
Annual Report 2017/18

somerset
COMMUNITY | FOUNDATION



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Financial Headlines

2017/18



£651,746

awarded to
258 voluntary sector organisations
and 36 individuals from our regular
foundation grants programmes



Total Income

£2,261,940

14

new funds created

£5,358,625

Value of the Endowment Fund
(as at 31st March 2018)

Total Expenditure

£1,252,972



£381,109

was added to
our Endowment Fund

Over 90%

of expenditure was on
charitable activities

£14.42

raised for every
pound spent on
generating funds
over the past
five years

£100,000

invested from the
Somerset Social Enterprise Fund

Message from our Chairman and CEO

Welcome to this year's Annual Report. Somerset Community Foundation has been providing a simpler and more effective way for donors to make a lasting difference in Somerset since 2002, creating more vibrant and inclusive communities in our wonderful county.

By working together with individuals, families and businesses we increase the impact of local philanthropy, creating more vibrant and inclusive communities in our wonderful county.

The unique services that local charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises deliver is becoming ever more important and, in turn, this means the role of Somerset Community Foundation becomes increasingly vital to the wellbeing of our local communities.

Once again, in 2017/18, we have increased our investment into local communities through our grants and social investments. During the year we also launched the Hinkley Point C Community Fund, a multi-million pound programme of funding for communities most affected by the construction of the new power station.

At the core of our work lie the small grants we provide to local organisations. Run by local people using local resources and community assets, they are often uniquely placed to make a crucial difference in people's lives. All too often they provide an early intervention to help someone before their situation deteriorates and ultimately requires more costly help from the state. Moreover, these local organisations are an essential component of the 'social glue' that holds communities together; something from which everyone benefits.

Last year we increased the funding from our regular grants programmes by more than 25% to £651,746 reaching over 258 local organisations and 36 individuals.

We can only support these organisations due to the commitment of our donors and funders, enabling us to combine private and public funds. During the year we set up 14 new funds and added £381,109 to our endowment from two trust transfers.

As public sector funding to local organisations continues to diminish, we are finding that an increasing number are taking steps towards more enterprising approaches in order to improve their sustainability. Last year we reported how new funding from the Access Foundation (funded by the Big Lottery and Big Society Capital) would help us diversify the Somerset Social Enterprise Fund. This enabled us to award four new social investments with more in the pipeline for 2018/19.

During the year, we finalised our agreement with EDF Energy to manage the Hinkley Point C Community Fund and received the first instalment of £1.3m in May 2017. Setting up this programme has been a major

undertaking, with the appointment of new staff, recruitment of a dedicated Awards Panel and the establishment of new systems and processes. With the first grants being awarded in January 2018, we are now playing our role in supporting communities affected by the construction of Hinkley Point C and contributing to a legacy for the area.

All of this can only be achieved through a dedicated team of trustees and staff aiming to work to the highest standards. This is reflected by our latest Community Foundation Quality Accreditation award, where we scored 51 out of 55 and earned the highest rating, 'exemplar', in many categories, including community leadership.

We look forward to 2018/19 when we will be investing further into the Foundation to accelerate our development and growth, expanding the ways in which we contribute to a better Somerset for all.

As ever, we are grateful to all of our donors and funders for supporting Somerset; to our trustees, staff and volunteers for their commitment to the Foundation; and to the charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises of Somerset for making such a difference to people's lives across our county.



JANE BARRIE OBE DL
CHAIRMAN




JUSTIN SARGENT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Theory of Change

Our Theory of Change maps out our strategy and related activities for realising our vision for Somerset.



Inspiring Philanthropy

Somerset Community Foundation aims to both inspire philanthropy and deliver inspiring philanthropy. In doing so, we know we are building on a rich heritage of compassion and commitment for the benefit of our communities.

In 2017/18 two trusts, with a combined value of over £400,000, transferred into our long-term stewardship. The first, the Cheeke and Stodgell Trust, can be dated back over three hundred years to 1687. It initially supported the establishment of a school and then, for the past century, educational grants. The second, the Graham Burrough Charitable Trust, was set up twenty years ago to support the work of community-based mental health charities.

Both of these trusts now have a secure and long-term home within the Foundation, and through this report you will see why these funds are needed now more than ever.

While charities and voluntary organisations have been with us for hundreds of years, the past decade has been one of the most challenging periods they have faced, particularly as financial contributions from the public sector have fallen so rapidly and public services are diminishing.

The invaluable role grassroots organisations run by local people play in our society has been highlighted during this time. These groups build on the talent and skill of the community and are uniquely placed to unlock assets and resources. Our aim is to continue growing our support by expanding and diversifying the role that philanthropy can play in their work.

During 2017/18 we started to build a Philanthropy Network for Somerset, the members of which will advise and guide us on the role philanthropy can play in our county. We have now appointed our first Development Director during 2018/19, to accelerate our growth for the ultimate benefit of Somerset.

Brian Perry, founder of Perrys Recycling, was very proud of the support and contributions that Community Foundations provide towards local worthy causes. From all of us at Perrys Recycling, we would like to say thank you.

Chris Perry, Managing Director, Perrys Recycling



List of funds supporting our community investment in 2017/18

A&H Fund	Millennium Fund
Access Growth Fund	Myakka Fund
Angela Yeoman Fund	Norah Cooke-Hurle Fund
Anne Dodgson Memorial Fund	Oake Sunshine Fund
Artlife	Party Packs Fund
Beacon Fund	Perrys Recycling Fund
Benchmark	Peter Wyman Fund
C & J P Fund	Philip Gibbs Fund
Cheeke and Stodgell Educational Foundation	Pilkington Fund
Christopher and Heather Virgin Fund	Ringham Fund
Christopher Tanner Memorial Trust	Shoon Fund
Churchstanton Community Fund	Sir John Wills Memorial Fund
Clarke Willmott Fund	Smith & Williamson Investment Management Fund
Comic Relief	Solutions for an Aging Society
Courage Family Fund	Somerset Crimebeat Trust
Coventry Building Society Community Fund	Somerset Disaster Recovery Fund
Creative Somerset	Somerset Fund for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Crowcombe Chest	Somerset Giving Fund
David Price Fund	Somerset Grassroots Grants Fund
Deane Dragons Fund	Somerset Lord Lieutenant's Fund for Youth
Donald Lake Memorial	Somerset Masonic Fund
Eagle House Trust	Somerset Restorative Justice Fund
Elliot's Touch	Somerset Smokefree Fund
Exmoor Community Trust Fund	Somerset Social Enterprise Fund
Field House Trust	Somerset West Lottery
Framptons Transport Community Fund	Somerset Youth Fund
Glemsford Fund	Summerfield and Tauntonfield Fund
Graham Burrough Charitable Trust	Surviving Winter Fund
Grave Family Fund	Taunton Deane Borough Council Defibrillator Fund
Hector Tanner Memorial Fund	Taunton Deane Borough Council VCSE Small Grants Fund
Hidden Needs Trust	T & PJ (Milborne Port) Fund
Hinton St George Community Fund	TS5C Healthy Living Fund
HPC Community Fund	TYCC Fund
Huish's Exhibition Foundation	WCS Pickford Trust
John and Dorothy Ball Fund	West Somerset Relief Fund
King James Exhibition Trust	West Somerset Youth Trust
Lucy Nelson Fund	Wilton Trust
Mary's Beat	Yeovil Town FC Fund
McGreevy Charitable Trust Fund	Youth Social Action Fund
Medlock Fund	
Mendip Hills Fund	
Michael Samuel Charitable Trust Fund	

Community Investment

The core purpose of Somerset Community Foundation is to invest in our communities through grants and, increasingly, social investment.

During the year we funded 258 organisations and 36 individuals with £651,746 worth of grants from our regular programmes and £100,000 from our Somerset Social Enterprise Fund.

We continue to focus our support on locally-run charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises. We choose to do this because these organisations are:

- exceptionally responsive to local needs, often providing early and preventative interventions
- brilliant at unlocking local assets and resources, using them in imaginative and innovative ways
- committed and resilient with a clear focus on the needs, hopes and aspirations of the people they help

They are typically very small and often not well known, and we work hard to make it as simple as possible for them to apply for much-needed funding, adding value through advice and support.

Despite their size they are on the frontline of tackling many of the most pressing issues in our communities today. Throughout this report we throw a spotlight on the work of a few small organisations making a big impact in our county.

During the year we awarded three social investments from the Somerset Social Enterprise Fund, blending loans and grants to help organisations grow, increase their impact and become more sustainable. We expect this to be an area of growth for us in the future.



We found Somerset Community Foundation's workshop, Ready, Steady, Grow! to be truly informative and motivating.

**Ready, Steady, Grow!
Social Investment workshop attendee**



We believe that a friendly voice on the end of the phone is one of the best ways to attract high quality applications.

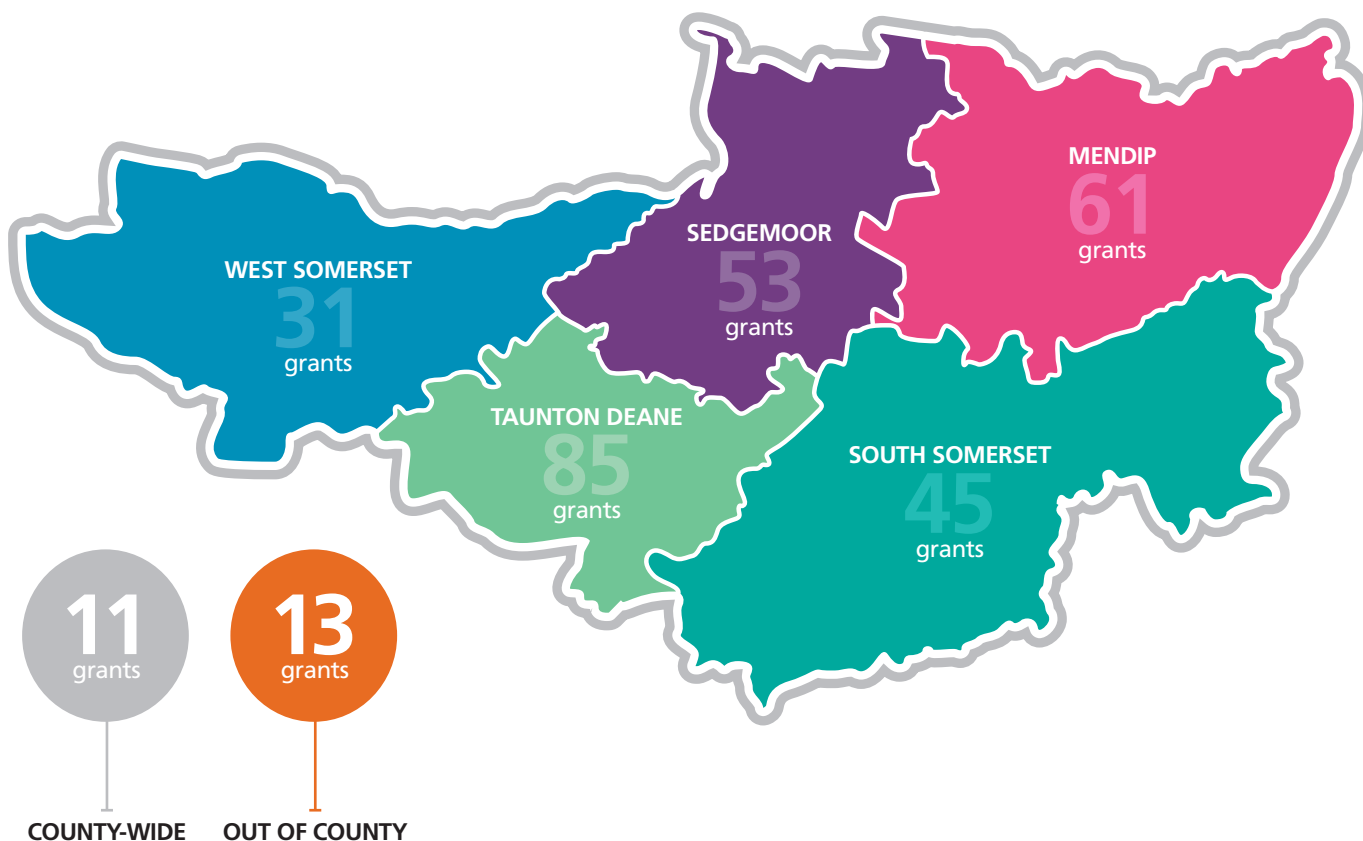
In a recent online survey 95% of grant applicants rated our staff's availability and helpfulness good or excellent.



The typical organisation we support:

- runs on less than £50,000 a year
- has 13 volunteers
- helps 150 people each year

Grants made to organisations during 2017/18



Mendip grant applicants	Award	Project Description
Active and In Touch	£1,000	Volunteer befriending scheme
Aster Communities	£5,000	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
Bristol Avon Rivers Trust	£2,806	Community events on the River Frome, Somerset
Carers' Voice Somerset	£1,750	Rural roadshow for carers
Children's World	£3,404	Youth volunteering project
Children's World	£1,500	Community event providing educational activities and entertainment
Citizens Advice Mendip	£1,713	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
Citizens Advice Mendip	£3,000	Financial literacy project for young people
Coleford Club	£2,000	Activities for isolated older people
Community Catalysts	£10,000	Social care support enabling people to live independently
Crispin Community Focus	£2,400	Social activities for older people
DofE Somerset Committee	£3,500	Residential activities
Elim Connect Centre	£1,000	Youth club activities for young people
Evercrech Youth Club	£1,250	Rural youth club for children and young people
Feed Avalon CIC	£3,000	Healthy eating activities for disadvantaged people
Friends of Somerset Young Carers	£2,750	Residential trip for young carers
Frome Community Cars	£3,595	New volunteer driver scheme

Continued

Frome Re:Fresh Project – West Wilts Vineyard Church	£2,030	Personal care items for local young people
Jack in the Box Toy Library	£1,970	Toy library service
Key4Life	£4,200	Crime prevention programme for young men
Mendip Community Credit Union	£1,020	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
Mendip YMCA	£3,000	Youth social action project
Mendip YMCA	£3,080	Activities to support the transition to independent living for vulnerable young people
Openstorytellers Ltd	£1,450	Hate crime workshops for adults with learning disabilities
Openstorytellers Ltd	£1,500	Sensory book clubs for older people with learning disabilities
Openstorytellers Ltd	£1,000	Bespoke training materials for adults with learning disabilities
Openstorytellers Ltd	£3,404	Supporting young people with additional needs to challenge perception of disability
Osprey Outdoors CIC	£1,973	Building confidence through environmental conservation for people who are isolated
Parish Council of Coleford	£1,500	Installation of a BMX and pump track in a rural community
Peers for Creative Outlets	£1,000	Mental health self-help arts group
Pod Youth Club	£2,500	Activities for young people with additional needs
Purple Elephant Productions CIC	£1,970	Toy library and play schemes for children
Red Brick Building	£5,000	Art and mindfulness courses for people with mental ill health
Rotary Club of Frome Selwood	£3,900	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
Shepton Area Men's Shed	£3,400	Community project for older, isolated men
Spark	£5,000	Promotion of youth social action
St Mary's Church – Breakfast Club	£1,000	Breakfast club providing hot meals to elderly people
Stoke St Michael Community Events Group	£1,800	Cinema club for a rural community
Street Men's Shed	£2,000	Community project for older, isolated men
SWEDA	£5,000	Support for people affected by eating disorders
We Hear You	£3,000	Support to develop funding subsidiary
Wells City Football Club	£1,040	Youth social action project
Wells Vineyard	£3,500	Recycling of donated furniture to people in need
Sedgemoor grant applicants	Award	Project Description
Abbeyfield Burnham and Highbridge Society	£2,000	Activities for elderly residents
Ashcott Football Club	£1,000	Volunteer training and pitch improvement
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	£1,500	Awareness raising of child sexual exploitation
Bay Centre (Formerly Burnham-on-Sea Youth Centre)	£3,000	Refurbishment of community building
Berrow Junior Football Club	£4,815	FA coaching training for volunteers aged 15 – 18
Berrow Mini Day Centre	£1,000	Activity equipment, games and healthy meals for older people
BOS Events	£1,000	Community event on Burnham-on-Sea beachfront
Bridgwater Arts Centre	£4,000	Creative wellbeing project to support people in recovery
Bridgwater Carnival	£1,000	Community event bringing together over 100,000 people
Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge Mens Shed (BOSHed)	£4,000	Refurbishment of community building
Burnham United Junior Football Club	£2,500	Upgrade of security measures for new clubhouse
CHARIS	£2,800	Feasibility study for new refugee centre
Moorland and Fordgate Village Hall	£3,800	Village hall improvements
Nelson Trust	£1,500	Creche provision at a Women's Centre
Nelson Trust	£2,500	New facility supporting marginalised and excluded women
North Petherton Community Centre	£5,000	Community centre kitchen refurbishment
Somerset Hills Chorus	£1,000	Training and development of group leaders
Somerset Time For Youth	£1,500	Activities for children and young people with special educational needs
Somewhere House Somerset	£3,250	Counselling service for young people
Spaxton Junior Football Club	£1,000	Pitch maintenance
St Francis Youth Club	£1,500	Summer holiday activities for disadvantaged children and families
Ups and Downs South West	£2,583	Family support clinics for parents or carers of children with Down Syndrome
Zone Youth Club	£1,000	Youth club activities
South Somerset grant applicants	Award	Project Description
Action East Devon (previously EDVSA)	£4,000	Peer support groups for young people
Actiontrack	£4,962	Youth social action project
Art Care Education	£1,100	Intergenerational arts and education project
Chard WATCH CIC	£5,000	Support for people living with mental ill health
Citizens Advice Bureau – South Somerset	£16,500	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
Community Youth Project (Somerset)	£2,500	Staff and volunteer training to improve youth work delivery
Dowlish Wake Playing Field Trust	£2,000	Kitchen renovation in community building
Footprints Project	£4,680	Volunteer mentoring programme for ex-offenders
Galhampton Village Hall and Playing Field	£3,000	Purchase and installation of hearing loop system
Golden Oldies	£2,000	Singing sessions for older people

Continued

Good Fellowship Club (2 x grants)	£2,000	Activities for older people facing multiple disadvantages
Henhayes Centre	£3,000	Monday Memory Group for people living with dementia
Horseshoes and Handprints	£1,000	Summer activity days for children with special educational needs
Ilminster Entertainment Society	£1,165	Youth social action project
Ilminster Entertainment Society	£5,000	Acquisition of community asset for a local youth arts group
Langport & District Community Youth Centre	£1,262	Youth social action project
Langport Church Community Trust	£2,000	Disabled access in community building
RAISE South West CIC	£3,208	Support to children & young people from minority ethnic groups and their families
Ruishton & Thornfalcon Parish Council	£1,000	Public access defibrillator
Somerset Levels RDA Carriage Driving Group	£1,000	Accessible carriage for disabled drivers
Somerton Scout Group	£2,500	New trailer for transporting equipment to camp
South Somerset Community Accessible Transport	£5,000	Social car scheme for people who are isolated
South Somerset MIND	£2,500	Gardening project for people living with mental ill health
South Somerset MIND	£7,361	Wellbeing resource kit for PSHE education tutors
Spark	£4,094	Training for grassroots voluntary groups
Spark	£4,020	Peer research local engagement exercise
Speak Up Somerset	£1,000	Arts group for people living with mental ill health
St Peter and St Paul Parochial Church Council	£10,000	Creation of new community space
Take Art	£4,980	Early stage intervention for people experiencing mental ill health
Wincanton Community Venture	£2,205	Youth social action project for Wincanton Youth Theatre
Wincanton Live at Home	£2,048	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
Wincanton Live at Home	£5,000	Chair-based exercise sessions for older people
Yarlington Housing Group	£5,000	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
Yeovil Opportunity Group	£3,000	Early years education for children with disabilities or additional needs
Taunton Deane grant applicants	Award	Project Description
2BU	£1,000	Support and awareness-raising for young LGBTQ+ people
2BU	£4,350	Youth social action project
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	£1,000	Activities for 'hard to reach' young people to build confidence and raise self-esteem
Catalys-ability	£1,800	Programme of events to bring people from different communities together
Churchstanton Public Open Space Management Group	£1,200	Maintenance of a community open space
Community Council for Somerset	£3,000	Talking cafe for vulnerable people
Compass Disability Services	£1,340	Peer research local engagement exercise
Conquest Centre	£1,000	Equestrian activities for adults and children with additional needs
Corfe Parish Council	£1,000	Public access defibrillator
Creech St Michael Parish Council	£1,000	Public access defibrillator
Escape Support Group	£1,000	Activities for children with disabilities and their families
Escape Support Group	£1,000	Subsidised outing for families who have a child with a disability
Friends of Oake Bradford & Nynehead Church of England Primary School	£1,000	Outdoor trim trail for Oake primary school
Friendship Circle of Langford Budville and Runnington (2 x grants)	£2,334	Activities for isolated, older people living in a rural community
GoCreate Taunton CIC	£1,000	Arts workshops for members of the community
Halcon One Team, Diversity Group	£1,000	Multicultural celebration
In the Mix Youth Project	£1,800	Holiday activities for children with additional needs
Mencap Taunton	£1,000	Activities for local people with learning disabilities
Mencap Taunton	£1,000	Evening activities for people with learning disabilities
North Taunton Partnership	£1,000	New dedicated mental health support group
North Taunton Partnership	£2,987	Pride in Priorswood event for the local community
North Town School Association	£3,700	Intergenerational project for children and older people with dementia
Oake and District Shop and Post Office Ltd	£2,000	Support for community asset in rural village
Open Door Taunton	£3,208	Support for people experiencing homelessness
Pitminster Parish Council	£1,000	Public access defibrillator
Reminiscence Learning	£2,500	Intergenerational forest school activities for children and older people with dementia
Samaritans of Taunton and Somerset	£1,000	24/7 Samaritan helpline for people in crisis
Sampford Arundel Parish Council	£1,000	Public access defibrillator
Somerset Community Care Matters	£1,000	Advice for older people in need of care and support
Somerset Counselling Centre	£2,500	Subsidised counselling sessions for people on low income
Somerset FA Youth Council	£2,235	Youth social action project
Somerset Levels and Moors Sheds (SLaMS)	£5,000	Community project for older, isolated men
Stoke St Mary Parish Council	£1,000	Public access defibrillator
Taunton East Development Trust Ltd.	£5,000	Youth social action project
Taunton Foodbank	£1,500	Food supplies to families in crisis

Continued

Taunton Opportunity Group	£4,000	Early years education for children with a disability or additional needs
Taunton Stroke Club	£1,000	Regular social activities for stroke survivors
Taunton YMCA	£1,000	Early years provision for low income families
Taunton YMCA	£4,833	Youth social action project
Trident Centre	£43,038	Multi-use games area
Trident Centre	£1,000	Refurbishment of kitchen & toilets in community centre
Wellington Choral Society	£1,000	Concert staging for amateur choir
West Monkton Parish Council	£1,000	Public access defibrillator
WHERE	£1,000	Support for adults with mental or physical illness at risk of isolation
Wiveliscombe Area Partnership (2 x grants)	£2,500	Rural community transport service
West Somerset grant applicants	Award	Project Description
All Saints' Church	£1,000	Pastoral support to people in need
Allerford & Selworthy Community Hall	£1,750	Improved kitchen facilities for community building
Contains Art CIC	£2,000	Art mapping with children
Dulverton Dance	£1,000	Dance sessions for older people
Dulverton Youth Club	£3,096	Youth club activities
Engage Voluntary Sector Development	£1,000	Information sharing and networking forum for local groups
Exmoor Young Voices (2 x grants)	£3,100	Introducing young people into decision making processes
Forum 21	£20,500	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
HawkrIDGE Village Hall Committee	£5,000	Renovation of village hall serving a remote community
Home-Start West Somerset	£2,000	Group for parents of children with special educational needs
Home-Start West Somerset	£3,208	Support to families with young children at risk of family breakdown or crisis
MIND in Taunton & West Somerset	£1,300	Self help art group for adults with mental ill health
MIND in Taunton & West Somerset	£2,000	Peer support for adults with mental ill health
Minehead EYE CIC	£5,000	Youth social action project
Onion Collective	£4,826	Youth social action project
Roadwater Cricket Club	£1,750	Refurbishment of cricket pavilion in rural community
West Somerset Community Land Trust	£2,300	Capacity building of volunteer team
County-wide grant applicants	Award	Project Description
Age UK Somerset	£6,300	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
Alzheimers Society	£5,434	Dementia-friendly communities coordination across Somerset
Community Council for Somerset	£24,000	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
DeafPLUS (2 x grants)	£5,498	Lipreading tutor training
Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH)	£1,000	Self help guidance for young people experiencing homophobia, biphobia or transphobia
Knightstone Housing Association	£4,000	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter (Surviving Winter)
Penny Brohn Cancer Care	£2,500	Self care plans for people living with cancer
Restore Support Network	£3,500	Mentoring programme for older offenders
Revitalise Respite Holidays	£2,832	Respite breaks for disabled people and carers
Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support	£2,500	Evaluation of services for survivors of sexual abuse
Out of County grant applicants	Award	Project Description
Blagdon Orchard Group	£500	History, heritage and living tradition of orchards project
Blagdon Primary School	£700	Forest school activities for children
Blandford Opportunity Group	£1,500	Sensory garden for children with a disability or additional needs
Devon Community Foundation	£8,675	Supporting older people to live positive, independent lives
Dorchester Opportunity Group	£1,500	Early years education for children with a disability or additional needs
East Harptree VC Primary School	£1,288	After school club to develop understanding of the environment
Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity	£20,000	Research into cardiomyopathy and mitochondrial disease
Parochial Church Council St Andrew's Blagdon	£500	Restoration of lychgate
PSP Association	£100	Support for people living with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy
Quartet Community Foundation	£7,150	Opportunities for young people to help combat crime
Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity	£10,000	Research into cardiomyopathy and mitochondrial disease
Stroke Association	£100	Support for families of stroke sufferers
Wadham College	£250	Furthering education

In addition to the grants listed, 110 grants of under £1,000, totalling £47,618, were made to organisations across the county.

Leadership

Somerset Community Foundation is uniquely placed as the only county-wide charity supporting the work of local charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises.

Our independent 'cause-neutral' status, our links with the wider voluntary sector, and the knowledge we have developed through our association with these groups, means we are ideally placed in a leadership role.

We host the Somerset VCSE Strategic Forum in partnership with Somerset County Council and local infrastructure partners and during the year held three forum meetings, where leading organisations discussed priorities with public sector colleagues, helping to create a more collaborative culture.

Through this project, a VCSE Leaders Conference on The Future of Social Action was held, with over fifty organisations represented. We also delivered a VCSE trustee training day to advance the skills of charity board members.

One criticism of the sector is that there are too many organisations working in isolation. While formal collaborations can be difficult, we feel everyone can benefit from being better connected. This is why we are delighted to have partnered with PKF Francis Clark, Foot Anstey LLP, Hawkins Charity Consultancy and the Lloyds Bank Foundation to organise three Good Lunch networking events, which are designed purely and simply to help people involved in driving positive change to be better connected.



I made lots of new contacts and found out even more about the many brilliant charities and organisations of Somerset.

Sue Place, Chief Executive Officer,
The Balsam Centre, Wincanton

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Focus on...

Advancing people's mental and physical health

Twenty percent of adults in Somerset are physically inactive, taking part in less than 30 minutes moderate activity each week. This figure increases as we age. At the same time an estimated 91,400 children in our county do not meet recommended physical activity levels.

Physical activity has significant benefits for both physical and mental health. Being active can help prevent or manage depression, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers.

There are several national initiatives that seek to increase our activity levels, but the smaller groups that we support across Somerset can go one step further. Groups like the Trident Youth and Community Centre in Taunton – to whom we recently awarded a grant of over £40,000 and a further £25,000 blended finance from our Somerset Social Enterprise Fund for a multi-use games area – make a distinctive offer to their community, designed to address disadvantage, while filling voids in public services as they go. This year we saw an increase in applications from such groups. We funded various amateur sports clubs across the county, a project that offers chair-based exercises for older people in Wincanton, and dance sessions in Dulverton. This portfolio of activities provides physical exercise alongside opportunities to socialise and improve wellbeing.

Alongside our ongoing support for health-based initiatives, we funded a range of targeted mental health interventions this year, including peer support groups, therapeutic gardens, and counselling services.



£321,633

Value of grants awarded

Case Study: We Hear You

We Hear You, based in Frome, is a charity that works across Somerset and beyond to provide emotional support to patients, families, friends and carers who have been touched by cancer or any other life-threatening condition. We recently awarded them a £3,000 grant to help develop their social enterprise, an art gallery, before agreeing a further £37,500 in blended finance from our Somerset Social Enterprise Fund.

We greatly value and appreciate the friendly, professional advice that continues to be offered to us by all the staff at Somerset Community Foundation.

Melissa Hillier, Director, We Hear You



Case Study: SWEDA (Somerset and Wessex Eating Disorders Association)



SWEDA helps people with a range of eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and compulsive binge eating. Their offer extends not only to sufferers themselves, but also to anyone caring for or supporting a sufferer, or to anyone in any way affected by another person's eating disorders. SWEDA's work impacts hundreds of people in Somerset and in 2017 we awarded them a £15,000 grant.

Somerset Community Foundation understands mental health and the issues a charity such as SWEDA faces. We really appreciate the Foundation's continued support and look forward to working with them in the future.

Paula Blight, CEO, SWEDA



Case Study: Take Art

Take Art was awarded £4,980 to develop their innovative social prescribing project that uses performance poetry to address mental health problems. Social prescribing enables GPs and other healthcare professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services. It is an emerging concept in Somerset, and Take Art is developing an 'art of prescription' service in the Yeovil area, designed to improve health and wellbeing while also providing social interactions.

Focus on...

Reducing isolation and disadvantage

Local needs and inequalities can be measured in several ways. One of the most profound indicators is life expectancy.

A girl born in St Benedict's ward in Glastonbury can expect to live to just over 76 years, while one born in Beckington and Selwood, near Frome, can expect to live to over 95. A similar disparity can also be found for boys: those born in the West ward of Street should expect to live to over 88 years, while those from Bridgwater's Westover will only live to an average of 74.

The same is true for healthy life expectancy, or the number of years we can expect to live in 'Very good' or 'Good' general health. People living in our least deprived communities can expect to enjoy good health well into their 70s, while those in our most deprived areas can expect to see their health start to decline in their late 50s.

Addressing such inequalities requires long-term interventions in the heart of our most deprived communities. The small charities and community groups that we fund are embedded in such areas, earning the trust of local people over many years. Groups such as On Your Bike in Taunton and CLOWNS, who deliver their work over large areas of rural West Somerset, work hard to make sure their services continue to help people year in, year out.



£79,641

Value of grants awarded

Case Study: Reminiscence Learning



Reminiscence Learning is an award-winning charity that addresses the needs of people with dementia through the provision of reminiscence therapy. We awarded the group £2,500 to expand their project that brings together young people who have been excluded from school with people with young-onset dementia. Basing themselves at Otterhead Forest School, the project builds empathy between the generations and uses the outdoor environment to improve overall wellbeing.

All participants have benefited from this programme: participants with dementia are more active and able to remember, and the excluded young people empathise with the adults. One young person, who had previously shown no interest in activities at the Forest School, started demonstrating leadership skills that none of the staff had seen in him before. The experience of working with SCF has always been a very positive one and we thank you for your continued support.

Fiona Mahoney, CEO,
Reminiscence Learning



Case Study: Community Council for Somerset



Our £3,000 grant is helping the Community Council for Somerset run the West Somerset Talking Café. Relaxed drop-in sessions provide residents in and around Minehead the chance to meet with a range of service providers, including the adult social care team. They aim to break down some of the barriers that people with physical disabilities, mental health problems, older people, and their carers, face when accessing good quality advice and support.

Case Study: Henhayes Centre

The Henhayes Centre, based in the centre of Crewkerne, provides a hub for social activities, clubs and societies, as well as private events. Our £3,000 grant allows the centre to run a weekly group for older people with dementia. Sessions include a midday meal, mental stimulation and opportunities to socialise, as well as valuable respite to carers.

The grant application process was straightforward and we always got a quick response from the team at SCF. We received plenty of support along the way and were pleased with the friendly and professional way everything was dealt with, from start to finish.

Tim Udall, Trustee, Henhayes Centre



Focus on...

Improving life skills, education and employability

A total of 730 children were looked-after in Somerset in 2016/17. On their eighteenth birthday, looked-after children cease to be cared for by their local authority, but they do receive support from a leaving care team.

At eighteen, young people should, like the majority of their peers, be in education, employment or training. But having had lives shaped by instability, and often profound trauma, over half of those young people who leave care in Somerset are not. It is important to put this figure into perspective: 94% of all young people in Somerset are in sustained education, employment or training – more than double that of care leavers.

The main concerns of care leavers, however, stretch well beyond education. In Somerset, significant numbers report mental health and emotional problems, and we know that nationally care leavers are five times more likely to be convicted of a criminal offence and face a much higher risk of becoming homeless.

These young people are among the most disadvantaged in our county. However, small charities and community groups are playing a vital role in addressing their needs and inspiring them to make positive choices.



£106,602

Value of grants awarded

Case Study: Citizens Advice Mendip



A wholly independent branch of the national charity, we awarded Citizens Advice Mendip a £3,000 grant to deliver Children's Voices Changing Choices, a financial literacy project for 100 secondary school students. The project coincided with the introduction of Universal Credit, which was causing a great deal of anxiety within families. Citizens Advice Mendip explained the new benefits system to the young people, many of whom were then able to discuss its implications with their parents.

The project gave one student the confidence to go home and discuss a financial problem. He was able to show understanding and empathy which made a difference to his family. Young people have also learnt for the future and now have some insight into money management and realistic use of budgeting.

**Ian Byworth, Chief Officer,
Citizens Advice Mendip**



Case Study: Eagle House Trust

The Eagle House Trust was transferred to us from Somerset County Council in 2011. Its assets, which total over £500,000, provide the income needed to award small grants and, more recently, university bursaries to young care leavers. Only 6% of care leavers attend university, compared to almost 50% of the general population, and our bursaries are designed to reduce some of the financial pressure. Every bursary is worth £1,500 for each year of study, helping care leavers pay for many everyday essentials. Six students are currently in receipt of this support, but demand far outstrips the available funds.

Thanks to Eagle House I have been awarded a bursary which will help ease the financial stress. I will now be able to buy all the books I need for my course, print any useful information, pay to use the library resources and much more. This bursary has provided me with a chance to achieve this goal and make my dream job become a reality.

Eagle House Bursary recipient



Case Study: PROMISEworks

PROMISEworks supports a team of trained volunteers who provide a Somerset-wide mentoring service for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, many of whom are on the edge of care. In their own words: "Mentors are like pillars, if they weren't there, the roof would fall in." We have awarded two grants to PROMISEworks, totalling nearly £24,000, that have helped this charity establish its new delivery model.

The financial assistance, advice and encouragement received from SCF has been invaluable. We very much appreciate the partnership approach that has been encouraged by SCF, and the confidence that has been shown in our work. With regard to our mentoring model, it has been obvious from the very start that SCF 'gets it'. That has been a great spur to our efforts, for which we thank everyone at Somerset Community Foundation.

Robert Peto, Chair, PROMISEworks



Focus on...

Creating stronger communities

Community buildings are often at the heart of a thriving community. We work hard to protect the future of these vital assets, contributing to repairs, renovations and regular activities.

There are hundreds of buildings being run by and for their local communities across Somerset. Some of these are well known, like the Red Brick Building in Glastonbury or The Balsam Centre in Wincanton, while others are tucked away in some of our most remote villages.

We make early stage grants when, for example, a new community building is being planned, helping to pay for professional fees and other costs that can then attract larger funds later on.

Many of the community buildings we support are independent charities, run entirely by volunteers. Their income levels vary but are often as little as £10,000 per year – yet their impact on creating inclusive and resilient communities is essential. Without them, Somerset would be a much poorer place to live for all of us.

£126,074

Value of grants awarded

Case Study: Hawkridge Village Hall



Hawkridge, high on Exmoor and five miles from the nearest town, is home to fewer than 100 people. Their village hall, the sole community space in the area, provides the focal point for many local events. We recently awarded them a £5,000 grant that contributed to some much-needed renovations and the creation of a small car park, meaning this essential facility can continue to be enjoyed by residents for many more years to come.

The village hall is the only community facility serving the immediate local population and it is important to maintain the facility and ensure future sustainability. Feedback has indicated that provision of a dedicated car parking space is likely to lead to increased use of the hall by organisations or individuals from outside of the local area. We are grateful for the grant from SCF which has enabled us to open up the village hall to more users from the wider community.

Kathleen Lock, Committee Secretary and Trustee, Hawkridge Village Hall



Case Study: Langport Church Community Trust

The Trust purchased an empty and dilapidated public house in Langport and has been renovating it for some time, creating a community centre with its own café, meeting rooms and a hall for the people of Langport. Our £2,000 grant is helping to fund the installation of a lift, ensuring full and inclusive access throughout the building.

Case Study: Bay Centre

The Bay Centre, in Burnham-on-Sea, was awarded £3,000 this year to help replace their flooring, which had fallen into disrepair over its 50-year lifespan. The centre is the home of many community groups including youth and sports clubs, a stroke club, a dance club, the University of the Third Age, and drop-in sessions for NHS staff.

Before the SCF funding, children had been scuffing themselves on the old floor and older people were finding it difficult to move their wheelchairs and trolleys. The U3A table tennis groups now find it a much better surface to play on, and compliments have come from all; it is now a much safer surface and is a vast improvement to our hall.

Janet Bonus, Secretary and Trustee, Bay Centre



Focus on...

Connecting people with arts, culture, heritage and environment

The arts, heritage, culture and environment all have a positive and lasting effect on the health, wealth and happiness of individuals and communities; however, not everyone is able to access the many opportunities our beautiful county has to offer.

This is why we are committed to working in partnership with the Mendip Hills AONB, managing a fund which aims to conserve and enhance the environment, communities and economy of the Mendip Hills. Supported by local businesses and voluntary contributions from visitors, we awarded five grants during 2017/18 from the fund including an after-school environment club, a forest school and the publication of a book on the history and heritage of apple orchards in Blagdon.

We are equally passionate about supporting grassroots organisations that reach out to communities through cultural activities and the arts. In 2016, the ARTLife fund was created from the transfer of residual funds, following the closure of the West Somerset Arts Consortium. We awarded grants from this fund to support social purpose projects, improving people's wellbeing and quality of life through the arts in West Somerset.



£17,796

Value of grants awarded

Case Study: Osprey Outdoors



Osprey is a community interest company that builds people's confidence through outdoor activities. They received nearly £2,000 from the Mendip Hills Fund to deliver a conservation volunteering programme for those who have become isolated due to mental or physical health problems as well as those with drug or alcohol issues.

This 'first-step' project gives people an introduction to learning and an awareness of lifelong learning opportunities. It increases their confidence in a group environment and improves their life skills. Working in the outdoors helps individuals reflect upon self-progression and raises awareness of the natural environment. Immersing people in the environment enables a fuller understanding of our impact on the wider community. Through learning many new practical and emotional skills, including increased confidence and access to new opportunities, participants will be given a better chance in life.

Wendy Watkins, Director,
Osprey Outdoors CIC



Case Study: GoCreate Taunton



GoCreate Taunton is a group of creative practitioners in the Taunton Deane area who work together to create arts events. One of their main events is Taunton Live, a creative and performing arts festival celebrating sculpture, poetry and literature, music, dance, yarnbombing and much more.

A £1,000 grant from us helped GoCreate offer free creative workshops for those with learning disabilities and the whole community.

Case Study: Ilminster Entertainment Society

The Society was founded in the 1940s and owns the Ilminster Warehouse Theatre. The Warehouse stages the Society's own productions as well as those of the Youth Theatre, a cinema club and other events. During the year the charity had the opportunity to purchase an adjacent building for £125,000, which they saw as a once in a lifetime opportunity to expand their premises. The Society had already secured over £115,000 from the local community when they applied to us, and our contribution of £5,000 helped them purchase their new premises.

The support and help from Somerset Community Foundation has been fantastic. This grant really helped kickstart the fundraising activities and we are certain that by engaging the children early on, it helped raise the profile of the campaign in the wider community and, ultimately, helped us achieve our end financial goal.

Kate Murdoch,
Theatre Trustee and Fundraiser,
Ilminster Entertainment Society





HPC Community Fund

In May 2017 we signed an agreement with EDF Energy to manage the £12.8m Hinkley Point C (HPC) Community Fund. The fund is part of a wider set of measures and is designed to mitigate ‘intangible and residual’ impacts from the construction of the new HPC power station in Somerset’s communities.

During the year we appointed an Awards Panel comprising Somerset Community Foundation trustees, representatives from local authorities, EDF Energy and independent members. Additionally, Val Bishop was recruited as our new Programmes Director to lead our work on the delivery of the fund. Setting up a fund of this scale takes time but, in autumn 2017, we were able to issue our first call for applications,

and expressions of interest for larger applications were also welcomed. While the amount awarded in the financial year was just over £50,000, within eight months of the launch of the fund over £1m had been awarded to local community projects.

The fund focused around three key programmes, as described on the following page.



Strategic Grants Programme

Targeting specific impacts felt within Somerset communities, identified through consultation with communities and their representatives.

Community Cohesion was the first theme to be identified. This broad 'umbrella' term can be used to describe many aspects of community development and because of this, three focus areas were identified within the overarching theme. The first was strengthening Somerset communities, the second was supporting services (particularly for those community members in housing need) and the third was strengthening BME communities. During the year, ten organisations were invited by the Awards Panel to submit second stage applications to the Strategic Grants Programme.

Small Grants Programme

Grants of up to £5,000 for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises with an annual income of less than £100,000.

In February 2018 the first grants were awarded from the Small Grants Programme. Examples of the work we have funded are provided in the table below.

Otterhampton Ring Fenced Fund

Allocated funding of £500,000 within the HPC site planning agreement.

A team comprising members of the Parish Council and community representatives identify projects and schemes to mitigate impacts being felt within the parish. During the year, two grants were allocated to fund a defibrillator for Steart Village and a Cornish training gig to Combwich Motor Boat & Sailing Club for the young people of the parish to enjoy.



Looking ahead, we will be introducing a broader, 'open' grants programme in 2018/19. We currently have no plans for further calls for new applications to the Strategic Grants programme.

Small Grants Programme	Award	Project Summary	Connection to HPC impact and/or opportunity
Bridgwater Cricket Club	£3,501	Refurbishment of artificial wicket	Strengthening communities in an area hosting workers
Burnham-On-Sea & Highbridge Men's Shed (BOSHed)	£4,780	Upgrading and extending facilities	Community-led project responding to HPC impacts on community well-being and quality of life
Middlezoy Arts	£5,000	Arts, environment and heritage craft project	Community-led project responding to HPC impacts on community well-being and quality of life
Friends of Minehead First School	£5,000	Developing the school's outdoor play area	Strengthening communities in an area hosting workers
Work-Wise	£4,833	Offering support to jobseekers	Connecting community to opportunities at HPC
Old Cleeve Community Hall	£5,000	Repair and refurbishment of village hall	Strengthening communities in an area hosting workers
St Francis Church Holiday Club	£5,000	Summer holiday entertainment for disadvantaged families	Strengthening communities in an area hosting workers
Otterhampton Ring Fenced Fund	Award	Project Summary	Connection to HPC impact and/or opportunity
Combwich Motor Boat & Sailing Club	£17,965	Rowing gig training boat for young people	Community-led project responding to HPC impacts on community well-being and quality of life
Otterhampton Parish Council	£1,119	Defibrillator for the village of Steart	Community-led project responding to HPC impacts on community well-being and quality of life
Sub Total	£52,198		

Surviving Winter

- One in eight Somerset households live in fuel poverty
- On average, there are 330 excess winter deaths each year in Somerset
- One in six older people in Somerset feel isolated

Donations to our annual Surviving Winter campaign passed £100,000 for the first time this year.

Its premise remains very straightforward: a request to people who want to donate the equivalent of their Winter Fuel Payment to help local older people stay warm, healthy and connected during the colder months.

These donations are administered by us and recipients are identified by one of our community partners, such as Age UK, who issue the grants directly to older people on low incomes across Somerset. Many recipients use their Surviving Winter grant, which ranges from £150 to £300, to heat their homes or to help them get out and about. The choice is theirs.

The need for these contributions is still clear. We know that there are, on average, around 300 excess winter deaths in Somerset. Respiratory disease is the underlying cause for over a third of these deaths, largely pneumonia and influenza among those aged 75 or over. Cold homes greatly increase these risks.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors we were able to distribute over 500 grants, which benefited around 700 people during our most recent 2017/18 campaign.

Case study

A Surviving Winter grant was made to an elderly couple who lived in a mobile caravan in a more remote part of Somerset. The caravan had no mains water and the couple relied on gas bottles for cooking and a generator for their electricity. With declining physical health as well as mental health problems, the husband's wellbeing depended on them being able to heat their home, which was an ongoing challenge. Their Surviving Winter grant helped alleviate the pressure of finding money to pay for fuel and our Surviving Winter delivery partner was also able to give the couple information about local services and other help and support that was available to them.



Celebrated potter John Leach, of John Leach's Mulchelney Pottery, says:

I'm very pleased to be supporting Surviving Winter – it's a campaign I heartily endorse. I love Somerset and strongly believe that it's important to look after our neighbours - especially in times of need. My wife Lizzie and I have donated our Winter Fuel Payments to this incredibly worthwhile cause, and, if you have the means, I would ask that you would consider the same.



Raising Aspirations

Raising Aspirations, developed and piloted by Somerset Community Foundation, is a distinct and proven mentoring programme, connecting schools with their local communities to provide essential support to young people.



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Last year we reported how, for the first time, we could show that pupils who had been part of the mentoring programme had significantly better GCSE results than a corresponding control group of pupils.

Starting in 2011, we ran this pilot project in three schools with the support of our funding partners, particularly the Ninesquare Trust and Taunton Deane Borough Council. However, Somerset Community Foundation is not a frontline delivery charity. The final phase of our pilot was to find a partner organisation to run and grow the scheme across more schools in Somerset. Unfortunately, during 2017/18 we were unable to find a group to take on this project.

A recent report from the Government* revealed that four of Somerset's five districts are ranked in the lowest third in the country for social mobility. As education is a key driver of social mobility, giving young people from disadvantaged backgrounds a pathway to better and brighter futures, we have invested more time in finding a practical way to disseminate the Raising Aspirations programme going forward.

During the past year, we were pleased to see that the three pilot schools had continued to run the Raising Aspirations programme, with around sixty mentoring relationships continuing. One of the schools had even devised its own mechanism for tracking the scheme's impact. It is a strong indication of the value the schools place on the programme, which continues to attract interest from other schools across Somerset.

During 2018/19 we will be exploring an approach which is based on funding the schools directly with small grants to commission the support they need to grow the scheme, in particular the recruitment and training of volunteers from their local communities. We are also beginning to explore how Raising Aspirations could form part of a broader SCF social mobility programme in order to address this pressing challenge in our communities.



*https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662744/State_of_the_Nation_2017_-_Social_Mobility_in_Great_Britain.pdf

Working in Partnership

2017/18 has been a record-breaking year for SCF, with over £750,000 of funding awarded to grassroots charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises. This is an amazing achievement but is only possible because of the strong partnerships we have built across the county and beyond.

There is a list of the funds supporting our community investment programmes on page 5, but this only tells part of the story.

In truth, it is the commitment and vision of all the individuals and their families, the local businesses, local charitable trusts and our partners in the public sector that we work with throughout the year that drive the Foundation forward.

When this is combined with the dedication and perseverance of local charities, voluntary groups, and social enterprises, thousands of people's lives are truly transformed and the

communities we live in become more vibrant and inclusive.

This is the essence of 'inspiring philanthropy'.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us, guided us and worked with us to make a lasting change in Somerset during 2017/18. We look forward to working with you in 2018/19!

Thank you!



The Heart of the South West Enhance Social Enterprise Programme is receiving funding from the England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.



Proudly supporting youth social action



Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision:

What we want to see in the future

Our vision for Somerset is a county of vibrant, inclusive communities where voluntary organisations and social enterprises thrive, transforming and enhancing the lives of the most disadvantaged people.

Our Mission:

How we will contribute to that vision

Our mission is to be the catalyst for inspirational philanthropy, providing a simpler and more effective way for donors to make a lasting difference in Somerset through community investment and thought leadership.

Our Values:

Our guiding principles

- Committed to transforming lives and communities in Somerset.
- Knowledgeable in our understanding of local communities and local issues.
- Far-sighted in making a long-term commitment to communities in Somerset.
- Professional by delivering a high-quality, transparent service.
- Accountable by reporting on our impact to our donors, partners and the wider public.
- Fair and equitable in our behaviours, outlook and actions.
- Approachable by communicating effectively with all our stakeholders.



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Vice-Presidents

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Lord Cameron of Dillington DL

John Cullum DL

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Cllr Nigel Taylor (Chairman of Somerset County Council)

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Sarah Lomas

Tim Walker

Staff

Chief Executive Justin Sargent

Operations Director Mary Hancock

Programmes Director Val Bishop

Programmes Manager Jocelyn Blacker

Programmes Manager Andrew Ridgewell

Programmes Manager (Interim) Vicky Dauncey

Communications Executive Sue Wheeler

Administrator Kirsty Campbell

* retired in the year 2017/18

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