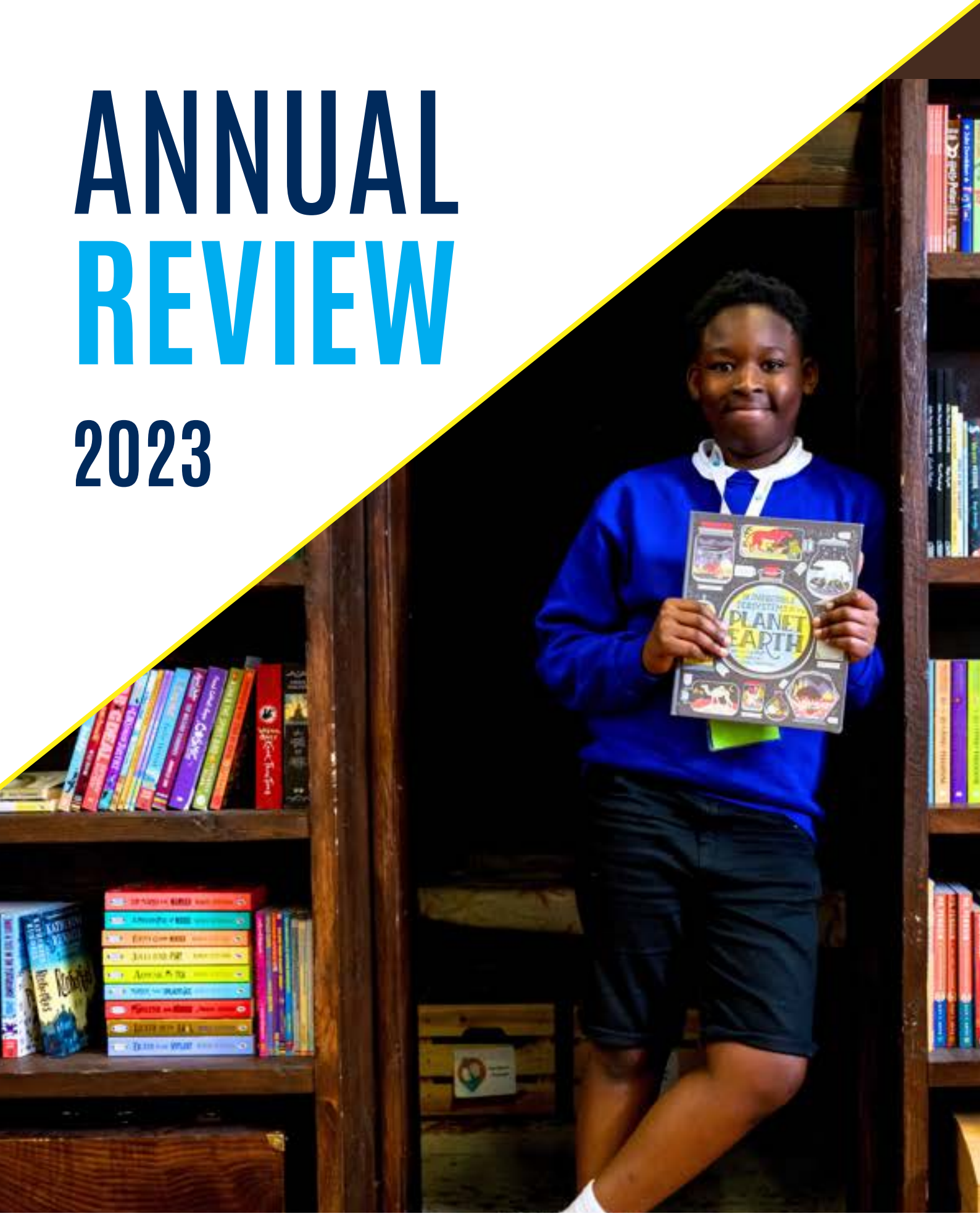
ANNUAL REVIEW

2023



HiWCF
LOCAL GIVING FOR LOCAL NEEDS

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation

LOCAL GIVING FOR LOCAL NEEDS

ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO FLOURISH

Motiv8

The Literacy Hubs

Independent Arts IOW

Romsey Young Carers

Oasis Southampton City Farm

Breakout Youth

Blue Apple Theatre

Abilty Dogs 4 Young People IOW

The Camrose Centre

Aspire Ryde

Oarsome Chance

Saturday Club for Deaf Children

Front cover: Image courtesy of The Literacy Hubs by Joe Low

Welcome

2023

HIWCF President

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Review for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation. I am delighted to report that in 2023 £1.5m of funding was delivered to groups supporting some of the region's most disadvantaged communities. Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are often seen as prosperous areas; however, pockets of deprivation exist in some of our communities that are comparable to some of the poorest areas in the whole country. HIWCF has strong connections with groups operating at a grassroots level and, through these connections, we have been able to direct funds to the areas and communities most in need. We remain grateful to all our fundholders for their generous support and, with this support, I am pleased to say that HIWCF can continue to deliver crucial funding that supports small charities and community groups to make big impacts.

Nigel Atkinson Esq.
HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire

HIWCF Chair

We have always been proud to make charitable grants that support small, grassroots organisations who are well placed to meet the emerging needs of those they support. Small charities have the advantage of being embedded within their communities; they understand the complexities of the issues their clients may be facing, and are able to pivot to meet demands as they emerge. We fund the kinds of organisations which are not well known, but who tirelessly work in their local communities, providing the kind of "shoulder to shoulder" support that really does transform lives, often with teams of dedicated volunteers. Volunteers continue to form the bedrock of these small groups and we know how crucial their roles have become, particularly with ongoing financial pressures from the cost of living crisis. We would like to say a huge thank you to volunteers and staff supporting all the community groups across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton who make a huge difference in such diverse ways.

Rebecca Kennelly MBE

Chief Executive Highlights

Jacqui Scott

The need for our work

Early in 2023, Hampshire charities warned of an unprecedented need for support as a direct result of cost of living challenges. We saw this reflected in grant applications – receiving twice as many requests for funding than we had available to spend in grants. Thanks to our fundholders and donors, HIWCF was able to donate nearly £1.5 million to groups supporting some of the most vulnerable in our communities. Read more below about our webinar highlighting the impact of the cost of living crisis on our communities. We felt it was important for us to shine a light on the tough lives and daily challenges many people are facing in our region and encourage you to watch the webinar when you can.

Jacqui Scott

Responding to big issues

HIWCF funds have been increasingly used to respond to the big issues of our time, including mental health, social isolation, debt and the cost of living crisis. Collaborative working between HIWCF, our donors and the many community groups funded across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight remains an effective approach to reducing disadvantage and improving the quality of life in our communities. One such example at the start of last year was flow-through funding from local Estate Agents Cubitt & West. This enabled an extra £69,746 for cost of living crisis funding for 19 community groups.

Blue Apple Theatre

Small groups embedded within their community are perfectly placed to meet the emerging needs of their clients, but now, more than ever, these groups need support to grow their resilience in a tough economic climate. With surging levels of demand on services provided by the charity and voluntary sector, HIWCF funding will continue to be crucial. We were proud to have supported over 200 small charities in our area in 2023.

2024 & beyond

At the heart of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation is an endowment of around £15m, built up over the past 20 years through working with local philanthropists and businesses in particular. We aim to double the size of the endowment over the next 15 years so that we can continue supporting small charities and community groups which deliver vital support to those who need it most.

Chief Executive Highlights 2023

Community Lens: Cost of Living Crisis

A Community Lens Webinar hosted by HIWCF and supported by small charities from across the region shone a spotlight on the impact that rising living costs are having on individuals and families in local communities. Community leaders described the massive increase in demand for their services alongside increased complexity of need within the communities they support. They also pointed towards an unprecedented demand emerging for financial and mental health support from families, many of whom are working hard but are finding themselves unable to cope due to the escalation in the cost of living crisis.

Scan this QR to view the webinar

> Nobody should have to choose between fuel, food, and children's clothes. We (small charities) can't change the world, but we can make a real and tangible difference to people's everyday lives. The need is pressing and urgent.
>
> *Rachel Thompson, Pan Together, Isle of Wight*

> We are seeing clients that are contemplating taking their own lives. We are dealing with safeguarding issues almost on a daily basis now, and it's due to the financial pressures, unbearable debt and the fear of debt - it's an unprecedented situation."
>
> *Samantha Mabbott, Citizens Advice, Hart District*

Pan Together, Isle of Wight

High Sheriff Awards

At an event hosted by HIWCF, the High Sheriff of Hampshire for 2022/23, Lady Edwina Grosvenor, awarded 22 recipients with commendations for their great work in the community. The High Sheriff Awards are a mark of distinction and recognition given to Hampshire-based volunteers, groups and public servants making a significant contribution to society through enhancing safety and cohesion in our communities. It is always humbling to meet the many people who work tirelessly and often for no reward to make our communities safer and better places to live.

High Sheriff Awards, March 2023

Our Impact 2023

Enabling communities in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton to flourish

A Band of Brothers

The need for financial support to local charities couldn't have been greater in 2023, particularly for families affected by the cost of living crisis and who have been living in the toughest conditions. HIWCF funding was crucial in enabling small charities and community groups to deliver life-changing support. HIWCF grants reached groups delivering a huge range of support including for young people's mental health, the social benefits of involvement in the arts, alleviating the cost of living crisis, sports and wellbeing, and support for people with disabilities or long term medical conditions.

210
Groups supported

£1,478,487
Total funds delivered

£4,248.53
Average size of grant made

348
Grants made

436,085
Approx. number of beneficiaries reached

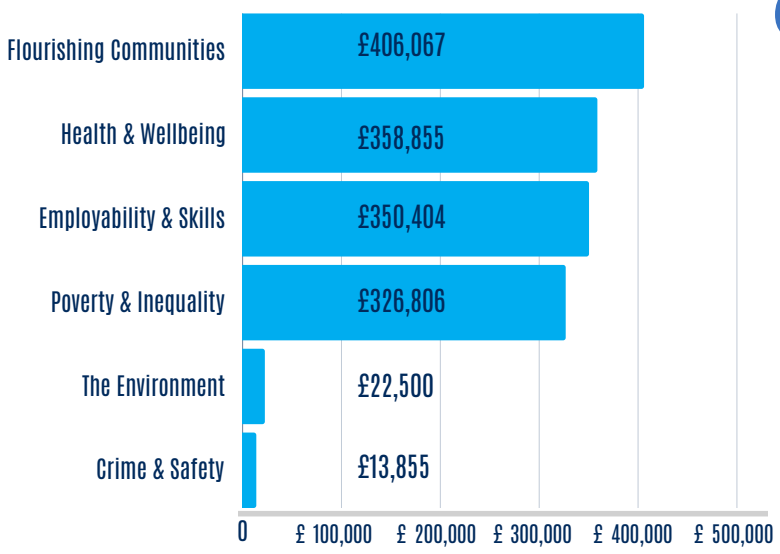
7,426
Approx. number of volunteers involved

Our Impact 2023

Our grant making

We are enormously grateful to all our fundholders and donors who have continued to help meet the needs of small charities and community groups across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. Philanthropists and companies work with HIWCF through one-off funding programmes and endowment donations to enable community groups to continue helping people facing challenging and complex lives. All our funding is made under one of six 'Impact Themes' (described below) - our top four themes by funding level were Flourishing Communities, Employability, Health & Wellbeing and Poverty & Inequality. The golden thread running through all our grant making is support for people and communities facing Poverty & Inequality.

Flourishing Communities	HIWCF funds work that involves and connects people to local services and activities, strengthening their communities.
Employability & Skills	HIWCF funds work that champions employability and helps people develop the skills to succeed.
Health & Wellbeing	HIWCF funds work that improves health and wellbeing.
Poverty & Inequality	HIWCF funds work that tackles poverty and inequality.
Crime & Safety	HIWCF funds work that increases safety and respect within communities.
The Environment	HIWCF funds initiatives that are good for you, good for the environment.

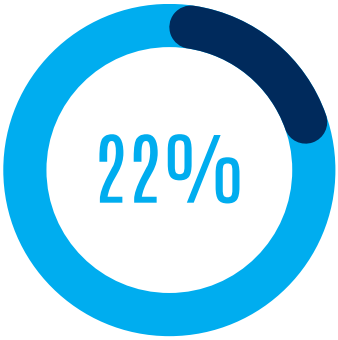


> HIWCF helped us by facilitating contact with a donor willing to commit to donations over three years that will pay for a Support Worker, who often work with clients who are in a financial predicament that will affect their ability to retain their home. The financial resilience that this donor has offered through HIWCF enables planning and reassurance for the future."
>
> *The Camrose Centre*

Poverty & Inequality 2023

All our grant making is underpinned by our aim to tackle poverty and inequality

Our focus is to support smaller, grassroots organisations across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. We deliver funds to targeted areas of need and aim to support work that is important to local communities. Small charities and community groups reported experiencing increasing complexity of need, and with families facing financial hardship due to the sudden escalation of the cost of living, demand for their services were at an all time high. The work funded under this theme tends to be direct poverty and inequality alleviation work, like food banks – but everything we fund under any of our six themes is aimed at supporting people facing Poverty & Inequality.



Of total funds awarded went towards Poverty & Inequality themed work

Case Study

Hampshire Cubitt & West Emergency Fund

The Cubitt & West Emergency Fund was established by the Southeast's largest estate agents to provide food for those struggling to feed their families during the cost of living crisis. This fund enabled donations of more than £24,000 to nine community food banks and emergency food service projects across the region.

£2,500

To Cosham Larder Services

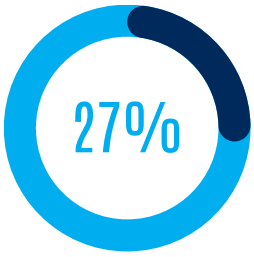
Cosham Larder

> This grant enabled us to extend our successful work - recycling surplus food and providing an economical source of food for families in Cosham, Wymering and Paulsgrove.
> It also helped us to establish a satellite hub, called the Little Larder, within the church of St Philip, which is more accessible to families and individuals who cannot travel easily to our main site.
>
> *Emma Vigor, Cosham Larder*

Flourishing Communities 2023

Enabling communities to flourish

Connecting people to local services and activities is shown to build stronger communities that can thrive. Flourishing Communities themed grants reached a huge variety of charities and community groups around the region, funding activities as wide ranging as lunch clubs for elderly people; workshops for teenagers excluded from school; and support for people facing the worst of circumstances. Every grant made had the potential to have an important impact on the participant's life – perhaps helping to reduce isolation, providing a trusted adult to work through problems with, or indeed, helping someone to truly turn their life around.



Of total funds awarded went towards Flourishing Communities themed work

Case Study

Hampshire Support for Ukrainian refugees

In 2023 HIWCF was asked by the Freemasons Charity and British Red Cross to provide funding to community groups working with refugees from Ukraine, as Hampshire and the Isle of Wight welcomed a significant number of people fleeing that conflict into the region. This funding enabled 11 groups to rally around the people arriving within their areas, to provide exactly the practical and emotional support needed at a time of crisis and trauma.

£72k
To support Ukrainian refugees

> Funding enabled us to ensure refugees felt welcomed and supported. Events within the community provided a forum for meeting others, whilst also providing support with employment, education and other practicalities that all those arriving to the UK as refugees face. We believe that bringing people together and helping individuals embed within the community, is key to happiness and health.
>
> *Alexandra Kenchington, Bridge to Unity*

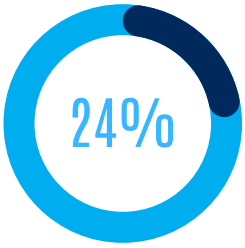
Preparing support for refugees arriving from Ukraine

Funding the direct delivery of services for refugees

Employability & Skills 2023

We fund work that champions employability and helps people develop the skills to succeed

Innovative interventions to improve employability and life opportunities are having a big impact across the region thanks to tailored support from community groups funded by HIWCF. Mentoring, employability skills training and helping children improve their literacy at an early stage are all areas of work that were funded in 2023. While employment can lead to financial independence, it can also boost the social skills needed to live fulfilling, engaged lives which benefits whole communities, socially and economically.



Of total funds awarded went towards Employability & Skills themed work

Solent Supporting Employment

HIWCF was delighted to publish its report demonstrating the extraordinary impact made by the three year programme - Solent Supporting Employment (SSE) - delivered alongside 16 community partners and ending in 2023. SSE enabled 1,200 people who were long-term unemployed in the region - from disadvantaged areas, complex backgrounds, or who had disabilities – to take steps that increased their chances of gaining employment or training. This was a hugely successful programme reaching nearly three times as many people as originally expected, delivered at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are so appreciative of the hard work, dedication and commitment shown to our communities by the groups delivering this project so effectively during a national and global crisis period.

1,200
People supported (target 450)

28
Projects funded

19
Delivery partners

£1,473,198
Total funding

The programme awarded total grants of £1,473,198 over the three-year period: 50% funding came from the European Social Fund and 50% was matched with funding from Abri, Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Sovereign Network Group.

The extraordinary results of the SSE programme show clearly that innovative and responsive approaches to supporting people on their employment journey, delivered in a community setting, can have incredible outcomes for participants.

Scan this QR to download the full SSE Report

Case Study

Isle of Wight Skills 4 Work by Sovereign Network Group

Skills 4 Work was initially designed to reach residents on the Isle of Wight who were either 'economically inactive' or long-term unemployed and who faced barriers to sustainable paid work. This included those at risk of homelessness, people with disabilities or health conditions, jobless parents, young people, those suffering from poor mental health and people with substance misuse issues. Referrals could come from Sovereign Network Group (SNG) residents or through partner organisations and each person was offered an in depth needs assessment.

Results

Participants: 200 (target 120)
Into employment or active job search: 84 (target 71)
In employment after six months: 26 (target 35)
Went on to further training: 11 (target 23)

Alison's story

Alison had fallen into financial difficulties. Having worked in a residential home throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she was suffering from trauma, a lack of confidence and poor mental health, which had led to her leaving her job. The Skills 4 Work team worked intensively with Alison, focusing on information and guidance to rebuild her confidence and overcome her anxiety about returning to the workforce. She met regularly with a careers advisor to improve her CV and prepare for interviews. Alison attended two interviews and was offered both roles. She accepted a job offer which offered good rates of pay, a secure contract and the opportunity for progression.

> "My mental health was quite poor and my advisor provided reassurance, support and guidance, and this helped me to cope with my situation. To be honest, I don't think I would have coped so well with my mental health issues and found work without his support."
>
> *Alison*

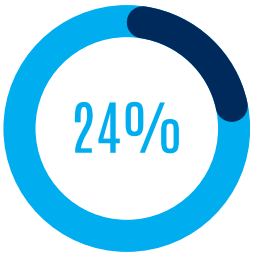
The power of local community groups

Our key learning point from the Solent Supporting Employment project was just how incredibly well placed organisations working within local communities are to provide the kind of support they need to move towards employment. From supporting people with learning disabilities, to people who had been unemployed for years, or those struggling with major mental health issues after Covid-19 lockdowns, this project made a huge difference to 1,200 people in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. We would like to thank all the participating community groups: Abri Housing, CAB Gosport, Community First Wessex, Enable Ability, Footprints, Itchen Sixth Form College, Minstead Trust, Motiv8, Osel Enterprises, Pompey in the Community, Romsey Community School, Safe New Futures, Saints Foundation, Y Services for Young People and WSX Enterprise.

Health & Wellbeing 2023

Mental, physical and emotional support

We know that many people face physical or mental health issues that can act as a barrier to their full participation in their local community. We fund work that addresses this because of the ongoing benefit improvements in mental and physical wellbeing can bring to individuals, households and communities.



Of total funds awarded went towards Health & Wellbeing themed work

Case Study

£1,849
Towards Wetwheels

Isle of Wight Cowes Sailability

Cowes Sailability Club provides opportunities for adults and young people with disabilities to socialise and engage in invigorating outdoor activities. With help from our Isle of Wight Community grant, the charity could offer motorboat trips for people with a wide range of physical and learning disabilities, including wheelchair users. A grant worth £1,849 meant Cowes Sailability Club could afford four days' charter hire for the wheel-chair accessible motorboat 'Wetwheels', as well as an engine service and new radio for the club's patrol boat.

"We are so grateful to HIWCF for its support. It was lovely to offer motorboat trips for disabled people on the Isle of Wight, especially after so many had a difficult time. Being on the water really lifts their spirits and makes them feel positive again." *Trish Rooke, Cowes Sailability*

Cowes Sailability

"Max had a tough time with lockdown, so getting out on the water with Cowes Sailability Club literally was a breath of fresh air. It was great for him to feel free of the daily restraints of being a wheelchair user and doing an activity that is fully accessible. Our smiles say it all!"

Max's mum

The Environment

Funding for environmental initiatives is vital for all our futures. We would like to fund this to a more significant level. Get in touch if you can help.

Of total funds awarded went towards The Environment themed work

Case Study

Portsmouth **Final Straw Foundation - £10,000 grant for Eco-Conference**

HIWCF funded an Eco-Conference hosted in June by The Final Straw Foundation to connect and engage young people with nature. The charity focuses on protecting oceans, waterways, and countryside from pollution, with a particular aim of reducing single use plastics through education and awareness. A grant of £10,000 from the #iWill Fund - a UK wide programme aiming to make social action a regular part of life for less affluent young people aged 10-20 - challenged young people to become guardians of the marine environment.

> We engaged 100 young people aged 10-15 - from the poorest 10% in the area - to educate them on the impact of plastic pollution and ways to combat it ~ *Bianca Carr, Final Straw Foundation*

> My hope is that there will be less plastic waste on my local beach. I will act on this by joining public beach cleans and getting my own litter picker for when I walk my dog ~ *Year 8 pupil*

Crime & Safety

Community based interventions that support individuals or communities affected by crime, or aims to reduce the likelihood of crimes being committed are vital – and often unseen. We recognise the need for increased effective funding in this space – get in touch if you can help.

Case Study

Hampshire **Yellow Door - £2,290 funded to support core costs**

Yellow Door works to prevent sexual and domestic abuse, offering a range of free services to help people overcome the negative impacts of trauma and violence. *Josh, aged 15, and his mother *Sarah, were referred to Yellow Door by Southampton's Early Help Team after experiencing years of emotional and physical abuse from Josh's father. Together, they attended Yellow Door therapy sessions and built a strong mother-son relationship, leaving them feeling able to support each other and obtain additional support needed from trusted family members.

*not their real names

Of total funds awarded went towards Crime & Safety themed work

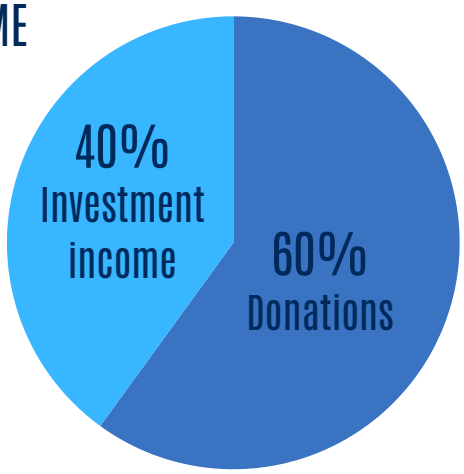
> We support young women, men, children and families. Almost half are under 25 years, and 90% have experienced domestic or sexual abuse from someone they know. HIWCF funding means we can continue providing support to vulnerable people ~ *Nicci King, Yellow Door*

Financial Summary 2023

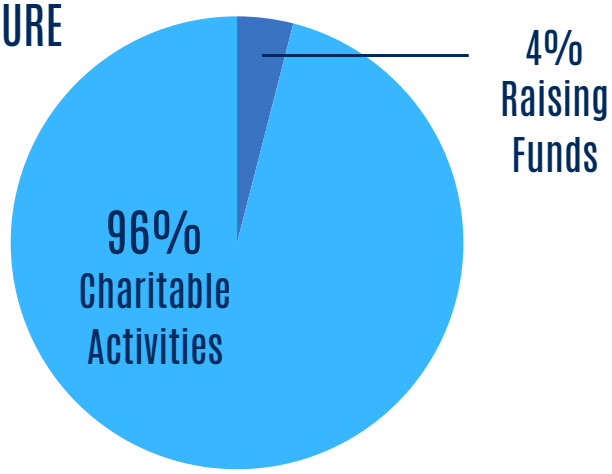
For the year ending 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Funds (£)	Total Funds (£)
Income and endowments from:				
Donations & legacies	-	375,822	233,338	609,160
Investment income	14,509	6,461	385,198	406,168
Total income	14,509	382,283	618,536	1,015,328
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	72,001	-	-	72,001
Charitable activities	274,153	1,480,574	-	1,754,727
Total expenditure	346,154	1,480,574	-	1,826,728
Operating Income	(331,645)	(1,098,291)	618,536	(811,400)
Net gains/losses on investments	(13,311)	(7,030)	975,139	954,798
Net (expenditure)/income	(344,956)	(1,105,321)	1,593,675	143,398
Transfers between funds	432,576	766,628	(1,199,204)	-
Net movement in funds	87,620	(338,693)	394,471	143,398
Fund balances brought forward	370,068	793,721	14,844,324	16,008,113
Fund balances carried forward	457,688	455,028	15,238,795	16,151,511

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



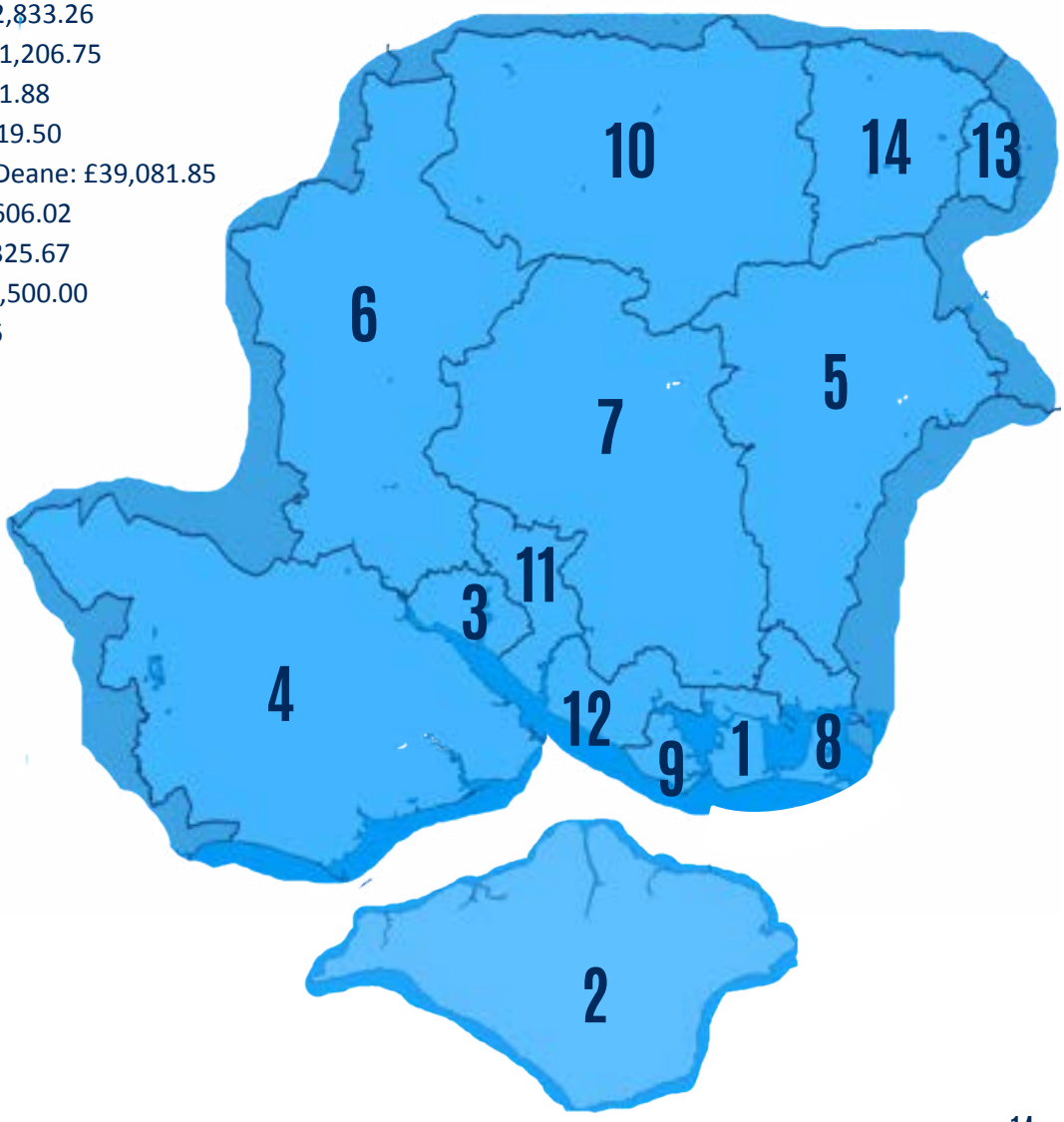
Place Based Giving 2023

HIWCF funding reaches all corners of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton

Place based giving

This map shows how our grant funding was spread across the region during 2023.

1. Portsmouth: £333,982.96
2. Isle of Wight: £233,310.38
3. Southampton: £199,835.09
4. New Forest: £158,433.99
5. East Hampshire: £82,024.87
6. Test Valley: £62,833.26
7. Winchester: £61,206.75
8. Havant: £50,491.88
9. Gosport: £49,619.50
10. Basingstoke & Deane: £39,081.85
11. Eastleigh: £28,606.02
12. Fareham: £28,325.67
13. Rushmoor: £26,500.00
14. Hart: £7,305.96



Our Team 2023

HIWCF President

Nigel Atkinson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire

President of Isle of Wight Community Fund

Susie Sheldon, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight

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The Blagrave Trust
The Bulldog Trust
The Ellis Campbell Charitable Foundation

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Ian Prideaux
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Jo Ash CBE
Josh Hensman
Matt York (joined 2024)
Michael Smith
Oliver Stanley (joined 2024)
Rob Wood
Simon Cleverly
Suki Sitaram

Thank you

We are grateful for the ongoing support we receive from our Endowment Fundholders and Flow-Through Funders. The grants this generosity enables have a huge impact on our communities and the ability to change lives for the better. On behalf of all the community groups we support across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton, thank you.

We would also like to extend a very big thank you to our volunteer Trustees, Ambassadors and panel members who generously lend their time and expertise to support our work. In addition, we would like to thank Wightlink, TechWitch, Julia Warsapp, KPMG, Buckland Capital, Shaw Gibbs, Lymington Press, Joe Low and our grant assessors team.

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Young Mums' Club