Older people

- **726 people in financial crisis** have increased financial resilience due to support services that have maximised income, including employment advice, debt advice, applying for benefits, supporting budgeting. This has also resulted in improved mental health
- **432 older people** experiencing fuel poverty received a Surviving Winter grant of £200 to help towards fuel bills to enable them to keep warm. 80 per cent of recipients have a disability or long term health condition
- **2 older people in financial crisis** received grants to improve their home to aid independent living



Friends In Jolly Good Company

“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, without heating. A huge thank you”

Homeless people

- **180 homeless people** were supported to take their first steps to move away from the streets, through access to healthcare, online resources to arrange appointments and make applications, and addiction support groups
- **52 homeless people** in supported accommodation received mental health support, resulting in improved mental health and resilience to increase their likelihood of success when they move into independent accommodation
- **85 homeless people** were provided with essential household items or furnishings, to support a move into new accommodation and to increase the likelihood of success in their new home



“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.”

People experiencing food poverty – 18,498 beneficiaries

- **15,952 people** received food items, parcels or hampers
- **1,255 people** received a hot meal in a community setting (resulting in a reduction in loneliness),
- **1,291 people** received a Christmas hamper
- **778 people from ethnic minority communities** received culturally sensitive food parcels/meals
- **234 people** reported an increased understanding of other cultures as a result of sharing food together
- **2,000 people from ethnic minority communities** listened to a dedicated radio programme in appropriate languages, to support their understanding of the pandemic and resulting restrictions, and to provide a sense of community support



A meal with Grounded Community

"Thank you so much to everyone involved from the bottom of my heart. You are making so much difference to people that have nothing at Christmas. My client was absolutely in tears to receive the hamper. She has two children to feed and had no food at all."



Cooking for a crowd with the Friendly Food Club

Work, education and training – 2,031 beneficiaries

Young people

- **373 young people** have improved skills in money management following a targeted programme
- **109 young people not in mainstream education** accessed alternative education including therapeutic farming. 55 gained an accredited qualification
- **44 young people from low income households** accessed vocational or STEM courses at college despite financial hardship, due to bursaries for essential costs. Bursaries reduce anxiety, reduce risks of dropping out of college, and give young people greater skills and confidence to apply for employment
- **12 young people not in education, employment or training** received targeted employment support and mentoring, resulting in increased aspirations, new practical skills and improved mental health. Seven have started employment and three have started an accredited course
- **Ten young people** received mentoring, resulting in improved mental health, increased practical and interpersonal skills and increased personal aspirations. 8 started a work experience placement, 5 started volunteering regularly and 4 reported improved attendance and engagement at school
- **Six young people from low income households** were able to continue competing in high level sports despite financial challenges



Cyclist Jamie Witcher received a Young and Talented Fund grant

“I wouldn’t have been able to attend Kingston Maurward College if I didn’t get this bursary, the new waterproof jacket also purchased kept me warm in the colder weather and in winter, so I wasn’t cold outside working with the animals.”

Vocational bursary recipient Bella Fryer



Others

- **727 people experiencing poverty** received cooking tuition, resulting in improved cooking and money management skills, increased nutrition awareness.
- **461 performing artists** accessed enhanced networking and peer support opportunities.
- **119 vulnerable people** have improved skills in money management following a targeted programme.
- **110 professionals working in healthcare, education and prisons** have an increased awareness and understanding of the needs of LGBT+ clients.
- **23 adults with learning disabilities** have increased digital inclusion and skills, enabling them to take part in online activities to reduce loneliness.
- **15 performing artists in financial need** received a bursary to enhance their professional development.
- **12 adults** who were unable to read have improved literacy skills, leading to improved mental health – two have secured employment as a result.
- **Ten disabled women** were supported to explore self-employment, resulting in improved mental health and new skills. Four have progressed into early-stage self-employment and six are on a pathway to employment



Performing with B Sharp, top and bottom, and cooking with the Friendly Food Club, middle



Health, wellbeing and mental health – 4,238 beneficiaries

Young people

- **1,389 young people** took part in community sports activities, resulting in improved mental and physical health, and social skills
- **274 young people with mental health difficulties** received support from qualified professionals resulting in improved mental health
- **183 young people** have an improved understanding and awareness of the impact of addictions

“Tennis saved my sanity. It introduced me to other wheelchair users, people I can relate to. It has given me not only a social connectivity with like minded people but the confidence to go on to try other new things.”

Older people

- **363 older people** accessed a range of support services to support independent living and health and wellbeing, such as advice services, befriending, and transport to community activities. Services resulting in improved physical and mental health, reduced isolation and increased financial security.
- **246 older people** attended regular social activities, resulting in improved physical and mental health, and reduced loneliness



In Jolly Good Company's allotment

People with disabilities or health conditions

- **665 people with mental health difficulties** received specialist support, resulting in improved mental health and self-care and reduced loneliness. Includes 206 new parents
- **590 people with disabilities or health conditions** (including disabled children and people with dementia) attended regular social activities, resulting in improved physical and mental health and increased practical skills and reduced isolation
- **135 people suffering from addictions** were supported to remain abstinent, reporting improved mental health and social networks



Out on the water with Poole Sailability

Others

- **180 people** took part in a consultation with a local mental health charity, to improve its strategic direction and planning in line with local needs.
- **64 refugees** settling in Dorset attended regular activities, resulting in increased peer networks and support, and improved mental health.
- **64 veterans** took part in social and sports activities, resulting in reduced isolation and improved mental health.
- **85 unpaid carers** (including 45 young carers) took part in social activities providing peer support and friendship, resulting in reduced isolation and improved mental health.



Recreate Dorset harnessing traditional skills

Loneliness and isolation – 22,447 beneficiaries

- **18,483 people** from local communities took part in creative community activities to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee, resulting in a renewed sense of community, increased social networks, reduced isolation, improved mental health, and new engagement with heritage locations and venues
- **1,069 community participants**, 82 professional artists and 2,187 community audience took part in inclusive, participatory performing arts activities designed with local people in order to benefit the lives of their communities. Outcomes included reduced isolation, increased confidence and wellbeing, increase artistic skills and a renewed sense of community
- **626 people in deprived communities** took part in community activities at a local hub including voluntary roles supporting others, resulting in reduced isolation, increased access to local services, and improved mental health

“It has been an extraordinary experience for residents after two years of Covid restrictions... so to be able to open the doors and let children come back in to do a project like this is amazing, and they have loved every single second of it.”

“I thought it was heart-warming to see such an inclusive approach to local theatre, which sent a powerful message about the skills and potential of those with learning disabilities. Once again, a big thank you and well done.”

Environment - 2,039 beneficiaries

■ **2,039 community participants** took part in environmental projects, resulting in improved biodiversity (eg transforming derelict sites into public green spaces, community growing projects, replanting hedgerows and bee friendly corridors), improved environmental sustainability (eg education campaigns, litter picking and recycling activities), and reduction in use of energy and water (eg rainwater harvesting solutions)



“By setting up a rainwater harvesting system, several people have already said that they are inspired by our example to make use of the precious resource of rainwater, and will go home and try something similar for themselves.”

“Getting involved in a litter pick is a good opportunity for people to socialise in a less daunting way, to get outside, exercise and engage with the natural environment and local community whilst being proactive and having a positive impact.”



Community gardening at Transition Town Dorchester

Feedback

"Thank you so much to Arts Council England and Dorset Community Foundation for making this project happen. It was such a joy to be able to be a part of our community's and nation's celebrations of this once in a lifetime moment."

"Your paperwork is clear and concise, your decision to award us some funding came through promptly, you warned that you would and you have held us to account which made us tighten our processes and be more mindful about our activities and your communication has been clear and timely. Thank you."

"Working with DCF is always a privilege - straightforward communication, honest engagement and genuine interest in our projects."

"We are very grateful for the ease of being able to apply and also the end of grant reporting. It is much easier than many grant organisations that we work with, so thank you kindly for all you are doing to help so many people."

"I would very much like to say how grateful our community group is for the support and funding from DCF. The whole Dorset region is fortunate to have an organisation such as DCF. Indeed, our group has been able to develop and achieve our present standing only because of the support afforded by DCF. "

Further reading

Explore more of our work through news stories, case studies and further reports through our website by following these links.

Disadvantage and poverty

Older People

[Surviving Winter Impact Report 21/22](#)

Homeless people

[Change for Good Impact Report 21/22](#)

People experiencing food poverty

[Designs for Humanity Impact Report 2021](#)

[BCP Council Food and Warmth Support Fund, winter 21/22](#)

News story: [Living Legacy Fund, safe cafe](#)



Work, education and training

Young people

[DCF Bursary report 21/22](#)

News story: [Superior Seals STEM donation milestone](#)

News story: [Graduate's thanks for STEM donation](#)

News story: [Fund for Young and Talented grants](#)



Health, wellbeing and mental health

Older people

News story: [Mental Health Week](#)

People with disabilities or health conditions

News story: [ASCape Bridport](#)

News story: [In Jolly Good Company](#)

Case study: [Opportunities R Un Limited](#)

Others

Case study: [Recreate Dorset](#)

Loneliness and isolation

[ACE Let's Create Jubilee Fund Impact Report](#)

[DPAF Impact Report 21/22](#)



Environment

News story: [Wessex Water Environment Fund grants](#)



Groups supported in 2021/22

24th Bournemouth Scout Group
47th Bournemouth Guides
Access Dorset
Acts 4 Sharing
Acts Fast
Age UK North, South and West Dorset
AIMCommunity
ARCH (Association of Residents of Canford Heath)
ASCape
AsOne theatre company Ltd.
B Sharp
Blandford Foodbank
Blandford St Mary Allotment Assn
Bournemouth & Poole College
BCARS
Bournemouth Foodbank
Bournemouth Poole Christchurch (BCP)
Music Lovers Bollywood
Bournemouth Sea Cadets
Bournemouth Spear Trust
Bournemouth U3A
Bournemouth YMCA
Bridport Amateur Boxing Club
Broadwindsor Fun Group
Buckhorn Weston Cricket Club
Christ Church
Christchurch Community Partnership
Christchurch Foodbank
Citizens Advice Central
Citygate Church
CoCreate Dorset CIC
Coda Music Trust
Community Alliances Limited
Countrymen UK
Doppelganger Productions
Dorchester Arts
Dorchester Cricket Club
Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy

Dorset Children's Foundation
Dorset Mind
Dorset Parent Infant Partnership
Dorset Race Equality Council
Faithworks Wessex
Ferndown Community Support
Fingerprint Dance CIC
Friends of St James'
Friends of Stour Connect
Friends of the Lyric Theatre CIC
Future Roots
Gillingham Community Church
Grounded Community
Harlequin Care
HealthBus Trust
Helping Homeless Veterans-UK
Home-Start North Dorset
Hope Housing ,Training and Support
Hope in the Community
Island Community Action
It's All About Culture (IAAC)
Landance CIC
LGB&T Dorset Equality Network
LOVECHURCH
Mindful
MOSAIC (Dorset Wide Support For Bereaved Children and their Families)
MyTIME
North Bournemouth Crime Prevention
Panel Oceans to Earth CIC
Opera Circus
PCC of Blandford Forum Parish Church
People First Forum
Plymouth Diocesan Trust
Poole Foodbank
Poole Communities Trust
Poole Community Exchange
Poole Gig Rowing Club (PGRC)
Poole Missional Communities
Poole Sailability
Poole Waste Not Want Not
Portland Sculpture And Quarry Trust

Groups supported in 2021/22

Portland United Youth FC
Prout Bridge Project
Purbeck Art Weeks Festival
Purbeck Youth and Community Fdtn
READ EASY Bridport
Recreate Dorset (formerly
Bournemouth 2026 Trust)
Safe and Sound Dorset
Salway Ash Village Hall
Samee
Somerford ARC Community Centre
Somerford Youth & Community Centre
Southbourne Tennis Club
St Mary & St Josephs PTFA
St Mary Gillingham Scout Group
Stalbridge History Society
STAR – Steps to Active Recovery
SturYouth Club
Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust
The Arts Development Company
The BeeWayZz Hub
The Blackmore Vale Charity
The Vale Pantry
The Burrough Harmony Centre

The David Ellis Charity
The Friendly Food Club
The HealthBus Trust c/o St Peters Church
The Mowlem Institute Charity
The Power House (Poole)
The Rotary Club of Westbourne
TLW Dance Foundation
Townsend Community Association
Townsend Youth Partnership
Transition Town Bridport
Transition Town Dorchester
Treads
Umoja Arts Network
Vita Nova
Water Lily Project
Weldmar Hospicecare
Weymouth Cougars Youth Football Club
Wheels for Freedom
Wimborne Community Theatre
Wimborne Foodbank
Wimborne Community Food Supply
Your Planet Doctors CIC
Youth Empowerment Platform
The Rendezvous, Sherborne



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Community
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