



## Gateshead Thrive Fund

### Impact Report 2018 - 2019





## Your year 2018 - 2019

Welcome to the Gateshead Thrive Fund Impact Report for financial year 2018-2019.

This year, the Fund became fully aligned to Gateshead Council's strategic approach to help communities not just survive, but to flourish, prosper and succeed. In total, 24 grants were awarded to a broad range of organisations working across the Borough, from sports clubs and small community groups, to community centres and ambitious partnership projects; all have one thing in common: the aim to make Gateshead a place where everyone thrives. Later in the report, monitoring and thank you letters from funded groups are presented in their own words, further illustrating the value and impact of the Fund.

The tables later in this report present information on all grants made during the year: Round 1 awarded 11 grants totalling £112,792, and Round 2 awarded 13 grants totalling £109,157. One Round 1 grant of £10,000 was subsequently cancelled, as the organisation did not wish to proceed, therefore total main grant funding in 2018-19 was £211,949. Compared with 2018's total grant making of £301,696 across 39 grants, there has been a reduction in overall grantmaking commensurate with the reduction, by approximately one-third, in funds available for main grants this year.

### Grant summary

Grants awarded fell broadly into four themes: strategy and planning, capital grants, core/salary costs and activity costs. Of the 24 grants awarded, only one was from a Jewish Community group and one from an organisation supporting the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic community; this represents a significant downturn from the previous year for grants to these communities. Examples of funded work this year include:

**Bensham and Saltwell Alive** was awarded an exceptional grant of £30,000 for the 'Best of Bensham Partnership', in collaboration St Chad's Community Project and the Parish of Bensham and Teams. This new network will develop a neighbourhood offer based on the expressed needs and aspirations of local people, developing new ways of working and capacity building, and strengthening delivery of activities alongside longer-term planning.

**Teamwork Development Trust CIC** received funding to support development of a five-year group business plan which will focus on governance, marketing, income generation and development of services. Funding will also support the implementation of a Social Return On Investment (SROI) framework, training key staff so that they can capture and report on impact and value in-house and offer an SROI reporting service to external third sector organisations as a new income stream in the future.

**Zayis Raanon** deliver services and activities for elderly and vulnerable people within the Jewish community in Gateshead. The grant will support development of their three-year strategic and funding plan; the organisation will work with consultants from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to identify methods of securing more sustainable

income to avoid any break or temporary closure of the service once current National Lottery funding ends.

**Saltwell Park Model Boat Club's** grant covered the costs of a new natural Welsh slate roof for their Clubhouse and provision of a training programme for Club members, as part of an upskilling process ahead of the organisation becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. They will also purchase ICT equipment and publicity materials, including a refresh of their website, which will help improve communications and visibility across the Borough.

The grant to **Warriors Community Project** will contribute to the purchase of a new heating system at the Whitehills Centre. The lack of adequate heating has been a barrier to attendance in winter months and has been very costly. Savings on bills will help the group to become more self-sufficient, create new activities and strengthen their role within the wider community.

**The Comfrey Project** has been re-establishing itself and plans to become financially stable, having undertaken major changes to be in a position to survive. The grant will enable implementation of a new Business Plan and add to staff capacity, with the intention of recruiting people with the necessary skills to deliver activities and support to the most vulnerable communities in Gateshead.

**Birtley Community Partnership** has seen an increase in those needing help, particularly around food poverty and Universal Credit. The grant will contribute to salary costs of a Development Worker and Administrator; these roles will support a change in focus to respond to these issues and strengthen their capacity, helping individuals to gain a sense of belonging and responsibility for the area.

**Gateshead and Whickham Amateur Swimming Club** have seen their membership fall over the last two years and, on a monthly basis, costs outweigh income. Consequently, they are looking at measures to help grow the membership; the grant will allow them work with Gateshead Council on an academy scheme and will put in place systems to help manage registrations and ongoing membership, which will better support tracking of swimmers and their subscriptions. As the main customer of Gateshead Council pools, an investment now may help ensure the Club's future and that of the facilities.

**High Spen Community Group** received a grant to deliver 'The High Spen Heroes', a celebration event of Thomas Young and William Dobson of High Spen who were both awarded the Victoria Cross during the First World War. The project honoured these men and used their stories as a positive focus for community activities, intergenerational commemoration and celebration.

**Chopwell Community Association** received a grant to develop a new way of working by taking on the responsibility for the continuation of youth services. A new approach to delivery will be introduced and the grant will enable capacity building through the

recruitment and training of volunteers which, in turn, should make the service sustainable and less grant reliant.

**Northern Pride Events Ltd's** grant will support expansion of their work into Gateshead as they relocate to the Pride World Media Centre in Pelaw. The move will allow more access to local communities and enable more LGBT events to be held in the Gateshead City and East areas. Offering outreach work in deprived or challenging areas helps to engage with those who may have little access to support; being visible in areas away from large city centres is important to break down barriers and increase awareness.

### **Small Grants programme**

The Community Grants Programme was a new addition to the Fund's delivery portfolio this year. There were two rounds of this rolling fast-track programme, with Round 1 opening May 2018 and Round 2 opening in September 2018. The programme awarded grants totalling £25,603 to 20 smaller organisations with the aim to support them to grow through improved governance and management skills, as well as supporting the Council's Thrive agenda.

A summary of small grants awarded during Gateshead Volunteers' Month is presented later in the report, together with an overview of the Sporting Grants for Individuals and Talented Athlete Scheme.

Nils Stronach  
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## The Gateshead Fund - Budget for 2018/19

The table below sets out the funds available during the year and is followed by information on grants awarded.

Financial Summary	
Gateshead Thrive Fund 2018/19	£300,000
Capacity Fund 2017/18 carry over	£117,000
Funding returned - three cancelled grants	£26,360
<b>Total Gateshead Thrive Fund budget 2018/19</b>	<b>£443,360</b>
<b>Gateshead Thrive Fund component breakdown</b>	
Main Grants funding available to organisations	£255,360
Talented Athlete / Sporting Individuals small grants	£12,000
Local Community Fund	£66,000
Newcastle City Futures Crowdfunding+ pilot platform	£30,000
Community Grants Programme	£60,000
Gateshead Volunteers Month 2018 small grants	£20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£443,360</b>





## Grants awarded 2018/19

<b>Main Fund Round 1</b>	
<b>Bensham and Saltwell Alive</b> Best of Bensham Partnership - Connecting Assets	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Comfrey Project CIO</b> Core salary costs for two new posts	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Birtley Community Partnership</b> The Hub core funding	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Rutherford AFC</b> Contribution to cost of a new tractor	<b>9,840</b>
<b>Blaydon Youth and Community Centre</b> Increasing capacity and sustainability	<b>9,598</b>
<b>Society Matters CIC</b> Improving and expanding welfare training programmes	<b>9,250</b>
<b>Saltwell Park Model Boat Club</b> Saltwell Park Model Boat Clubhouse	<b>6,650</b>
<b>Teamwork Development Trust CIC</b> Planning Teamwork's future during its 30th year of service delivery	<b>6,280</b>
<b>Earth Doctors Ltd.*</b> "One loaf at a time" - establishment of a bakery training hub in Deckham	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Low Fell Running Club</b> Taking Low Fell Running Club to the 'next level.'	<b>2,674</b>
<b>High Spen Community Group</b> The High Spen Heroes	<b>8,500</b>
<b>11 Grants</b>	<b>£112,792</b>

\* - grant not accepted

<b>Community Grants Programme: Round 1</b>	
<b>Skills 4 work Gateshead</b> Summer Fun, Fitness & Freebies	<b>1,280</b>
<b>Birtley Community Association</b> Holiday meal and activity project	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Soundroom Community Music Project</b> Help towards utilities costs for The Soundroom	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Cragside Court Residents Group</b> Start Up of Cragside Court Residents Group	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Friends of Watergate Forest Park</b> Noticeboard for Watergate Forest Park & Funding for family activities	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Family Church Gateshead</b> Kitchen refurbishment	<b>1,500</b>
<b>1st Winlaton Scout Group</b> Autism Training / Awareness	<b>650</b>
<b>7 Grants</b>	<b>£8,430</b>



<b>Main Fund Round 2</b>	
<b>Chopwell Community Association</b> Chopwell community-led youth work	<b>9,554</b>
<b>Northern Pride Events Ltd</b> Growing Pride in Gateshead	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Gateshead and Whickham Amateur Swimming Club</b> Building for the future	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Friends of Chopwell Park</b> Chopwell BMX/Pump Track	<b>2,383</b>
<b>Skills for Work (Gateshead) Limited</b> Preparing for growth	<b>9,705</b>
<b>Elgin Community Kitchen CIC</b> ElGain - allowing volunteers to meet their full potential	<b>4,081</b>
<b>New Vision Training</b> Making Every Contact Count (MECC) supported Peer Led Partnership Training	<b>9,980</b>
<b>St Chad's Community Project</b> Steps to future success	<b>10,000</b>
<b>The Kittiwake Trust</b> Improving Literacy levels in East Gateshead	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Warriors Community Project</b> Community centre heating project	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Zayis Raanon</b> Moving Forward: development of strategic and funding plan	<b>6,000</b>
<b>Swalwell Juniors Under 7's Football Club</b> Training newly recruited trustees and volunteers and equipment	<b>7,470</b>
<b>Gateshead Harriers and Athletics Club</b> Equipment to improve standards and community engagement	<b>9,984</b>
<b>13 Grants</b>	<b>£109,157</b>

<b>Community Grants Programme: Round 2</b>	
<b>1st Birtley Rangers</b> Setting up a Ranger Unit in Birtley	<b>1,352</b>
<b>Friends of Shadon House</b> Stitching the Community Back Together Again	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Friends of St Mark's</b> Please, Make Yourself at Home	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Eighton Banks Village Hall Youth Club</b> Skills for independence activities	<b>522</b>
<b>Birtley Community Association</b> Christmas Lunch	<b>570</b>

<b>Carers Cultural Adventures</b> Connecting Carers Through Creativity	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Angel Court and the Bungalows Residence Social Fund</b> Angels Wanted: seeking new creative group members!	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Wood Green Residents Association</b> Hen Roadshows helping us to help others	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Bluebells of Philips Court</b> Open Door Music Sessions	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Wonderful Wardleygaters</b> Gateshead Together: Making More Memories	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Gateshead People</b> Supper Club - cooking and eating together for fun	<b>1,466</b>
<b>Highfield Village Community Action Group</b> Make Highfield Look Great	<b>1,263</b>
<b>Friends of Felling Park and Town Centre</b> Community Planting Project	<b>1,500</b>
<b>13 Grants</b>	<b>£17,173</b>

<b>Sports grants: Round 1</b>	
<b>Individual Sporting Grants Scheme – 30 grants</b>	<b>6,600</b>
<b>Talented Athlete Scheme – 1 grant</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Sports grants: Round 2</b>	
<b>Individual Sporting Grants Scheme – 18 grants</b>	<b>3,400</b>
<b>Talented Athlete Scheme – 1 grant</b>	<b>1,000</b>

## Gateshead Volunteers Month – June 2018

**26 Grants**
**£10,975**

Taking place in June 2018, Gateshead's Volunteers' Month enabled VCS organisations to organise events to encourage and support residents to help out in their communities through volunteering. The Fund supports events which:

- raise awareness of the benefits of volunteering
- support and enable volunteering for both new and existing volunteers
- create capacity through volunteering
- improve the health and wellbeing of volunteers
- deliver the aims of the Gateshead Volunteer Plan
- confirm Gateshead's reputation as a national leader in volunteering
- improve health and wellbeing

This year, Volunteers' Month also aimed to support groups to deliver projects to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and those to complement and/or enhance the Great Exhibition of the North.

Of the 28 grants awarded, 25 went ahead with a total of £10,975 allocated to groups and organisations across Gateshead. During the month, many events were held, including local environment clean ups, family fund days, workshops and training days. There were a number of volunteer recruitment days and volunteer celebration events, all of which recognised the valuable commitment made by Gateshead residents to various worthy causes across the Borough. A selection of feedback from these events is included later in the report.

Throughout the month, 113,151 hours were recorded on a volunteer totaliser, which equates to a £1.47m contribution to the Borough's economy. The table below illustrates the volunteer contribution in Gateshead since 2013.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Volunteer hours</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>38,224</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>101,170</b>	<b>106,189</b>
<b>£ equivalent</b>	<b>£455,000</b>	<b>£497,000</b>	<b>£728,000</b>	<b>£1.31m</b>	<b>£1.38m</b>

The table below shows the pattern of grant spend across Gateshead (2016 – 2019)

Ward  (IMD key: red = top 10%, Green = 10-20%)	% of population in deprivation band IMD (2015)	2016 - 17			2017 - 18			2018 - 19		
		Ward spend per head	Indicative total spend	Indicative total spend per capita*	Ward spend per head	Indicative total spend	Indicative total spend per capita*	Ward spend per head	Indicative total spend	Indicative total spend per capita*
Felling	64.2	£1.49	£22,041	£2.39	£0.05	£7,039	£0.76	£1.09	£15,777	1.66
High Fell	50.7	£1.79	£26,078	£2.69	£0.00	£6,884	£0.71	£0.00	£6,082	0.58
Deckham	41	£1.57	£24,644	£2.47	£0.00	£7,078	£0.71	£0.41	£10,335	0.99
Lobley Hill and Bensham	29.1	£1.87	£28,426	£2.77	£4.35	£51,914	£5.06	£5.45	£62,272	6.02
Bridges	26.3	£1.94	£27,742	£2.84	£1.53	£21,877	£2.24	£0.00	£6,134	0.58
Dunston and Teams	21.9	£1.81	£24,616	£2.71	£1.57	£20,759	£2.28	£0.00	£5,705	0.58
Lamesley	20	£0.00	£8,614	£0.90	£0.00	£6,794	£0.71	£0.00	£6,003	0.58
Windy Nook and Whitehills	53.8	£0.17	£10,277	£1.07	£0.00	£6,837	£0.71	£1.04	£16,041	1.62
Saltwell	51.5	£0.38	£13,499	£1.28	£0.00	£7,508	£0.71	£0.00	£6,633	0.58
Chowdene	33.3	£0.00	£8,083	£0.90	£0.00	£6,375	£0.71	£0.00	£5,633	0.58
Blaydon	26	£0.84	£17,483	£1.74	£0.99	£17,148	£1.70	£0.95	£15,914	1.53
Birtley	19.1	1.20	£17,508	£2.10	£2.27	£24,821	£2.98	£1.20	£15,232	1.78
Low Fell	-	£0.00	£7,600	£0.90	£1.18	£15,994	£1.89	£0.32	£7,970	0.89
Wardley and Leam Lane	-	£0.24	£9,424	£1.14	£1.21	£15,855	£1.92	£0.00	£5,173	0.58
Dunston Hill and Whickham East	-	£0.64	£13,991	£1.54	£0.00	£6,460	£0.71	£0.00	£5,708	0.58
Crawcrook and Greenside	-	£2.16	£26,964	£3.06	£1.14	£16,249	£1.85	£0.00	£5,522	0.58
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	-	£1.27	£20,094	£2.17	£0.00	£6,566	£0.71	£1.23	£17,738	1.87
Ryton, Crookhill and Stella	-	£1.76	£22,916	£2.66	£1.08	£15,355	£1.79	£0.00	£5,394	0.58
Pelaw and Heworth	-	£0.00	£7,967	£0.90	£2.19	£24,791	£2.92	£0.00	£5,141	0.58
Whickham North	-	£0.00	£7,377	£0.90	£0.00	£5,818	£0.71	£0.00	£5,141	0.58
Whickham South and Sunniside	-	£0.00	£7,252	£0.90	£0.00	£5,720	£0.71	£0.00	£5,054	0.58
Winlaton and High Spen	-	£0.00	£7,469	£0.90	£0.98	£14,041	£1.69	£1.02	£13,705	1.60
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£360,065</b>			<b>£311,883</b>			<b>£248,527</b>	

\*Includes a proportion of Gateshead-wide expenditure calculated on the basis of ward population.

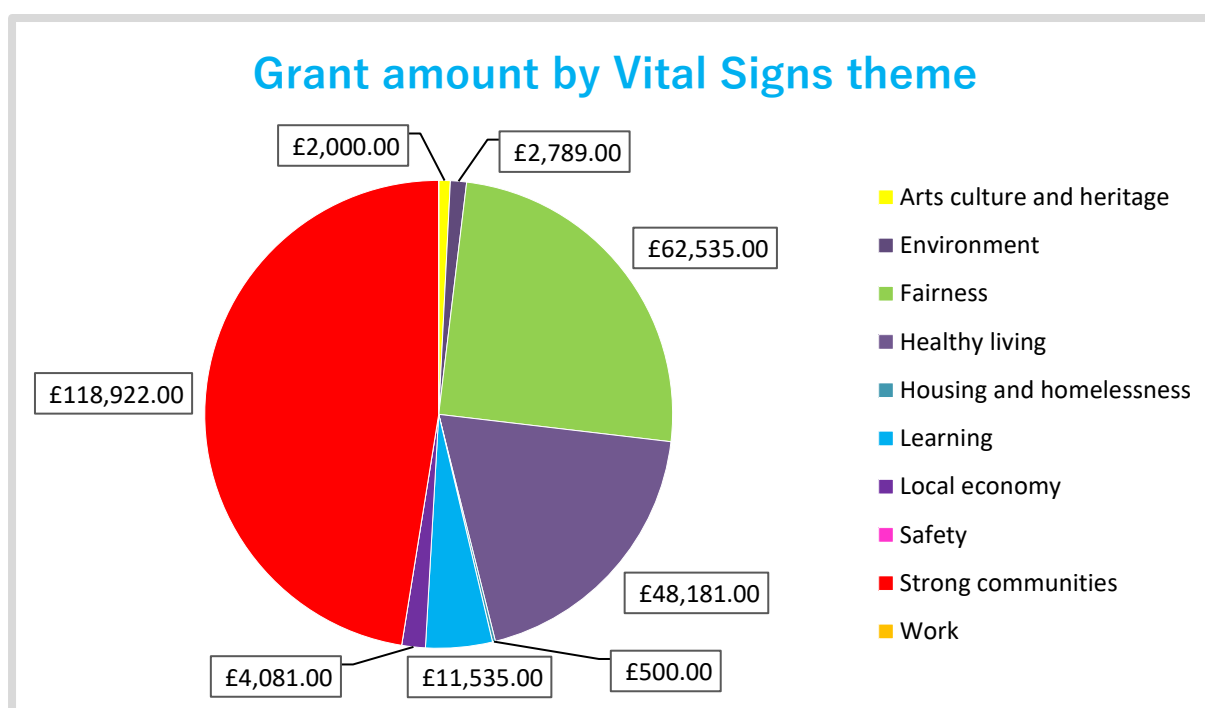
## Vital Signs

Our Vital Signs work enables us to prioritise our efforts to support projects addressing poverty, diversity and mental health, all of which are significant causes for concern. Appendix one (p54) details our recent Vital Signs report on Food Poverty, highlighting the issue and how grant-making and philanthropy can make a difference in our region.

We also continue to seek to target more support towards geographic “cold spots” where we wish to make more grants; as part of our strategy to address this, I am delighted to announce that at the start of this year we made £620,000 of unrestricted grants to trusted groups working to address these issues in our area.

## Grant distribution

The following graph show the distribution of your grants\* across our Vital Signs themes.



\* Data includes grants subsequently withdrawn or refunded



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The Millin Charity	
Project	Local Women Local Enterprise Gateshead
Grant amount	£9,923

*“This grant has ensured continuity of much needed services in Gateshead over the last year so that women have continued to have a specialist service they can engage with when they are considering self-employment. Additionally, this has also enabled us as an organisation to gain a greater understanding of the needs of target groups of women in Gateshead. Delivery included accredited training, Inspiring Enterprise and Crafts workshops, a winter Market to enable women to trial trade to the public. Delivery also included a celebration event attended by 60 women from Gateshead.*

*Funding has enabled us to develop a greater understanding of the needs of key underrepresented groups in Gateshead. We have run the project in line with a research project commissioned by Gateshead Council Economic Development Team into Female Entrepreneurship in the Borough. We now have a full research report into the needs of women in Gateshead considering self-employment, the existing services, the current gaps and the proposed services that would create a woman focused enterprise offer.*

*We have developed stronger connections with local organisations and have been able to use evaluations to develop our future delivery plan, including the creation of the monthly network. Delivering to the JCCG has enabled us to develop a greater understand of the Jewish Community in Gateshead. From this we have tailored a number of workshops to ensure they are fit for purpose, developing capacity and understanding of this community. As well as developing relationships with key delivery partners we have formed referral links with the Gateshead Carers Centre, Comfrey Project, Local Primary Schools, Gateshead CLLD, Wise Steps and Gateshead Council’s Community Development Team.*

*We have found that for many of the women from the Muslim community the perception of what it means to have a business was a physical space such as a shop, this was creating a barrier in terms of start-up finances and increasing their risks. It is essential that we continue to offer these communities opportunities to explore different types of business structures and be exposed to role models who can share they own experiences of setting up business. We have found that from many of the young mothers we have worked with that they have very low confidence in their own ability and how they feel communities perceive them.*

*This in-depth knowledge makes a key difference as we are able to develop our services to challenge and change perceptions. Lack of role models and positive female only support services is often a barrier; many women have little or no experience of running a business or working as part of a business therefore opportunities to take part in hands on training experiences lead by other women who have been through the process of self-employment has been beneficial. Continued access to these types of opportunities including a chance to volunteer within a real-life business is still a very much needed service.”*

## Ryton Triathlon Club

Project	Junior Development
Grant amount	£8,000

*“Our first and primary objective was to create a youth and junior development section to allow a pathway of progression following our very successful kids section created in Aug 2015. We were unable to cater for all of those kids/parents who wished to join due to the limitations of facility space and coaching staff. Thanks to the funding award we have been able to educate and train additional volunteers to become coaches.*

*Now that we have created the youth/junior section of the club we were able to open up the books of the waiting list and invite these younger ones to join. There is now a defined pathway for inclusion and development within the club structure which would not have been possible without the development funding. We delivered what was voted the "best kids/youth race of 2017" by the regional committee and its membership by hosting the open water Hetton triathlon. We also received some very positive feedback from British Triathlon Staff who attended, so much so we have been offered the status of a European qualifier event this year and we will host the event as part of the British Triathlon youth and Junior Super Series.*

*We provided CPD and mentoring for all our volunteer coaches who are now supplied with uniform and kit to enable them to be identified as Ryton Tri coaching team. We have a Facebook site and website with all photographs and results from 2017. We have also formed a kids/youth sub-committee where we meet regularly to discuss planning and organisational issues relating to the smooth running of the Junior section of the club. We are in the process of updating the web site via our own web meister and have team kit suppliers on board.*

*We ended the 2017 season with a presentation evening held at Swalwell Cricket Club in November where over 100 attended a very successful evening to reward not only the winners of races within the regional grand prix but those who have progressed within the coaching programme of training sessions.”*



### Gateshead Older People's Assembly

Project	Development of diversified income streams
Grant amount	£9,921

*"This project has been very important to Gateshead Older People's Assembly. We know that funding from local authorities as well as trusts and foundations is becoming more scarce and we have been able, as a result of this grant, to increase the amount of unrestricted donations we have received through community fundraising. We have spent a lot of time working with external organisations (running clubs, supermarkets, social groups) to encourage them to support us in our community fundraising efforts. We have also held small fundraising events within our activities across Gateshead. The amount of income we received as donations increased from £4,481 to £14,705 from 2017 to 2018 as can be seen in our latest audited accounts.*

*One particular highlight was receiving a cheque from local co-op customers for £7,356. We now have a plan in place and we have set ourselves a high target for community fundraising in 2019 as well. With an increase in community-raised income, we are able to make improvements to our centre without relying on grant funding. Our boiler was condemned last year, and it cost £7,000 to replace. We needed it replacing quickly and a grant application process would have taken too long, but we were able to use community generated unrestricted income instead.*

*With a plan in place, we can also plan further fundraising activities in future. This project has not only allowed us to increase the amount of income we have been able to raise from community fundraising, but it has also reconfirmed our charitable status to many of our beneficiaries. It seemed as if some of our beneficiaries may have considered us to be a service, like those provided by local authorities, which are being funded from a bottomless well. Community fundraising activity has helped us remind them that we rely on donations and grants in order to continue to provide the activities we do.*

*Another benefit has been the relationships we have been able to develop with external organisations who are able to raise money on our behalf. Just last week, the treasurer of Saltwell Harriers running club came to our office and presented us with a cheque for £250. We didn't even know the club was raising money for us."*

Peace of Mind	
Project	Peace of Mind - Governance & Sustainability
Grant amount	£5,680

*“This grant helped us with the running costs over a 12 months period. During this time, with the support of NCVS, we have also worked to ensure the organisation is in a much stronger position to support the needs of our beneficiaries. We had a few meetings with NCVS to discuss the more suitable charity status for Peace of Mind. NCVS identified CIO, as this suits most of our aims and objectives.*

*We have made a positive difference to the lives of numerous individuals and families. People have developed an improved understanding of the community of which they are now a part. We also know, we have made a positive difference in terms of reducing isolation and promoting community cohesion by offering volunteering opportunities to asylum seekers. Seeds for change training for volunteers and updated policies and procedures helped us to be much more structured and transparent in our approach.*

*Being able to cover the venue hire, volunteer out of pocket expenses for meetings and networking events helped us to be more visible in the voluntary sector. A range of new (informal) partnerships were developed as a result of this funding. This funding also enabled us to recruit more volunteers which has been a strength for our organisation as we don't have a paid staff and we totally rely on volunteers' commitment and their hard work.*

*For the very first time since we established, we were able to setup An Advisory Group of committed volunteers. Their role has been very important as they became the voice of their community and started identifying concerns and issues of the members. This helped us to be more effective in what we do. Advisory Group always met independently. This funding also ensured that trustees are up to date with organisation's activities and administration work. Trustees and volunteers were able to allocate time to update our policies. Our Safeguarding Policy, Vulnerable Adult Policy, Finance Policy was updated. Public liability Insurance was put in place for volunteers and members.*

*We are considering putting together some information about Brexit implications on Asylum Seekers and Refugees as this has created a lot of fear among this community. One of our biggest achievement: 3 (Asylum Seeker) Volunteers from Peace of Mind have secured scholarships for further education last year. Their contribution of community work and experience of volunteering with Peace of Mind was seen as a positive factor by the universities. We were also asked to provide a reference for 3 of them.”*



## Gateshead and Whickham Amateur Swimming Club

Project	Building capacity
Grant amount	£10,000

*“Pool costs increased from £76K in 2015 to £110,00k in 2017 which put a great strain on the club’s resources. The club ran two successful galas and a number of fundraising events which meant that with the support of the grant we were able to meet the demands of the pool costs. A number of volunteers attended various courses including team module, time to listen and a number of safeguarding modules. 38 coaches and volunteers were registered for DBS checks. Despite the increase in the pool costs, there are a number of individual and team achievements that have been attained with the support of the grant.*

*Three Gateshead and Whickham Athletes were selected to attend the Swim England Pathway County Development Camps, as a result of their top 10 positions in one or more Olympic events at the recent county championships. The camps provided an opportunity for swimmers to develop technical, tactical, physical and psychological skills with swimmers of a similar age and ability from across the county. The camps also provide an opportunity for swimmers to work with different coaches and train in different environments. Six swimmers qualified for this year’s top-class 3-day Scottish short course championships with a number of all-time club records being achieved.*

*Gateshead and Whickham invested in an online ordering system to help with efficiency and speed of processing money and accounting. The initial investment was £1,200 to set up the ecommerce site for processing gala and now merchandising of club kit and associated products.”*





Blue Sky Trust	
Project	Think For Yourself
Grant amount	£5,000

*“The funding has helped us to maintain relationships with schools in Gateshead and develop new ones. It has given us time to attend training and develop the team’s knowledge and networks. The funding has also given us time to update and develop our session plans and materials ensuring they are up to date and effective. Overall, the project is developing and growing and is set to be in a good position when Sex and Relationship education becomes compulsory.*

*Accurate information, a forum for safe discussion and skills/resilience development are all essential to give young people the confidence and knowledge to make safe and healthy choices about sex and relationships. 1079 young people have had a unique opportunity to learn more about topics that affect their lives such as online safety, puberty, sexual exploitation and so on. This gives them an excellent foundation for all their relationships in life.*

*Participants say they have had time to think through issues and learn facts about what is and isn’t legal, how to stay safe, how to protect their identity, consent, puberty, HIV, what they want in a relationship, sexual exploitation and so on. Young people rarely have access to other structured and safe groups where they can explore their values, feelings and thoughts relating to relationships and think freely about what they want for their life.*

*Most importantly, they have learnt that if they are in trouble or worried about something, there are people and helplines that they can go to for support. This is essential as often in teen suicides, it emerges that they were being bullied or had sent nude pictures of themselves and didn’t know what to do or where to get help. The young people are taught about where they can report inappropriate material on social media and other sites. Essentially, the young people have a greater chance of keeping themselves safe and healthy as they progress through life.”*

Parish of Bensham and Teams Parochial Church Council	
Project	St. Chad's Church - Inspired Futures
Grant amount	£9,500

*"The grant has enabled St Chads Church to make the most of current opportunities by increasing the staff capacity, which has meant that the church has been open so that local people could come in for support and advice or just for company, e.g. An elderly woman now visits every Tuesday morning just for a coffee and a chat with the project worker. As noted above we have realised that our enterprise ideas need more time to become established and we now better understand the challenges we face when trying to generate income in a mostly poor community – most people in the area need support and are not in a position to pay (much or anything). This has been a useful discovery, which helps St Chads Church to reconsider its options for future sustainability.*

*An unexpected outcome has been gaining a commitment to and genuine collaboration in creating an area partnership that works together to provide a consistent support offer in the community and avoids duplication. This extends to joint funding applications and is expected to continue to develop to jointly provide services. This again has been the result of conversations and efforts by the project worker and lead.*

*The project worker has been successful in gaining some additional small grants, including a grant to purchase 2 lap top computers so that people can access a range of online information and services, benefits, advice and job searches. To support this activity a number of volunteers received "Turn 2 Us" training to equip them to support others to access benefits and other information. One volunteers has been so motivated by this that she has requested further training in other areas to develop her own skills and what she can give back to the church.*

*St Chads Church was fortunate to be introduced to the Ballinger Trust and have brokered a relationship with the trust. This has resulted in a joint 'meet the funder' session (in Mid Nov) for local groups to talk with the Ballinger Trustees with a view to gaining small grants for their activities. This is unlikely to have been possible without the capacity made possible by this grant."*

### Gateshead Redheugh 1957

Project	Being Self Sufficient/New Tractor and Attachments
Grant amount	£10,000

*“Over the last 12 months the club were able to purchase a new Tractor and attachments due to the grant we received from the Community Foundation. The purpose of the project was to secure funding from the Football Foundation of 23403 and from the Community Foundation of 10000 making a total of 33403 for the equipment we required. Both grants were secured, and we were able to purchase our Tractor and attachments.*

*Since the purchase of our equipment through the funding we received, we have been able to maintain and improve the quality our 4 grass pitches which has reduced the number of cancellations of games given our members more game time. This has benefitted the club as it has increased the use of the facilities and also increased revenue from pitch hire etc. We are now also able to decrease our expenditure to external contractors thus enabling us as a club to look at other areas of development to improve our facilities for the young people of the area of Eslington Park.*

*The grant has enabled the club to purchase a new Tractor and Attachments through matched funding. The new equipment has helped the club improve its maintenance to its four grass pitches by improving the quality of the playing surfaces.*

*The problems we had in the past were poor quality playing surface and waterlogging and as a result of the Tractor and new Equipment we have been able to increase the number of games been played as the grass pitches have been improved which has given the local community and the club better facilities increasing the number of local people using the site.*

*The grant has also helped us as a club increase the number of teams within the club. This season 2018/2019 we have been able to maintain all our teams and also from 2 new boys' teams plus a girls' team at u11s for the first time.”*

### Caprian Theatre Company

Project	Theatre Seating for Community Pantomime
Grant amount	£1,800

*“The generous funding we received paid for the hire of ramping for our January 2018 pantomime production of Snow White. This was a successful production with approximately 970 attendees. As a result of funding and sales we made an overall profit of £3000 on the show which will allow us to reinvest in future productions.*

*In previous years this ramping was included in the price to hire the venue so when this became a separate expense, we were struggling to afford this. We had considered not having the ramping at all however we felt this may not have prevented small children from seeing the stage and may have impacted the enjoyment of the performance. This may also have affected ticket sales as some people will only attend if raised seating is available to allow a clear view of the stage.*

*As a result of funding and all of the additional efforts by the society, we have this year made a profit which we will be re-investing in future productions. We can now look at different and more popular shows which we may not previously have been able to consider due to cost. More popular shows will be more appealing to the local community, encouraging people to attend the theatre and ensuring the future of one of Gateshead's longest running theatre companies.*

*We have made significant changes to Caprian Theatre company over the past year to modernise our processes and introduce cost saving measures. We have a new website to better enable us to promote our productions and increase ticket sales. We have also increased our social media presence with accounts on Twitter and Facebook which we use for free advertising.*

*We have introduced an online booking system which is more cost effective and easier for customers which opens the productions up to a wider audience. We have also hired a card machine to allow us to take payments easier.*

*We usually hold a production in May however in recent years this has been at a financial loss. This year the committee decided to cancel this production to allow us to be in a better financial position to invest in a more modern production this coming May.*

*We have had a very productive year where we have rallied around as a group to better promote and support our society for the benefit of the community. All members actively promote our productions, including attending fairs, markets and local events such as the Christmas light switch on. All of which were attended by actors in full costume, to the delight of the local people.*

*We are making every effort to modernise our society whilst retaining the traditional values that we and the community hold dear.”*

## Comfrey Project CIO

Project	Refugee Volunteering Celebration Event
Grant amount	£500

*"This event we organised to mark both Gateshead Volunteers Month and Refugee Week 2018, aimed at promoting the positive impact of volunteering, and in particular as a means for refugees and asylum seekers to improve their own wellbeing while contributing to their community.*

*This was the first formal invitation from The Comfrey Project to the local community to see the culmination of two years of hard work on the Windmill Hills site, since we moved here in 2016. By demonstrating how our volunteers (both the referred asylum seekers and refugees and those coming from the "traditional " volunteering routes) have transformed a previously disused site into a vibrant community space which can be used for the wellbeing of all local residents, we aimed at inspiring more to volunteer but also to create positive associations around migration.*

*The raving feedback we received from residents and organisation representatives (approximately 18 different organisations in attendance) at the event, about the "wonderfully unexpected" "oasis" we have created in the middle of Gateshead and the "warm and welcoming" atmosphere justified our efforts.*







*By organising sample gardening and creative activities for people to take part, and a delicious multicultural buffet to feast on we intended to show how the site might be used. Indeed a few organisations approached us regarding partnering to support various groups, such as stroke survivors or disabled people. We were particularly pleasantly surprised with feedback from a group of disabled people attending with support workers that the Windmill Hills site is almost fully accessible in its current layout and form. As a result we moved plans to work with this client group forward and went on to apply for and receive £1,000 from Ballinger Trust for the purchase of accessible gardening tools and equipment.*

*Another crucial outcome for The Comfrey Project has been recruitment of five new volunteers: two pensioners who love gardening, a full-time carer keen to get a sense of contributing to the wider community, a local business-woman who wants to find out more about refugee matters and a landscape architect who would like to help short-term with a particular development idea our volunteers have.*

*Moreover the event was a great occasion for the all at the Comfrey Project to "pull together" and work as a team to prepare everything. It was great to see new friendships being formed and people's confidence increasing while working for a common goal. The feedback we received was about the importance to have something to look forward to and a sense of plan, especially for the long term asylum seekers. As a result of those observations and discussions we have decided together to schedule in three community events per year and to create a rough annual timetable.*

*Finally, having received musical instruments and equipment on loan from Sage Gateshead for this event we had the opportunity for a first attempt to form a choir. It became clear how*

*much music inspired and brought people together and we decided to look for a way to acquire some musical instruments and to continue with the choir.*

*The impact of the event on individuals was also significant: D. is a single father of two, an asylum seeker who suffers from severe depression. Being a musician previously expressed an interest in playing music at the event. However in the lead up to the event, his mental health deteriorated and therefore told us that he was not going to play. He did attend however and was sitting on the side watching and listening to the music being played. At some point when the local musician that was playing until then, he got up and approached the keyboard and started playing almost as if to himself. He then started playing louder and louder. Visitors got up and started dancing to his music and then C. another asylum seeker who had been feeling quite low on that day and again said he was not going to play the djembes we borrowed for him joined D. and grabbed the mic and started singing traditional songs. Slowly slowly more people started getting up, grabbing the guitars, the djembes and the mics sharing songs and music from the different places they had come from while visitors were clapping and dancing along. The difference in the group dynamic and for D. since the event has been dramatic. From being threatened with removal of his children due to his situation he has not missed a single session since, he is taking part and is in good spirits!"*





### Skills 4 Work (Gateshead) Limited

Project	Volunteering and Wellbeing in Gateshead
Grant amount	£485

*"We recognise the variety of roles our volunteers take and the on-going dedication of our 22 volunteers, many who have been with us for 4 years since we started in July 2014. They praised the work and the dedication of all involved and were now more aware of their role as we discussed how this is a 'team' approach to the on-going development of the charity.*

*Communication channels need to be developed and we are looking at how we can engage a volunteer to focus on this as many volunteers do not use social media. The younger volunteers discussed how they felt their comments and suggestions are valued, which is the core of our work.*

*We were delighted with the positive experiences of our volunteer team and recognised the opportunities that we are able to offer young people due to the volunteer support. We offer a variety of volunteer roles within our charity, including professional support with business development, support within the class setting/visits, support within the fundraising and positive encouragement from all volunteers to encourage all to be involved.*

*The Volunteering in Gateshead Awareness Day was attended by 28 retired ladies who found the information very helpful and talk from Citizens Advice very informative - 3 ladies expressed an interest to attend their next open day, in Gateshead.*

*We also had a display board which displayed information and take-away resources at the entrance to Fusion Studio, which is attended by over 150 people on a weekly basis. The take-away resources were re-stocked 3 times during volunteer month.*

*We also discussed The Great Exhibition of the North and offered a free service to print-out any maps, literature that people may need to visit the venues, available until September, which some local people have already taken use of.*

*The grant allowed us the opportunity to thank our volunteers with a free lunch and the opportunity for volunteers to come together. We also took the opportunity to discuss safeguarding in more detail to our younger volunteers and it was worth noting that all our young volunteers feel valued and respected for their contribution and took comfort that the staff team are highly qualified and the volunteers carry-out an induction period and references are carried out and if required police cleared, only in the case of work placements is this required. All aspects of their engagement with the charity were questioned class sessions, external visits, work placements, fundraisers and all were aware of staying safe and importance to do so."*

**Leam Lane Bowling Club**

Project	Family Fun Day
Grant amount	£320

*“This has helped us showcase our friendly club and amenities and was very gratefully received. We advertised this fun day as a showcase for our bowling club to attract families to compete and gave out prizes, food and drink to everyone. Our volunteers brought friends and neighbours along and many did not know we had a bowling green and hold a social night every Friday.*

*We were pleased to welcome another 3 new social members and 2 new volunteers. All now come along to try the game of bowls and are really enjoying themselves.”*



### Crawcrook & Greenside Local Environment Group

Project	Village Tidy-Up
Grant amount	£324

*“The appearance of public spaces in the village has been improved, fostering an increased sense of pride in the local area.*

*The stock of equipment held by Our Villages has been increased, improving capacity to hold future events and to support a network of individual volunteers who pick litter in their own time.*

*The profile of the group has been raised and the work it does in improving the local area has been promoted, increasing potential to recruit additional volunteers.”*

### Your Voice Counts

Project	Promoting volunteer opportunities
Grant amount	£230

*“Funds were used to purchase a pop up display banner to promote our volunteer opportunities and to print volunteer flyers. A gazebo was provided free of charge by the management team at Trinity Centre where our promotional event was held. We recruited 3 new local volunteers at the event. Our stall was supported by our volunteer coordinator, 3 of our volunteers, and 4 people with learning disabilities. We also held a volunteer lunch celebration, providing us with an opportunity to thank our volunteers for their hard work and to enable newly recruited volunteers to meet some of our more experienced volunteers and share learning.*

*The grant enabled us to recruit 3 new volunteers and to develop stronger links with services and businesses in our local area. For example, we made new links with the student liaison officer at Gateshead College and have since recruited 2 students from the College. Our volunteer celebration event helped us to establish stronger peer support networks between our volunteers and provided an opportunity for people with learning disabilities to explore volunteering opportunities with us as Peer Advocates - using their lived experience to support other people with learning disabilities who access our service.”*

### Friends of Shadon House

Project	Shadon House Needs You!
Grant amount	£270

*“With this grant we were able to host an event at Shadon House, which was part of a care home open day event, and recruit relatives of the service users to take part in the creative writing sessions. This was beneficial to all parties as it meant that the staff were able to have an extra pair of hands and the relatives were able to spend some quality time with their loved ones through creative activity. We were also able to recruit some members of the local community who have a variety of different skills and since then we have had many people working with us. Currently we have a volunteer who will be helping us to work in the garden with the residents and a horticulture specialist. This project has helped us gain the confidence to grow a good group of volunteers.*

*This project fed into a larger creative writing project that we were delivering where we were running sessions at Birtley Library. During these sessions we created an imaginative children's story which we wanted to read to some children in the local community. We reached out to our local primary Barley Mow and it led to us forming a strong relationship with them where we then were able to deliver weekly sessions at Shadon House and with 22 reception children. We intend to continue to work with the school and develop our relationship. The children loved the story the older people had created during sessions at Birtley Library.”*

### Friends of Winlaton Village

Project	Community Summer planting and litter pick
Grant amount	£500

*“The Friends of Winlaton planted out the Barrier baskets, 3 tier planter and the raised flower beds (helped by the Winlaton cubs). Watering cans were provided to the Traders in Winlaton who we work in partnership with to water the barrier baskets.*

*A litter pick was carried out after the planting in the village. 3 of our members have completed the NSPCC online training course and certificates obtained. The grant has enabled the Friends of Winlaton Village to purchase all of the plants to plant out every barrier basket and planter in the village. Also the raised flower beds around the village.*

*The plants give a cheerful look to the area and brighten it up. The community come together with help from the Cubs, Princes Trust members (who helped to clear the raised flower bed area of weeds before planting) and also the traders in the village.*

*There is a lot of praise around the village for the good work that has been done and it has helped to raise moral in the village.”*

### Birtley Community Association

Project	Volunteer evaluation and planning event
Grant amount	£450

*"The volunteers met to discuss the past year. We looked at changes needed to needed of the centre. We also looked at how we can make our volunteers feel important and needed. Few spoke about how they feel a rota system for those only able to give a few hours a week would be more advantageous that way people may be able to put themselves up for particular roles. Importance of the volunteer was looked and although those present did not feel need for constant recognition we thought it was a step forward into ad hoc volunteers feeling valued. We are starting up a time line so volunteers can add to the form there input by hours and also roles.*

*The grant gave us the opportunity of acknowledging our volunteers who are so important to the infrastructure of the work. It gave us a relaxed time to look at issues that have been presented over the past year and give us all an opportunity of coming up with solutions to prevent this from happening in future, For example a valued volunteer left feeling she was giving the responsibility of purchasing etc. However there was other issues to it which a lot did not see. To this end we have come up with a template to give people a thorough knowledge of the duties that the volunteer can take on.*

*The meeting was relaxed and there was a few suggestions giving such as name badges etc which we are to introduce as soon as possible, There will be procedures put in place for those who wish to volunteer looking more at the needs of the services and ways of getting people to agree to swapping of tasks from time to time as opposed to keeping their posts.*

*A good day and everyone gained a better insight into what we are trying to achieve."*

### Artful Codgers of Winton Court

Project	The Artful Codgers Exhibition
Grant amount	£500

A massive thankyou to the community foundation for awarding the ACOWC with this £500 grant to recruit more volunteers. This grant enabled us to run a volunteer recruitment day at the Winton Court residence in Winlaton. Residents were really thrilled to show off their work and potential volunteers that attended the event were surprised by the quality of the work and were full of positive comments for the residents.

Potential volunteers had the chance to get to know the lovely residents and were told many stories about all the creative activities they had got up to across the year.

Thanks to this grant we were able to recruit more volunteers than expected.

A huge thankyou from the Artful Codgers of Winton Court.



## Birkheads Wild CIC

Project	The Free Range Thankyou
Grant amount	£385

*“Our regular volunteers are all Gateshead-based and happily give time and energy to support sessions with young people and help with site maintenance and gardening - in all weathers!”*

*This grant made a difference to us and our beneficiaries by building connections, knowledge and links between our volunteers. Since we have only been trading for 18 months, it was the first time we had all gathered together for a meeting on site, (and the first time some had met each other). What struck us was the large range of ages - our youngest volunteer is currently an 18 year old Gateshead College student with Autism who enjoyed meeting and working with our older, more experienced volunteers. The 3 local parent helpers who do not have much outdoor experience really relished being given the opportunity to learn knife craft and a skill they could share with the young people who visit us. The Directors felt connected closely to the work of the social enterprise and inspired by the conversations about the future success of the organisation and what it might look like in 3 years, the volunteers reported that they felt thanked and appreciated, and part of a team building an exciting future for Birkheads Wild.”*



### Gateshead People

Project	Picnic in the Park
Grant amount	£390

*“At the first event we had the sponsored walk (raising £320) and one hour of activities with Smile through Sports. At the second we had two hours with Smile through Sports and a healthy picnic. 28 people attended the first event and 40 people attended the second.*

*Preparation for the sponsored walk was led by our member volunteers who have learning disabilities. Two members went to the park in advance to plan the route with a support worker. They then organised by themselves to revisit the route to check its accessibility with a volunteer who is a wheelchair user. We held two smaller events for the reason described above, however both events met the objectives. The events celebrated volunteering and also attracted 3 new volunteers. One of the new volunteers raised money for Gateshead People on the sponsored walk. Another of the new volunteers is a wheelchair user and although she had heard of the game Boccia, which is often played by wheelchair users, she had never played it before. She played it for the first time and enjoyed it. Everyone enjoyed the healthy food, some people trying something they had not eaten before.*

*Gateshead People have had to reduce their regular meetings this year due to lack of funds. It was a boost to the members to be able to plan a social events that successfully brought everyone together to socialise with friends, raise funds with the sponsored walk and take part in accessible sports together. We promoted Saltwell Park and the fun of walking together. Following the walk some members have been talking about forming a walking group and we have gained some new volunteers.”*

### Age UK Gateshead

Project	Annual Volunteers Picnic
Grant amount	£500

*“The main objective of the grant was to provide a picnic for Age UK Gateshead’s Volunteers to thank them for their support over the past year. It was also a great opportunity for Volunteers from different projects to mix with those they wouldn’t normally see, so it had the added benefit of bringing everyone together for a memorable social experience, thus helping with our aim of targeting social isolation.*

*Although arranged especially for our Volunteers, we were happy to see that some had brought friends and family along to take part in the day, and so we were able to let others see and hear about the sort of things we do at Age UK Gateshead. This was an added benefit as it certainly helped us spread the word, leading to enquiries about our services. This was deemed a very successful venture for Age UK Gateshead as it provided a thoroughly enjoyable day for all concerned.”*



### Friends of Watergate Forest Park

Project	Watergate Forest Park Volunteer Day
Grant amount	£465

*"I was delighted to be able to offer the participants some dedicated equipment, brand new, and gloves in different sizes, which suited both adults and children. We had previously been using a very small number of borrowed equipment from the Council. Previously we have only attracted about 5 participants on our regular litter picks and have only ever had one family with two young children join us before. This event meant we could include more families, as they were attracted by the Bird theme of the activity with Durham Wildlife Trust (DWT), and were keen to help litter pick afterwards.*

*It was obvious from both the enthusiasm of the DWT and the interest and enthusiasm of the children and their parents/grandparents that they would be very keen to have further activities organised at the Lake on the theme of Wildlife or Botany. Therefore, the possibility of creating a Nature Club will be explored with local businesses and funding sources approached for funding to keep costs as low as possible for families. This will have the additional objective to promote the use of the Watergate Forest park amongst families, both local and from further afield, and to educate them all on the importance of looking after our natural habitats. Litter picking will always be a key part of any activities, with the emphasis on keeping the Park as natural as possible."*

### Gateshead and South Tyneside Sight Service

Project	Volunteering Exhibition
Grant amount	£450

*"We recruited 5 new volunteers and they have supported the organisation in several ways, enabling us to continue to provide services to blind and partially sighted people across Gateshead and South Tyneside. 4 of the volunteers are visually impaired and this has given former service users the opportunity to progress into volunteering roles. This has increased their confidence and given them the chance to learn new skills. It has also reduced their isolation by enabling them to get out of their homes.*

*Recruiting the volunteers has allowed us to utilise the many skills those volunteers bring to the roles. Our café has seen increased sales since the recruitment of our café volunteer. As a direct result of recruiting our volunteer, our café is now open Monday to Thursday and this has also proved beneficial to people in the local community, as they now regularly access the café during the day. Our training volunteer has benefited from the opportunity to share his experiences of visual impairment with other people via our My Sight My Future course, designed and delivered to newly diagnosed people to increase their knowledge of visual impairment and the various ways in which they can access equipment, support, learn independent living skills and meet others who are also learning to live with visual impairment."*

## Peace of Mind

Project	Volunteer Celebration and Recruitment Event 2018
Grant amount	£498

*“This funding award enabled us to hold the volunteer appreciation event. The event took place at Whitehall Road, Methodist Church, Gateshead on Wednesday 04-07-2018. (This change was agreed by the grant manager as we received the funding one day before the event was due to take place and it was difficult to arrange things) The grant was used towards the costs of venue hire, volunteer travel expenses, Lunch and towards the cost of publicity materials. Some of these publicity materials (roll up stand) will be used at future events as well.*

*This event also helped us to showcase the work undertaken by the organisation over a period of one year. We celebrated the contribution of existing volunteers as well as recruited 4 new volunteers. We had another 5 people at the event who are interested in volunteering with Peace of Mind from the beginning of September.*

*We celebrated the achievements of existing volunteers and rewarded them by presenting volunteer appreciation certificates and a 3 course meal cooked by Samosa Sisters. This was a very well attended event. Existing volunteers gave speeches to demonstrate the importance of volunteering for individuals and for the community. New volunteers also talked briefly about what they would like to achieve by volunteering with us and how they would like to support Peace of Mind and the local community.*

*Volunteers were pleased to receive the certificates as this is a good addition to their CV. One of volunteer (Rachel) found a job after she started volunteering with us and asked us to provide a reference as she mentioned her volunteering role with Peace of Mind to her employer, which was appreciated by the employer. We provided the reference and Rachel started the new job. She still volunteers with Peace of Mind every fortnight. Rachel commented on how volunteering with Peace of Mind has improved her confidence and self esteem. She can use these skills at her job now to improve her performance at work.”*



## Birtley Community Partnership

Project	Celebrating volunteers
Grant amount	£500

*“Although we didn't meet our targets, we were very pleased with how the events went. The publicity posters for the recruitment event brought us 2 new volunteers. Recruiters at our event included British Red Cross, Hope NE, The Children's Society, Station Lane Residents Association and NEFirst Credit Union. We were able to build better links with these organisations and understand more of what they do. We are also better equipped to give information about these organisations to potential volunteers and the general public who may require their services.*

*The Volunteer Celebration Event was a great success. As our volunteers often work different days, it enabled them to socialise and get to know each other better. The Trustees also attended and this was a great opportunity for them to socialise with the volunteers. All of the volunteers and Trustees who recently completed training in Safeguarding, Roles and Responsibilities and Equality and Diversity were presented with certificates from Liz Twist MP. Liz also spoke about how valuable volunteers are to the community. The night helped boost morale and helped show how much our volunteers do and how much they are appreciated. This all helps in retaining our volunteers and building a better organisation.*

*A special award went to our most hardworking volunteer, Paul Murray. Paul has been with us a while now and has learning difficulties. He has proved without a doubt that this is no barrier when it comes to volunteering. He has great enthusiasm, participates in all our training and is a great asset to Birtley Community Partnership. We hope his example will encourage more organisations to be diverse when recruiting volunteers.”*



## Thank you letters from funded groups





Gateshead Fund

20 April 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of everyone at Special Olympics Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, I wish to convey our thanks to everyone at Gateshead Fund for the generous donation of £5000.

This money will contribute towards our athlete's attendance to the World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi 2019, entry into regional & national competitions and it will also contribute to securing training facilities for our athletes weekly training sessions.

All at Special Olympics really appreciate your kindness and once again, sincere thanks for your support.

Kind Regards

Danielle Appleby  
Treasurer

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Gateshead Fund (181868)**

On behalf of Wayout in Gateshead (WinG) and all the people associated with us we would like to take this opportunity to offer a huge thank you for the grant awarded from you through the Community Foundation.

The grant will allow us to offer outdoor adventurous activities to Syrian refugees to allow participation in outdoor personal development activities.

As well as taking part in the activities and the health benefits of doing an outdoor activity, it will also offer them the opportunity to take them out of their usual environment and comfort zones as well as learn new skills allowing them to gain in confidence and self-esteem which will impact on their everyday lives.

Thank you again for the opportunity to run these activities for Syrian refugees.

Yours faithfully

*Simon Tibbitts*

Simon Tibbitts  
Centre Manager





Dear Advisory Board,

**Re: 'Gateshead Thrive Fund' Grant Award – Ref: 190827**

On behalf of all at The Comfrey Project, I wish to thank you for your generous donation of £10,000 towards core costs of our service.

Undoubtedly, your support is going to play a critical role in developing the capacity within The Comfrey Project, so that we can finalise and start implementing our 2019-2022 Strategic Plan. At large, this plan focuses on the establishment of The Comfrey Project as a vital community resource for the residents of Gateshead, for local organisations and for the council.

We are looking forward to [continue](#) working closely with you for the benefit of the community of Gateshead, and we welcome you to visit the project again soon, to observe how our work develops.

Yours faithfully,

Eleni Venaki



**Peace of Mind Community Project**  
22 Rectory place  
Gateshead  
NE8 1XN

Tel: 07595300326

Email: [peaceofmind455@gmail.com](mailto:peaceofmind455@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Peaceofmind-Communities-1652578041691574/>

13 June 2018

Dear Community Foundation,

On behalf of Peace of Mind, I would like to thank you for the grant award of £498.00.

This grant will help us to run the volunteer celebration event in Gateshead to Thank and appreciate the (Peace of Mind) volunteers for their hard work and commitment over the past 1 year.

We are a volunteer led organisation and volunteers play a very important role in running of the organisation. It is very important to appreciate the hard work of volunteers as it keeps them motivated. This event will also help us to recruit more volunteers.

The generous support of organisations and people like you makes it possible for our organisation to exist and to make the community a great place to live. Thank you again for your support!

Yours Sincerely,  
Nida Muzaffar  
On behalf of the Committee of Peace of Mind



### **Birtley Community Partnership**

The Hub Resource Centre, 16 Harraton Terrace, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, DH3 2QG  
is a Charity (no. 1133663) and a Registered Company Limited by Guarantee (no. 7031458).  
Telephone no. 0191 4920434; email: [admin@thebirtleyhub.co.uk](mailto:admin@thebirtleyhub.co.uk)

15<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Reference 190805

Dear Community Foundation,

On behalf of Birtley Community Partnership, I would like to thank you for considering our application to the Gateshead (Capacity Building) Fund.

We are obviously delighted that our application was successful. The £10,000 towards core funding for The Hub will go a long way to help us continue the work we do in our community. We look forward to showing you the difference this will make to our organisation and the impact on the community.

Thank you once again

Tracy Rogers  
Development Worker  
Birtley Community Partnership





Birkheads Wild CIC

1 Birkheads

Marley Hill

Newcastle

NE16 5EL

Dear Rob

**Volunteers Month Grant ref: 190356**

I am writing on behalf of Birkheads Wild CIC to pass on my sincere thanks to the Community Foundation for our Grant to celebrate Volunteers Month from the Gateshead Volunteers Month Local Fund, and would be grateful if you could also pass on this letter to the fund holders if relevant.

As a tiny, start-up social enterprise, the vast majority of our work is done by volunteers, and we could not have achieved all we have done in the past 18 months without the huge commitment of time and energy from volunteer hours on the project. So, I am delighted to be in the midst of planning our teambuilding and bushcraft event for next Friday evening with the funding we have received - which will enable us to thank and celebrate with our dedicated volunteers. The team are surprised and delighted to be appreciated in this way and we are all looking forward to a great event together.

Thanks again for your support of our CIC and of the local people who volunteer for us, we will ensure we send photos and credit the support in our social media around the event next week for you to share with the fund holders.

Kind regards

Fiona O'Connor

Director

Birkheads Wild Community Interest Company

LEAM LANE BOWLING CLUB  
OLIVER HENDERSON PARK  
GATESHEAD

30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

On behalf of Leam Lane Bowling Club I would like to thank you for our grant from yourselves for £320.

This will be put to good use to showcase our club and attract new members and volunteers.

Kind regards

Maureen Newton

Secretary

## Gateshead and Whickham Amateur Swimming Club

Dear Gateshead Thrive Fund.

I am writing to you to say a huge thank you to the Community Foundation and Thrive Fund. We are so excited to be able to use this money to help our club out. It will help to relieve the pressure we are under as a small club. We work hard and will continue to do so by holding raffles, bag packs and home gala's, but the grant can assist us to renew some equipment and forge partnerships with the Council to strengthen the club's future.

Gateshead and Whickham Swimming Club has been around for over 100 hundred years and with the help of grant money we hope it will be around for another few years yet.

The club has been very successful over the years, even obtaining a medal at the Para Olympics. The support from its members is paramount in the club continuing to run and the help from volunteers ensure there is real sense of community spirit, not to mention the valuable place the club plays in offering swimming lessons and a sense of belonging to loads of kids and adults.

We cannot thank you enough for this help it really does mean an awful lot to us a small club.

Yours faithfully,

All the members, volunteers, coaches and parents,

Thank you very much.

## Gateshead Thrive Fund

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to thank you very much for the funding you provided for the Friends of Watergate Forest Park Volunteer day on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June. We used the funding to provide an expert in ornithology from Durham Wildlife Trust to lead a session on the birds and other wildlife at the Park, followed by a litter pick around the Park afterwards. The funding also covered equipment and gloves for the event.

I am delighted to report that 4 families and five extra adults came along this morning, a total of 6 children and 11 adults, and they all had a great time learning how to identify birds from their songs, their colours and where they were on the lake or in the trees. Some had never visited the lake before, so it was a super introduction to caring for their local nature reserve, and learning about the wildlife there. Afterwards we collected 16 bags of litter, and I gave each adult a list of dates for future litter picks, up until December. We carry out two litter picks every month, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, so our new resources will be put to very good use.

As a Friends group we realise the importance of teaching the next generation about understanding and caring for and about their local environment, as well as appreciating what beautiful scenery we have to enjoy on our doorstep. To that end, we are going to explore the possibility of setting up a young Wildlife group at Watergate Forest Park in the future.

Thank you so much for making this event possible, and also for helping to sow the seeds for further wildlife adventures.

Yours sincerely,

Julie M Scott

Chair

Friends of Watergate Forest Park



Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group

C/O Community Foundation

Philanthropy House

Woodbine Road

Gosforth

Newcastle

NE3 1DD

19<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Ref: 191924

To whom it may concern

I am writing to say a huge thank you on behalf of St Chads Community Project, in receipt of your grant for £10,000 for the project Steps to future success. This grant will allow us to strengthen our organisation and work towards becoming more self-sustainable for the future. I look forward to developing this project and will endeavour to keep the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group updated throughout. I will submit the monitoring form as requested at the end of the project.

Many thanks

*On behalf of St Chads Community Project*

**Leanne Coxon**

Dear Community Foundation,

Thank you so much for my grant which you have approved for £200. This will really help me make sure I have the chance to travel at the national competitions this year and next year which I really want to qualify for.

I love swimming, but I know how much money it costs and this grant from you will help me get better and hopefully get to be the best I can.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Adam Strickland

John Bell (High Spen Community Group - Chair)

High Spen Community Group

Telephone : 01207 544764

Email : highspencommunity@gmail.com

14 November 2018

Ref 190761

Nils Stronach  
Community Foundation  
Philanthropy House  
Woodbine Road  
Gosforth  
Newcastle NE3 1DD

Dear Nils,

On behalf of High Spen Community Group I would like to thank the Community Foundation for the generous grant that you provided to us for the High Spen Heroes event.

The event has taken a great deal of community time to organise, but it has been rewarding. At least twelve members of our community group have been involved in the organisation of this event since plans began to evolve in March and several other local residents helped out on the day.

The day of the event was very successful and far exceeded our own expectations. The community group relied heavily on Mr Firth of High Spen School, Mr Hopkins and the musical directors in staging the reenactment of the heroic acts that led to the award of a Victoria Cross to two of our village residents. The school hall was packed to capacity for the performance and some people even had to watch the event unfold whilst standing in the corridors. The school production was excellent and I was most impressed that everyone became involved including those with disability. I know from discussing the play with teachers and children before and after the event that they all thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

Following the performance, the crowd gathered outside the school in the recently restored memorial garden to unveil two blue plaques in memory of the two war heroes. The

unveiling was done by the Mayor of Gateshead with former and serving soldiers of the Coldstream Guards and the Durham Light Infantry in attendance. These were the regiments that our heroes served with. Two new seats were also unveiled in memory to the countless soldiers that have served our country in conflicts since and who should never be forgotten. The memorial garden, seating and plaques was all organized by the Community Group, who also served teas, coffees and specially prepared cakes before and after the event.

I would also like to say thank you here to our ward councilors - Marilyn Charlton, Maria Hall and Julie Simpson for all their invaluable assistance and support toward this event and our wider activities. I would also like to thank High Spen School staff, particularly Mr Firth and Mrs Herron and Mr Hopkins for doing the hard work in applying for this grant.

We have had some excellent feedback on FaceBook from many in our community about the day, including some from the family of the heroes. I do not include these details with this letter, but would encourage you to take a look.

Finally, I would just like to say that our High Spen community grows stronger each year. This is evident from the volume of support and feedback we get both verbally and through social media and through the growing attendance at every event we hold. It is with your kind help and support that we are able to achieve this progress.

Yours sincerely



John Bell (High Spen Community Group - Chair)



Community Foundation

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Saltwell Park Model Boat Club, I would like to extend our grateful thanks to the Community Foundation for offering a grant of £6,650

This will enable us to:

1. To manage the installation and completion of a Conservation Grade A building in Saltwell Park which will be used as a "Clubhouse" by it's members and to allow us to hold meetings with small parties of handicapped children/adults, people with learning difficulties, local schools and the elderly to come along and be given a short talk by club members on all aspects of model boating, and be given a chance to sail our boats on Saltwell Park lake under supervision.
2. To provide the means for applying to become a CIO by end of March 2019.
3. To enable us to use a recognised Financial software package to provide an accurate set of accounts.
4. And to be able to produce our own advertising material to promote the Saltwell Park Model Boat Club to the local community as a whole to involve more people (young and old) to join in the benefits of meeting like-minded people in building/sailing their model boats or to just to be a part of a thriving atmosphere where members meet and enjoy each other company.

Again, thank you for your very kind consideration on this matter.

Kind regards,

Ian Crawford – Treasurer SPMBC

## The Friends of Gateshead Central Library



Gateshead Central Library

Prince Consort Road

Gateshead

Tyne and Wear

NE8 4LN

Tel: 0191 433 8494

[Gatesheadlibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:Gatesheadlibraryfriends@gmail.com)

May 10<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dear Sirs

On behalf of The Friends of Gateshead Central Library I should like to thank you very much for your kind grant to us. The work which we are doing in the community is really bearing fruit, and your generosity will enable us to continue it. May I also express gratitude on behalf of those who benefit from our work.

Yours faithfully

Peter Fairhurst

Peter Fairhurst (Secretary)

Ref: 191371

Hi,

I would just like to express my gratitude to The Community Foundation. I am a springboard diver at National Level with Sunderland City Dive Team. My parents and I are so grateful for the grant you have given. Competing around the country incurs travelling and accommodation expense which puts a strain on our family's finances. I am now competing consistently at level 3, which is part of my pathway to Elite level (Level 4).

The grant will certainly help toward the expense of competing and further my ambition to my sport.

Kindest Regards

Miss Abby Cass 😊

To whom it may concern,

I would like to say thank you for the grant you have awarded me. This will make a big difference to my season.

It will allow me to travel to competitions and to stay over meaning I will be fresher for the competition the next day. It will also allow me to purchase equipment and kit to support my performance.

Thank you again

Emily Stewart

*PELAW BOWLING CLUB*  
*EST. 1955*

PRESIDENT MR. E. NOBLE  
CHAIRMAN MR G. MCALLISTER  
SECRETARY MR J. SUTHERLAND  
Tel 0191 4066457 Mob. 07835977455

For the attention of The Trustees,

We as a club would like to thank you very much for the grant of £500. The money will go towards purchasing a number of sets of woods (size "0" and "1") that ladies would be able to use on the bowling green as we do not have equipment that is small enough for their comfort "hands" and also go towards refreshments.

John Sutherland  
Secretary/Treasurer





Affiliated to Headway ~ the brain injury association ~ a registered charity  
[www.headwaytyneside.com](http://www.headwaytyneside.com) ~ [info@headwaytyneside.com](mailto:info@headwaytyneside.com)

Headway Tyneside c/o Irwin Mitchell  
 Wellbar Central, 36 Gallowgate  
 Newcastle upon Tyne  
 NE1 4TD

Tel: 077 2623 2627  
 Charity number: 1132713  
 Company number: 06992206

Gateshead Fund  
 Neighbourhood Management and Volunteering  
 Culture, Communities, Leisure and Volunteering  
 Civic Centre  
 Regent Street  
 Gateshead  
 NE8 1HH

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the grant you have agreed to give to Headway Tyneside. This is going to make a massive difference to our service users in the Gateshead area.

Brain injury is often referred to as the 'hidden disability', as it is often difficult for others to see or understand; this makes it hard for people with a brain injury or their relatives or carers to explain to others the nature of their difficulties and receive appropriate support. This can lead to social isolation and an inability for them to access services and support from their local community and/or social activities. We are a person-centred organisation so instead of telling our group members what to do, we aim to empower and enable people by supporting them to develop their skills and abilities to cope better with the difficulties which arise from having an acquired brain injury.

We look forward to reporting on the outcomes of the grant and to providing our service users with the vital services they need from us.

Yours sincerely

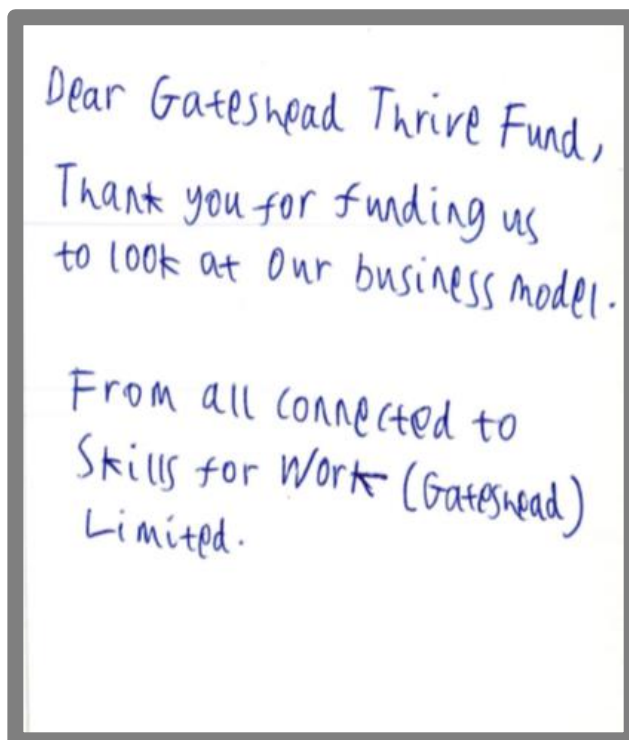
Alistair McDonald  
 Chair

We just wanted to say a huge thank you to the foundation and its partners, for your generosity in awarding us a Thrive Grant. The grant will help and support us to increase the health and wellbeing of our beautiful hens who bring so much joy and spirit to our community. It will also help us with the planned visits we have organised with schools and care homes.

Kind regards

L Walker

On behalf of The Wood Green Residents Association



To the advisors for the Gateshead Thrive Fund Community Grants Programme,

Please accept this letter as acknowledgement and thanks for your generous grant of £1500 to the Bluebells of Philip's Court.

We really appreciate your support in helping us to set up music sessions for our residents, and know that it is invaluable in improving their daily lives, which we endeavour to do through all our work.

We look forward to progressing with the project and meeting our objectives of:

1. Provide 12 weekly music workshops between January and March 2019
2. Host four open mic nights in March and April 2019
3. 12 relatives or community volunteers will express an interest in continuing their involvement in future activities by May 2019

Thank you again for your generous support,

The Bluebells of Philip's Court.

**WORKPLACE FOUNDATION**

The Old Post Office  
19-21 West Street  
Gateshead  
NE8 1AD, UK

+44 (0) 191 477 2200  
[www.workplacegallery.co.uk](http://www.workplacegallery.co.uk)

**Grant offer from the Community Foundation – The Gateshead Fund****Ref: 182036**

FAO: the advisors for the Gateshead Fund

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to thank you for the generous offer of a grant of £2400 to Workplace Foundation from the Gateshead Fund at the Community Foundation for a Workplace Foundation community launch event in 2018.

Workplace Foundation is an exciting new project for us building on nearly 15 years of commitment to the community of Gateshead through our gallery in the Town Centre.

This grant comes at a crucial time as we develop a programme aimed at further adding to the cultural texture of the borough and engaging new audiences in our work.

As we develop our plans we look forward to welcoming you to our projects.

In the meantime if you would like to know more please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

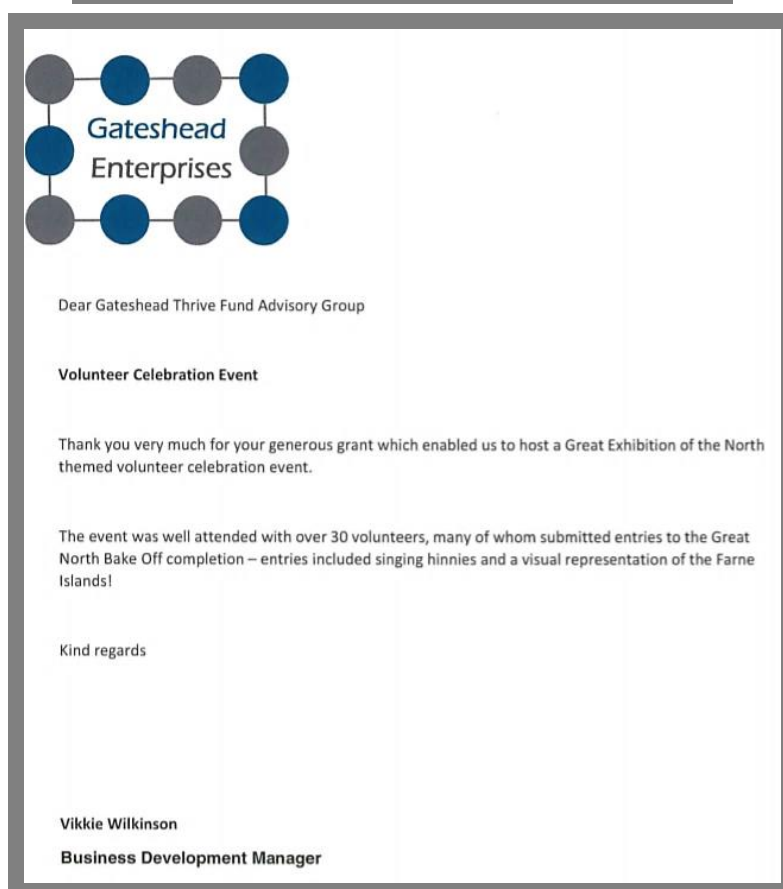


Paul Moss

To Whom it my Concern

On behalf of Gateshead Storm, I would like to Thank the Gateshead Fund / Community Foundation for their support in this project.

We at Gateshead Storm feel there was a need for this as some of our young players fit into this project and the emphases on this been done is also to support the people of Gateshead who find it hard during these school holidays with this now getting the go ahead I feel we can make a difference and will help from other organisations feel this will be delivered to a high standard once again Thank You on behalf of Gateshead Storm.



## Appendix one

### **Vital Signs**

Our Vital Signs work enables us to prioritise our efforts to support projects addressing poverty, diversity and mental health, all of which are significant causes for concern. The next section details our recent Vital Signs report on Food Poverty, highlighting the issue and how grant-making and philanthropy can make a difference in our region.

We also continue to seek to target more support towards geographic “cold spots” where we wish to make more grants; as part of our strategy to address this, at the start of 2019 we made £620,000 of unrestricted grants to trusted groups working to address these issues in our area.

## Vital Signs 2019: Food poverty: how philanthropy can make a difference

Vital Signs is our flagship initiative to guide effective giving. It is based on national and local statistics and research; learning from our grant making and the views of our partners across the North East. This year we have been concentrating on the growing problem of food poverty in the region, and below we share headlines from our new report on this subject. As always, we have tried to identify ways that philanthropists can best help to address local needs.

People in food poverty are unable to afford to eat properly. There is no definitive measure of the scale of this problem in the North East, but foodbanks run by the national Trussell Trust distributed over 64,000 emergency food packs here in 2018. This is likely to represent the tip of the iceberg since access to such provision is generally by referral only and short-term in nature, and many vulnerable people are put off by the stigma of using such services.

### Food poverty facts

The poorest 10% of UK households spend 5x more of their available income on feeding themselves than the most affluent.

1.2 million people in deprived areas now live in food deserts.

The major cause of food poverty is that income from low-paid work or benefits is simply not enough to meet the rising cost of food and fuel. In many poorer or more isolated areas – termed “food deserts” – the problem is made worse by problems with the local availability of good quality, affordable food. The North East is therefore particularly vulnerable. It has a relatively weak regional economy characterised by a predominance of low paid employment. Levels of benefit dependency are high, partially as a result of high unemployment but also reflecting an ageing

population and high rates of disability. In a range of our communities – from deprived urban neighbourhoods to isolated rural settlements – local food shops are becoming few and far between. Getting access to good quality, affordable food is therefore a challenge for residents.

Some groups are at particular risk of falling into food poverty. Often it is just the loss of a few day's wages, a benefit stoppage or broken washing machine that can tip the balance. For 132,000 children living in poor households in our region the school holidays create problems. It is estimated that one in 6 parents in poverty now skip meals to ensure their children are fed. The amount and quality of food available to their children is dramatically reduced with the loss of breakfast clubs and free school meals. The resulting “holiday hunger” contributes to the educational attainment gap between poor children and their more affluent peers with long term effects on life chances. There is also compelling evidence of food poverty affecting older, vulnerable and disabled people: in Gateshead during 2015 over a third of older people admitted to hospital were malnourished.

The good news is that community and voluntary organisations – often working in partnership with local government and the food industry – have mobilised to tackle the problem of food poverty. The growing visibility of foodbanks is symptomatic of this, but



there are also many other types of service here in the North East that are working to address the problem. These range from schemes that ensure surplus food is redistributed through community cafes and shops, rather than going to landfill, to services that work to maximise family income by advising on issues like benefits and debt.

As always with Vital Signs our aim is to shine a light on where the generosity of North East philanthropists can have the greatest impact. In mid-2019 we will be publishing a detailed research report **“Food Poverty: how philanthropy can make a difference”** that recommends the use of charitable funding for three purposes:

### Living in food poverty

*“...in the face of having little to spend, households prioritise purchasing foods that will not go to waste and that are most filling. Often this means a reliance on cheap foods that are nutrient-poor but calorie-rich.”*

- End Hunger UK

*“When my mum’s got the money then we can get snacks. Its 25 pence per item. We don’t get snacks if it’s a bad week. Sometimes we’re hungry.”*

- Young person interviewed by the Children’s Commission on Poverty

1. To support the costs of service delivery, and in particular those associated with coordinating provision and covering projects’ core expenditure which are harder to get funded.
2. To increase provision to help children at risk of “holiday hunger”, particularly over the Summer. We recommend funding schemes that combine the minimum “4 hours a day, 4 days per week, 4 weeks per holiday” level of educational, physical activity and food provision that is proven to have maximum benefit to poorer children.
3. To address the causes of the problem by using evidence to influence policy-makers locally and nationally and promoting good practice and partnership working between agencies. We see this as the best way to ensure that food poverty does not become entrenched in our region.

It is anticipated that the publication of our report will spark an interest in securing funding through the Community Foundation for projects that address food poverty. We hope that if these match your philanthropic interests that you will help us to support the important work of local civil society organisations in this area.

Mark Pierce  
Director of Community Knowledge and Funding



Community Foundation  
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Philanthropy House,  
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