HiWCF

LOCAL GIVING FOR LOCAL NEEDS

Annual Review

2025

Your [grant] is more than just a contribution; it's a lifeline for those who are facing unimaginable hardships...
For the families and children we serve, including those battling homelessness, poverty, debt, and emotional distress, your support provides a glimmer of hope in their darkest moments.

- The Roberts Centre, Portsmouth.

2025

Welcome

Nigel Atkinson Esq.
HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire and HIWCF President

Community foundations play a vital role in connecting generosity with local knowledge, ensuring that support reaches people and places where it can make the greatest difference. As President of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF), I am pleased to introduce this year's Annual Review and to reflect on the remarkable work made possible through the commitment of our donors, partners and community organisations.

In 2025, HIWCF awarded nearly £900,000 in grants across Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, supporting grassroots groups that respond to some of the most pressing challenges facing our communities. Behind each grant are individuals whose lives have been strengthened through practical help, compassionate advice and opportunities to rebuild confidence and stability.

Across our region there remain significant and often hidden inequalities. Yet this review demonstrates how local community groups and volunteers continue to meet those challenges with dedication and care, often working with limited resources but extraordinary commitment. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributes to this work – the staff and volunteers delivering services on the ground, and the generous donors and Fundholders whose support enables HIWCF to continue making such an important impact.

Amelia Riviere DL, HIWCF Chair

Having taken on the role of Chair of Trustees for HIWCF at the end of 2024, this past year has been an inspiring introduction to the breadth and depth of the Foundation's work across our region. It has also been a reminder of just how important community-led support is for people facing difficult circumstances.

Throughout this review you will see examples of how HIWCF funding is helping individuals at pivotal moments in their lives. From young people leaving care and building independent futures, to people overcoming the burden of debt, and communities creating welcoming spaces for those seeking connection and belonging, these stories show the profound impact that well-targeted local funding can achieve.

Need for funding continues to grow, but so too does the opportunity to strengthen our communities through thoughtful and collaborative giving. As we continue to grow the Foundation's reach and endowment, I look forward to seeing how our collective efforts can enable even more positive change across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Reflections from the Chief Executive

As I reflect on 2025, I am so grateful for the fundholders, donors, partners and supporters who continue make our work possible. This generosity has helped HIWCF direct funding where it is needed most – to grassroots organisations supporting people through hardship, inequality and change, and helping communities not just survive, but flourish. You'll read more of those stories as you leaf through these pages.

Across our region, the pressures facing individuals and families continue to grow. Yet, time and again, we have seen the power of local, community-led solutions to create hope and opportunity when people need it most.

Thanks to your support, in 2025 we have been able to invest in programmes that reach people at pivotal moments in their lives, for example, through our Care Leavers funding, organisations such as Motiv8 have helped young people like Kelly leaving care to build confidence, stability and belief in their own futures. These young people are navigating adulthood without the safety nets many of us take for granted.

Your generosity has also supported vital debt advice services, helping people like Tyler regain control of his finances and his wellbeing after years of instability. For many, the burden of unmanageable debt is not just financial but emotional, affecting mental health, housing security and the ability to move forward.

By funding trusted, local advice services, you have helped lift that weight and restore dignity and hope.

Elsewhere, your support has strengthened communities by investing in connection and belonging. From welcoming refugees through Portsmouth City of Sanctuary's initiatives, to nurturing confidence at places like Monty's Community Hub, targeted funding has helped create safe, inclusive spaces where people are valued and heard.

Listening to our communities remains central to how we work. In 2025, our Community Lens conversations with grassroots leaders reinforced what we see every day: small organisations are responding to increasingly complex needs with compassion, creativity and limited resources. Your support allows them to continue this essential work, often preventing crises before they escalate.

In September 2025, we were saddened to hear of the death of Michael Campbell, our founding Chair, and in January 2026 of our esteemed Trustee, Ian Prideaux. Both have left an indelible mark on the Foundation and are greatly missed.

On behalf of everyone at HIWCF, and the communities we serve, thank you. Your commitment to local giving is driving real, lasting change across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. There is so much more to do. Together, we are building stronger, fairer communities – now and for the future.

Our impact: 2025

Poverty & Inequality

The golden thread running through all our grant making is the alleviation of poverty and inequality: in 2025, £143,036 was invested directly in poverty alleviation services and we know that every single grant we make reaches a community or individual facing unique need.

Health & Wellbeing

£393,156

funding projects that reduce isolation and improving quality of life.

Flourishing Communities

£269,321

funding projects that foster connection, inclusion, and enabling communities to thrive.

Employability & Skills

£70,421

funding projects that help disadvantaged people to move closer to employment.

Crime & Safety

£12,687

funding projects to reduce offending and support victims.

HIWCF is hugely grateful to its fundholders and donors for continuing to support small charities and community groups across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. Through one-off programmes and long term endowment Funds, our approach gives philanthropists and businesses the chance to enable local organisations to support people facing complex and challenging lives. All our grants are awarded under one of six key impact themes explored in this report - in 2025, we awarded nearly £900K in grants aligned to these themes. Our core theme, Poverty & Inequality, runs as a golden thread through all our work, recognising the deep interconnection between poverty and other social challenges.

While funding under Employability & Skills, Crime & Safety and The Environment was lower this year than in some of our other themes, these remain important priority areas for HIWCF. Our ability to invest in specific themes is directly shaped by the priorities of the philanthropists, institutions and businesses who choose to partner with us, and we are committed to honouring the intentions of those who entrust us with their giving. We know that community safety, prevention work and environmental sustainability are critical to the long-term wellbeing and resilience of our region. As we look ahead, we are keen to work with new and existing supporters whose passions align with these areas, so that together we can strengthen local responses to these themes.

£888,623
Total distributed in 2025

201
Grants

£4,421
Average size of grant

150,000
Approx beneficiaries reached

Place based giving

Our grants data reflects both levels of need in communities, and the specific purposes of the funds entrusted to us. Wherever we can, we direct funding to the places where need is highest, but we – like any other charity – must work within the restrictions of our incoming funding. For example, the New Forest, has received a high level of funding, due to a large place-based fund, the Charles Burnett Memorial Fund, which specifically supports projects in the New Forest where Charles Burnett lived, whereas Southampton, a relatively deprived city, has only one Fund dedicated to supporting communities.

One advantage to our working in this way means that areas that can be perceived as well-off get the chance to receive funding that supports disadvantaged people living within wealthier areas - a demographic often missed by other funders.

We continue to prioritise investment in communities experiencing the greatest disadvantage and are working hard to build relationships with philanthropists and businesses to enable that. By growing our network of donors across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, we aim to ensure our impact is felt across the whole region.

1. **Basingstoke & Deane: £63,832.76**
2. **East Hampshire: £46,877.42**
3. **Eastleigh: £13,616**
4. **Fareham: £3,800**
5. **Gosport: £6,194.26**
6. **Hart: £5,922**
7. **Havant: £1,000**
8. **Isle of Wight: £159,919.81**
9. **New Forest: £232,157.99**
10. **Portsmouth: £163,066.47**
11. **Rushmoor: £10,342**
12. **Southampton: £28,689.11**
13. **Test Valley: £11,795.77**
14. **Winchester: £27,148.39**

"The support that HIWCF gave us was instrumental and so valuable... It was a really valuable grant that we received at a time that we, and the community we serve, was in desperate need for it... Not having these small grants would be a devastating blow, particularly to small organisations"

Shonagh Dillon, CEO Aurora New Dawn

Poverty & Inequality

Addressing poverty and inequality lies at the heart of HIWCF's mission. We direct our funding where need is greatest – to grassroot organisations working to alleviate some of our region's most pressing issues. With financial hardship rising and challenges facing individuals and families growing in complexity, the demand for compassionate, community led support has never been stronger. All of our work across our six impact themes contributes to reducing poverty and inequality and helping people to build more secure, hopeful futures.

Our funding reaches people at pivotal moments, often when a little support can make all the difference. For care leaver, Kelly, life after the foster system brough tough realities: no family safety net, unstable housing and mounting bills. Through the support of Motiv8, backed by HIWCF's Care Leavers Fund, Kelly gained vital advocacy, guidance and help navigating systems that can feel overwhelming. Rather than struggling alone, she found someone who listened and believed in her. Today she speaks with gratitude about the stability and confidence she's been able to build: **"Before I joined Motiv8, I didn't believe I was worth anything or had anyone to talk to... Now I believe I can achieve anything I put my mind to and be a good role model for others that need it."**

For others, poverty takes the form of unmanageable debt – a problem that can trap people in a cycle of anxiety and financial insecurity. Tyler's story illustrates how vital local support can transform a life. After nearly a decade of homelessness and struggling with addiction, Tyler (pictured above) secured a home, only to find years of unpaid loans, benefit advances and unaffordable contracts threatening his fresh start. He says: **"The worry that someone's going to knock on the door, start removing your goods and taking your stuff was just such a weight."**

Referred to the debt advice service at Citizens Advice Winchester — funded by HIWCF — Tyler found practical, non-judgmental help to understand his situation and plan a way forward.

With the support of his debt caseworker, he organised his paperwork, set up manageable payments and applied for a debt relief order to have his debts written off.

> **"I didn't want to lose my home and I knew if I just buried my head in the sand like I always did, I might. It's like a never ending spiral, you know? Something had to give and fortunately for me, I heard about these people here and how they could help. Because without them here, I don't know where I'd be right now."**
>
> Tyler, client of Citizens Advice Winchester

These personal journeys show how locally based, compassionate services can create real change: helping people reduce financial barriers, access essential rights and opportunities, and step into a future with greater security and dignity.

Flourishing Communities

Across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight, funding from HIWCF is helping people of all ages and backgrounds feel safer, more connected and genuinely rooted in community life. Two inspiring stories from Portsmouth and Southampton show how targeted and impactful funding can enable flourishing communities.

In Portsmouth, HIWCF's Portsmouth City Community Fund has helped Portsmouth City of Sanctuary offer practical and emotional support to asylum seekers and refugees. One beneficiary, Kadiatu (pictured, right), describes her experience of arriving with little English and few connections before finding welcome and purpose.

"When I came to Portsmouth I was a little bit stressed because I didn't know anyone. But when I met Sharmila for the first time she took me in and said 'we are your family now, so you don't need to worry about anything'. It gave me that hope that I had found a family and I knew I could start again."

Kadiatu, client of Portsmouth City of Sanctuary

Through the Kitchen of Hope and other activities, City of Sanctuary supports people to build confidence, learn English, share culture and contribute – cooking and serving meals that help refugees feel closer to home while gaining skills for the future. Trustee Malcolm Little reflects on what this kind of support means for those involved: **"HIWCF has been really, really important to us and a regular provider for those non-core activities that make life bearable, like our Kitchen of Hope and our other food and art projects. What we do is to welcome people and make it dignified and compassionate. Without that, it would just be a bit prescriptive and cold."**

In Southampton, thanks in part to funding from the Including Communities and Get Active, Get Involved funds, Monty's Community Hub has become a vibrant, community-run space where people connect, contribute and grow. Hub manager Anna Jacklin explains the ethos behind this work: **"This area does face some real challenges but I don't love to dwell on them. There's something about what we do at Monty's which enables us to say, 'well that's not the whole story of this area'. Actually this area is full of people who are passionate about their community, who have skills, who can come and dream together about the changes that could happen and want to be part of that change and give their time and their skills and find a community here."**

For people like Greta (pictured right), Monty's has been transformational: **"Being a part of this has given me huge confidence. We have a community lunch and a few years ago I wouldn't show up but now I speak to people. Because I feel more confident, I feel more open to trying things. Now I can see that I can be free and I can do whatever I want and not be in this little box."**

Employability & Skills

We believe that everyone deserves the chance to build the skills, confidence and opportunities that lead to meaningful work and a brighter future. From mentoring and hands-on training to creative learning and confidence building experiences, funding under our Employability & Skills theme support projects that help to remove barriers for people across our region.

In the waters of the Solent, Ocean Youth Trust South's sail training programme has become a powerful force for change for Hampshire's youth. With support from the Charles Burnett Memorial Fund, disadvantaged young people from Applemore College in Hythe took part in a five-day voyage aboard the training vessel Prolific. This was more than an adventure at sea, the experience helped the students build vital life skills, including communication, teamwork and resilience and self-belief. Teachers saw real transformations, with students returning to school more confident, engaged and ambitious about their futures. Mark Robinson, Pastoral Lead at Applemore says:

"The leap forward we see in them during the week is fantastic. When we talk about real breakthrough moments with children – this is what these voyages provide. It builds their self-esteem, confidence, sense of belonging and ability to deal with adversity. The benefit is monumental... It shows them what life can offer – and when you come from a disadvantaged background, that's incredibly aspirational."

Mark, Pastoral Lead, Applemore College

Closer to the edge of the New Forest, funding for Youth and Families Matter enabled the launch of WILD - Lives Reimagined Without Constraints, a tailored learning programme designed for people facing complex barriers to work, education and community participation. Combining coaching, life skills training and outdoor learning, WILD gives participants practical tools and encouragement to move forward. Early feedback from participants paints a powerful picture – people are gaining confidence in everyday skills like budgeting and communication, and discovering a renewed belief in themselves.

One participant commented: **"WILD has helped me believe in myself and my choices. I feel like it's given me the ability to accept my limitations, but not be limited by them."**

HIWCF is also supporting young entrepreneurs through the SWEF enterprise fund. Tiny Visions is a Basingstoke based service established by Sebastian Petre that turns children's drawings into 3D printed figurines (example pictured below). Sebastian was awarded £485 and says: **"I love transforming children's drawings into keepsakes families can cherish. I'm dedicated to working hard, providing high-quality products, and offering excellent customer service. My creativity, persistence and genuine belief in preserving childhood memories give the business strong potential for lasting success"**

Health & Wellbeing

Good physical, emotional and mental health is foundational to a good life, yet too many people face barriers that make wellbeing hard to achieve. Funding under our Health & Wellbeing impact theme has enabled vital services and community-led initiatives to support people to overcome those barriers and thrive.

In 2025, we heard first-hand how our funding transformed everyday lives in deeply human ways. In Portsmouth, a young person who we are able to call 'T' found himself in trouble and struggling with instability at home. When local charity URBOND was able to use £4,950 from our Get Active, Get Involved Fund to run free football and youth sessions, T didn't just kick a ball, he discovered structure, trust and belonging. Supported by coaches and mentors, he began to channel his energy more positively, build confidence, and form meaningful friendships. His mother describes the space they found through this support as **"a source of stability, connection, and hope"** at a time when life felt overwhelming.

In the New Forest, £21,000 from our Charles Burnett Memorial Fund was used to support HOPe New Forest's befriending service bring companionship and purpose to someone's week. Carol, who had been largely housebound due to health challenges, felt her life had grown empty, but now she looks forward to time with her befriender, Kathy.

What began with regular chats has grown into a genuine friendship – one that has eased Carol's isolation and given her a reason to engage with life beyond her doorstep. The careful matching and ongoing support from HOPe, made possible through our grant, means people like Carol don't need to alone.

These stories are just two examples of how local giving can improve wellbeing across our region, helping people build connection, confidence and a sense of belonging.

"Although we gelled, it was still very strange for me to think of someone being there, but it was nice. Now I think 'Oh, Wednesday, Kathy will be here soon' and that part is nice, you know? Having somebody there, knowing that they're going to be there every week. My life often revolves around a Wednesday because that's the only day it feels like there is anything going on."

Carol, client of HOPe New Forest (pictured above with Kathy, right)

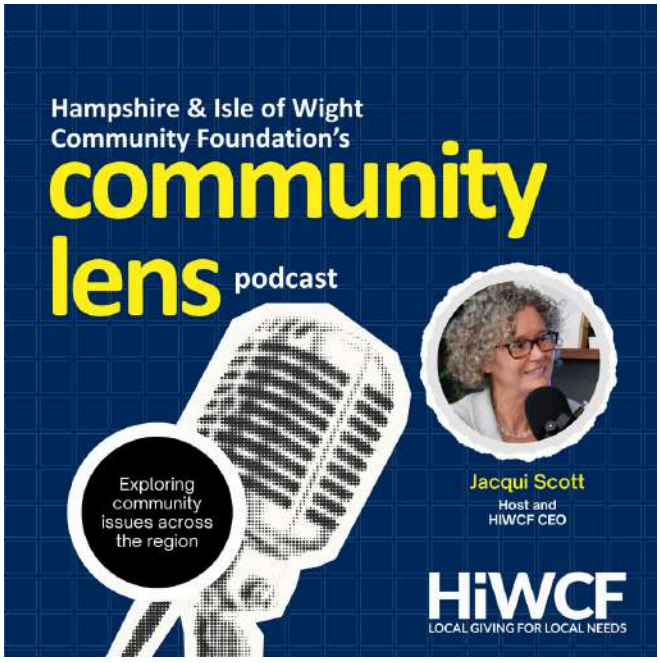
Financial summary 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	£35,362	£302,507	£0	£337,869
Investment income	£36,212	£12,026	£384,667	£432,905
Total income	**£71,574**	**£314,534**	**£384,666**	**£770,774**
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	£93,972	£0	£0	£93,972
Charitable activities	£304,585	£889,997	£0	£1,194,582
Total expenditure	**£398,557**	**£889,997**	**£0**	**£1,288,554**
Operating surplus (loss) before transfers	(£326,983)	(£575,463)	£384,666	(£517,780)
Net gains (losses) on investments	£0	£0	(£233,966)	(£233,966)
Net (expenditure) income	(£326,983)	(£575,463)	£150,700	(£751,746)
Transfers between funds	£149,441	£721,742	(£871,183)	£0
Net movement in funds	(£177,542)	£146,279	(£720,483)	(£751,746)
Fund balances brought forward*	£767,489	£425,715	£14,976,369	£16,169,573
Fund balances carried forward	**£589,947**	**£571,994**	**£14,255,886**	**£15,417,827**

* restated

HIWCF Community Lens podcast

Our new podcast series offers a closer look at the communities, organisations and individuals that make Hampshire and the Isle of Wight such vibrant and resilient places to live. Across the series, our CEO Jacqui Scott speaks with local community group leaders, community partners and changemakers about the realities of their work and the difference that charitable funding can make on the ground.



Each episode explores a different theme, from tackling isolation and supporting young people, to strengthening community connections and responding to local challenges. Through these conversations, listeners hear first-hand how community organisations are supporting people every day - often in ways that are not always visible from the outside.

We invite you to listen to the series to learn more about the people behind the projects we fund, and to better understand the lasting difference that local philanthropy can make.

Episodes:

- **Hampshire care leavers:** visualised podcast with guests Kirsty Robertson, CEO Motiv8 and Liz Hubbuck, Youth Engagement Manager, Hampshire & IOW Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- **Bridging the gap: employability and young people facing barriers:** with Chris Hillman, Head of Empowering Employment, Minstead Trust and Sam Fulling, Managing Director, Saints Foundation
- **Meeting young people where they are:** Community Solutions to Disadvantage: with Paul Napthine, CEO of Oarsome Chance
- **Community support and LGBTQ+ wellbeing:** with Zoe Grant from BreakOut Youth.
- **Hidden in plain sight: poverty in an 'affluent' region:** with Sam Mabbott, CEO, Citizens Advice Hart and Oliver Stanley, HIWCF Trustee and Chair of Trustees of New Forest Basics Bank
- **Building belonging in Portsmouth: inclusion, collaboration and growth:** with Dave Humphries, CEO, Shaping Portsmouth and Saidou Jammeh, Secretary, Portsmouth Gambian Association
- **Living well with dementia: the power of community support:** with Joe Robertson MP, Isle of Wight East and Maggie Bennett, Alzheimer Cafe IOW

HiWCF
LOCAL GIVING FOR LOCAL NEEDS

What will your legacy be?

Planning for the future?

If you would like to discuss leaving a gift in your Will, we would be delighted to meet with you.

Email philanthropy@hiwcf.com or scan the QR code below to find out more

You can choose to:

Support local needs through our grant programmes

Create a named fund to reflect your interests

Remember a loved one with a memorial fund

Whatever you decide, we'll work with you (or your adviser) to ensure your wishes are clear and your gift achieves the impact you want.

“Through my involvement with small charities and now working closely with HIWCF, I see ordinary people doing extraordinary things for their community... I love that HIWCF enables groups to continue offering such meaningful and vital support.”

– Amelia Riviere, HIWCF Chair of Trustees

Types of gifts:

Residuary – a share of your estate

Pecuniary – a fixed sum

Specific – assets such as property or shares

We can provide suggested wording and guidance, and we always recommend taking independent legal advice.

HIWCF Team

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

President of Isle of Wight Community Fund
Mrs Susie Sheldon, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight

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