



Dorset  
Community  
Foundation

# IMPACT OF OUR GRANTS AWARDED IN 2023/24

"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."



# OUR 2023/24 IMPACT IN NUMBERS



Total amount  
awarded  
**£1,032,982.77**



192 grants to groups  
via 12 programmes  
**£845,344.45**



547 grants  
to individuals  
via six programmes  
**£187,638.32**



Average grant  
size to groups  
**£4,403**



Average grant  
size to individuals  
**£343**

**43%**

Groups funded with  
annual expenditure  
less than £50,000

**58%**

Groups funded with  
annual expenditure  
less than £100,000

**77%**

Groups funded with  
annual expenditure  
less than £200,000



Total beneficiaries  
supported  
**136,465**



No supported by  
funded groups  
**135,918**



No supported by  
individual awards  
**547**



Volunteers delivering  
funded activities  
**5,939**

## Number of people supported by theme



Poverty and  
disadvantage  
**34,260**



Work, education  
and training  
**595**



Health, wellbeing  
and mental health  
**41,439**



Isolation and  
loneliness  
**42,226**



Environmental  
projects  
**17,945**



# COMPARISON TO 2022/23



Bournemouth Foodbank's Social Canteen

## Funding maintained but more people helped

- ★ Our grant distribution was at a similar value as the previous year, at £1,148,509.18.
- ★ The total beneficiaries supported is nearly double (70,727 rising to 136,465) – largely due to large numbers benefitting from the new BCP Thriving Communities Fund as users of community buildings.
- ★ We notably supported significantly more people with needs relating to health, wellbeing and mental health, and isolation and loneliness. This perhaps reflects the impact of financial challenges caused by the cost of living crisis, on wellbeing and isolation.
- ★ We also supported more environmental projects, due to an increased distribution amount for the Wessex Water Environment Fund with Wessex Water Foundation and a rise in groups seeking to support local people through environmental and nature based activities.
- ★ New funding programmes introduced this year are the BCP Thriving Communities Fund, which distributes funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and the Bridport Community Connectors Fund, supported by Wessex Water Foundation. We are no longer running the Nature Heals Seed Fund, GVC Fund or #iwill Fund.
- ★ Comments about DCF received in End of Grant reports remain overwhelmingly positive – only 6 per cent of comments provided included constructive feedback.



# FEEDBACK IN 2023/241

"The process of completing this application has been straight forward and knowing that I can always contact (the grants manager) if I have any difficulties has made me feel confident. We particularly enjoyed seeing Ellie with her colleagues when they recently visited the centre. This made the process much more personal and we appreciated the effort they made to come and meet our members and trustees."

"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. Together we are creating positive changes and building a stronger, more resilient community."



A mindfulness walk with The Water Lily Project in Christchurch

"With big thanks to Dorset Community Foundation for supporting this project. We have valued your application process which feels uncomplicated and also greatly value the accessibility of the support available. The feedback and suggestions that accompanied the news that we'd been successful with our application were also greatly valued and further enhances the notion that DCF strives to support the people they work with to achieve the best outcomes for participants."

"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. Together we are creating positive changes and building a stronger, more resilient community."



# DISADVANTAGE AND POVERTY

## 34,260 beneficiaries

### PEOPLE FROM MINORITISED COMMUNITIES



Refugees and asylum seekers at the women's group run by Safe And Sound in Boscombe

**950 vulnerable and older people** attended scam awareness sessions to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, and to receive practical tips, resources and support.

**98 ex-offenders** and those at risk of offending were supported to reintegrate into local communities, to develop improved mental health and to work towards employment.

**158 refugees and asylum seekers** have received specialist advice from a Citizens Advice Immigration clinic.

## STORY OF CHANGE

"A came to the immigration clinic as an 18 year old survivor of domestic abuse by her father.

"She left the family home, lived briefly with a boyfriend and was in the early stages of pregnancy. She had recently been sleeping rough and did not understand her immigration status, or that she was dependent on her father's visa.

"We obtained a Subject Access Request from the Home Office to determine her visa status. We referred her to MASH and a social worker was allocated, and the client began receiving section 17 support and accommodation. We found a lawyer who is now assisting her to obtain her own visa, independent of her father."

**Citizens Advice BCP**

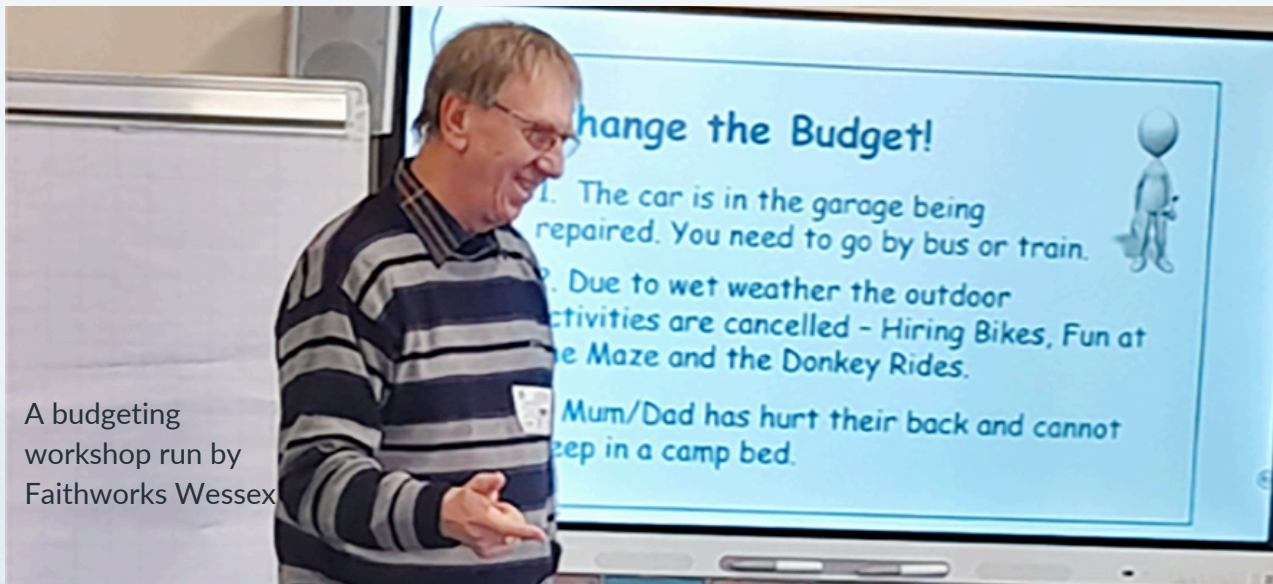
An outing for Purbeck Connect Ukraine





# DISADVANTAGE AND POVERTY

## PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY



A budgeting workshop run by Faithworks Wessex

**1,711 people in financial crisis** (including 893 young people and 128 disabled people receiving targeted services) have increased financial resilience due to support services that have maximised income, including employment advice, debt advice, applying for benefits, supporting budgeting.

"Students enjoyed the setting out a budget and didn't realise that so many university students blow their grant for year in a couple of months. Really good they know this now and not when they get to Uni, as it will be too late. They liked the one on how long it would take to clear a credit card if you only paid off the minimum amount each month? They were shocked."

**423 older people experiencing fuel poverty** received a Surviving Winter grant of £200 to help towards fuel bills and small items to enable them to keep warm. Some 81 per cent of recipients have a disability or long term health condition.

"It was such a relief to receive help as my living budget is very limited."

**314 young people from deprived or rurally isolated areas** received support from a youth club organisation, raising skills and aspirations, improving mental health and wellbeing, and providing healthy social activities and peer support.

"I come here to socialise, play with friends and just have fun. If I didn't come to youth club I'd probably be lazy at home. On my phone and not doing anything."

"Home is boring and I've done everything here and there is no new stuff. So here I can see other people. I like it because there are other kids."

**17 children from low income households** were provided with free out of school childcare places.

**2 older people in financial crisis** received grants to improve their home to aid independent living (via a Donor Advised Fund).



# DISADVANTAGE AND POVERTY

## 30,184 beneficiaries

### PEOPLE EXPERIENCING FOOD POVERTY



School holiday picnic-making for youngsters at Poole Waste Not Want Not

**12,084** received food items or parcels from a Foodbank, Food Pantry, Social Supermarket or similar – often alongside advice and signposting.

**7,571** received a hot meal in a community setting (resulting in a reduction in loneliness)

**3,442** received vouchers for food stores or a meal in a local café

**2,882** received food and cooking equipment as part of a cookery tuition opportunity

**2,264** attended a Drop In support service or Winter Warm Welcome Space or in a community setting,

**1,944** received a Christmas hamper

"I cannot thank you enough – it was like an instant relief from worrying and stressing about feeding my children. Myself and my husband were up most of the night crying and I was having panic attacks about it. Thank you again – you are both amazing!"

"To be around people and have a break from cooking a healthy meal for me and my daughter with the pound saving that gives us too... like going to a restaurant which we'd never do otherwise due to cost. A real treat. Great for my mental health and my daughter loves the place too and getting to see other children and experience different food."

"It's very good and safer for me not to have to cook at night. My balance is poor so having to get food in and out of the oven is dangerous for me to do alone. The choice of food at the Centre is good and my meals are presented to me with a smile and I don't have to worry about buying or cooking food."



# DISADVANTAGE AND POVERTY

## HOMELESS PEOPLE



**108 people who are street homeless** received enhanced services that addressed immediate practical needs, improved relationships and communication with support workers and housing agencies, and support a pathway to temporary, supported or permanent accommodation.

**54 people in supported accommodation** were supported to develop the life skills and improved confidence they will need to move successfully to independent housing; including laundry and cooking skills, and household budgeting.

## STORY OF CHANGE

"When I first went to BHI it helped me so much being able to go there to get good food and a sleeping bag.

"I was rough sleeping for seven months and BHI provided warmth, food, shower and a safe place which was needed so much due to my mental health being so low at times.

"I managed to get off the streets into accommodation and this was due to contacts from BHI. I still attend as it is good to come for social interaction and a safe place to attend to get out of the house. I have become a peer supporter."

**BH1 Centre, Boscombe**



Always a warm welcome at  
Bournemouth Foodbank's  
Social Canteen



# DISADVANTAGE AND POVERTY



The Bus Shelter Weymouth's  
annual trip to Dorset  
Sunflower Trail with guests

**220 homeless people have improved mental health** as a result of holistic support services to meet their needs and the underlying causes of homelessness.

**21 people moving into supported accommodation** received welcome packs with essential household items to help new accommodation feel like home, address hygiene poverty and reduce stigma, and help to build trust with support workers – this increases their likelihood of success on their journey to eventual independent living.

"When I moved into my property, I couldn't cook or make food as I had no equipment to do so BHI bought me kitchen utensils, a kettle, pots and pans, kettle, and crockery. Without this help I would have struggled, and I am very grateful for the help that I have received in this way. It has made all the difference."

## STORY OF CHANGE

"I've been volunteering with Healthbus and it's been more amazing than I thought possible.

"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.

"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."

**The Healthbus Trust**



# WORK, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

34,260 beneficiaries

## YOUNG PEOPLE



Young people learning craft skills while making new friends at The Ripple Workshop in Bridport and, right, netball player Carina Rowe was one of 13 young people to receive sports funding

**331 vulnerable young people** have improved personal aspirations, increased mental resilience skills and employability, through participation in specialist education and support programmes.

**13 young people from low income households** were able to continue competing in high level sports despite financial challenges.

**18 vulnerable young people** gained confidence in creative and woodworking skills.

## STORY OF CHANGE

"I came here after leaving school because I went through some really awful stuff. I couldn't bear the thought of leaving my house. When I first arrived, I didn't have any clear goals or dreams for my future. I felt lost.

"But the people here saw something in me. They told me that I was smart and capable, so I decided to give it a shot. I started studying Level 2 Maths and English. It wasn't easy, especially with all the emotional baggage I was carrying, but I knew I had to push

through. You won't believe how much my confidence has grown since I came here. They encouraged me to find a part-time job, and with their support, I did it. It wasn't easy juggling work and studies, but I kept going and I passed my Level 2 Maths and English.

"It felt like a huge weight lifted off my shoulders. But that's not all. I got accepted into college. I'm going back to full-time education, and I'm really excited."

**The Rendezvous, Sherborne**



# WORK, EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Videographer Richard Koburn received a SWEF Enterprise grant to boost his business

**20 young people aged 18 to 30** received a grant from the SWEF Enterprise Fund, supporting them to develop new businesses despite financial challenges.

*"Not long after I was awarded the grant I landed a job on a short film which required a stylised look in an unusual location. We were able to pull this off beyond her expectations, thanks to the new lenses. Because of this, I was able to charge £350 per day, which was the highest rate I'd been paid at that point."*

**89 young people from low income households** accessed vocational or STEM courses at college despite financial hardship, due to bursaries for essential costs. Bursaries reduce anxiety and risks of dropping out, and give young people greater skills and confidence to apply for employment.

*"My parents have been struggling financially with the cost of living crisis and had to attend a local foodbank. Not having to worry about my travel costs have reduced their stress and mine."*

## OTHERS

**124 performing artists** gained paid work and professional development opportunities, through community based art projects that benefitted local communities.

Jack Hayward, 17, of Christchurch, received a £929 DCF Bursary grant to study plastering at Bournemouth and Poole College





# HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

41,439 beneficiaries

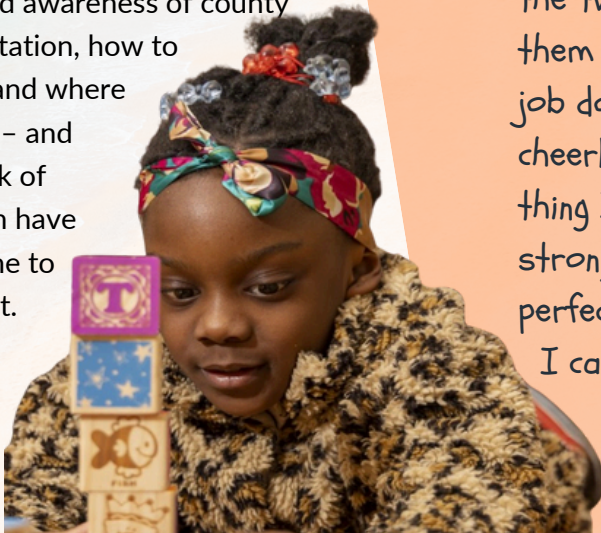
## YOUNG PEOPLE



A Home-Start Wessex volunteer spending time with a young mum

**663 parents of young children struggling with mental health difficulties** received individual and group support and are more resilient in their mental health, with better coping strategies, new parenting & household skills, and with better awareness of local support services.

**950 children and young people, their parents and teachers** have an improved awareness of county lines exploitation, how to spot signs and where to get help – and those at risk of exploitation have received one to one support.



## STORY OF CHANGE

"Everything was a fog since just before the twins were born until now. I feel like I am taking better care of myself which means I can think about my children and what they need.

"My volunteer has been amazing taking the twins on a walk in the pram and giving them their bottles so I can get a single job done. I felt like I finally had a cheerleader. She helped me see what a big thing I have been through, and I feel stronger to face what comes. Things aren't perfect and they never will be, but I know I can get through it."

Home-Start Wessex



# HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH



B Sharp in Lyme Regis provides music and inspiration for children and their families

**242 children aged eight or under and their families** took part in live, interactive music experiences to support health and wellbeing.

"It was brilliant. Just the kind of thing that we are lacking in the area. Brilliant for kids and adults. I have been to theatre before many, many years ago, but not for years. It's the first time bringing the kids."

**396 autistic and socially anxious children aged four to 14 and their families** participated in community activities, resulting in increased social networks, reduced isolation and improved health and wellbeing.

"We were in a black hole when it came to activities that were appropriate and understanding of our son's needs and capabilities. Our social interaction with other children and adults in a similar position to us was non-existent. It is a joy to have activities and a group to feel a part of which has so many options. It is a relief to not feel any judgement from other parents because the other parents are in the same position. Our son is now happier and more enriched. He loves to attend."

**116 children and young people with mental health difficulties** received counselling or other one to one support from qualified professionals resulting in improved mental health and resilience.

"My son has learned to recognise his triggers and looks to avoid where possible, he is communicating his feelings and has a more positive manner."

The Shine Project from Bournemouth works in schools to provide mentors for young people





# HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH



Sustainable fashion at Dorchester Youth Council, left, and The Shine Project, right

**46 young people** took part in an early intervention programme to support confidence and wellbeing, to improve relationship skills, and to address issues that affect how they feel about themselves such as social media, bullying and peer pressure.

*"I think Thrive will help me in the future. I liked that it helped me identify the things I am good at. I learnt that I'm a good problem solver as I often take on this role with friends."*

## STORY OF CHANGE

"Through the course I got to see the perspectives of others which was quite eye opening and helpful.

"It's also helped me with my dad. He is 'RED' so the complete opposite to me. Red is my lowest colour. It's helped me understand him and he now understands me better. We get on a lot better now. I found out that my body language is quite closed and I talk quietly. It made me realise that there may be situations where I need to speak up to ensure my voice is heard. The course can definitely help when I get into work and manage different people."

**Colour Works Foundation**



Getting  
creative with  
The Shine  
Project



# HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

## PEOPLE WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS OR VULNERABILITIES



The Rising Voices Wessex Community Choir making music

**116 adults with mental health difficulties** received professional counselling or other 1 to 1 support, resulting in improved mental health and resilience.

*"Counselling has been of benefit as I have learnt to talk about my worries. It's free-ing. Mainly most of my goals have been achieved during this time. I have found it helpful to learn how to express thoughts and feelings and I have been more positive."*

**430 adults impacted by cancer** have increased social networks, reduced isolation and improved wellbeing as a result of taking part in community activities.

**25 adults with mental health difficulties** took part in Arts for Wellbeing groups sessions, resulting in improved mental health and resilience, increased social connections and peer support.

## STORY OF CHANGE

"Life threw a curveball when I was diagnosed with bowel cancer. With the new limitations of my body, my world shrank, and so did my spirit.

"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 experiences lifting me up when I felt down.

"They celebrated my small victories and stood by me through the tough days. Through the choir, I rediscovered my smile. I am not defined by my illness or my mobility issues. I am simply me."

**Rising Voices Wessex Community Choir**



# HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING



Volunteers hard at work in Grounded Community's garden and, below, volunteers at Bournemouth Foodbank's Recovery Cafe

**63 people in recovery from addictions** participated in specialist arts and community activities designed to support health and wellbeing, and reducing risk of relapse.

"The team have provided a safe, friendly, encouraging and supportive environment for us in recovery. The staff and volunteers are always friendly and provide excellent food, coffee and service. The Recovery Café is a great place to socialise and meet new people and it provides structure to what would normally be a mundane evening. Meditation was a welcome addition."

**2,442 people** took part in activities connecting them with nature and the outdoors, benefitting health and wellbeing, and improving social connections and peer support.

## STORY OF CHANGE

"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."

**Grounded Community**



# HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING



Fun by the sea on a day out with Faithworks Wessex's SMILE Connect

**15,540 people** have built new support networks and friendships at local community cafes.

**20,240 people** have benefitted from improved leisure facilities, supporting health and wellbeing.

**170 lone parents** have improved social networks, new friendships and peer support, resulting in reduced isolation and improved mental health and resilience.



Cooking with the Vale Pantry in Sturminster Newton

## 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.

"At Coffee Connection I am able to talk to other people about my mental health struggles in a non-judgemental setting. I have made friends with two other participants who I see and text regularly. It is the only evening activity and support I have been able to find.

"After completing the courses I was offered the opportunity to volunteer. 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." **EDAS**



# LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

42,226 beneficiaries

## OLDER PEOPLE



Countrymen UK, above and below, provide retired farmworkers the chance to meet outdoors

**1,083 older people including 200 people with dementia** attended regular social activities and received individual support and advice, resulting in improved physical and mental health, greater independence and reduced loneliness.

**801 older people** received individual support and advice, resulting in greater independence, improved economic wellbeing and improved access to other services.

*"I have dementia, I love football but prefer to come and sing rather than watch it, only the telly as I can't go now. I really enjoy singing."*



## STORY OF CHANGE

"One of the men with poor mental health was referred by his farmer uncle who came to our tractor run fundraiser.

"He told me he never went out of the house and has a number of physical difficulties that made him too worried to leave. He has come since the start of the project and is flourishing, he dresses up for many occasions including Xmas and feels confident to be himself.

"He smiles continuously and socialises with everyone on site. He says every time he is on site how much he loves it and how happy he is."

**Countrymen UK**



# LONELINESS AND ISOLATION



A jolly time for guests at In Jolly Good Company

## STORY OF CHANGE

"When 'D' first came to us he would hardly speak or even look up, he was very shy and had spent a lot of time on his own and his hearing difficulties do not help.

"Since he has been attending there has been a huge change in him. He sits next to 'E' and they have formed a great friendship, with E helping him to take part – despite his hearing loss, he is now looking up and smiling"

**In Jolly Good Company**

"Mr and Mrs H were referred by the social prescriber at their GP's surgery. Mr H is suffering with complex health conditions, including dementia. We helped them liaise with the local authority to have their care package reviewed and signposted them to other services to integrate them into the community.

"We also linked the couple to a Help and Care Dementia Coordinator for long-term ongoing support. The couple now feel more connected to support available in the local area and have had a care package review to tend to Mr H's growing needs."

**Age UK North, South and West Dorset**



# LONELINESS AND ISOLATION



A cultural performance organised by Dorset Indians CIC

**3,660 people from ethnically diverse communities** have been able to celebrate diverse cultures and improve community cohesion through taking part in local community events.

*"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."*

*"I have been to a weekend Caribbean Festival for the first time, I regularly attend the men's chat in which I have shared personal stories and details which I never thought I would ever be able to do... From what I see weekly people really need and appreciate these guys. Some people don't see anyone all week and really look forward to the groups."*

**925 refugees received support** to settle in Dorset, including opportunities to meet other refugees, to identify and address their needs, and take part in activities and events to reduce isolation promote community.

*"I'm very pleased and grateful for this project... The adults chatted and learned resourcefulness, how to help themselves and their children cope with anxiety, uncertainty, and fears with the continuing war."*

*"It was really lovely to attend the Bread And Salt event and meet more Ukrainians. I can see how this event really helped the refugees with their identity as a nation and that they can be known for much more than just the war."*



# LONELINESS AND ISOLATION



Poole Community Exchange bringing Ukrainians and people from the community together

**1,492 local people experiencing loneliness and isolation** took part in volunteer led community activities, enabling them to meet other people in their local area, improve social networks and feel part of the community.

"An elderly gentleman, who lives close by in supported accommodation and who has dementia, comes daily to the café and attends many of our activities. I sat and chatted with him one day last week and he told me he loves coming because it's a place of safety, friendship and fellowship. He knows we have a volunteer workforce and he occasionally helps by setting the tables for the Wednesday lunch club. It's just wonderful to see how much joy it gives him when he can contribute in this way."

**Tingleton Village Hall**

## STORY OF CHANGE

"E" lacks confidence and has a history of mental health problems. Her mental health social worker suggested out art group.

"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. She remains quiet but now comes to every session and gradually has been engaging with some other people.

"She is now one of our longest participants and appears much more relaxed, we all love to see her and her work."

**Poole Community Exchange**



# LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

## COMMUNITY COHESION



Common Ground's Caught In The Net on Portland involved members of the community in a musical production about the island's mackerel, above, right, cultural improvisation from the Rainbow Makers

**32,600 local people** have benefitted from capital improvements to a local community building or facility.

**55 community participants and 1610 community audience** took part in inclusive, participatory performing arts activities designed with local people in order to benefit the lives of their communities. Outcomes included reduced isolation, increased social networks, improved confidence and wellbeing, increased artistic skills, a renewed sense of community, and new engagement with heritage locations and venue.

"Dancing in the landscape is pure magic. I found this to be a very exciting and satisfying project to be part of - having a chance for older dancers to perform is a rare opportunity. Thank you. I would recommend anyone to do it - what a wonderful collection of creatives!"

"Being involved in such a creative project has been something I've been wanting to do for a long time, but have never had the time, confidence or opportunity to explore. I was able to fully participate and felt totally welcomed and valued."

"Because it was free I attended the performance with many of my child's friends and parents. The children I was with were really excited by the fact local children had inputted into the movements that came part of the final dance. One of the (adult) audience members I knew, felt that it was the best thing he had ever seen in Swanage."



Brave Bold Drama from Weymouth Performing The Keepers



# ENVIRONMENT

17,945 beneficiaries



Recreate Dorset's Orchard Garden in Boscombe

**17,945 local residents** participated or benefitted from environmental projects, resulting in improved biodiversity, improved environmental sustainability, and reduction in use of energy and water (e.g. composting and rainwater harvesting solutions).

## COMMUNITY GROWING

"We helped a participant who was struggling with finances to set up a small, manageable growing space to grow food with their young family. Being inexperienced in growing food but wishing to supplement their diet with home-grown produce they found the no-dig method and the support we were able to give with techniques and materials (compost and plug plants) invaluable. We were also able to signpost them to the Food Glut Stall for extra food which they have subsequently joined as a volunteer." **Bridport Food Matters**



Growing for the community at Grounded Community





A transformed public space at Church Meadow at St Nicholas Church, Studland

## NEW PUBLIC GREEN SPACES

"The new Church Meadow was previously an area of unproductive grassland, formally used for grazing livestock, but left vacant for a number of years. There were hardly any wild flowers and little wildlife. The meadow now contains a variety of ornamental trees, fruit trees and shrubs. All the trees, including the ornamental ones, have been selected for their beneficial nature for wildlife. The shrubs have been selected to provide a variety of nuts and berries for wildlife. A community bulb planting activity meant the meadow was filled with daffodils in bloom. The fruit from the orchard trees will be available for members of the community to freely pick and use." **St Nicholas Church, Studland**

## RIVER TESTING CAMPAIGNS

"For us, our involvement meant we were able to take up the opportunity for Riverfly training and have since found a site within our village where we carry out kick-sampling monthly, together with a fellow sampler we met on the course. We've set up a WhatsApp group for Riverfly testers across the local patch – a great source of encouragement and support – and regularly ask and answer questions, sharing images and advice as we go. We now find ourselves with new friends, greater practical knowledge and experience, lots of support and even opportunities for meaningful, and sometimes challenging, conversations that just might help to make a difference.."

**Winniford River Action Group, Chideock**







Transition Town Bridport carried out pond dipping workshops with schools

## EDUCATION

"With the availability of the renovated nature area, the pond, and the vegetable patch, we are harnessing curiosity and stimulating the children's interest in a sustainable environment. Spotting pond life and observing birds and butterflies brings the pupils' great joy. The time-tabled science lessons, which spill beyond the classroom, connect textbook knowledge to the real world. In natural surroundings with biodiverse creatures, the children explore and witness firsthand how ecosystems function, how delicate balances sustain life, and how their actions matter." **Ringwood Junior School**

## COMMUNITY RECYCLING

"I volunteer because I like to help people know ways to avoid unnecessary waste and the session gives us time to explain items we can make use of and remind people regarding popular high street recycling options. We always place our lists of items we can recycle out on the tables and this has at least twice motivated people to pop home and literally bring us items before the session has ended."

**Win on Waste, Poole**

## COMMUNITY GARDENS

"The driveway is a game-changer for our visit - all the members can walk or drive around to the pole barn area, there's hard standing for safe smooth walking frames/crutches. These members love to come out and look at the progress made at the new site in Shillingstone, they're interested in vegetables, compost heaps, seedlings and weeds. It gives them something good to think about."

**Dorset Lavender Farm Project, Shillingstone**



# FEEDBACK

"Always supportive, generous with time and solution focused."

"The whole process has been smooth and we have found the application process well organised. Feedback is within our capability and has not been too much of a task."

"It is always a helpful and supportive process, with application and evaluation requirements that match the value of the grant."

"This is our second time applying and it is so easy, so affirming and whenever we have questions the answers come quick and well explained. We are very grateful for your support."

"The application process, the speed of approval and the ongoing communications have all been straightforward and swift. We are all incredibly grateful for your support and, on behalf of our beneficiaries, please accept our huge thanks for this funding."

"This process was very straight forward, support and guidance were available at all stages. We are incredibly grateful for the grant and it has had a huge impact on our provision."

"As is always the case, the correspondence with DCF is always one of professionalism and real support for such great causes that impact so many in the BCP area. Thank you."

"We were incredibly grateful to receive this funding given we had originally applied to a different programme; the support from the Grants Manager and DCF is a constant in the life of our group and important to so many across the locality."

"We are proud to be associated with DCF, thank you for support to make this project possible."

"As always, we are hugely grateful for your kind support which make a real impact in terms of the number of people we are able to support and to their lives."

"As always DCF have been brilliant with a simple process and great communication."





# GROUPS SUPPORTED IN 2023/24

Access Dorset  
Action for Children  
Age Concern North Dorset  
Age UK North, South and West Dorset  
AIMCommunity  
ANRP (Asker Nature Reserve Project)  
ASCape  
Ashley's Birthday Bank  
AsOne Theatre Company  
B Sharp  
Beaufort Community Association  
BH1 - Boscombe Salvation Army  
Blandford Food Bank  
Bournemouth & Poole College  
Bournemouth Above And Beyond Trust  
Bournemouth Churches Housing Association  
Bournemouth Community Church  
Bournemouth Foodbank  
Bournemouth Methodist Church  
Bournemouth Parks Foundation  
BCP Indian Community & Music Lovers  
Bollywood  
Bournemouth Ymca  
Bradford Peverell Village Hall  
Brave Bold Drama  
Bridport Food Matters  
Bridport Town Council  
Canford Heath Residents & Community Association  
Castleman Community Larder CIC  
Cheselbourne Parish Council  
Christchurch Community Partnership  
Christchurch Foodbank  
Citizens Advice Bournemouth,  
Christchurch and Poole  
Citizens Advice Central  
Citygate Church  
Common Ground  
Community Alliances Limited  
Corfe Mullen Allotment Association  
Counselling Together

Countrymen UK  
Creative Kids  
DEED (Development Education in Dorset)  
Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy  
Dorchester Youth Council  
Dorset Blind Association  
Dorset Climate Action Network  
Dorset Community Action  
DORSET INDIANS CIC  
Dorset Lavender Farm  
Dorset Mind  
Dorset Parent Infant Partnership  
Dorset Polish Centre  
Dorset Wildlife Trust  
Dorset Working Women's Project  
Druitt Hall Community Association  
East Dorset and Purbeck Citizens Advice  
Eco Sobo  
EDAS  
Escapeline  
Faithworks Wessex  
Family Counselling Trust  
Friends of Hamworthy Park  
Friends of Kinson Community Centre  
Friends of Stour Connect  
Future Roots  
Gateway Church Poole  
Grounded Community  
HealthBus Trust  
Home Start Wessex  
Home-Start Blackmore Vale  
Hope Community Church  
Hope Housing ,Training and Support ltd  
Immaculate Conception and St Joseph's Church  
Immanuel United Reform Church  
In Jolly Good Company  
Island Community Action  
Islanders Youth and Community Centre  
It's All About Culture (IAAC)  
Kinson and West Howe Foodbank



# GROUPS SUPPORTED IN 2023/24

Landance CIC  
LOVECHURCH  
Merley Community Association  
Mindful  
MOSAIC  
MS Centre Dorset  
Nature Connection Dorset  
North Bournemouth Crime Prevention  
Panel  
Parish of St Nicholas and St Hubert  
Poole Communities Trust  
Poole Community Exchange  
Poole Foodbank  
Poole Methodists Church  
Poole Waste Not Want Not  
PramaLife  
Prime Time Kids Club  
Prout Bridge Project  
Rainbow Makers CIC  
Recreate Dorset  
Ringwood Junior School PTA  
Ripple Workshop CIC  
Rising Voices Wessex community choirs  
Routes to Roots  
Safe and Sound Dorset  
Salvation Army - Winton  
Shaftesbury and District Dementia  
Friendly Community  
Shaftesbury Refugee Group  
SMILE Connect  
Somerford ARC Community Centre  
Somerford youth & Community Centre  
Southbourne Food Bank  
St Mary's Church, Ferndown

St Nicholas' Church PCC of Studland  
St Peter's Church Development Project  
Talbot View Community Association  
Tall Tails Theatre Company C.I.C &  
Kushti Bok  
The Absolute Music Trust  
The Blackmore Vale Charity  
The Bus Shelter Dorset  
The Colour Works Foundation  
The Footprints Project  
The Friendly Food Club  
The Gap Project  
The Memory Box Foundation  
The Power House (Poole)  
The shine Project  
Tincleton Village Hall  
Townsend Community Association  
Townsend Youth Partnership  
Transition Town Bridport  
Upton in Bloom  
Vita Nova  
Water Lily Project  
We Are Humans  
West Howe Community Enterprises  
Westbourne Rotary Club Trust Fund  
Weymouth Area Development Trust  
Wimborne Community Food Supply  
Weymouth Foodbank  
Weymouth Rowing Club  
Wimborne Food Bank  
Win on Waste  
Winniford River Action Group  
WIRED  
Your Planet Doctors CIC  
Youth Resource Services (The Rendezvous,  
Sherborne)



**Dorset  
Community  
Foundation**

The Spire, High Street, Poole BH15 1DF 01202 670815 Reg charity number: 1122113



admin@dorsetcf.org



@dorsetcomfound



@dorsetcomfound



@DorsetComFnd



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@DorsetCF