

## BCP Thriving Communities Fund – 23/24 - Impact report

This funding programme was delivered by Dorset Community Foundation on behalf of BCP Council, with funding awarded to successful groups in July 2023 and Sept 23, for activities delivered to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Grants were used to support either Social Action & Volunteering, or Capital grants for community buildings. All projects utilised grant funding by the end of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

### **Social Action grants**

- Total funding of £50,000 has directly supported **10,039 local residents**
  - 5488 In Bournemouth
  - 1917 in Christchurch
  - 2634 in Poole
- Projects have involved **2003 volunteers**, 207 of which were new volunteers as a result of the grants awarded

### **Capital grants to community buildings**

- Total funding of £30,000 has benefitted **67,970 local residents** who use the facilities
  - 17,743 In Bournemouth
  - 19,100 in Christchurch
  - 30,840 in Poole
- Projects have involved **69 volunteers**

### **Summary - Social Action grants**

Grant recipient	Project area	Grant	Project summary	Number of beneficiaries	Number of volunteers involved	New volunteers
BCP Indian Community & Music Lovers Bollywood	BCP	3000	To support our volunteers to organise and support a range of community events from members of the South Asian community in BCP	500	50	20
Christchurch Community Partnership	Christchurch	5000	To develop social activities to reduce the isolation of older people.	260	15	15
DORSET INDIANS CIC	BCP	2500	To support the running costs of the Dorset Mela.	10	25	15
Dorset Mind	BCP	5000	To develop a volunteer project supporting people with mental health issues.	80	10	10

Eco Sobo	Bournemouth	2000	To establish a group of local volunteers wishing to address climate change through local social action activities, educating the public and developing a range of environmental activities	169	11	4
Grounded Community	Bournemouth	3569.53	Contribution towards salary of Volunteer Co-ordinator and Thank You events for our volunteers	2165	195	42
HealthBus Trust	Bournemouth	3819.54	To develop a volunteering programme to support people who are experiencing homelessness.	220	4	18
Immanuel United Reform Church	Bournemouth	4158	To support the costs of a Volunteer Coordinator.	700	125	14
North Bournemouth Crime Prevention Panel	BCP	3492.93	Scam awareness sessions in various locations in the community, with printed information packs - run by volunteers with support of Dorset Police	950	10	0
Poole Community Exchange	Poole	1000	Community activities to address loneliness and isolation	572	4	1
Poole Waste Not Want Not	Poole	3000	To support the running costs of a social supermarket in Poole.	235	18	7
Rainbow Makers Community Interest Company	BCP	1000	Contribution to World of Love festival, bringing people from different cultures together and with involvement of various local community groups and volunteers	3000	80	35
Rising Voices Wessex community choirs	BCP	3000	To support a community choir for people whose lives are effected by cancer.	430	10	4
SMILE Connect	Poole	4600	To support the running costs of a project supporting lone parents and their children in Poole.	170	13	8
St Peter's Church Development Project	Bournemouth	3460	To support the running costs of a community cafe.	500	1420	3
The Footprints Project	Bournemouth	1400	New volunteer administrator to support the work of Footprints volunteers supporting ex-offenders	98	13	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>£50,000</b>		<b>10,039 beneficiaries</b>	<b>2003 volunteers</b>	<b>207 new volunteers</b>

### Summary - Capital grants for community buildings

Grant recipient	Project area	Grant	Project summary	Number of beneficiaries	Number of volunteers	New volunteers
Beaufort Community Association	Bournemouth	£2648.80	Main Hall Lighting Replacement	200	0	0

Bournemouth Parks Foundation	Bournemouth	£2740	Tables and chairs for new volunteer led community café in Redhill Park	15,000	10	0
Bournemouth Ymca	Poole	£3000	Contribution towards cost of Pool cover for The Junction Leisure Centre in Broadstone	20,000	0	0
Canford Heath Residents & Community Association	Poole	£2682	To replace fire doors at Canford Heath Community Centre and contribute towards cost of renovating the floor.	300	0	0
Druitt Hall Community Association	Christchurch	£2113	Refurbishment of hall storage rooms	19,000	1	0
EDAS	Poole	£2200	To support the costs of new furniture for a community cafe	40	0	0
Friends of Kinson Community Centre	Bournemouth	£1000	New cooking equipment for us in community room that offers social activities for local people - equipment will enable them to offer basic hot food such as soup and a roll	100	4	0
Merley Community Association	Bournemouth	£1837.20	Grant to purchase new tables and chairs to replace old and broken ones at the community centre	50	5	0
Poole Communities Trust	Poole	£2650	Installation of new sports floor to improve facilities at Branksome Community Centre	10,500	0	0
Rising Voices Wessex community choirs	BCP	£300	To support a community choir for people whose lives are effected by cancer new pull up banners	430	10	4
Somerford ARC	Christchurch	£3000	Replace cooker at community centre offering a range of food provision including lunch club for the elderly and childrens breakfast club	100	7	0
Talbot View Community Association	Bournemouth	£2650	Contribution towards installation of a new heating system, for the benefit of all users of the community centre.	500	2	0
Townsend Community Association	Bournemouth	£1379	Various items to improve the equipment at the community centre, particularly for Community Fridge volunteers and warm space provision	250	30	0
West Howe Community Enterprises	Bournemouth	£1800	Funds to support the completion of redecoration of the Henry Brown community centre.	1500	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£102,000</b>		<b>67,970 residents</b>	<b>69 volunteers</b>	<b>4 new volunteers</b>

## Thanks to Dorset Community Foundation and BCP Council

*“The application process, the speed of approval and the ongoing communications have all been straightforward and really speedy. We are all incredibly grateful for your support and, on behalf of our beneficiaries, please accept our huge thanks for this funding.”* Bournemouth Parks Foundation

*“Your support and resources are very much appreciated and we are very proud to be associated with your organisation. Indeed, you do the whole of Dorset proud with the work you do. Thank you.”* BCP Indian Community & Music Lovers Bollywood

*“We would like to thank the fund for supporting us in this project. It has made a huge difference in the timescale to change and has served to benefit many people who we serve in our community far sooner than we originally anticipated.”* Beaufort Community Association

*“As is always the case, the correspondence with Dorset Community Foundation is always one of professionalism and real support for such great causes that impact so many in the BCP area. Thank you.”* Bournemouth YMCA

*“I would like it known that from the moment I applied for the Grant, the support and guidance from (DCF Grants Manager) was exceptional and would like my thanks passed on. The application process was not challenging, which is always good!”* Canford Heath Residents Association

*“Many thanks for supporting us with this project which has had a significant impact on the quality of life of many of our isolated residents.”* Christchurch Community Partnership

*“Our sincere and heartfelt thanks for the approval of the grant for Dorset Mela festival. Your support means the world to us... Your decision to grant us this funding is not just a financial contribution; it is a powerful endorsement of the positive impact our festival has on the community. Your dedication to making our community a better place is evident.”* Dorset Indians CIC

*“(DCF Grants Manager) has been absolutely wonderful. Nothing is too much trouble when we have contacted her for advice on how to complete the application process.”* North Bournemouth Crime Prevention Panel

*“We are extremely grateful to you for your support in helping us make a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable in our community; you not only support funds but help in so many other ways, advice, promoting and believing in our mission.”* Poole Waste Not Want Not.

*“We would like to express our gratitude for the support we have received... Your generosity enables us to make a meaningful impact and create positive change in the lives of individuals and communities.”* Ranbow Makers CIC

*“We are very happy and grateful to have received this grant. It has helped our community centre and all of our users immensely. Without this grant we would have struggled to raise the capital to get the work done.”* Talbot View Community Association

## BCP Indian Community & Music Lovers Bollywood

### Funded activities

We ran a series of events with the aim of bringing together the Indian community and sharing their culture.

1. Radio Show Broadcast programme: weekly, two hour, radio show broadcast of music and chat for the Asian community on Hot Radio including on requests by listeners with a chat in Hindi and English.
2. A family fun-cricket event between BPC Indian community and Southampton Indian community team. A full day event of four games with limited overs. Organised and supported by volunteers .
3. International Women's Day Celebration: an annual Awards event to promote and recognise local aspiring women. The award ceremony was followed by a Bollywood Party with DJ
4. World of Love Festival: Our community was represented with an Indian Theme decorated gazebo stall with DJ music. A group of volunteers did Bollywood dancing on the set-up stage.
5. Diwali Festival Celebration: This was held at Dolphin Shopping Centre ,Poole, and even outdoors near the entrance street where onlookers joined-in the celebrations by dancing to the music and fun activities.



### Outcomes

Our engagement activities spread inclusion, celebrate diversity, create shared experiences and build community cohesion, with people coming together, tackling loneliness and working to improve the communities' mental health and overall wellbeing. The funding has helped to strengthen community spirit and has re-energise the local Indian community. Informal discussions with users, semi structured interviews, observations, and social media comments, show the events have resulted in a more cohesive community, reduced social isolation, improved mental health and wellbeing and improved aspirations for the future. Our social media group membership showed a 30% increase (from about 1200 to 1500 families).

### Story of change

A 91 year old lady has been living in Bournemouth for 45 years. In those days, there were very few people of Indian origin in the area and together with her husband they managed to keep the small community going with the cultural programmes and get together. Unfortunately, she lost her husband just before the Covid Pandemic. She found herself all alone as her children were now working far away. However, with the various activities of our Group she was able to stay in touch with other members of the Indian community. She became a regular listener of the radio show and was a keen member of our daily zoom meditation group, who became very much like an extended family, offering things like weekly shopping and delivery. She was able to develop relationships with other people and after the lockdowns ended, she attended a social event where she met people face to face after a very long period. Today, she is a confident person and able to continue attending activities.

### Sustainability

We are a growing community group and run by a Team of Volunteers. We do not charge a membership fee. All our income comes from donations or funding grants.

## Christchurch Community Partnership

### Funded activities

We set up and ran monthly Coffee Connexions at 3 separate sheltered housing venues across Christchurch; Bure House, Trafalgar Court and Homelands. We have seen a gradual increase in numbers attending and have set up other activities requested by the residents (e.g. a seated exercise class and a musical event) as well as being able to bring isolated residents along to these events too. It was evident that residents were more inclined to engage with the project when they realised the housing providers weren't involved. We were also able to hold a Cream Tea in all 3 venues to mark the International Day of Older Persons which was attended by even more residents and clients from our lunch clubs, using 3 minibuses. We have now set up a new lunch club at Homelands serving residents from the local area, including Homelands and Bure House and others living alone, in partnership with the Friendly Food Club and Christchurch Housing Society.

### Outcomes

From the feedback we have had, it has been significant in building community in 2 of the developments, and enabled people to connect and make new friendships. It also identified both the need and opportunity to launch the new Homelands Lunch Club and a seated exercise class at the request of the residents.

### Story of change

One of the residents has terminal cancer and used to spend most of her time alone in her flat. Having started to attend the Coffee Connexions pilot occasionally, she made friends with some of the other residents and now also attends the seated exercise class. She and her 3 friends also attend the new weekly Homelands Lunch Club and the Sunday Roast event when well enough and she is really enjoying life despite her illness.

### Sustainability

We are looking at an exit strategy for one of the venues but intend to continue with the others as there is still need, and opportunities to include non-residents.

## DORSET INDIANS CIC

### Funded activities

We managed all logistical aspects required for hosting the Dorset Mela. The funding supported the creation and execution of a diverse program, including cultural performances, workshops, interactive sessions, and culinary experiences that showcased South Asian heritage.

### Outcomes

The grant had a transformative effect on our community, enhancing the quality of life and fostering a stronger sense of unity among residents. Over the past year, Dorset Mela engaged over 2,000 community members, representing a significant increase in participation compared to previous years. Community members have shared heart-warming stories about how the cultural events have deepened their connection to their heritage. These connections have translated into a more inclusive and harmonious community where people are more open to embracing different cultures and traditions.

*"Attending the cultural workshops allowed me to reconnect with my roots and share those traditions with my children. It's been a truly enriching experience."*



### Story of change

Rajesh, a long-time resident of Dorset, had always felt a disconnect from his cultural heritage. Born to immigrant parents, he grew up in a multicultural environment but never had the opportunity to fully embrace his own cultural roots. Rajesh's life took a remarkable turn when he attended the Dorset Mela Festival for the first time. The festival exposed Rajesh to the vibrant traditions, music, dance, and cuisine of his ancestral culture. He felt an immediate connection to the performances and exhibits, and he was inspired to explore his own heritage further. Rajesh found a sense of belonging and began attending cultural workshops and participating in community events related to the festival. The experience ignited a passion to learn more about his culture and heritage. He started taking language classes and joining cultural organizations, further deepening his understanding and connection. He has now become a cultural ambassador within his community, sharing his newfound knowledge and enthusiasm for his heritage with others, creating a strong support network. He found renewed purpose and pride in his cultural identity, which positively impacted his self-esteem and overall well-being.



## Dorset Mind

### Funded activities

The BCP Thriving Communities Fund, has supported Dorset Mind to expand our volunteer team by recruiting and training ten new volunteers. This is helping us to grow our community support provision, especially growing our one-to-one support through our 'Mentoring Minds' service, helping to support members of our community who feel isolated and alone due to symptoms of mental health illness, such as severe depression. Additionally we have also been able to provide our front line volunteers with an accredited Suicide First Aid Training to equip them with the skills needed to support our beneficiaries. Often when people approach us for support they are feeling very mentally low and are experiencing dark thoughts. Providing front line volunteers with SFA training equips them to deal with these difficult conversations, to assess if a client is at risk and to know the best course of action to take to support the client.

### Outcomes

This grant has allowed us to truly support and provide our volunteers with the knowledge and confidence they need to perform their roles.

*"To follow someone's journey from not walking out of the house to being on the road driving themselves made me feel incredible and to feel more confident and willing to continue to help others."*

*"Thank you Dorset Mind, for your encouraging words. It is good to know, behind my work, I always have a supportive and skilled supervisor/manager and the information to do my role. Thank you for everything you taught me."*

### Story of change

*"I wanted to share that after the training and networking session last week, the next day I actually had a suicide attempt disclosure made to me and the quiz and information provided so far has been invaluable. I literally had ready in my phones notes the crisis lines and papyrus and had picked up that it's important to normalise thoughts of suicide and let people open up about them. It's all been so helpful! And also I have been eagerly anticipating this training today to make sure I am as equipped as I can be and to review the steps I took to support the person and whether there's anything I should be amending, So thanks very much! All very aptly timed training for me!"*

## Eco Sobo

### Funded activities

This funding has allowed us to establish and manage a volunteer programme, and develop training and support for volunteers and members of the wider community. We have done this by delivering 5 workshops developed in response from people locally, to know more about sustainability and how to make positive steps towards changes in their own lives. Workshops have covered a wide range of topics, engaging 139 participants and working with 17 local residents, businesses or organisations in presenting this information. We have used some of the funds to produce a series of information or infographics on the topics.

- 1) All the R's: positive steps we can take towards Zero Waste. Speakers included the
- 2) Wildlife Friendly Gardening: how we garden to the wellbeing of wildlife.
- 3) Renewables, Solar and more: hosted by a local resident who has an off grid property.
- 4) Green Travel: Good practice from other European countries, information on the benefits of cargo bikes, a local cycling group for safer cycling locally.
- 5) Sustainable Shopping: hosted by our local refill shop looking behind the scenes on packaging and more. The Repair Café promoted what they did.
- 6) Help Make change and volunteer with us: Led by an event specialist. Looking at ways in which people can be involved with our group.



### Outcomes

Through these activities we have started to provide information, support and local contacts, and ways in which people can become more sustainable through their actions and choices. 74% of attendees said they had much higher knowledge of the subject after the session. 75% of people said the workshop was very helpful in them understanding how they could take action locally to support sustainability. Nearly 100% felt empowered to take action following the events. Beforehand 63% had strong anxiety around climate change and adter, only 16% felt their anxiety was still high.

One of the outcomes we are keen on is to look at what actual change peoples were going to make following sessions. As such we asked them to note down what changes they were going to make. The following represents a taste of these: from personal action to spreading the word amongst, friends, colleagues and community; look at waste water savings; compost more; review recycling currently undertaking; do more to encouraging others to waste less and recycle more; change my cleaning products; cycle more; encouraging others to cycle/ go by bus/walk; finding out more about Eco Sobo and similar local groups; replan my own garden; learn new skills; install solar panels; be the ethical consumer. We are intending to send a follow up survey in the next few months to those attending to see what they have done following these events.



### Story of change

S & her husband attended the Renewables workshop at our local residents amazing home for the introduction on Renewable Energy. Following on from what she learnt and conversations she had her husband, who is a taxi driver, decided to purchase an EV to replace his diesel vehicle. They were delighted to say that they engaged JMW Electric, who also joined the presentation, to install the EV charger at their home as well.

### Sustainability

Eco Sobo will continue to run events and develop our online resources,. We are also committed to developing a comprehensive 'greenprint' for our community. We have received some funding from Sustainable Dorset to promote and the Green Living Guide locally. We are also planning for a Sustainability Festival



## Grounded Community

### Funded activities

The grant was used to subsidise the salary of our Volunteer & HR Coordinator. Sharon personally engaged with every volunteer and facilitated all volunteer & staff onboarding processes and inductions. Sharon also facilitated monthly wellbeing and drop-in surgeries for volunteers and identified and trained volunteers to up skill them to take on more responsibilities as facilitators. She also facilitates weekly garden volunteer sessions, assisting at workshops, attends volunteer fair events, organises corporate volunteer days. Sharon has been responsible for developing our community partnerships and interactions, working with local schools to provide skills and learning workshops; with universities to provide project/placement opportunities.

### Outcomes

Our community is spending more time outdoors with increased physical activity; they feel value by contributing to the communities that support them. Our community have seen an improved sense of purpose and self-worth and increased social networks. Our volunteers are feeling less socially isolated with improved connections, confidence and relationships; we are increasing knowledge/skills and an improved sense of identity. We are improving food resilience and impacting on positive behavioural changes in terms of physical activity and diet; healthy eating; improved gut and mental health; higher fruit and veg consumption. We have seen a hugely positive outcomes in encouraging participation into community life with people that have felt a sense of disconnect/fragmentation.



### Help & Care say

*“Grounded Community has been a significant referral pathway for many clients on their Social Prescribing journey and has played a large part in many clients improving their mental health and feeling of connection... I know I can give Sharon a brief heads up re any nervousness clients may have and she’ll keep an eye on them. You don’t get this level of care in every place we refer to. My last referred client is an absolute gem of a man and really values your community. It’s not every day you get to make a 92 year old man’s dreams come true!”*

### Story of change

Phil was referred to the garden by Terry Deane from Help & Care having moved from Romsey to Bournemouth to be closer to a friend. He had privately suffered with panic attacks all his life, despite a very successful career. Sadly, during lockdown, Phil started leaning heavily on alcohol, after leaving his job as a result of a mental breakdown. At his lowest point, he was sectioned after two suicide attempts and 3 days in intensive care.

*“Over the past year, the garden has literally saved my life, it’s given me hope, it’s rebuilt my self-confidence and improved my self-esteem. I was completely isolated and alone, but the garden has given me structure, improved my health and even changed my perspective about the environment and society. I’ve connected with so many genuinely caring people.”* Phil is now an inspirational member of our volunteer team, getting stuck in with DIY jobs at the garden, installing raised beds in our local community, and making new friends along the way.

### Sustainability

60% of the Volunteer & HR Coordinators salary is currently covered by our National Lottery Community Grant multi-year funding.

## HealthBus Trust



### Funded activities

We utilised the funding to enhance the volunteering capacity of the HealthBus Trust through the appointment of a part-time Volunteer Coordinator. This coordinator is tasked with developing volunteering activities and providing tailored training sessions to empower individuals interested in supporting the Trust. Feedback from current volunteers highlighted areas for improvement, prompting investments in: 1. A formal induction process, 2. Creation of a comprehensive induction pack, 3. Implementation of bespoke homeless training to equip volunteers with the necessary skills to interact with homeless patients. Since the enhancement of our volunteering capacity, we have witnessed a notable surge in engagement within our organization. Their contributions have been diverse and impactful, with volunteers stepping in to assist during drop-in sessions by providing hot drinks and toast, volunteering to operate as bus drivers and performing vehicle maintenance tasks, aiding patients with literacy, reading, and form-filling, and actively participating in various charity events.

### Outcomes

This grant has enabled the HealthBus to expand its volunteering capacity, leading to increased assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness.

### Story of change

*"Finishing work can be an anxious time, I wanted a challenge. I've known Maggie, the GP who set up the HealthBus for a long time and really admired the charity's work, so it was a natural step. I've been volunteering with them since September 2022 and it's been more amazing than I thought possible. At the weekly Thursday morning clinic, I worked with a small group of volunteers to support the team. I'm not a health practitioner, but care in a different way, by being a friend, making a hot drink or some toast and chatting to patients whilst they wait for their appointment. Helping people relax and feel comfortable means they are more likely to seek help, preventing conditions from getting worse. Most people are polite and kind, but some might be having a bad day. Being there each week, you develop relationships. It might take a while to get to the next step, but as in education, building self-belief is key. You can't impose solutions on people, instead, you must create trust, and confidence and asking: 'What would you like me to do?' is much more powerful."*

### Sustainability

The work to develop our volunteering capacity will continue beyond the life of this grant. While we have not yet secured additional funding specifically for this purpose, the Trust is fully dedicated to leveraging its reserves if necessary to sustain the invaluable contributions of our volunteers. Winning the King's Award for Voluntary Services in November 2023 further underscores the significance and impact of volunteering within our organisation.

## Immanuel United Reform Church

### Funded activities

The money was used for the salary of our Volunteer Coordinator. She arranged the following activities for our beneficiaries and volunteers: advertising, recruitment and support of all volunteers, spoke about volunteering at the church user forum, arranged face to face training in both Mental Health Awareness (Public Health) and Dementia Awareness (Pramalife), offered training in a variety of areas including: safeguarding, health & safety, food & hygiene, networked with a variety of local organisations and supermarkets, attended Volunteer Fayre (CAN), attended other networking events such as Community Hub, Boscombe Art Depot, The Ark Community Centre in Townsend, attended Age Friendly Forum and applied to be an Age Friendly Ambassador, created and sent out a Volunteer Handbook to all the volunteers.



### Outcomes

This grant has meant that the volunteers in our care have had access to improved training opportunities and a single point of contact should they need any support. It has also enabled us to advertise more widely and fill volunteer spaces for those activities where we desperately needed support. By building our volunteer team we have been able to provide more activities and a better level of support for those with poor mental health or affected by social isolation, poor physical health and dementia. The Community Cafe contains a Free Food Fridge which is available to anyone in the area that needs. We also have Foodbank twice a week, Citizen's Advice, Sparkle time (for SEN children), Penguin (mothers and toddlers group), soft play, music hall singalong, wellbeing 120, memory lane, songs for the mind supporting the mental development of many senior citizens.

### Story of change

At a Wellbeing Tuesday session a mother and daughter came and were able to use the new card making equipment recently purchased. The mother was very proud of her achievement and sent her card to her grandson. He showed it to his Mum who said, "Oh you've set the bar high as I've never done that before." This has brought the family together and supported both the older lady who attended the group and her carers.

### Sustainability

We secured further funding through Wessex Water to increase the grant to June

## North Bournemouth Crime Prevention Panel

### Funded activities

54 ScampaK meetings at a number of venues in Dorset with approximately 30 people covering all age ranges. We have spoken to student groups, language schools and BU, Veterans, NHS Trust groups including Home Carers. Also individual visits to householders who had been scammed, and through support, reassurance and education giving them the confidence to stop it happening again.

### Outcomes

ScampaK meetings together with ScampaKs have given people the confidence to say NO to Scammers.



*“On behalf of the retired officers’ Fellowship, we really did appreciate all the information you and Peter shared with us, also the invaluable information packs. It was felt all you shared with us will be beneficial in keeping us safe.”* Salvation Army Fellowship, Boscombe

*“I have had some great feedback from residents and they really enjoyed the content of the meeting which made them more aware of internet scams.”* Retirement Living, Stonewater

*“Everyone said how much they had learnt and found the afternoon really useful and reassuring to know where to go to for help. Best wishes for all the work you are doing to make people feel safe.”* Christchurch Trefoil Guild, Senior Girl Guiding

*“Wonderful morning with the ScampaK team, including Officer Peter Raymond discussing different scams and how to avoid being targeted. Everyone found the information was invaluable.”* Waterman House, Broadstone 2023



### **Story of change**

A lady from the Chinese community spoke to us privately after a ScampaK meeting. She was a victim of Courier fraud. She had received a parcel with her address which contained a high value Vodaphone which she had not ordered. Within an hour a bogus DPD delivery man called to collect it and she handed it over. Some time later, she started to receive demands for payment from Vodaphone and was in despair, as she was frightened to tell anyone. We contacted the Vodaphone Fraud department, who immediately sorted the matter. We also reported it to Action Fraud and obtained a crime number for her from Dorset Police. Her bank was contacted and apprised of the situation. We have made sure she is supported after such a worrying experience.

### **Sustainability**

The ScampaK work will definitely continue into the future. We have not secured any more funding at present but will have to secure at least £3000.

## **Poole Community Exchange**

### **Funded activities**

We run Art groups on Mondays and Fridays and the funding provided a greater range of materials and equipment for this activity. In partnership with Parkstone URC and SMILE we run a multi-generational project for single parent families. We have a new volunteer who is a ceramicist and have bought air-dry clay for which we won't need a kiln. We have also bought some other art and craft materials and equipment and spent a small proportion on replacement and new sensory equipment. Approximately 60% of the children are SEND and they needed new and replacement sensory equipment. The reason for this change from the budget is explained below in the challenges box.

### **Outcomes**

It has brought new members into the community who previously struggled with going out. It has improved people's mental health and wellbeing, given them an outlet for creativity and increased their self-esteem as their work is valued and praised by others. It has also given volunteers the chance to use their skills in leading a group, growing their self-confidence and self-esteem. Sensory play has proven benefits for children with SEND, improving information processing, motor skills etc. It can be expensive and single parent families will struggle to afford it.

## Story of change

Emma is a very gentle quiet lady. She lacks confidence and has a history of mental health problems. Her mental health social worker suggested out art group and Emma reluctantly came along once to see if she liked it. To give her support her mental health worker and her Mother said that they would come with her and as we are dog friendly her little dog also came along. Emma is very creative and really enjoys card making; she brought with her all her own materials. She found the first session quite difficult but agreed to come the following week. As the weeks passed she gradually became more confident and took pride in showing the group examples of her card making and was able to incorporate some ideas from other people into her finished pieces. Emma remains quiet within the group but now comes to every session and gradually has been engaging with some other people. She has donated a large bag of material scraps and an art book that she unearthed in a charity shop to add to our art supplies. Emma is now one of our longest participants and appears much more relaxed, we all love to see her and her work, and her little dog remains a firm favourite with everyone.

## Sustainability

Very little funding is now required for the Art groups as we have a wide range of materials and equipment we can continue to use. We ask for a small donation towards our costs. The primary expense is food to provide a hot meal.

## Poole Waste Not Want Not

### Funded activities

Over the summer we ran a variety of activities for children and parents to enjoy together. Activities included: chopping vegetables to learn basic culinary skills, smoothie-making; children had the opportunity to create their own flavours, arts and crafts to encourage social engagement and creativity, planting seeds and showing children and parents how easy it is to grow a few vegetables at home, even without a garden. Our volunteers played a crucial role in leading many of the activities providing guidance and support to ensure everyone got involved. One of the highlights of the events was witnessing children trying new things with great enthusiasm. Parents were amazed at watching their children tasting vegetables, something they would not even entertain at home.

We were able to support five volunteers to achieve level 2 in food safety qualification which enhanced their skills and confidence. Additionally, two of our supported learners gained level 1 in food safety. Our members actively contributed to our community events, such as shacking coin boxes around the summer music festival and Christmas maritime light trail and wrapping presents at Christmas.

*"Volunteering over Christmas for the first time and seeing the smiles on peoples faces when they received their hampers was overwhelming such a wonderful place; I feel very privileged to be a part of it"*

### Outcomes

Our biggest impact is social engagement and enhancing healthier eating habits. Families who might not have otherwise connected have strengthened support groups amongst themselves. Members of our community gained friendships, some offered volunteering hours over Christmas. We provided energy advice to address fuel poverty and signposted to Ridgewater; who helped 3 households get new washing machines, 7 households change to energy-saving light bulbs and 35 households have seen a reduction in energy costs. Our members are saving pounds; our latest survey highlighted savings of £60 a week (family of 4). We offered help with housing issues and signposted over 50 members to Citizens Advice debt advisers.

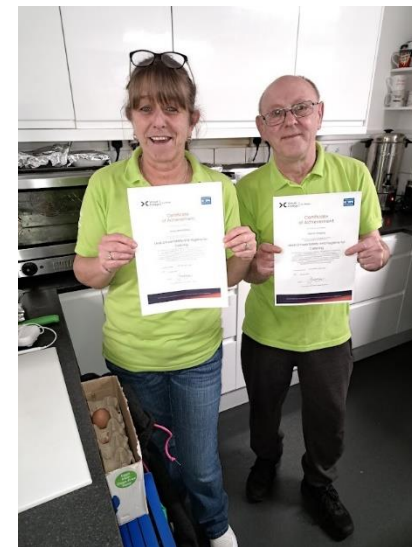


## Story of change

*"In November year, the lives of my wife and myself were dramatically changed when I was diagnosed with a very rare and disabling disease. Apart from the obvious changes to our lives that the illness brought, the financial impact was massive. Of course, we applied for state help, but the time between applying and receiving can be very long and debts soon accumulate. Through word of mouth, we found out about Waste Not, Want Not, a community shop that is intended for individuals and families who are struggling to maintain a nutritious diet due to financial hardship. Erica, who runs the shop, has been an absolute saint. She has helped us with so many things that we had no idea how to sort out ourselves. Not only have we been able to buy good food at massively reduced prices, but we have also had so much help and advice from them on how and what to claim. We are regular visitors to this very friendly shop, where if needed, we can speak to a Citizens Advice representative who regularly visits. We sit and enjoy lunch and banter with the volunteers. When facing our daily challenges, stepping into PWNWN brings an immediate sense of relief. So much of the help that we needed and still need, is there under that one roof. Amazing place! Thank you, Waste Not Want Not."*

## Sustainability

We are committed to securing additional funds and actively seeking new grants, which we aim to expand our initiatives.



## Rainbow Makers Community Interest Company

### Funded activities

With less funding available, we had to scale back on certain aspects of the festival, including workshops, performances, and community outreach initiatives. We focused on prioritising activities that aligned most closely with the festival's mission and goals. We sought alternative sources of funding and explored creative solutions to stretch our budget further. This included securing additional sponsorships, partnering with local organisations, and leveraging in-kind contributions and volunteer support.

### Outcomes

The grant provided helped to increase access to cultural diversity: showcasing a range of cultural events, workshops, and performances from diverse ethnic minority communities. This enriched the lives of attendees, allowing them to learn about and appreciate different cultures, traditions, and perspectives. By providing a platform for various community groups to come together and celebrate their cultural heritage, our festival has promoted social inclusion and unity. The grant helped us to offer a wide range of activities and experiences that promote mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing. From mindfulness workshops to fitness classes to cultural performances, attendees have had access to resources and opportunities that contribute to their overall health and happiness. Through World of Love, community members have been empowered to share their talents, stories, and traditions with a wider audience. This sense of empowerment has bolstered community pride and self-esteem, inspiring individuals to take pride in their cultural identity.



## Story of change

2 volunteers who arrived through the International Care Network as refugees approached their volunteer roles with enthusiasm, dedication, and a genuine desire to make a difference. While assisting with event logistics and engaging with attendees, their presence brought a sense of warmth, authenticity, and resilience to our team. In return, the festival provided a nurturing and empowering environment for these volunteers to thrive and rebuild their lives in a new country. They were powerful ambassadors for the festival, sharing their personal stories of resilience. Their courage was an inspiration to others.



## Sustainability

This year marks a significant milestone for us as we celebrate the 5th anniversary of World of Love. We have already secured approximately £10,000 in funding.

## Rising Voices Wessex community choirs

### Funded activities

With the funding we were able to produce new leaflets, posters, banners and A frame boards. We were also able to promote events with more publicity, articles in the ECHO and other local newspapers, Radio Solent and FM Radio. We had several requests for pre Christmas performances including a concert at Romsey Abbey for Abbeyfield residential homes and Rhinefield House for a Christmas Fair. We also held a Christmas Concert at St Georges Church, Poole, a Big ABBA Singalong lead by Gavin Carr conductor from the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, and a Spring Concert at St Aldhelm's Church Poole for the local care homes. In February we also recorded and filmed music tracks at Absolute Music - these music videos will be released during the year. CD's will be available and the first music video is on our Facebook page, YouTube and website.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=932243648901371>



### Outcomes

With the increase in activity and publicity we have been able to be more active in the local community and attract new members. As a choir for people whose members lives have been affected we strive to make the choir a happy and safe place for our members to come to. Cancer affects 1 in 2 of us in our lifetime it shatters people's lives and can be very isolating and lonely at times. Coming to choir helps people to cope with these feelings as well as regain their confidence and make new friends. It's a safe place where people can gain peer support and a shared purpose. Research has shown that singing and music can be beneficial to people's health and wellbeing.

*"I and my friend Brenda just wanted to say what a wonderful choir you are. I attended the recent day, sing along ABBA and heard you for the first time and just love your choir. I hope to hear you sing in next event. Your choir is special. I've heard great singers, but your choir moves me. The harmonies are brilliant. Many thanks for the beautiful singing"*

## Story of change

*"I originally joined Rising Voices Wessex just after started to support a friend who had terminal cancer. My friend eventually lost her fight and passed away in 2015. The choir was an immense support through the grieving process for both myself and my friend's sister who is also a member. I carried on going to choir for support as well as the singing. In 2020 life threw a curveball when I was diagnosed with bowel cancer. The treatment, while successful, left me with peripheral neuropathy and mobility issues. With the new limitations of my body, my world shrank, and so did my spirit. Again the support from the choir was amazing, people would call and message but also they understood if I couldn't answer because at that time I didn't feel able to talk. I was enveloped in a wave of warmth and understanding. The choir was more than a group of singers; it was a family, one that moved at the pace of its slowest members, ensuring no one is left behind. The emotional support I received was overwhelming. Each member of the choir became a pillar of strength for me, their kind words and shared experiences lifting me up when I felt down. They celebrated my small victories and stood by me through the tough days. In 2022 life threw me yet another curveball with the death of my son, again the choir became my crutch, my therapy, my sanctuary, and my social lifeline. Rising Voices Wessex is not just a pastime; it is a beacon of hope. It taught me that even in the face of adversity, there is hope, joy, and a community that sings from the heart. Through the choir, I rediscovered my smile. I may have lost a lot but I gained friendships that moved me in ways my feet no longer could. In the choir, I am not defined by my illness or my mobility issues. I am simply ME."*

## Sustainability

By increasing our publicity and activity we hope to have gained more support energy and enthusiasm to continue for the next few years, at least. Our weekly rehearsals and occasional social gatherings continue in Poole. We hope to be able to have sufficient funding in the future to reopen a Bournemouth Choir again. We want to be able to continue to offer to sing at local events and for the local hospitals and nursing homes.

## SMILE Connect

### Funded activities

The bulk of the funding was towards the cost of our project leader. Over this period she carried out the following: Built and embedded a new partnership with Safe Families, to provide ongoing volunteer buddy support to help build families' confidence and resilience (3 referrals so far). Found and implemented new courses for families based on their feedback - In the Autums we ran our first parenting course of 5 weeks (6 attendees) and then a BCHA cooking course. Recruited a new link worker to provide more 1:1 support for parents, especially those who have SEN children or are waiting for mental health support. Found a new venue for the monthly Board Games café. Continued to support the SMILE team. Funding has gone towards volunteers DBS checks, training and travel.

### Outcomes

In a recent survey, 43 out of 45 respondents said they felt supported by SMILE, and 39 out of 45 said that SMILE helped them with at least 1 of their top 3 challenges. Our outcomes can now be split into 3: building specific skills through parenting, courses and self-care courses - reducing social isolation through regular gathering points such as the Regenerate meal and weekly coffee time - building resilience through 1:1 support from our link workers to tackle specific issues such as housing, benefits, school connections.





### Story of change

A dad whose partner died by suicide was not on their house rental agreement so became homeless with a toddler; SMILE and Faithworks worked together to make sure the family got into and then had support while in emergency B&B. On dad's birthday there was a celebration at weekly coffee time and one other mum bought a card and a little cake for the toddler to "sign" and give to his dad as a present!

### Sustainability

SMILE is an ongoing project which has grown and will continue to provide services to its beneficiaries.



## St Peter's Church Development Project

### Funded activities

We have managed to hold multiple events across the year, all free entry for the community and it has supplied the cafe, enabling us to keep the doors open and the prices low for all to enjoy, which has been such a blessing. The amount of free recitals and concerts has grown and we now hold a minimum of at least one and up to four events weekly..

### Outcomes

The grant money has enabled us to replace the old notice boards and share more information through printed media inside the cafe, giving the community easy access to find out what is happening on a daily, weekly and monthly basis in the church. It has enabled us to put on many events, like the Pancake Coffee Morning, Burns Supper, as well as so many lunchtime concerts and recitals as well as evening events, and supply all food and drink at rock bottom prices, and even give things away for free to those who are in need.

### Story of change

One of our parishioners has been attending the church for around thirty years or so and has always been a part of the fabric and a regular face. However, she lost her husband two years ago and has had breast cancer, so has had a tough few years. During this past year, because we have had so many more things happening in the church, she has been coming more and more often and at Easter, she said to a few of the team that she could honestly say that this was the nicest easter she has ever had, as we put on a community breakfast, then a lunch and cakes event, with the kids enjoying an easter egg hunt around the church grounds. We had around 150 attendees and about 40 children and the atmosphere was so lovely that she stated to everyone who would listen that she didn't need to be with her family that day, as St Peter's was her family.

### Sustainability

We will continue to keep our doors open and operate the cafe as much as we can. We are always looking for funding to help keep us going, although it is a constant challenge for us with the increase in utility bills and the challenge finding willing volunteers to step up and help for free. We have managed to secure a small grant from Asda, which will help keep our food supplies going for the next few months and The Albert Hunt Trust has awarded funds for new equipment. However, we need to replace the whole kitchen, as it was built by a parishioner back in the 1960s, so we will be looking to secure funding to support building a brand new, secure kitchen, so that the cafe can remain in operation for decades to come.

## **The Footprints Project**

### **Funded activities**

We have employed a consultant to help with our recruitment and retention of volunteers. Two volunteers have also worked alongside the CEO to develop a range of new materials for volunteer recruitment and to increase the volunteer experience. We have also started to review the volunteer training package. This work has led to the recruitment of 10 additional volunteers since December. 98 people were referred to the project during this period.

The first volunteer coordinator pulled out before the contract start date due to obtaining full time work. We were lucky to have a second applicant, Sarah Thompson who has been exceptional and has extended the volunteer opportunities, engaging students from the photography and design departments of the local college and University to undertake voluntary roles; helping with sales and marketing of our website. We have also been able to recruit volunteers to help with our art sessions, which will enable us to expand the group size and reduce pressure on staff.

### **Outcomes**

We have been able to recruit and train people from a wider socio-economic and life experience background, including those who have previously been participants on the project, meaning that more people are aware of the issues facing people who have been in prison or received a conviction and helping support more people in the community. Our reoffending stats and KPIs for the charity show our desistance approach and utilising volunteers really makes a difference: 95% of the women supported on our out of court diversionary scheme do not reoffend. All the women participating in our art course have successfully completed licences and none have returned to prison. Only 5% of people supported with mentoring were recalled to prison (comparing favourably with 20% of the probation case load). 30% of people supported return to economic activity.

### **Story of change**

Anna is a third year Criminology student who joined the project in February having only just turned 21. With little life experience but a passion to help people in difficult places and a desire to work in the long term in the Criminal Justice System we were keen to look at ways to support Anna and help her achieve her goals. Anna is Russian and moved to the UK when she was 12. She therefore has an understanding of some of the barriers that can face socially isolated groups. She did not own or drive a car, which is helpful although not essential for mentors. After attending training it was agreed that Anna was not quite ready to be a mentor but that she could gain confidence and experience by helping at our art sessions. She has fitted in well and has gained experience shadowing staff and working with a participant on their difficult first day; registering for benefits, housing and visiting the council amongst other places. She now feels more confident and is hoping to take on a fuller mentoring role in the near future.

### **Sustainability**

We now have the professional resources in place to help with volunteer recruitment and a simplified process. We have begun to advertise for different volunteer positions, such as helping at our art and accompanying staff on prison collections.

## **Beaufort Community Association**

### **Funded activities**

We contracted an engineer to supply and fit 16 high level 1200mm by 600mm end of life florescent recessed light fittings with new energy efficient 1200mm by 600mm LED recessed fittings. The cost included proper disposal of the old fittings.

## Outcomes

We believe the original aim has reached its objective by making this space a far brighter and more pleasant space to attend their activities. We have noted that more older people are now attending the table tennis and activity sessions held in the main hall and aside from officially surveying the users which we have not had a chance to do, all feedback from the group leaders note how much better the space is to use.

## Story of change

As a result of an informal discussion with an attendee of U3A table tennis, she noted to us that she is far more likely to want to attend and play, especially through the last few winter months as the old light fittings were quite dull and 'depressing'. Regardless of the weather, she felt that the hall was now far brighter and more inviting to play in so the old feeling of 'can't be bothered' doesn't come into her thought now as she looks forward to attending.

## Bournemouth Parks Foundation

### Funded activities

We used your very kind funding to purchase ten wooden tables and 40 accompanying chairs for one of our charity's community cafes (at Redhill Park), and to fix the café's front door.

### Outcomes

Having a new door, tables and chairs has made the community café look more professional, function better and provide a more welcoming first impression. The door provides a smart, clean entrance, and means we no longer have wind and rain coming through the gaps. The old door had become a risk to the café's security and was a barrier to easy access; it was hard to open and close due to water penetration in the wooden door and frame, let in a lot of cold air, and our café volunteers struggled to lock it. It hinged in the middle (akin to a bi-fold door) which proved impossible to access for those in wheelchairs or with buggies, and was incredibly difficult to push open for anyone without upper body strength.

The ten new wooden tables and chairs are more robust than those we'd inherited and are far easier to keep clean by our volunteer cafe team. Our previous café furniture had been inherited and was an assortment of different tables and chairs, including a large number of heavily stained fabric chairs and chipped/scratched tables many of which had glue, glitter, etc stuck onto them. Thanks to us now having matching tables, we are able to easily configure them into different layouts, so that they work as individual café tables, but can also be used for our events and activities which take place in the café and by other charities and community groups who use the café space for their own activities.

### Story of change

We knew the new door would make a difference to the café volunteers (ease of opening/locking, etc) but, following its installation, we were stunned by the number of customers who spontaneously commented about how much easier it is to get in and out of the cafe. One regular customer had previously needed to leave her mobility stroller outside and hope that the table nearest the door would be vacant for her to sit at. She has been so delighted that she can now access the entire café, can go to the counter and choose her own food and drinks, and can get across the café to the disabled toilet.



## **Bournemouth Ymca**

### **Funded activities**

The purchase of a very much needed Pool Cover for The Junction Sports & Leisure Centre, managed by YMCA Bournemouth. This will give us real-savings to further invest in the years ahead.

### **Outcomes**

Increased positive impact across all ages and abilities throughout BCP, covering mental-health as well as physical-health. The Pool being 32 degrees means that all levels of ability can attend, and enjoy the Pool service. We teach 950+ children we teach within the Pool every week, from 3 months old to 12+ years. Giving them life-skills, that will one day possibly save their life.

## **Canford Heath Residents & Community Association**

### **Funded activities**

The Centre Front Foyer was in desperate need of new Fire Doors to the Community Hall and doors leading from the Community Hall to Bar and Foyer, and Fire Doors to replace non-compliant doors to the Disabled Toilet, Kitchen and Cupboard housing the Immersion Heater.

### **Outcomes**

The Grant has enabled the Community Centre to provide a feeling of security to the people that visit the Centre by way of demonstrating our commitment to their safety whilst visiting. It has also improved our safeguarding and has been commented on.

### **Story of change**

The improvement to safeguarding has been recognised by a Youth Drama Group who use the Community Hall on a Friday evening. The Centre has a Members Bar and on occasions in the past, people have looked through the windows to see what is going on, which is not ideal when you have young people in the Centre. We have demonstrated our commitment to taking safeguarding seriously to improve the Centre visit experience.

## **Druitt Hall Community Association**

### **Funded activities**

The storeroom floors were prepared for and finished with a non-slip heavy duty sheet vinyl and sit-on skirtings to assist with floor-washing operations. Trustees conferred with the hirers as to the best timing of the proposed work before contacting the flooring contractor. Robson Flooring were cooperative in working around events held at the hall and caused the minimum of disruption to hirers and users.

### **Outcomes**

The grant has made a significant difference to the setting up and putting away of tables, chairs and equipment as the trolleys travel over a smooth surface directly from the storerooms into the main hall. The cleaner has found it easier to clean the floor as trollies etc are more easily relocated by one person, not least in crossing over the improved doorway thresholds.

## EDAS

### Funded activities

The funding really helped making the service users more comfortable especially the older people. Within our community cafe, we were able to provide greater social seating, comfortable outside spaces and increase seating capacity. Since the closure of the cafe at the end of January 2024, we have made a warm space and drop in facility utilising the furniture purchased, in our Life Room in our EDAS Learning Centre, adjacent to the cafe which continues to be used by local residents. To ensure long-term sustainability and scalability, EDAS is planning and developing a comprehensive fundraising strategy. We are looking at building partnerships and collaborations, creating a stronger organizational structure, working with others who share our vision and goals, to leverage additional resources and expertise to achieve greater impact.

### Outcomes

I think that people in the community saw the changes in the people with mental health/addiction, letting go of stigma and judgements, listening to the voices and lived experiences that were different from one's own. Made this small area of our community more accepting and transparent.

### Story of change

*"I have had problems with my mental health since 1988. I have attempted suicide several times, the last time I ended up with life changing injuries. In 2021 I attended a coffee meet with at Serenitea organized by the CMHT that I am under. I have now undertaken all of the free courses offered by EDAS and each one has helped me in my mental health journey. At Coffee Connections I am able to talk to other people about my mental health struggles in a non-judgemental setting. I have made friends with 2 other participants who I now see and text on a regular basis. Coffee Connections has really helped me and it is the only evening activity and support that I have been able to find. After completing the courses I was offered the opportunity to volunteer for EDAS. I now have a reason to get out of bed two days a week and my confidence has been boosted. I feel I have a purpose in life and that I am giving back to society."*

## Friends of Kinson Community Centre

### Funded activities

We set up a games tables at our Warm Space with Chess, Draughts, Backgammon Scrabble , Snakes and Ladders, Connect four etc and plenty of card games. During one of the sessions we were told that there was a need for somewhere for Parents and Toddlers to meet, have a coffee and chat, and somewhere the Toddlers could play. So we bought equipment for the toddlers which we set up in a corner of the lounge.

### Outcomes

The Service has enabled, people on their own to meet and chat with other people, in the warm. They also have access to lots of information about the Services they can access, and there is always someone there to help. Some of the people visiting the Warm space have also joined some of the groups that use the Community , particularly the Fireside Club which meets every week - they are a group people some who are on their own, some have Dementia or physical disabilities, but they all get together have tea and biscuits, chat and enjoy some entertainment which is provided each week. The grant has enabled us to provide so much for them all to enjoy, things that would have taken a long while to raise funds for.



### Story of change

*Clients who attend Kinson Community Centre for .Allow Me to be Me. Sensory Sessions, enjoy their time at the Centre the moment they arrive. They enjoy accessing the Community Room where they can interact with board games, colouring and engage with Community Centre staff. One client now comes in and heads to the Connect 4 game, big smile on his face. Another client who was initially unsettled coming to a new environment, now has the confidence to make her way to the community room, say hello to staff and enjoy time coloring before her session. Having the resources at the Community Centre has helped clients develop social skills by interacting through play with others.*

## Merley Community Association

### Funded activities

We used the funding to replace 10 old and faulty tables for use at Merley Community Centre, along with a trolley to make it easier to move the tables.

### Outcomes

The trolley has made a huge difference for hirers to be able to move the tables throughout the community centre. The new tables are also, safer, much more sturdy and more attractive for hirers.

## Poole Communities Trust

### Funded activities

Replacement of Branksome Centre hall flooring. The floor was in a poor state of repair having reached the end of its viable lifespan. It was damaged in places, coming away from the side walls and becoming unsafe and unsightly. Space is now safer, more accessible, and more visually appealing to all the existing community users, and should attract new hirers.

### Outcomes

The hall currently has 10,500 users a year from a wide range of community groups including parents and toddlers, older people's table tennis, martial arts, disability basketball. We will be monitoring numbers in the year ahead to see if the improved space attracts a growth in community use. Now the floor is complete we will be celebrating this in our marketing and demonstrating the upgraded space for existing and new hirers.



### Story of change

Each week we run a community cafe on a Wednesday where we serve affordable hot and cold drinks and snacks, plus free surplus food. There is a group of regulars who visit each week including a young woman with learning disabilities. 'J' comes independently to the centre as part of her weekly routine and she always plays table tennis with one of our volunteers, Mark. J really enjoys this weekly structure and a chance to build her life skills. She has made a good connection with Mark who is able to encourage her and also have a chat about her wellbeing. We have our own table tennis tables for community use in the hall and it is beneficial to have these available during our community cafe time slot for those people who enjoy using them and for free of charge.

## Somerford ARC

### Funded activities

DCF funded £3,000 for the purchase of a cooker. We used £1,399.00 from the DCF grant for the cooker itself and £225.55 for the trays. With agreement, remaining funding was used to purchase chairs for the hall (primarily used for food clubs).

### Outcomes

This grant has ensured we can continue our menus of lunch club and breakfast hub offering nutritious cooked meals. We have been able to continue breakfast free to the community and keep our lunch club meals at a low cost- we are the lowest price lunch club in the area which also has the benefit of transportation. It is vital we continue to access food for these groups and provision is never lost.

## Talbot View Community Association

### Funded activities

We replaced the heating system in our hall.

### Outcomes

The work that we have undertaken has been essential to the use of the centre for all users. It has meant that the groups and classes that use the centre have been able to continue operating from our space and the community has been able to benefit from the space with no disruption.

### Story of change

*"Thanks to the new heating installation our users have been so much more comfortable and happy to participate in our sessions. We have had people come back to our sessions who would have otherwise stayed away due to the temperature of the hall."* Lynn - keep fit instructor

## Townsend Community Association

### Funded activities

The new glass fronted Fridge allows us to continue running the Townsend Community Fridge project using equipment that is fit for purpose. The Fridge is a commercial grade refrigerator with a glass fronted door, the perfect addition to the project. Our old Fridge is now being used in our garage so we can collect additional pickups and store the food.

### Outcomes

We distribute chilled food free of charge to the local community. The Fridge project provides not only food but social interaction for lots of residents facing isolation and loneliness.

### Story of change

One lady has been diagnosed with dementia but as the community centre is a known and trusted building she feels secure to walk here by herself and so able to leave her house and socialise. The volunteers and other users all know this lady so are able to offer support and accommodate any needs she has. We have contact details for the lady's family if needed.

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## **West Howe Community Enterprises**

### **Funded activities**

Funds were used to support the completion of redecoration of the Henry Brown community centre.

### **Outcomes**

People comment that they feel the centre is more welcoming, the hall looks brighter and cleaner. It is not painted like a 'Youth Club' anymore and feels more accessible to all ages.