ANNUAL REVIEW

Isle of Wight 2023

HiWCF
LOCAL GIVING FOR LOCAL NEEDS

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation

LOCAL GIVING FOR LOCAL NEEDS

ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO FLOURISH

IOW Foodbank

Breakout Youth

Saturday Club 4 Deaf Children

Independent Arts IOW

Pan Together

Cowes Sailability

Abilty Dogs 4 Young People IOW

Front cover: Image courtesy of Aspire Ryde

Welcome

2023

As President of the Isle of Wight Community Fund (IWCF), I am delighted to present our annual report, highlighting the positive impacts for the Island made from the IWCF and other funders, and made possible through Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF).

In 2023, more than £230,000 of 'Island funds for Island causes' reached small charities responding to some of the big issues of our time. Support to cope with the cost of living crisis remained a strong focus, alongside managing debt, improving mental health and reducing social isolation.

Collaborative working between HIWCF, our donors and the many community groups funded across the Isle of Wight remains an effective approach to reducing disadvantage and improving the quality of life in our communities. I would like to thank everyone who has supported our organisation to support the unsung heroes on our Island. Their commitment and determination creates lifelong impacts for individuals, families and whole communities.

Susie Sheldon, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Isle of Wight and President of Isle of Wight Community Fund

Delivering important funds to Isle of Wight charities and community groups is always a rewarding experience and 2023 was no different. During another year of significant pressure from the cost of living crisis, we were able to make grants worth over £230,000 to a range of hard working and dedicated small charities. Approximately £90,000 came from endowment and other funds ringfenced through the IWCF, and approximately £130,000 came from HIWCF sources. We funded a variety of programmes enabling people with disabilities to get the support they need, and grants to organisations providing vital support to relieve the cost of living crisis in our communities.

We fund the kinds of organisations which are not well known, but who tirelessly work in their local communities. Throughout our long history of grant making we see, year on year, grassroots organisations who are very well placed to meet the increasingly complex needs of those they support. We are proud to shine a light on the hard work and dedication of these small charities and community groups, along with the volunteers who give up their time to ensure that positive impact is able to spread far and wide.

Michael Smith, Chair of IWCF

Chief Executive Highlights 2023

Community Lens: Cost of Living Crisis

Jacqui Scott,
HIWCF Chief Executive

Thanks to our donors, HIWCF was able to donate £233,000 to groups supporting some of the most vulnerable communities on the Island. Our Community Lens webinar, featuring Rachel Thomson of Pan Together from Newport, highlighted the impact of the cost of living crisis and the tough lives and daily challenges many people are facing.

Rachel and the other presenters 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. We encourage you to watch the webinar when you can - simply scan the QR code below.

> "We saw a 264% increase in visitors to the Pan Community Larder in the first six months of 2023 - the majority of whom are working families. Nobody should have to choose between fuel, food and children's clothes."
>
> *Rachel Thompson, Pan Together, Isle of Wight*

Scan to watch the webinar

'Seeing is Believing': Hosted by the Royal Yacht Squadron

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the Isle of Wight, Susie Sheldon, hosted the celebratory event at the Royal Yacht Squadron in June 2023 to recognise the support we have provided to many community groups based on the Island. Community groups showcased recently funded projects to guests including a number of individuals, business supporters and donors from the Island and Hampshire, whilst an evening reception in the Pavilion celebrated the many innovative and energetic groups who work tirelessly to support the Island's people. IOW Youth Trust, Saturday Club for Deaf Children, Ability Dogs 4 Young People and Bodster Equine Therapy contributed to the huge success of the event - with our thanks!

HIWCF AGM, Royal Yacht Squadron, June 2023

Impact of our Island grants 2023

Responding to the big issues of our time

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, distributed by IWCF, was crucial in enabling small charities and community groups on the Isle of Wight to deliver life-changing support. 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. 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.

£233,310.38
Total value of funds to the Isle of Wight

42
No. of groups supported

£4,964
Average size of grant made

47
Grants made

Support for grassroots charities & community groups

Our focus is to support smaller, grassroots organisations on the Isle of Wight. We deliver funds to targeted areas of need and aim to support work that is important to local communities. All our funding is made under one of six 'Impact Themes' - Flourishing Communities, Employability, Health & Wellbeing, Crime & Safety, The Environment, and Poverty & Inequality. Our overwhelming focus is to address poverty and inequality and this is the "golden thread" that runs through all our funding.

Impact on the Island 2023

Enabling communities on the Isle of Wight to flourish

We are enormously grateful to all our fundholders and donors who have continued to help meet the needs of small charities and community groups on the the Isle of Wight. Philanthropists and companies have continued to work with HIWCF through one-off funding programmes and endowment donations to enable community groups to help people facing particularly challenging and complex lives.

Case Study

£1,849

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*

"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!"

Impact on the Island 2023

Case Study

Isle of Wight Skills 4 Work by Sovereign Network Group

Funded as part of a large European Social Fund programme, match funded in part by Sovereign Network Group and Abri, 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.

Our Team 2023

HIWCF President

Nigel Atkinson Esq, 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 Bulldog Trust
The Ellis Campbell Charitable Foundation

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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 on the Isle of Wight, thank you.

Contact us

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation, The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4AF | Registered charity 1100417 | Company limited by guarantee 4534462

www.hiwcf.org.uk
info@hiwcf.com
01962 798700
@hiwcf
@hiwcf
@hiwcf