

# Corton Hill Fund

## Round 3

– grants to groups distributed in April 2022

– DCF Bursary awards distributed from August 2022 – February 2023



## Summary of funded groups

£66,000 was used to support 6 groups addressing fundholder priority themes. The grants have so far collectively benefitted the lives of 435 local residents, utilising 106 local volunteers.

Grant recipient	Amount	Area of benefit	Primary beneficiary	Funded activities	No of direct beneficiaries	No of volunteers involved
Age UK North, South and West Dorset	£8000	North, South & West Dorset	Older people	Core costs for services supporting older people in North Dorset	192	12
Citizens Advice Central	£30,000	Sherborne and surrounding including Gillingham, Blandford and Shaftesbury	Local residents	Core funding for financial advice services the address poverty and employment issues	648	47
Countrymen UK	£1000	North and West Dorset	Older people	Core costs for charity supporting rurally isolated older men including those with dementia and other health conditions	25	10
Escapeline	£4000	Dorchester	Children & young people	To support Child Criminal Exploitation awareness assemblies and workshops in Dorset schools	4222	3
Future Roots	£5000	North and West Dorset	Children & young people	Towards core costs of charity offering specialist support to vulnerable young people, supporting their personal aspirations and employability	150	2
Home-Start North Dorset	£3000	Blandford Forum	Families	Core costs for charity supporting families with children under age 5, experiencing crisis	75	42

MOSAIC (Dorset Wide Support For Bereaved Children and their Families)	£2000	North Dorset	Children & young people	Providing support for bereaved children and young people in North Dorset	6	14
Sherborne Community Kitchen	£3000	SHERBORNE	Local residents	Support for general service delivery costs to maintain community meals and home delivered meals whilst beneficiary numbers and income streams are building to support the charity in the long term	3540	9
Weldmar Hospicecare	£5000	North Dorset	Older people	To support the development of the Weldmar at Home service	269	0
Youth Resource Services (The Rendezvous, Sherborne) Ltd	£5000	Sherborne	Children & young people	Core costs for charity supporting vulnerable young people in North Dorset including education, employability, mental health and services for young parents	150	42
	<b>£66,000</b>				<b>9277</b>	<b>181</b>

## Summary of funded students

£22,075 contributed towards the DCF Bursary scheme in 2022/23, allowing for a maximum award of £500 per individual. DCF bursaries are awarded to young people in Dorset age 16 – 25 studying vocational courses at colleges and sixth forms. The Corton Hill Fund contribution supported a total of 50 young people – the majority of awards were topped up by other funds as our maximum bursary is £1000.

Name	Age	SWEF Amount Awarded	Total Amount Awarded	College	Course	Items awarded
Anon 1	18	£500.00	£1,000.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 3 Performing Arts	Train fare, college meals
Anon 2	18	£312.50	£312.50	Bourne Academy	BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts	Clothing for course and school meals
Anon 3	19	£500.00	£1,000.00	Brockenhurst College	Level 3 Animal Care	Remaining bus fare and college meals contribution
Anon 4	19	£500.00	£735.30	Bournemouth and Poole College	A Levels: Film Studies, English Lit, Classical Civilisation, Year 2	Bus fare
Anon 5	16	£500.00	£990.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 2 Animal Welfare and Science	Travel fare
Anon 6	16	£299.00	£299.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Uniformed Public Services	Laptop

Anon 7	16	£500.00	£1,000.00	Brockenhurst College	Military Preparation	Train fare, laptop contribution
Anon 8	17	£500.00	£1,000.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 2 Business Enterprise	Bus fare and contribution towards college meals
Anon 9	16	£500.00	£715.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 3 Animal welfare and science	Remaining bus fare
Anon 10	24	£499.60	£660.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Level 4 Counselling Practice year one	Course required therapy sessions
Anon 11	17	£474.00	£474.00	Bourne Academy	BTEC Level 3 Sport	Laptop, clothing for course
Anon 12	16	£500.00	£550.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	BTEC level 2 health and social care	Remaining bus fare
Anon 13	17	£474.00	£474.00	Bourne Academy	BTEC Level 3 Sport	Laptop and clothing for course
Anon 14	16	£480.60	£480.60	Brockenhurst College	BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Childrens Play Learning and Development	train fare
Anon 15	17	£500.00	£554.40	Kingston Maurward College	BTEC Performing Arts	train fare
Anon 16	17	£479.70	£529.00	Brockenhurst College	BTEC Sport	Laptop and clothing for course
Anon 17	17	£500.00	£1,000.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Year 1 Uniformed Protection Services	Bus fare
Anon 18	21	£500.00	£771.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Level 3 beauty therapy	bus fare, uniform costs and laptop
Anon 19	20	£500.00	£561.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Level 3 Health and Social Care	Petrol, college meals
Anon 20	16	£500.00	£629.00	Brockenhurst College	Animal Welfare	travel and laptop
Anon 21	25	£375.00	£375.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Countryside & Wildlife Management	clothing and transport
Anon 22	16	£500.00	£935.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 1 Plastering	Equipment, public bus fare, and college meals
Anon 23	17	£500.00	£561.50	Bournemouth and Poole College	BTEC Level 3 Forensics and Criminal Investigations and Applied Science	bus pass and school meals
Anon 24	16	£299.00	£299.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Level 1 Hairdressing	Laptop
Anon 25	16	£299.00	£299.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Level 3 Diploma Arts and Communication, Year 1	Laptop

Anon 26	18	£500.00	£1,000.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 3 Outdoor Adventure Extended	Travel fare and kit
Anon 27	23	£500.00	£749.00	Brockenhurst College	Level 2 Barbering	Laptop and bus fare
Anon 28	18	£500.00	£100.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Outdoor Adventure	Bus fare
Anon 29	17	£500.00	£999.00	Kingston Maurward College	Art and Design (photography) level three extended diploma	high spec laptop and transport
Anon 30	16	£413.60	£413.60	Bournemouth and Poole College	Level 2 Performing Arts	College meals
Anon 31	16	£500.00	£509.00	Kingston Maurward College	BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music/Music Production	High spec laptop
Anon 32	24	£299.00	£299.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Level 2 Beauty	Laptop
Anon 33	17	£500.00	£584.00	Kingston Maurward College	BTEC Level 3 Sport	Laptop, clothing for course, textbooks
Anon 34	17	£500.00	£654.40	Kingston Maurward College	level 2 hair dressing	Kit, uniform and materials cost, and public bus fare
Anon 35	16	£500.00	£699.00	Weymouth College	UAL Games development	high spec laptop
Anon 36	17	£299.00	£299.00	Weymouth College	Level 2 in Childcare	Laptop
Anon 37	17	£500.00	£641.00	Wiltshire College	Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business	Travel fare
Anon 38	16	£150.00	£150.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 2 Technical Certificate in Horticulture	equipment, uniform
Anon 39	17	£485.00	£485.00	Bourne Academy	BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts	Drama school interview, application fees, transport
Anon 40	18	£500.00	£560.00	Bourne Academy	BTEC Sport and 2 A Levels	Bus fare, course clothing
Anon 41	18	£500.00	£750.00	Yeovil College	Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care	Travel fare
Anon 42	18	£299.00	£299.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 2 in blacksmithing, welding and fabrication	Laptop
Anon 43	21	£299.00	£299.00	Bournemouth and Poole College	Level 2 Beauty	Laptop
Anon 44	18	£500.00	£611.50	Bourne Academy	BTEC Level 3 Sport	Laptop, sports clothing, college meals
Anon 45	17	£500.00	£1,000.00	Bourne Academy	Level 2 Beauty	Bus fare and college meals
Anon 46	16	£500.00	£1,000.00	Bourne Academy	Level 3 Animal Welfare and Science	Travel Fare

Anon 47	19	£324.00	£324.00	Kingston Maurward College	UAL Level 3 Diploma in Creative Media Production and Technology	Laptop, stationary
Anon 48	17	£500.00	£505.50	Bourne Academy	BTEC Level 3 Sport	Sports clothing, textbooks, travel fare
Anon 49	17	£14.00	£184.50	Bourne Academy	Level 3 Extended Diploma in Military Preparation	travel, equipment, laptop contribution
Anon 50	19	£500.00	£930.00	Kingston Maurward College	Level 3 Health and Social Care	Laptop, bus fare, and stationary
<b>Total</b>		<b>£22,075.00</b>	<b>£30,249.80</b>			

Below are summaries of the End of Grant reports received by funded groups, followed by a selection of case studies of students supported via the DCF Bursary scheme.

## Reports from funded groups

### Age UK North, South and West Dorset

*“We are always appreciative of the ongoing support that DCF offer us as an organisation, from assisting with any pre-application questions, to supporting with post grant marketing advice. Always appreciated. Thank you”*

#### Funded activities

The grant supported the salary costs of our Independent Living advisor in North Dorset, who assists older people in accessing the support they need, signposting to relevant services both internally and externally, to tackle loneliness and isolation. Individuals were referred to our home support and handy person, into our befriending service and our Information and Advice service.

- 77 individuals were signposted to social support or befriending report
- 17 individuals who were inactive were signposted to local physical activities, sport sessions, and our online exercise classes
- 30 individuals received information and advice about subjects such as care options, and their right and responsibilities
- 68 individuals received information and advice about their eligibility for benefit support, in order to maximise their income

#### Impact and outcomes

The funding has enabled us to continue to deliver the services that we offer to the community in North Dorset. The service and support we provide individuals can be life changing. We have supported over 190 individuals with direct services to enable them to feel part of a community and integrate them back into society with a variety of services that support improved mental health and self care. We have enabled older people to feel empowered in the support they receive and the choices they make, and in turn promoting their overall wellbeing. Ensuring people are receiving the benefits they are entitled to can make day to day living more affordable, and even enable people to pay for care and support services they may need, but have not been able to pay for.

## Challenges and future plans

There are some issues in volunteer recruitment in the north Dorset area. Ideally we would have liked to have recruited more volunteers but we are still happy to have embedded three within the funding period. The work will continue, relying upon funding streams from fundraising and applying for grants.

## Story of change

Our Client was referred to Age UK NSWDC through Social Prescribers based at the local GP Surgery, and lives alone. Because of serious medical issues client had been housebound for 3 years. Carers visit 3 times per day but there was no social contact with friends or family on a regular basis. Due to this the client had become very isolated and lonely which was having a detrimental effect on their overall quality of life. Our Independent living advisor arranged a Home visit to the client. It was established that they would benefit from a Volunteer Visiting Befriender. A local Befriender was assigned and a coordinator to visit the client on a regular basis. This connection has successfully continued on an ongoing, regular basis. When we followed up with both client and befriender they reported that they were enjoying the visits and that the support had helped them feel less lonely.

Our client was referred to Age UK NSWDC through Adult Social Care. The Client lived alone and because of a medical condition had lost confidence in going out to social activities and has found it difficult to make friends. Our Independent living advisor worked with the client to identify areas of interest and local groups were found. The client was accompanied to a local singing group by the Independent Living Coordinator, to support and build confidence. It was nice to see social interaction taking place with lots of smiles and a noticeable increase in confidence. The client even met people that she knew but had lost touch with and has since joined other local activities independently.

## Citizens Advice Central

*“We would like to re-iterate our thanks to the Corton Hill fund for their generosity over the past few years, without which many local residents in North Dorset and Sherborne would not have been able to access our help. We are in a period of economic uncertainty and many people in the area are facing financial difficulties on an unprecedented scale. Those who are suffering from the impact of COVID and the cost of living crisis are dependent on Citizens Advice Central Dorset to help resolve their issues. We have always found the Community Foundation to be easy and straightforward to work with and we are grateful for their help managing our grants so effectively.”*

## Funded activities

We have used this grant to help us to maintain and deliver our advice service in Sherborne and North Dorset in 2022-23. It has helped us to be flexible as we continued our recovery from the pandemic and faced the challenge of the rising cost of living, which has had a huge impact of local people living in rural areas and on low incomes. We have settled into a hybrid model of delivery with some advisers returning to work from offices in Sherborne & Gillingham and some choosing to remain working from home. This suits our workforce but entails a greater demand on our Management team and supervisors. We used this grant to:

- Maintain and increase our supervision support to support volunteer advisers
- Contribute to the travel expenses of those volunteers working in the offices
- Recruit and train new volunteer advisers
- Provide training for our existing advice team to enable them to respond to new issues arising for our clients
- Contribute to the management costs of implementing changes to our service model ensuring we remain responsive to local and national circumstances

### **Impact and outcomes**

We know that our advice helps local residents deal with their issues, whether it is problems with welfare benefits, debt, employment, housing or other subject areas. In a recent survey, 88% of our clients said they would be likely to recommend our service and 83% said they would not have been able to sort out their problem without the help of Citizens Advice. Our advice results in significant outcomes for clients – this could be helping a client avoid eviction, or helping to negotiate with creditors to relieve the burden of debt, or helping a client apply for benefits to which they are entitled. The outcomes we achieve alleviate the poverty and mental stress being faced by our clients.

In 2022-23, our Sherborne and North Dorset offices helped 3,239 clients with 9,562 issues and helped those clients to gain over £2million in welfare benefits, as well as getting £131,000 in debts written off, and bringing in over £305,000 in grants and additional income. This is a 12% increase on the number of local residents helped in 2021-22 and reflects the rising demand from the cost of living crisis. 59% of these clients had disabilities or long term health conditions.

### **Challenges and future plans**

We are committed to supporting our staff and are proud that many paid staff and volunteers have remained with us through difficult times. However, we are still facing with challenges around recruitment with a number of vacancies not being filled. The increased demand has put almost intolerable pressure on our teams, who work tirelessly to help as many clients as we can. We are taking steps to train our Management team to know how to support their staff and identify mental health issue. We are also providing training across the organisation in managing stress and dealing with aggressive clients. Our Dorset Council funding runs until Sept 2025. We add to this through other grants & charitable funds, of which Corton Hill Fund is a much appreciated part.

### **Story of change**

'Adam' was single, in his 60' and living in social housing. He suffered from a number of disabling conditions including back pain (from a prolapsed disc in his teens) and ongoing arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome in both wrists and mental health issues including depression and anxiety. He came to see us when his mandatory reconsideration for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) was refused – despite his disabilities, he had been awarded no points at all. We helped Adam to prepare for an appeal, providing a detailed response outlining his disabilities and mental health issues, and the subsequent impact on his daily life. Once the tribunal date was set, we spent some time with Adam preparing him for the face to face appointment and agreed to accompany him and speak on his behalf. The appeal was successful and he was awarded weekly payments of £116.85, amounting to £6,076 p.a. He also received £7,992 in backdated payments.

### **Countrymen UK**

*“The grants are quick to apply to and your team are so easy to talk to and ask questions.... it feels like you know the projects and the difficulties we struggle with to keep them all afloat...thank you”*

### **Funded activities**

The Grant has made a huge difference because the increase in energy bills was adding a massive increase in costs which the club couldn't afford to pay. The men need good heating when they come in from their outdoor experience, and they also like to use tools which all cost money. We have been able to buy a few pairs of new steel toe capped boots for the men and the equipment needed for gardening, plus the men have been able to have more photo books. We have also created new leaflets so that more farms become aware of our work and may come forward. Carers have been supported through their men's illnesses with phone calls on a regular basis.

### **Impact and outcomes**

Our members report increased resilience and/or self-care as well as increased self-esteem and confidence. Carers have made friends with one another and the men have made friends with the volunteers and share the space with others, which increases their social networks. We hold events where all carers and men who come on difference days. These shared experience bring joy to everyone – our next event is the coronation.

### **Challenges and future plans**

Numbers have dropped off during the winter months which is usual due to cold and illness, but we expect numbers to grow in the coming year. We lost 5 participants in one month who passed away suddenly and 2 went into a home through recovery after a hospital stay. We are still trying to find funding to keep the club going and need to find enough to employ a CEO who can dedicate 3 days a week to run it. The club has been going for 10 years has hardly any reserves.

### **Story of change**

One Farmer who has attended for around 5 years and who has had Parkinson's for about 20 years has attended twice a week. He had a blockage that led to him being in hospital for 3 weeks and he almost passed away but his wife continued to take into hospital the farm news letter, the cards we sent him with pics of all the farm work going, messages and photos of all the activities happening here. His wife told us this gave him the strength to fight all that went wrong and on his return recently she said his smile said everything when he arrived back at the farm the week after he came out of hospital. Even though he only stayed an hour on that occasion he is now back to full time and benefiting from being back in charge.

### **Escapeline**

*“Thank you so much for all your support”*

### **Funded activities**

This funding was used for our education sessions both in Somerset and Dorset:

- Workshops and assemblies in primary schools, secondary schools and colleges, for all young people aged 10-18, raising awareness of child exploitation and grooming, and teaching protective strategies.
- Targeted support to vulnerable young people identified as being groomed, or at risk of exploitation, by county line gangs, to assist them to break the cycle and move away from a path of crime and drugs. (7-week education programme in schools, with either small groups or individuals)

We also provide Parent awareness workshops and 1-1 support on county lines, exploitation and how to keep their own children safe. Demand for this support is rising and we have recently introduced a face to face support group for parents and carers whose children are at risk of, or are being exploited, by gangs. We also seek to increase awareness in the community on the signs of county line activity and child exploitation. We visit local shops, cafes, doctors' surgeries, hotels and transport hubs, delivering posters and leaflets to educate staff on the signs of County Line activity and how to report suspicious behaviour. We have also introduced an 'S' sign in windows of shops and cafés indicating a safe refuge for children who feel threatened by criminal gangs.

### **Impact and outcomes**

The feedback from our assemblies and workshops have been outstanding. Staff have said that after our assemblies, it has opened up discussions with young people about county lines and the dangers. Our experts by experience who share their personal story in the education sessions have a big impact on the young



people and it has resulted in some disclosures, with some resulting in police involvement and police disruption. Our 7 week workshops have been effective in educating young people to pull away from getting involved in county lines, and reducing their drug use and criminal activity. We have also developed a peer mentoring programme that enables young people to become peer mentors and educates other young people. Since receiving the grant, the demand for our education sessions and targeted work has increased significantly. Between September 2022 - December 2022 we educated 5854 young people.

### **Challenges and future plans**

Our work will continue in offering all of the above services and we continually update these services according to changes in the local area and the needs of our beneficiaries. We have received funding from the Corton Hill fund again, the #iwill fund, Dorset PCC fund, Children in Need, National Lottery, Hunts Food group.

### **Story of change**

In July 2022, our educator and youth mentor provided an education session for Year 7 year group in a secondary school. Our educator talked about county lines, recruitment, knife crime, drugs and how to keep yourself safe and our mentor talked about his personal story of being recruited at the age of 8. After the assembly, a young person in Year 7, aged 12, approached his teacher and asked if this was really happening and then told her he thinks he is being recruited. We immediately followed up his disclosure to see him on a 1-1 basis. He disclosed that a Year 10 had been trying to befriend him in school and told him that he would look out for him when he is out and about. The 12 year said he thought it was quite 'cool' having a Year 10 wanting to be his friend, but after he listened in the assembly, he was able to identify that he was being recruited. He said after the assembly, he blocked the Year 10 and is no longer in contact. When he completed a feedback form, he rated us 10/10 and said thank you for saving him as he has no idea the dangers, and could not see any danger until he had the assembly. He said "thank you for saving me".

### **Friends of Stour Connect (£1000 towards a total grant of £5000)**

*“The receipt of this funding and involvement with you has been a very positive experience and one which we would like to maintain.”*

### **Funded activities**

With the funding received we have been able to employ two part time paid drivers which has enabled us to maintain our essential hot meal delivery service within the local community and expand our service to meet increasing demand. The funding has also been used to pay mileage costs for our volunteer team. Volunteer drivers remain an essential part of the team despite the employment of paid drivers as our rounds cover a wide area. We have been able to respond to increased requests for support with hot meals from local Social Prescribers based in the Blackmore Vale Practice and Gillingham surgeries. In addition to the Meals on wheels project we also run a weekly lunch club where people are able to come in and have a meal in our community cafe and meet others.

### **Impact and outcomes**

The Meals on Wheels project run by Friends of Stour Connect is the only one in the area which can provide a hot meal delivered ready to eat. The increase in demand we have seen indicates that this is an essential service and our clients would not otherwise have access to a hot meal during the week. In addition to our regular long-term clients we have been able to provide respite services to several individuals on a short-term basis following hospital discharge or illnesses and they have reported that this was invaluable to support their recovery and their well-being in these difficult times.

*“Mum really enjoys the meals that she has, and I have piece of mind that she is eating better and knowing that someone will pop in during the day when I can't. Could you pass on my thanks to all who are involved. What a fantastic team”*

## Challenges and future plans

Challenges have been in recruiting volunteers to support the service. This is an on-going project and need is growing, particularly within the older persons community. Friends of Stour Connect is committed to maintaining this service and continues to seek funding.

## Story of change

We were contacted by the daughter of a local gentleman who had become unable to cook for himself due to deteriorating health and was also feeling extremely lonely and isolated. His daughter lived a considerable distance away and was only able to visit fortnightly. We initially arranged to deliver meals on a trial basis as the gentleman was reluctant to accept any support. After the trial period he decided he would like to continue to receive meals, enjoying the choices on the menu and the daily visit from a volunteer, even if only for a brief period. This also provided reassurance for his daughter that he had improved his diet. He also started to attend lunch club having become familiar with our team and this has been a great step in helping to reduce his social isolation.

## Future Roots

*“A huge thank you for making the process straightforward which is so often not the case, and for the support.”*

## Funded activities

We are so grateful to have installed solar panels on our barn to help with the massive energy costs. We will be able to do a saving analysis from our records after 4 months and it looks like the saving will be amazing. Although we needed to invest some of our money to do this we know it is going to make a substantial difference to costs now and in the future. It is also helping to reduce our carbon footprint. Thank you so much.

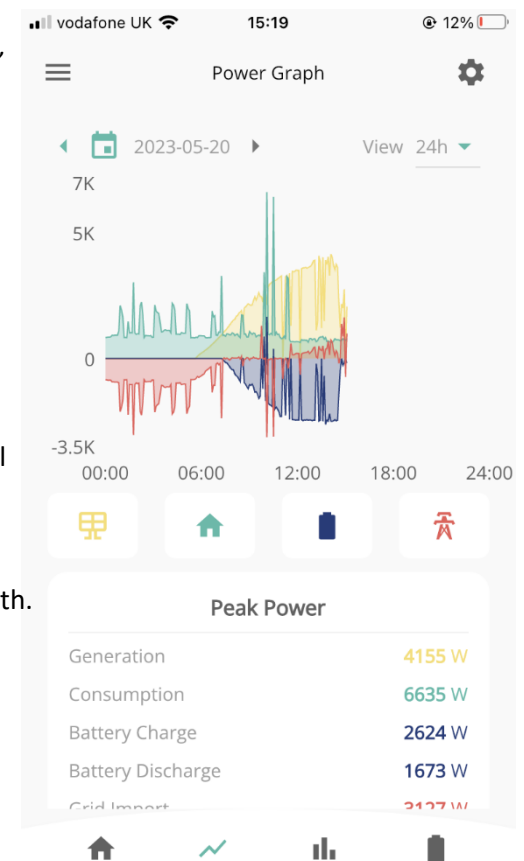
## Impact and outcomes

In the last year 50 young people have obtained various qualifications including functional skills and city and guilds qualifications in farming as well as some on line courses like food hygiene and health and safety. 30 of our young people are leaving now and we have a record of where they intend to go, and will keep in touch to make sure they will get to their destination or have someone to talk to and plan if not.

The grant has made a huge difference. I am not sure where we would be financially if we were not able to reduce our energy cost following the mark up which was totally unexpected as with all the other increase we have had to deal with.

## Challenges and future plans

This grant has made the organization far less stressed and more able to cope with the huge challenges that are occurring to the young people due to COVID experience and increased prices.



## Home Start North Dorset

*"We just want to say thank you for the support. The grant goes such a long way in supporting the families in need of our service."*

### Funded activities

This grant has allowed us to continue our work supporting vulnerable families in the North Dorset area.

### Impact and outcomes

We support struggling families by providing practical and emotional support on a one to one basis in their home. We support families to reduce isolation, be more involved in their community, reduce conflict within the family, and improve mental and physical health and child development. Our volunteers work alongside families supporting them to find their way. One family said. We support families to achieve their potential and avoid further intervention.

*"All I ever wanted was support, and that's exactly what I got. I never felt judged, Mary helped me grow in confidence."*

### Challenges and future plans

We continue to experience challenges with volunteer recruitment. This is improving and we are utilizing local resources and partnership working to recruit volunteers. Last year we recruited a Funding Coordinator to oversee fundraising and grant applications. We recently received 3-year funding for one project.

### Story of change

Sophie had recently moved to a rural village after fleeing domestic abuse. She had no transport and spent long days at home with her two-year old daughter without a break. She suffered with anxiety and low mood, and could go a full week without seeing anyone. Janine our volunteer began to visit Sophie weekly. They would walk together and Janine provided emotional support. Sophie began to open up and Janine supported her to seek counselling. During February half term Home-Start Blackmore Vale hosted a 'Tea and Toast' morning. Janine accompanied Sophie to this event and was able to meet other mums. She swapped contact details with two and began meeting up with them. They now see each other weekly and take turns in hosting play dates for their children. Janine also supported Sophie to attend a weekly toddler group in the village. With renewed confidence, Sophie is now looking into part time work or further education.

*"I can't believe how my confidence has grown. I would never have attended a group before or even started talking to other mums. I'm so glad I did, as I realise they are just like me"*

## MOSAIC (Dorset Wide Support For Bereaved Children and their Families)

*"This money has really helped us in supporting children & young people in bereavement"*

### Funded activities

The Corton Hill grant fund was used for six children to attend six sessions each of 1:1 counselling sessions with qualified counsellors, specifically trained in child bereavement. It also enabled the children & young people to attend the residential weekend and other activities and meet other children and young people who were also bereaved. The impact report showed that 97% of children showed an improvement in their ability to express their emotions surrounding the death that brought them to counselling. There was also an improved outcome in terms of engaging with school and academic work.



### **Impact and outcomes**

Mosaic supports young people in navigating their feelings at this extremely challenging time. The children and young people say they can move forward with the ability to have processed their grief and know they can access further support should they need it.

### **Challenges and future plans**

Mosaic continues to have ongoing challenges in the current economic, post covid climate. We have restructured and have secured funding from Lottery for another four years and various other smaller grants. We are also increasing our community and fundraising opportunities.

### **Story of change**

Please view the video link below to see the story of Amelie and how Mosaic supported her.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3cEI9L8Cw>

## **Shaftesbury Refugee Group**

**Grant awarded in January 2023 so reporting will be included in next year's Impact Report**

## **Sherborne Community Kitchen**

*"A very big thank you... had we not had the grant from the Corton Hill group we would have had to cease permanently in May/June of last year."*

### **Funded activities**

The grant enabled us to continue providing food at the Sherborne Community Kitchen. Unfortunately the number of people kept us at a level that meant we operated at a loss up to July last year. We temporarily closed the Kitchen in August when the Chef left and we also let the Manager go. At the point when we decided to close the Kitchen permanently we had a donation from the NFU. The trustees worked very hard and we employed a new cook and volunteer manager. The result was that numbers increased steadily and now we are providing a two course meal for £6 and serving 60-65 meals over our two days of opening. Additionally on Fridays we deliver 10-12 meals free to beneficiaries who have been referred by GPs and other agencies.

### **Impact and outcomes**

Enabled local people in need to have a good meal once or twice a week at cost and to have regular meeting place to meet up. A few of our customers have recently moved to the area and use the Kitchen to make new friends. Providing one free meal a week to beneficiaries has helped them and all are very grateful.

### **Challenges and future plans**

A number of grants and donations totalling £10,000 have been given over the last year. We now have only 1 paid staff member (our cook) and we have the income from Hall hire. We seem now to be breaking even which was not thought possible a year ago and if we continue to do so we will be happy.

### **Story of change**

A severely disabled young man uses our charity to meet people and he receives two meals a week. He is a popular member of our group and loves to attend.

## The Vale Pantry (£1000 towards a total grant of £5000)

*“This and other grants have ensured we not only survived, but over time we are becoming sustainable.”*

### Funded activities

We were able to purchase all the food products needed and through this we have been able to help the increasing numbers of families requiring help and assistance weekly. We actively worked with Citizens Advice over the past year along with social workers and many people are now able to access the benefits of their help.

### Impact and outcomes

With good food and choice, our beneficiaries have dignity, they do not feel like they are simply being handed a box of food - they feel part of something bigger, with friendship and support. We have built confidence with so many families with cookery skills, workshops, budgeting advice and more. We can see that people come in looking happier, and more confident. With the exception of a few older people who live on their own and can only have ready meals, we know that everyone leaves us with fresh fruit, veg, meats, fish and dairy enabling a balanced and healthier diet. So many people lived on processed foods and are now starting to eat better, cook from scratch and feel better for it. We supported 350 households during the year and 127 have been able to step back from using the pantry as they are now able to cope. We organize a number of activities that encourage participation and friendship.

### Challenges and future plans

Our challenges are the increasing costs of food and the increase in the number of people asking for help. We recently won a 3 year lottery fund which covers a full-time manager and a part time CA role. A number of people help us with standing orders. Local businesses have helped us with money and products in kind.

### Story of change

We worked with a young family whose 4-year-old son was diagnosed with Leukemia - he was in Southampton hospital and Mum had to stay with him for months. During this time, Dad had to take unpaid leave to care for his mother-in-law who had dementia and was living with them. He could not afford the fuel to get to the hospital - we helped with that, along with ready meals for his mother-in-law and 'super foods' when the little boy was able to come home.



## Weldmar Hospicecare

*“We have always found Dorset Community Foundation and The Corton Hill Fund very efficient to liaise with. The system to apply is very thorough and straightforward. The system for the post-grant reporting and follow-up is easy to access and complete.”*

### Funded activities

Delivered 'Weldmar at Home' for patients throughout Dorset in the last six weeks of life:

- Facilitate patient care in the home, enabling patients whose last wish is to die at home to be discharged from a healthcare setting to return to home
- Care packages to support patients and families including washing and dressing or changing of bedsheets and overnight stays so the family can rest
- Supporting the Rapid Home to Die Pathway, enabling patients the choice and quality of care in their own surroundings

Media coverage:

- <https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/19179083.weldmar-hospicecare-launches-new-weldmar-home-service/>
- <https://blackmorevale.net/hospice-launches-at-home-service-for-care-of-patients/>
- <https://stouravonmagazine.co.uk/hospice-launches-at-home-service-for-care-of-patients/>

### **Impact and outcomes**

The introduction of the Weldmar at Home service was the biggest development in our care since we started in January 1994. It was introduced to meet an urgent situation in the community of Dorset, the lack of community care available has posed a real challenge for patients. Being able to offer Weldmar at Home support has made a significant difference by being available 24/7 care – day and night - 365 days a year. We are continuing to exceed our target of implementing Weldmar at Home care within 24 hours of referral. During March 2022 to March 2023: 269 patients supported, 3,234 individual visits, 11,433.75 hours of care provided. First visits within 24 hours of referral achieved for 143 patients.

### **Challenges and future plans**

Predicting demand geographically can be challenging for the team and there is still no pattern for referrals and where care is required. Substantial amount of miles driven and an increase in fuel costs for the service. We are continuing to recruit new colleagues to the team in specific areas to reduce travel time & costs. The Trustees have budgeted core funding for the service ongoing which is currently sustainable for the next five years. However, having made this commitment the Charity is under pressure to increase fundraising targets to meet this additional demand on our services.

### **Stories of change**

*“Thank you so much for the wonderful support you gave to my husband and to myself and my family in his final days. It meant he could have a peaceful end at home surrounded by his family. The Weldmar at Home team are wonderful and amazing and full of joy and laughter which uplifted our spirits at such a difficult time. I know he loved them all, even though he didn’t always comply with requests and promises not to escape from bed. Many, many thanks again”*

### **Youth Resource Services (The Rendezvous)**

*“The grant has supported the core costs rather than a specific time limited project – thank you”*

### **Funded activities**

Over the year we continued to deliver our core services:

- Mental health - 1:1 face to face sessions – centre based plus 2 days delivered at the Gryphon School (100)
- English/Maths Functional Skills (L2) – delivered face to face with some online delivery continuing where it suits learner and tutor (41 students)
- NEW – Future is Yours employability programme providing 1:1 support to work towards next steps e.g. college, apprenticeship, employment (17)
- ‘Anxious to Awesome’ nurture group for anxious young people working on a 1:1 basis to build confidence and social skills (9)
- Young Parents groups in Sherborne and Gillingham (32)
- National Lottery funded project in Gillingham – range of activities from film-making to a summer fun day.
- Young leaders programme at Gillingham Youth Club
- Outreach – engagement activities in Sherborne, Gillingham and Shaftesbury

### **Impact and outcomes**

The improvement in self-confidence and reduction in anxiety changes lives - and those of the families around them. Qualifications are the golden ticket into employment or college - but are not enough without the confidence. Our programme has helped young people (some of whom who have been out of school and isolated for more than 2 years) get back into school and college, and although still behind their peers we set them off on their path towards adulthood, whether it's working, studying, and helping them feel happier and more secure about their future. Young parents become less isolated, their children socialise and they become better parents for it as stresses are shared and removed. Housing and benefits problems are also resolved, and we have done a lot of work around budgeting and making sure that the young families have been able to access additional support with their utility bills.

### **Challenges and future plans**

This year has been extremely challenging. Continuing bouts of Covid and flu have caused far more staff absence than ever before and also impacted young people so we have had more 'no shows' than normal. We have appointed a Business Apprentice to help the back office functions but there is still much to do. Recruitment is difficult - we failed to attract a young apprentice and instead appointed a volunteer/project leader and this is working very well.

We are seeing young people with more complex needs and seeing them for longer - and they are accessing more of our services. In learning for example, more young people need both English and Maths where once they came to us for just a single subject. We succeed where many statutory organisations fail and have the flexibility to work beyond a 'six week block of sessions' because we know it can take much longer than that.

### **Story of change**

Alicia (15) came to us after dropping out of school where she had suffered serious sexual abuse and bullying. This had left her extremely anxious and unable to function in a school setting without considerable distress. She had been at home for several months and was become increasingly isolated and fearful of leaving the house. She lived with her single mum with ongoing serious health issues and during her time with us she became her mother's carer.

Alicia's initial assessments showed she was academically capable and she started working with tutors on both Level 2 Maths and English. She showed considerable determination and maturity but was still highly anxious. We encouraged her to work with our mental health lead and she benefitted from having a regular space to process her emotions about the experiences she had gone through and the responsibilities she was carrying. As time progressed and she became more secure in herself we encouraged her to sign up for our employability programme where she started to think about her future and college options. We helped her to attend an open evening at Yeovil College and supported her through the application process.

Alicia's confidence has grown immeasurably and she clearly benefitted from the wrap around support and encouragement. Alicia was encouraged and helped to find a part time job, This built on the gains she had already made and again her confidence grew. She passed her level 2 Maths and English qualifications first time (total 4 papers) and has been accepted by Yeovil College for September 2023 where she will go back into to full time study. She is more optimistic about her future, lighter of heart and better able to put her past experiences behind her.

## Selection of DCF Bursary student case studies

### **Anon 1**

*"I need a bursary because I live far away from the college (2 hours on a bus) or I have to catch 2 trains. I am also unable to purchase myself food to be able to eat at college. I'm having to frequently ask for money from family which is putting a strain on household finances. Without additional funding I will no longer be able to attend college which will effect my future and ability to complete the course. Performing arts has helped me come out of my shell more and had a positive effect on my mental health. After college I hope to go on to do a degree in Performing arts and become a teacher."*

### **Anon 3**

*"I am a 19 year old autistic girl with a single mum who supports us on part time salary with no help or input from my dad. She does what she can but the transport to Kingston Maurward College is more than we can afford. Your help has been invaluable to our family while I try and complete my studies. I would like to become a vet nurse as I have trouble dealing with people, but animals I can understand wit out confusion or fear"*

### **Anon 7**

*"My mum is struggling to afford my bus fare on her single income wages. She also pays bus fares for my youngest sister to attend school and does not get any support. With bills going up again this winter a large chunk of our income is going on bus bills and can't be used towards food or heating. My course also requires me to have a laptop which I don't have and can't afford. I have wanted to join the army for a long time, I did cadets for a while which I really enjoyed, it's helped me focus. My aspirations are to go to Sandford for officer training so this course is very important to my future goals."*

### **Anon 10**

*"I am a single person working full time and studying a level 4 higher education diploma. I live in Beaminster, work in Dorchester and study in Yeovil so multiple days per week I travel 60 plus miles for work and education - which exhausts me and is costly. Part of our course requirements is to have 20 hours of personal therapy, which is over £30 per hour as well. I chose this course because I aspire to be a therapist. In my late teens I experienced depression and trauma. I overcome this with the support of my therapist and she saved my life. I went from struggling to survive to thriving (most of the time) and I decided if I was to do anything with this life, it was going to be to give others that gift."*

### **Anon 12**

*"I live in a low income family, my mother is disabled and my father cares for her - I also help. I need a bursary primarily to cover the cost of travel to and from college. The cost of living being as it is has put a profound struggle on our household. This grant would alleviate all the worry and stress. Six years ago my family's life was turned upside down when we lost my little sister to sepsis. I've had to watch my broken mother and father struggle to get any form of help as well as my sister, myself and brother... this situation has inspired me to want to do more for mental health. Completing this course would allow me to go further on to stage 3 then eventually I would like to help people struggling with mental health, be it children, teens or adults."*

### **Anon 14**

*"We are a family with 5 children. My father works but my mother is registered disabled. I would like to request help towards the cost of the train. I attend college 3 days a week and 2 days a week I attend a placement for my course. The 3 x a week fare of £4.45 is adding up and the household finances are already stretched. I have always wanted to work with children. The course offered at Brockenhurst College is outstanding, especially as it includes a work placement. I am a young carer to my mother and youngest brother. As he has learning difficulties I am interested in going into SEN teaching."*



**Anon 18**

*"My parents do not provide for me, I pay rent for the house we live in and I am on the tenancy agreement as I am an adult. I want to go back to education, get my qualifications and make something better for myself, for my future... this bursary will mean a lot for me because it will give me the chance to work at my dream job and potentially allow me to maybe open up my own business. I enjoy doing beauty treatments on other people, being able to hear them - sometimes people need that a little conversation. I also realised that I like giving people confidence to feel good about themselves making sure that they are happy with themselves, because in this world we lack building up other people and I would like to restore that"*

**Anon 19**

*"I am an independent student living in supported accommodation. I unfortunately lost my mum at a young age and am estranged from the small family I have, because of this I must support myself in many ways, including financially. I am currently working between 12-16 hours a week throughout the week whilst balancing attending college 3 days a week and my placement once a week. I often feel overwhelmed with balancing college work, earning money and getting on with general life. When I am at college I often struggle to afford to buy food as I am no longer eligible for the free school meals I once received, due to my age. I find myself stressing about money and this bursary will take away some of those worries. I aspire to become a mental health nurse and hope to access the sector by attending university next year."*

**Anon 20**

*"I live with my mum and sister, we only have 1 income. The cost of travel, laptop and additional equipment is very expensive for my mum. The college have given 70% towards college and laptop but it still leaves us with £330 for travel and £150 for laptop. Plus clothes and shoes. I have worked at Wesley's cafe over the summer and put £8 towards my boots but any help would be very grateful. I have wanted to work with animals all my life. Going to Kingston Maurward is the first step to fulfilling my dreams."*

**Anon 22**

*"I am a very shy introverted person who struggles to socialise and communicate with people. This is because I am autistic and I also have complex speech issues which effects my confidence, and dyslexia and dyspraxia and sensory issues as well. I tried my hardest at school but struggled in all lessons with pen and paper, and really want to go to college and use my hands and learn a skill. During lockdown it was very hard try to learn from home plus my step dad got kidney cancer and was very ill. He dad didn't get any work pay and has now lost his job as he's still recovering from surgery. My English exam I passed but only just on a grade 2, so I know I need to do this again alongside my plastering course. I need to get from Christchurch to Poole at least 3 times a week by bus. I have been practising this with my mum, who is helping me get ready for college. I think I need specialist clothes too for the course, like steel toe cap boots and trousers, and I will need to eat lunch there as well. This bursary would help by taking some money worries of my mum and dad. I have always liked using my hands, making things, building things. I did a Plastering open day with the school/college and loved it. I don't want to sit around and do nothing, I want to work and make money, maybe even have my own business one day, with my own van with name down the side."*

**Anon 27**

*"I need a bursary to help with travel fees as I don't drive and would need to use public transport. I'm on universal credit and unemployed currently with a one year old son. So as much help as you can give to me would be amazing. I have chosen this course because I want a trade behind me and I see myself working self-employed after becoming qualified. Many friends of mine are barbers and have their owns shops etc so I really look up to them and it's something that is always going to be around as people will always need a haircut."*

**Anon 29**

*“My stepfather is disabled and is unable to work. My mum is his carer as well as looking after me and my brothers and sister. As we rely solely on benefits, every month is a struggle to pay bills and put food on the table. If I were to be given a bursary it would mean my family could pay for food instead of finding the money for my bus pass to get to college. I could also purchase a laptop instead of attempting to complete my course work on my mobile phone, which is especially difficult as I cannot use the correct tools to edit and manipulate my photos. I chose photography simply because I enjoyed it at first, but once I got into my course I learnt so much more about what pictures can mean to people and the memories that they could hold. I want a career that allows me to create emotion and give other people the chance to look back on their time with others.”*

**Anon 36**

*“I live with my Mum who is a full time carer to my disabled brother, who also lives with us. I have no access to a laptop. My mum is a single parent on benefits so she has been unable to help me in getting any equipment. I have chosen childcare as it will be rewarding. I have been looking after my baby niece and this has made me want to help in this area of work. I ultimately want to work within a primary school setting. I would also still be able to help my mum and brother if I was able to get this type of role.”*

**Anon 40**

*“I am a young carer and help my mum look after my dad who has mental health issues and help look after my younger brothers who have autism. This means I cannot get a Saturday job like most of my friends do so I can't help support myself. My dad is on disability benefits and we have a very low income. I have to catch a bus to and from school, my bursary from the Bourne academy does not cover this. I have always loved sports and I would like to be either a physio therapist or occupational therapist. I have seen the difference that an occupational therapist can make to my brothers and my dad's lives by getting them the right equipment in the house and giving advice on sensory regulation for my brothers.”*

**Anon 42**

*“I was in foster care from the age of 8 and have recently left care and am now in a supported lodgings placement with a family. I have had contact with my parents, but have not been able to live with them. Last year I completed a Military Prep course, but I have changed my mind for now about joining the army. I felt that welding would give me good trade and skills for the future. I have always been quite hands on and enjoy the work involved.”*

**Anon 44**

*“I have ADHD as well as ASD, I can be impulsive at times and if I was to have this bursary it would be a great help to my studies. I need sports gear as well as fuel money to help get me to and from school. This would take great pressure off my mum as she has little money at the moment. As a family we have struggled since we have moved house with money. I have chosen a BTEC sport triple award because I absolutely love sport and I'm passionate about it. In the future I would love to go into teaching for SEN children like myself.”*

**Anon 46**

*“Most of the money my single mother makes goes on utilities and rent and basic living essentials. So it is a struggle to find the travel expenses as well as all these things. A bursary would hugely help as this means not worrying about where to get money for the travel expenses, as my parent does not drive and works full time. This also means me not worrying about missing any of my course due to inability to get to the college. I have chosen animal welfare and science as I have a great deal of respect and compassion for animals and I aspire to become a zoologist after I gain my qualifications”*