

# Swimming in spaghetti

(but keeping a step ahead of Covid)



**The Scurrah Wainwright Charity**

**Review of grants 2019**

## Introduction

Then came Covid... The same words recur in report after report from the charity's beneficiaries this year, as the pandemic took hold with the frightening novelty of something not experienced by the world for over a hundred years. As we all know with the rawness of recent history, step by step everything changed and the steps came in quick succession.

The wreckage of plans and hopes and so much of the good work that forms a staple of these annual reports was huge; but the following pages also tell an uplifting story of resilience and imagination. Many of us naturally want to forget the miseries of lockdown, lonely deaths in hospital and the closure of workplaces and schools, but we will remember the surge in community feeling and the number and strength of helping hands. Check out the report from the Graves Park Health Walk group's daytrip to Cleethorpes!

It is also evident in the aftermath that many new ways of learning and provision of care, advice and campaigning have been born of the emergency, especially the power of remote communication exemplified by Zoom. This has many implications for the charity world in terms of efficiency and saving money and it is interesting and refreshing to read here how quickly such alternatives and improvements were often arranged. The exuberant tone of Westwood 2015's report and Covid response on discovering the power of IT is a great example. This report's title comes from them.

During the lockdowns, trustees and Kerry, our ever-thoughtful and energetic administrator, had many discussions about the situation, which resulted in a questionnaire on the effects of Covid-19 which was sent to all recipients of our grants. Their responses are incorporated in the précis of reports which follow but have also been added as an appendix which may prove useful data for researchers into the pandemic in years to come.

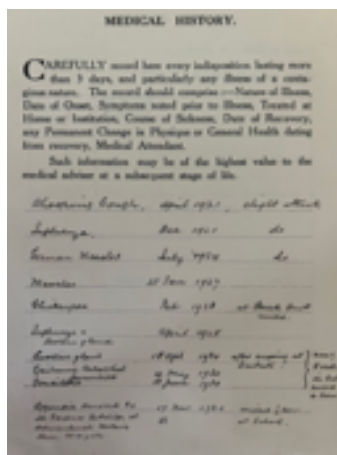
The charity has its own experience of such things, not fortunately in bereavement or illness from Covid but going back to 1918 when the 'Spanish' flu struck and in two years killed more people than the First World War. More about that in the next section.

### **The charity's history and administration**

The Scurrah Wainwright Charity takes its name from Henry Scurrah Wainwright OBE (1877-1968) who was a Leeds chartered accountant and social reformer. He was also instrumental in founding and building up the Leeds medical company, Chas F Thackray Ltd, whose sale in 1990 led to the founding of the charity. Scurrah (a name taken from a family from Well, near Ripon, which married into the Leeds Wainwrights) was also a keen Methodist and a nationally known grower of prize delphinium plants. He served as president of the Leeds Society of Chartered Accountants and was honorary secretary of the Leeds Tradesmen's Benevolent Association for 33 years. During the Depression of the 1930s, he was appointed the first chairman of the Unemployment Assistance Board's Leeds and district advisory committee. In this capacity, which he held until retiring in the late 1940s, he organised personal interviews for every unemployed man in the city under 30 to help them find work. His gardening passion played a part too; in tandem with Leeds' great reforming Labour administration in the 1930s, he tirelessly encouraged the use of allotments and garden space on the big new housing estates.

Scurrah and Emily Wainwright's son and only child, Richard, grew up to share his parents' values and served as a conscientious objector with the Friends Ambulance Service in the Second World War. He was a member of a Leeds NHS hospital board and became a Methodist local preacher before winning election at his fifth attempt, in 1966, as Liberal MP for Colne Valley, the textile and engineering area on the Pennine border of the Roses counties. He was born in 1918, a date remembered as the final end of the devastation caused by the First World War but, until 2019, largely forgotten as the year of the greatest pandemic the world has seen. In recent years, we have included a little family history in the charity's Annual Report and here is some relating to that.

The flu hit Leeds as cruelly as everywhere else. In a usual year, the local death rate from influenza was just over 0.6 out of every thousand people. In 1918, it leapt to 3.28, a rise in deaths from an average of 180 to 1401. As with Covid, the effects lingered and in 1919 another 623 died. The face-masks, bans on large gatherings and multiple other restrictions we have so recently experienced were introduced but in a more amateurish way and there was no equivalent of the technology which has helped so powerfully in the response to Covid. The Hyde Park picture house, which shows films to this day, marked its logbook 'influenza epidemic' in October 1918 and a month later barred servicemen and children, the former as potential spreaders and the latter as possible victims. The state of medical knowledge and counter-measures was well below today's, even though Covid



presented the NHS with many unknowns, and Government policy was harsher, especially with the war continuing until November. An official leaflet used blatant misinformation to try and calm public fears. It concluded: "Don't talk about influenza. It is already wearing itself out and will go all the sooner if you don't talk about it. Influenza is a disease that likes to be noticed."

Richard Wainwright was not infected – at least not until 1921 when the pandemic was over. That year he contracted flu as his parents' record of his medical history shows. It is quite an eye-opener how many conditions could threaten a child in a well-off home in those days. But the wider family was affected, in a way which ensured that our generation and its predecessor never shared the general forgetfulness of the disaster. Our favourite aunty Katie, actually a great-aunt, was engaged in 1912 to a handsome Scotsman while still in her teens, too young to get married by the standards of the day. She agreed to wait until 21 and meanwhile went with her older sister, our maternal grandmother Emmeline, to learn the ropes at Evendine, a pioneering domestic science college in the Malvern Hills. An album of photos shows the fun they had (and it was a great pleasure to go recently with an uncle, the last surviving of Emmeline's five children, and see the college which has been beautifully restored as a private – but welcoming – home).

Then came the war. Jock enlisted and came through four years safely, in spite of long periods in the trenches on the Western Front. But he did not survive the flu. Katie never married but spent her life giving happiness to others, in the family and more widely through the Methodist church and friendships in Leeds. She was kind, sweet and lively and never bowed down by the blow she had suffered. We used to look at her photo of Jock in his Army kilt on the landing of her home in Roundhay before playing with King Tut, her magnetic pop-up miniature Pharoah, or taking her Pekinese Zacota to Roundhay Park where she terrified much bigger dogs.

The Scurrah Wainwright Charity was set up and registered, number 1002755, with the Charity Commission in Spring 1991 when the inaugural meeting was held at Cragg Mount, Woodlands Drive, Rawdon, Leeds LS19 6JZ. It originally took the holding title of the Wainwright Family General Charitable Trust but trustees felt that a more direct tribute to Scurrah Wainwright was appropriate. Following a long and memorable meeting at Ridding House, near Harrogate, the parallel Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust Ltd was also established to promote radical aims outside the limits allowed by the charity laws. Both trusts were endowed through funds from the sale of Chas F Thackray Ltd.



The charity also has strong roots in the H S Wainwright General Charitable Trust, set up by Scurrah Wainwright, but for some years after Andrew Wainwright's death in 1974 known among trustees as 'Andy's Trust'. During the late Seventies and the Eighties, this established a strong tradition of causes associated with Zimbabwe - especially helping Zimbabwean students - in memory of Andrew's affection for the country and its people. A small book of his diaries and letters from Hlekweni rural training centre was published by the Trust, which has some copies still available. There are also copies in the Trust library. The Zimbabwean connection has been nurtured and maintained by the charity and widened to include Southern Africa.

In 2017, the charity continued to be run by five trustees, all members of the Wainwright family. The chairman was Martin Wainwright, former Northern Editor of *The Guardian*. Other trustees were Hilary Wainwright, co-editor of *Red Pepper*; Tessa Wainwright, teacher of English as a foreign language; Penny Wainwright, author; and Hugh Scott, solicitor and former trustee of Manningham Housing Association. Trustees are conscious of their long tenures and are encouraging fuller participation by their five children and their partners. Appointing trustees from outside the family is considered regularly – most recently this year when steps to enlist the next generation were also taken. Meanwhile trustees believe that the range from the family is diverse and works well. Kerry McQuade is administrator for the Charity and the Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust. She may be contacted at 19 Wadsworth Lane, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 8DL  
e-mail: [admin@wainwrighttrusts.org.uk](mailto:admin@wainwrighttrusts.org.uk). The registered office is at The Barn, Thrupp, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 1JY. Peter Dyson, of Bairstow & Atkinson, Halifax, is the charity's financial adviser and accountant. Investment is managed by Close Brothers Asset Management.

No grants were returned or withdrawn in 2019

### **Review of grants in 2019**

It is a condition of grants that recipients must report on their use and the following summaries are based on those reports. The trust has found over the years that these are accurate and honest and that when an organisation has offered to update us later about developments or unresolved issues,

it has done so. That said, it is largely impracticable for the trust to check all outcomes in detail, especially of work further afield. Large numbers of superlatives induce caution and jargon can be off-putting, but the level of clarity about problems has been notable and the sheer quantity of good work speaks for itself.

### **Action for Autism and Asperger's**

*£1800 July*

*Monthly support group for adults with Autism or Asperger's*

*Barnsley*

Your funding paid for a series of monthly outings, co-ordinated by a freelance manager but to venues suggested by members themselves, who also helped to sort travel plans and buy tickets, activities which they would not normally do themselves. The project extended our Monthly Meet-up and included visits to the theatre, cinema, meals out and a gig.

Members have really enjoyed their involvement, and discussions created a buzz which is incredibly important for people who have little but routine in their lives and minimal social contact. Suggesting an event often allows them to pursue and share interests, making them feel valued and appreciated. The programme has been great for people making connections and building relationships with others in the group.

The project would not have been possible without your grant as we are a small and relatively new organisation and all our activity is reliant on project funding. All ten members of the group have benefitted, not a huge number but big enough for people on the Autism or Asperger's spectrum, as communication can be extremely challenging for individuals. Not everyone came on every outing but all were involved on a regular basis.

Many of our group members lead isolated and sedentary lives with few friends and social contacts. The outings and the preparation for them gave them a wonderful opportunity to bond, build a shared history and develop their friendships. Because different group members have suggested activity, the range has been broad. This has opened doors and introduced others to new experiences. In our weekly creative activity Monday Meet-up session chatter often turns to fun and memories from the trip to the cinema or a meal out.

Our members have grown in terms of their confidence. Some struggle with being in new and different settings and being able to experience such things within the security of a supported group has been of great value. Members have had wonderful fun and such friendly social experiences which have made a huge difference to their sense of belonging, social interactions and well-being.

### **Africa's Gift**

*£1000 July*

*New lavatories and rainwater harvesting at a Lesotho school*

We are pleased to report a successful outcome to our garden project and I am writing to confirm the work we have completed at Malealea Primary School in Lesotho in spite of initial difficulties.

We had hoped to combine your grant for shade and fencing with separate funding for rainwater harvesting and new toilets at the school. Unfortunately, our applications to two other trusts were

unsuccessful but our volunteers raised enough themselves to plan two visits to Lesotho to install the rainwater system and fencing and carry out toilet repairs.



The March visit did not complete the fencing and the April one was then cancelled because of Covid pandemic restrictions. The unspent portion of your grant was left in the community with our partners the Malealea Development Trust, to be used when work became practicable again. Once their lockdown eased, work was completed by trusted community members who installed guttering to the main classrooms (two blocks each containing three classrooms, running parallel to one another down the sloping site), the guttering feeding into JoJo storage tanks which have had punctures repaired and new taps fitted, and the garden securely fenced as planned. So the 100 girls, 88 boys, six permanent teachers and four trainees now have everything they need for a successful garden and hope to start cultivation very shortly.

### **Alive and Kicking Theatre Company**

*£2000 November*

*Interactive drama project – Museum of Untold Stories – for primary school classes*

*Leeds*

Our work has been very seriously affected by the Covid pandemic as school closures led to the suspension of all programmed activity, loss of projected income and of revenue-earning capacity. It also meant that our planned Christmas show for schools and families – usually a major part of our annual programme – had to be put on hold.

However, we were grateful that an Arts Council England emergency grant in April and another small emergency grant paid our company core costs into early autumn, and allowed us to adapt and deliver live, interactive storytelling workshops online to both children and teachers still in school and those isolated at home. The menu of workshops we have developed enables children aged 4-11 in diverse communities to explore their creativity, have fun and develop their literacy skills. Some workshops are narrative-focused and others are bespoke ‘in role’ sessions with characters from fairy tales, history and science.

Take-up was good, with groups ranging from 12 mixed-age children in school to a single child and parent at home. As more children return to school and teachers become more confident at assessing and planning creative projects that work both at school and home, bookings are increasing with 15 sessions firmly planned, and further enquiries. This work has enabled us to maintain our profile and relationships and we are even working in some new schools. While there has been quite a lot of ‘storytelling’ available online, there has been very little else that is live, tailored and truly interactive in the manner of Alive & Kicking. Anecdotally, we know that the success of our live programme is in contrast to many other organisations, for whom take up of recorded content and resources has been much lower. We will continue to offer this online programme for as long as it is appropriate or capacity allows, and to work with teachers to respond to changing needs. Looking further ahead, it will be interesting to see how we might incorporate elements of this new way of working into some of our projects.

Alongside this current programme, a significant funded project focused on Windrush has been re-planned and moved online for delivery later in the year during Black History Month. We have re-thought our Christmas offering and are planning a much scaled-back, safe and socially distanced Christmas event for schools that is still joyous and interactive, but also gently acknowledges both the shared and unique experiences of the current time; and we have a meeting scheduled with Leeds Kirkgate Market to discuss ideas for a series of similarly suitable, socially distanced, interactive family Christmas events there.

We are maintaining dialogue with schools and very much hope that we can reschedule agreed projects and plan future work, including our three 'residency' schools with whom we had significant programmes agreed. We have also received confirmation of a new, exciting tranche of work with nursery and reception children in one of our partner schools, Clapgate Primary, for which they have just been awarded grant funding. The project is initially for one year but with the potential for extension and expansion to other settings.



Several specific projects, for which we secured grant funding in the months prior to Covid-19, have for the time being been paused and the funds ringfenced so that they can be restarted once face-to-face activity resumes. We feel fortunate that this creates a modest pipeline of work and well-developed projects to offer to schools, which helps support the company as we move forward from the Covid emergency.

Your grant for the Museum of Untold Stories has been sitting in this category. Some work on the refurbishment and construction of new props has taken place during lockdown and we plan to begin marketing the project from this autumn for advance or provisional bookings, as appropriate. Interestingly, Icarus Bly (the eccentric curator of the Museum - *pic above*) has been a popular choice for schools booking from our current, online programme – this bodes well for the future development and take-up of the project.

### **All Saints Landmark Centre**

*£4000 March*

*Free service to help marginalised people find jobs*

*Bradford*

Without your funding, this project might have failed altogether. As it is, the funding has made the difference between the breadline and destitution.

We deliver eight hours a week of drop-in IT support to any comers in this severely deprived community and three hours of one-to-one mentoring for long-term unemployed clients, all with a poor grasp of English, literacy, and computer skills. We offer personal assistance at ten workstations, free of charge. Each drop-in lasts two hours, is attended by up to ten people (average six) and costs us £60. Mentoring costs £30 per one-hour session. Four drop-ins and three mentoring sessions comes to £330 per week. Your grant of £4000 enabled us to run 60 drop-in sessions and 45 mentoring sessions during a period of over 12 weeks.

We supported around 40 clients with few qualifications to build skills and compile CVs, learning at their own pace which gave them greater autonomy. Where appropriate, we made our IT available to those with no computer of their own, to complete their coursework. A key obstacle in career readiness and workplace skills is IT literacy. We made common tools like Learn My Way available through our drop in, but also developed a specialised curriculum to teach core skills for finding work, so we could place people at the appropriate level.

Our one-to-one mentoring supported people to evaluate their circumstances, skills, and confidence and take steps towards job readiness. This helped people overcome their communication barriers by providing a proofreading service for CVs, applications and covering letters, and helping them to analyse the way their words came across. We used exercises like mock interviews and practice applications to give service users feedback on their progress. Where more specialised language support was required we helped clients to find appropriate courses and qualifications, and provided space for them to reflect on their progress.

We gauged the need for this project through a survey which found that 46% of our users were still on Job Seekers Allowance, meaning they had been unemployed at least since the full introduction of Universal Credit in June 2018. Many lacked the confidence to change. Subsequently 54% reported increased confidence about their job search since they started attending, and 31% improved self-esteem. In the same survey, 92% of respondents reported an improvement in their IT skills and 1% reported improved literacy. While most people came to us through Jobcentre referrals, we found ourselves being trusted more than the statutory services. We demonstrated that even the most entrenched clients could find success.

We expected two people a month to attain proficiency in five of eight identified key IT literacy skills, ranging from conducting and recording a job search to completing a Word document. In mentees we expected to see growth in confidence and job readiness, using the Outcomes Star tool. (We have experience of using this tool to help our clients make an initial assessment of their needs and helping them place themselves accurately on a skills scale by asking probing questions. By repeating the exercise six months later, they can identify their own progress.)

Like many other organisations we had to close the facility from the March 2020 because of the Covid pandemic and furlough James Clayton, including awarding him the 20% employers' charge. We anticipate a return to function at the end of June or beginning of July, with up to four clients at any time in the room with James, spaced at safe distances from each other, and separated waiting spaces in the body of the church, outside the IT room. We are researching the purchase of perspex screens inside the room, to protect him from clients sitting close to his work station, and software to allow him access to their computer screens without his having to come physically close.

Meanwhile the situation has not caused our clients excessive difficulties as benefit claimants do not have to show evidence of searching for jobs at present. We understand this will end at the end of June or beginning of July, although the government has not confirmed this. We anticipate ending James' furlough at that same time. And of course James is unable to work remotely, as our clients mostly do not have access to computers – indeed this is the predicament Landmark addresses.

We are not in crisis financially, as we only have to pay James 20% of his salary, and no rent. Otherwise the project is on hold, saving funds for when we can safely return to the church building.



**Arts on the Run**

*£1000 July*

*Office rent and photographic/recording equipment for a project promoting artists in the asylum-seeker/refugee community*

*Sheffield*

Your funding went to our online course on The Fundamentals of Digital Photography and Videography. Because we were unable to secure all the monies we required for a wider project (we received £2,000 in total) we scaled back what we intended to do, using the money obtained to fund some infrastructure costs (rent, website renewal) as well as the course.

The aim was to teach the basics of using a digital camera thereby enabling migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking artists to create professional photographs and videos to promote their work. The course was given by Ayse Balkose of Studio Balko, a visual artist and film-maker whose photographic work has been critically acclaimed and whose short films have featured at films festivals both nationally and internationally.

It lasted two half-days in March, originally intended to use a workshop format which let participants see and handle the camera and learn about its features. However, because of the Covid pandemic the venue we had earmarked had to close, and so we moved the course on line. It was delivered in three videos of just over an hour in length.

Thirty seven people took part by accessing the videos via 'YouTube or the Skills-share platform. which they will be able to play again to refresh and reinforce their knowledge as and when necessary. We also believe other migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking artists will make use of the videos because they are easily accessed on line.

The course covered the foundation steps of digital photography: how to use a digital camera, the functions of the buttons and numbers on a camera, manual settings such as ISO, aperture, shutter speed, the light meter and basic composition rules. It proved successful in enabling artists who had little or no knowledge of photography and video-making to gain basic skills in using a digital camera. Once restrictions are lifted, we aim to organise at least one session in which artists will be able to see and handle the camera and be shown how it works in practice. We will also offer initial support to participants as they work to become practitioners.

**Aspire**

*£3000 July Expanding social and creative sessions for older people*

*Huddersfield*

Your funding went to an expansion of our work through the provision of social and creative sessions for older people. The money was spent on the salary costs of staff who were planning and delivering our ongoing project and also on the salary of the project coordinator, Susanna Shotter. In December 2019 we achieved charity status and joined our sister projects across Kirklees to become Aspire Creating Communities, independent from St John's Church but still working with them to deliver Aspire sessions as part of their regular community work.

The funding strengthened our foundations for growing into a new charity. The local community of St John's church benefited, with 27 service users aged over 55 having regular contact with the Aspire group, as well as organised intergenerational activities which connected us with over 30 school children and older teens during 2019.



The grant, in conjunction with other monies, made a significant difference to our capacity to deliver and improve the quality of the service. We have grown to become a reputable and well-known charity across Kirklees and now have a team of six part-time paid staff and 26 volunteers across seven Aspire groups in different venues. We work in partnership with Kirklees council to take new referrals of vulnerable adults and isolated people in need of connection, creativity and wellbeing support. We are increasing the standard of delivery of our work through various assessments and awards, working towards the Kirklees Volunteering Quality Award, and adhering to the occupational therapy code of ethics. Our charity is led by an experienced mental health occupational therapist, and is now an Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly organisation.

As a charity we help over 150 beneficiaries across Kirklees, planning to launch three new groups next year, and adapting and expanding our usual delivery to restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic. Your grant made a significant contribution to this. During lockdowns, staff worked mainly from home and met as a team fortnightly on Zoom. We had to pause all seven groups but spent 50 hours a week 'phoning current clients and helping the most isolated know how they can access us if they need someone to talk to.

We have also launched #KeepKirkleesCrafting for which we have been given enough funding to deliver 150 craft and wellbeing hampers each month to every one of our current service users, plus new referrals in each of the patches that we work in. Council funding paid for a technology pilot project for helping users make video calls to friends and family using 35 new tablet computers.

The pandemic worried us initially but local smaller grant providers and Covid response grants have enabled us to work at a high level of effectiveness and to change the way we work without reducing staff hours or pay. We have funding applications under way that hopefully will see us through 2021 as we intend to grow as an organisation, currently planning to launch up to three new groups in Kirklees if the funding is available. We are aware that a recession and an economic crisis may affect us and of course these are very uncertain times for everyone. We do however have the support of the local authority to put measures in place to be a sustainable organisation as we are recognised as a charity that delivers a unique and high-quality level of support to many older people. Your grant was before Covid became an issue and prior to us becoming a charity, so it has not been affected.

### **Beat Autism**

*£3000 November*

*School holiday activities for children on the autistic spectrum  
Wakefield*

The grant was to provide summer activities for autistic children over the school holidays but the Covid pandemic intervened. Our children and families are at high risk and vulnerable and the children would not be able to stick to social distancing. We changed our methods completely,

working from home and supporting vulnerable families through 'phone, FaceTime or Zoom meetings. It was extremely difficult as autistic children like routine and structure and this turned their world upside down and inside out.

Our workload increased dramatically as there are more and more families needing support because of the behaviour of their children who don't understand what is happening - no school, no family contact and no going out. Ninety percent of our work is normally done face to face in support groups, crisis support and children's activities. All these were cancelled and have not yet restarted. We are trying to source funding to allow us to rent our own office space. Once this is secured we will be able to continue our work as then we can control the cleanliness of the building, contain numbers and implement socially distancing safely with all the families that we support.

Our fund-raising is done through the summer months and was also affected - we had to cancel 11 events planned for World Autism Awareness Week. Nine sponsored events have also been lost and a Summer gala where we run a stall was called off. After consulting the charity, we agreed to delay the programme which you are paying for until the Summer of 2021.

### **Bethel Community Church**

*£4703 November*

*Activities for young people on Bierley estate*

*Bradford*

The Covid pandemic has changed the way that youth work can be done in our estate. Since March we have liaised with E:merge, the youthwork charity, to provide contact by social media with young people, offering emotional support, games and activities and Zoom meetings. While there is not the physical gathering possible, all attempts are made to reach out in this strange time. Regular food and activity drops are made in cooperation with local hubs to ensure that there is some provision of food necessities. Thank you for maintaining the grant during this changed way of working.

A weekly meeting – Church@5 – which gave food and fellowship with a message and prayer for young people and adults and was one of the most vibrant and successful partnerships between youth work and the church family, had to stop. In its place we tried a Zoom church@5 but after one attempt felt that it was best not to invite young people as there were too many questions about how it could work. These ranged from Zoom being off limits for under-18s to the loss of food and face-to-face contact. Other complexities such as whether it is appropriate to talk to a young person while they are in their bedroom also brought a pause. Only three of the six or seven adults regularly meeting for church@5 with young people, were not self-isolating. But church@5 is being reformed to pray and talk about young people's work and this is one of the real positives to come out of lockdown.

The E:merge team was furloughed for one month and once back at work they had much of their contact with young people through social media. This is less strange for the members of a qualified youth team with professional accountability and E:merge continued to make contact with many young people in this new way.

Fundraising has been affected too but the church family remains generous and E:merge and Together have kept going because budgeting works a year ahead and the BD4 area has received some reasonable extra Government funding for relief and supplies to vulnerable families. Longer-

term fund-raising to strengthen and, in part, rebuild the cooperation between church, youth work and other community outreach may need to look further afield.

The biggest complexity caused by Covid has been creating so many different ways to communicate and meet. The interruption of face-to-face contact with groups of young people, visits to schools and other services offered that have been shelved is very significant. While a great deal can be done remotely, the time since restrictions eased has re-emphasised the importance of visits and small group activities such as games of football or tennis. Two areas hit hardest are taking young people for visits or holidays although there are plans locally for holiday clubs.

Overall, there is so much work to be done - scaled down in terms of large groups meeting but the demands of working more intensely with small groups and individuals will not go away.

### **Bradford City of Sanctuary**

*£4000 November*

*Helping fund part-time Coordinator*

Your funding ensured the continuation of our Coordinator role which has sustained all the activities of the charity and we have been pleased to recruit Mike Auger. He has spent the last 14 months ensuring that the money has been put to best use.



Apart from the Schools for Sanctuary project, our work is entirely run by volunteers. Co-ordinating them is essential to continue to create an environment of safety and hospitality and a city that is more inclusive and welcoming where the contributions of those seeking sanctuary are recognised.

Despite significant challenges from the Covid pandemic, we are thriving as an organisation with two excellent staff and a strong board of trustees. We are financially secure and have a growing reputation. Over the past year, our communications have been significantly improved including a revamp of our website, quarterly newsletters, media engagement, social media and email.

Key coordinator tasks include: administration, managing our communications, processing donations, event organisation, public speaking and displays at public events. Mike also leads on our Help into Volunteering project, relaunched online this week due to Covid, and our Streams of Sanctuary work, through which he is currently engaging with Bradford Literature Festival, Bradford Interchange travel hub and Oxfam shops, to ensure sanctuary seekers' access to their services.

Awareness-raising events were difficult due to the pandemic but your funding supported periodic Open Meetings as well as a live music performance. We also produced the well-received *Free Things To Do In Bradford* guide aimed at sanctuary seekers. With so many frontline services closed or only operating online, we created and widely circulated a list of services for refugees and asylum seekers in Bradford during the pandemic. Crucially, we have also increased our number of supporters - as well as individual financial support by creating a Give as you Live account and attaching a Donate button to our website.

We have been a key partner in the development of the recently launched Welcome to Bradford website which has many translation options and have redesigned our own, which now has over 900 monthly visits. Our online reach has increased by over 80% over the past 12 months, with currently 835 Facebook followers and 911 on Twitter. We continue to develop our relationship with Bradford University of Sanctuary which provides scholarships and a support network for sanctuary-seeking students. And we are making progress with Bradford Council in discussions about them becoming a Local Authority of Sanctuary, which would make a huge difference to many refugees and asylum-seekers living in the city.

To have not only continued our work throughout the height of Covid, but to have improved and increased our reach feels like a real achievement over the past year – during which we were forced to furlough our Coordinator for three months (two fully). This progress would not have been possible without your valuable and hugely-appreciated financial help.

### **Bridge Project**

*£4000 March*

*Woman worker in town centre youth project*

*Tadcaster*

Your funding has made a difference to the life of teenage girls in Tadcaster. We recognised the need to provide a specific service for them and so used your grant to employ a girls' worker to lead and develop this. She supported the open drop-in youth club we run on Wednesdays and led three self-esteem courses, one at the youth centre and two through a local school. The aim was to improve the lives of girls aged 11-18 and we achieved the following in self-reporting feedback.

In 16 surveys we conducted with the girls who had attended the courses, ten rated the course as 10/10, five gave it 9/10 and one 8.5/10. All the girls felt that they had learned something during their time on the course. One wrote "Now I feel like I can be myself" and another "I have learnt not to compare myself to others."

*One parent wrote: "My daughter attended the course before summer. Her self-esteem was at an all-time low and her behaviour at home was becoming challenging. She had had a bad few years, her father and myself had divorced, I was poorly and in and out of hospital for a while and then I remarried and she had a whole new family unit to deal with. Since the course we have our daughter back, she is much more confident, happier in herself and will chat more now and spend time with us. She has less of the world weighing her down and even though she is still shy she has made new friends and is feeling happier at school. The course has been invaluable to her and us, her family. The communication with the excellent people that run this course has been great. They respect the young person's privacy but offered support to me when I approached one of the leaders privately to voice my concerns, I was completely reassured by the response."*

During this time, we also recognised the need for specialist support for boys, and along with our male youth worker, the girls' worker helped develop a course specifically aimed at boys. We recognised that for the girls to be treated with respect and equality from their male peers, we needed to work with boys around issues relating to them as well, such as social media, porn, relationships and mental health. This has developed the portfolio of courses we offer to schools, and our male youth worker was able to begin delivering to nine boys in the same school in February 2020 with two other girls courses planned to start in summer term. Unfortunately, due to covid-19 we were unable to continue delivering these as school closed to outside visitors. The girls' worker spent time developing the course to be used online and we are now due to restart the courses in March 2020.

The girls' worker has also pioneered the development of a new youth club for 10–14-year-olds, as the younger end of the age range did not feel confident attending the older group. This provides the opportunity for them to build relationships with more girls, providing early intervention and offering a role model from an earlier age. This began in late January 2020, and during lockdown our youth workers have been maintaining contact with this group by delivering activity packs to their houses each week and through an online youth club.

In the Summer, The Bridge Project supported another organisation in the town which recently started a club for 7-11s, to deliver a full-time Summer club and enable parents to go back to work after the first lockdown. There were 97 children in attendance over seven weeks. The girls' worker was able to support the mental health and wellbeing of the year 5 and 6 girls who are transitioning into secondary school and provide a key mentoring relationship as they do so. We are continuing to work with schools such as Tadcaster Grammar and Manor School to set up remote delivery of the courses including a resource called the Big Green Heart which enables young people to learn to deal with their emotions and explore the idea of forgiveness. Despite a long break in delivering courses we now have our next girls' course set up to begin on 15th March.

### **Call for Duty**

*£2500 November*

*Football sessions for young refugees*

*Sheffield*

Your grant arrived at the beginning of December in 2019 and the project was launched a month later. Sadly, we were obliged to close down because of Covid and the lockdown, with a provisional date to resume activities in August. One of our key organisers then suffered ill-health and she and her husband, who is looking after her, have both taken leave of absence from the group. We remain committed to the project and have taken on other work relating to problems caused by the anti-Covid measures.

### **Casting Innovations**

*£5000 March*

*Promoting the creative recycling of aluminium cans*

*Rotherham*

The grant was spent as agreed and provided us with small mobile facilities to deliver activities out in the community across a much wider area - Rotherham borough, bordering North Sheffield and Barnsley.

Did the grant make a difference? It did and will continue to do so, by being enabling a portable in-service delivery as soon as we can re-engage with groups after the Covid pandemic and attend events. Summer and Autumn last year were very productive thanks to the ability to get out of the centre but schools were slow to organise as we needed. Our hopes of engaging in school cluster activities that would be inter-generational did not happen.

However, we had a good response with Barnsley schools and Thomas Rotherham College (16-plus students, an ideal age group to get the recycling, exploitation, pollution argument across to with positive alternatives) as well as the usual local schools. Activities were much freer due to being able to take more equipment out with us and demonstrate a wider variety of casting and recycling processes including melting and smelting clean aluminium waste safely as part of activities with larger groups safely. Previously this had been more focused on playing pre-recorded videos.



Who benefited? Mostly families, children and parents with some grandparents via the schools, 16 and 17-year-olds in two colleges, and three new groups of older, people suffering from anxiety, depression, addiction and poor mental health. Because of Covid, direct engagement with these groups had to be cancelled two months ago although we are in contact and planning outreach delivery virtually and through posted crafting packs. This will be dependent on the beneficiaries' access to social media and ability to use it.

Covid's effect: all our activities were focused on group, class, crowd and event engagement with a portable furnace at outdoor festivals with suitable protection. We also planned to attend large festivals such as Every Can Counts recycling events, environmental and green festivals including Green Man and large regional shows subject to free booking availability. We were due to do Castle Donnington, Rotherham Show and Barnsley show, Rotherham LGBT, Love Comes First, Willow Man with other peace groups. Everything of course has been cancelled. Our hopes of a stage two development plan of online training and engagement programmes to reach a much wider community of different ages focusing on older, disabled, mental health conditions (including agoraphobia and people with high anxiety) are also in abeyance.

In principal, largely thanks to your grant, we should be delivering across the Yorkshire and Humber region to packed events and schools as well as other events. In fact, we have had to borrow £18,000 as an emergency loan or the community centre on which we have a 25-year lease would have closed and bills gone unpaid. We remain mobile and are currently discussing options with schools in Rotherham and Barnsley and colleges but since they do not know when they will re-open, nothing can be planned.

We succeeded last year in reaching far more vulnerable, isolated people aged 40-plus and established a good relationship with the LGBT community but all of our regular groups are isolated and locked down and our focus is on alleviating depression, anxiety, self-harming (prevalent in the LGBT community) and working with CCG/NHS 'virtual outreach activities' through Voluntary Action Rotherham with a lighter touch on the global suffering in areas blighted by ore extraction and toxic waste production. The message is still there, but, we are acutely aware that the only news people are getting on the whole is a daily barrage of death, uncertainty, social breakdown and financial hardship and we do not want people to turn away from us long-term.

Without emergency loan funding, Casting Innovations would have closed its doors permanently two months ago but funding options to respond to Covid are coming through, albeit slowly often difficult to manage. We do not want to just become a mainstream sub-contractor of arts and crafts where the recycling and socio-economic morality of international cooperation is lost and with it the value we add on explaining how aluminium recycling links to agriculture and subsistence living/farming.

Looking ahead, we will try to make stronger connections to the cooperative movement from a political standpoint as we are now precariously weak and feel marginalized with everything focused on Covid as though nothing else was happening in the world. Poverty, exploitation, famine and destitution from contaminated land hasn't stopped but there is no focus on any of these issues now, so small groups feel very isolated.

As a response we will place more emphasis on online messaging, trying to package activities of learning for schools as virtual education but still linking crafting and recycling to the response of original unnecessary exploitation in the poorest areas. We have all been working together on Zoom, something new for most of us but we have attracted younger volunteers who are helping with this. Our big fear is that activities other than neighbourhood alleviation of poverty with food parcels and basic care will completely overshadow everything else for years. Fundraising has also stopped but we hope that renewed engagement with schools will be a lifeline.

In spite of this bleak picture, we have developed a project of recycling environments depicted in two metal willow trees with cans collected by the local schools, pupils, parents / families, and neighbourhood support. The events involved workshop outreach in schools and visits to the centre in Canklow. We also ran a community crafting Christmas challenge before Covid, making Father Christmas Keys from recycled aluminium in class groups (designing, finishing, and presenting to pupils' families). The ethical, environmental awareness side of this focussed on 'preserving what we have as a society, community and as a world with finite resources' linked to the true spirit of Christmas, giving, and sharing, not exploiting.

Finally, we have taken part in emergency response planning and engagement and Castings volunteers are developing outreach crafting packs for vulnerable isolated individuals across Rotherham borough to combat loneliness and isolation, depression and poor mental health. Online webinars and downloadable videos are being developed to engage people remotely with aluminium recycling and global exploitation

### **Centre for Military Justice**

*£2000 November*

*Building website for charity providing legal and advocacy services to members of the armed forces UK-wide*

This grant met a third of the cost of building of our website and led to the completion of the project sooner than expected. The result is easy to navigate, beautifully designed with a fantastic logo, has a donation box embedded in the site and provides an excellent overview of the services the CMJ has to offer. It also provides case studies and more in-depth information pieces about particular issues of concern (*eg* the extent of sexual violence, domestic abuse and similar issues affecting the armed forces). The centre has already received a number of referrals as a consequence of the website and some donations.



The design was carried out by an excellent social enterprise called Clean Honest Design which specialises in working with charities. They spent a huge amount of time not only designing and setting up the website, but training me to update and amend it, and providing ongoing IT support around arranging a domain transfer, sorting out various webmail account addresses and assisting with other administrative issues.

The centre helps people in the Armed Forces to get access to free, independent and expert legal advice to deal with serious bullying, sexual harassment, gender-based violence and other forms of discrimination. Additionally, bereaved military families need access to expert legal support and representation when dealing with the aftermath of a service death.

We provide these services by:

- Running a free information and advice helpline for victims and their families
- Offering inquest support and legal representation
- Carrying out casework
- Running strategic and public interest litigation
- Campaigning and lobbying to help change policy and practice
- Offering psychological support for clients

The new website adds much value by:

- Publicising our services to victims, their families, supporters, partners, allies, the public and the press
- Providing a quick and easy way for victims and their families to contact us via a helpline and contact form
- Providing free information, guides, case studies, analysis, critiques and updates for our allies
- Raising the profile and credibility of the CMJ and this area of work as a whole

The primary aims of the CMJ are necessarily long term, the outcomes of our case work, inquests, public interest litigation and campaigning particularly will take time to be achieved so it is not possible to attribute success at that level yet as the CMJ is so young. However, we can say that those who have contacted the CMJ via our helpline (clearly advertised on our website) and those who have accessed the information and expertise we have on the website have been direct beneficiaries of help, advice and information already.

In May 2020 we launched judicial review proceedings challenging the present system for prosecuting sexual crimes in the Armed Forces. This is ground-breaking work and could lead to structural change where victims of rape in the Armed Forces would have their cases heard in the civilian rather than military judicial system where conviction rates are significantly lower.

We are providing legal representation in relation to two potential claims under the Human Rights Act 1998 which could result in declarations, apologies and damages to be paid to the victim of rape whose cases were very badly mismanaged by the military authorities. A number of other enquiries have been received which we hope to be able to progress later in the summer.

We have been contacted by five women who have suffered serious sexual trauma, three of whom are still serving, and who are seeking advice about bringing claims in the Employment Tribunal pleading victimisation and sexual harassment.

We have been contacted by four bereaved families and are on record as acting for two of them – one of them concerns a young man whose body was discovered three weeks after he had died, on Army barracks, in circumstances where he had recently complained of racist bullying; and the other who had made a formal complaint of very serious bullying but had been advised to withdraw it by his superiors on the basis that it would impact on his promotional prospects. We are considering acting for the other two families.

We have had approximately 70 queries via our online form from people seeking one-off pieces of advice or referral to other services. These have included a man who suffered rape in the Army 60 years ago and needed advice and support to talk about it; another male who suffered rape and who we have advised and supported to report to the police; a young serving officer accused of a criminal offence to whom we provided advice and referred on for specialist criminal law advice; and a number of queries from people who have gone on to become clients.

We have been successful in further fundraising since your generous grant and have been granted a further £25,000 which will have been in large part due to the profile of the CMJ afforded by our website. We are awaiting news of two large outstanding applications and hope we are successful because we already desperately need to recruit another member of staff.

Like everyone else we have been impacted by the Covid pandemic during which the website has become even more crucial as our point of contact. We are also seeing a direct knock-on effect of Covid restrictions with victims of domestic violence seeking help in circumstances where the usual DV charities are unable to take on more cases due to the surge in referrals generally.

Your grant has already made a substantial difference to the CMJ and in turn this means that a number of serving and former service personnel, their families and allies have already been provided with the support, advice and information that they need which we will build on going forwards.

## **CHOPSTICKS**

*£2000 July*

*Replacement tools for a workshop providing practical skills to people with learning difficulties  
Northallerton*

The grant was used primarily to support our plan to provide a greater range of woodworking skills development and personal development opportunities for our work team members (service user/clients) in particular to purchase and install the following equipment:

1. JET JPT 260 planer thicknesser
2. Bosch hand sander
3. Dust extraction ducting

The new equipment has enabled three more of our work team members to help build a broader range of rustic garden ware. We then sell these products which bring in much-needed income for our charity. Our community social enterprise business will also benefit from the increased range of products we can now produce, the enhanced profile this will bring to our organisation, and hence our level of interest and appeal to potential future service users/clients.

After the Covid pandemic struck, we suspended community business operations but they have now restarted on a restricted basis, with a small number of our workshop staff and myself returning to Endeavour House workshop and office. We have been concentrating on upgrading our workshop and replacing equipment and improving facilities in preparation for the day when our work team members will return. We are not anticipating recommencement of day care services involving our work team members until September 2020 or possibly even later in the year, once widespread testing and new vaccination becomes available. This is proving very challenging for our work team members, as they miss the daily routine of attending their supported workplace and the connections they have with work team colleagues and the friendships they have formed. We too are missing having them alongside us, the individual characters and personalities and the level of support they bring us.



There is at least light at the end of the tunnel and we are slowly starting to get back to close to normal. We remain very positive about our workshop operations and day care services. We have already started planning for the future by reviewing a range of possible new partnerships and innovations in our services.

We are preparing a new three-year development strategy and investment plan which will be presented to our board at its monthly meeting in August 2020. The main element of the plan will be a proposed two storey extension to our existing building subject to gaining planning permission. The additional space will provide a new community workshop (ChopShed) which will incorporate a café style canteen and a factory shop - in which our work team members can become involved in selling products they have been involved in producing. The upper floor of the extension will provide a much-needed increase in storage capacity for our donated timber and completed products.

We believe new opportunities lay ahead, even in this time of uncertainty in many areas of local community life.

## **CREATING BETTER FUTURES**

*£5000 November Core costs for project supplying reusable sanitary towels to schoolgirls in Zimbabwe*

As with most charities, the Covid pandemic has affected the way in which we are able to work and also raise funds here in the UK, but our team have successfully transitioned very quickly to working from home and we have had a good response to our virtual events and fundraising campaigns during the past four months, although of course we have had a number of large-face to-face events cancelled or postponed.

The situation in Zimbabwe for our team and our beneficiaries has been challenging, as with schools closed and restrictions on movement, we have been unable to deliver our usual programmes and we have been adjusting our approach by providing feeding parcels to over 600 families in a safe and socially distanced manner. Additionally, we have been providing information to our beneficiaries about staying safe from Covid, as the awareness in Zimbabwe is not as high as we have seen in the UK.

We are continuing with the roll-out of the sanitary pad project financed by your grant, although some of the activities have been delayed due to the Covid pandemic. We bought four sewing machines in Zimbabwe to start the initial phase of the project and are shipping out seven more which we received free from Tools With a Mission.

Our team in Zimbabwe has recruited women to start making the pads and a trainer to teach how



to develop them in line with methods and patterns developed here in the UK. This initial training has taken place but with many shops shut in Zimbabwe and travel restrictions, we have been unable to purchase the fabric needed to progress the roll-out. In addition, we are seeing increases in the price of many items in Zimbabwe, including fabric, due to inflation. Our team is monitoring the situation and looking into options to source the fabric we need. This means that we will not have fully completed the project by November 2020 and we are grateful

that the SWC has extended the grant term. While the situation in Zimbabwe remains uncertain, as soon as things improve, we will be able to start making progress with the project roll-out.

### **Democracy Fund**

*£10000 July*

*Promoting participation in UK elections*

*UK-wide*

The Fund was set up by the Rowntree Reform Trust which sought partners and after a joint discussion, the SWC and our sister-trust, the Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust, gave £10,000 each. The aim is to back projects which work to enable everyone to vote, extend the franchise, and increase participation in UK elections.

The Fund made ten grants relating to participation at the general election in 2019, which generated an estimated 350,619 registrations, predominantly of young people. These make up 9% of the record 3.8 million additions to the register ahead of election and include an estimated 175,310 people voting for the first time.

Much of the past year and half has been spent in seeking to understand what works and what doesn't in voter participation – and where the gaps in our knowledge still lie. Specific lessons came out of the election campaigns, including:

- Comprehensive democratic education (both specific politics or school citizenship lessons) can significantly increase young people's likelihood to participate and address existing political inequality.
- Registering students to vote at the same time as enrolling in university offers an opportunity to increase participation at scale; in November 2019 the University of Sheffield had already registered more than 11,500 students through integrated enrolment since the start of the term.

- Digital ads and social media campaigns generated 389,000+ click-throughs to the government's register-to-vote site, though we have not found clear evidence on the impact of ads on registration at a postcode or constituency level.
- Research found very little experience or good practice amongst local authority Electoral Registration Officers in reaching out to black, Asian and minority ethnic voters. Well-targeted information campaigns to citizens of different Commonwealth countries are needed to help them exercise their right to vote.

We have gained an understanding of the strengths and fragility of the organisations working on voter participation, and seen a need for greater coordination and collaboration. The Fund convened a meeting in February 2020 that brought together campaigners as well as the Electoral Commission, Cabinet Office and Association of Electoral Administrators to reflect on learning from the general election. Several practical actions emerged from that meeting, including new Electoral Commission guidance for non-party campaigners.

Research we funded into Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), launched in April this year, continues to make an impact. The House of Lords Select Committee on the Registration Act picked up a number of the report's recommendations and a Lords amendment was tabled to the Parliamentary Constituencies Bill requiring the government to report on measures to improve the accuracy and completeness of electoral registers, with examples of automatic registration reforms. The Bill is currently in parliamentary 'ping-pong' and efforts to build Commons' support for the proposal continue.

The report and the reality of trying to run engagement campaigns in a pandemic – alongside other proposed reforms such as Voter ID – have grown the base of campaign groups engaging with the issue of AVR. These now include organisations primarily concerned with young people's voice or that of private renters and black, Asian and minority ethnic voters. Prompted by the Fund, several campaign groups are coming together to strengthen the voter participation sector's ability to advocate collectively on these and other issues.

## **The coming year**

2021 promises to be a busy year for democracy in the UK and the Fund. We have 12 active grants relating to different elections taking place in May 2021, including a cluster of grants in Wales. These groups are working with newly enfranchised 16 and 17-year-olds, and seek to strengthen the case for Votes at 16 by demonstrating how its introduction alongside information and engagement campaigns can boost participation. Projects also include a UK-wide RCT we have commissioned looking at the impact of digital ads and SMS campaigns on the electoral participation of those least likely to engage.

Regular convening is planned for grantees and others. Welsh grantees are meeting every month to coordinate approaches, and we are connecting organisations across the UK to share best practice and learning. The Fund has organised training on running effective digital campaigns. We are planning seminars for civil society groups with US organisers and campaigners to reflect on the tools and approaches that increased participation in the recent US elections.

Both grantees and the Fund itself have already been able to collaborate effectively with the Electoral Commission, and the Welsh government and the Senedd in Wales. We will continue to pursue this next year, for example in co-producing resources and ensuring there is clear guidance for non-partisan campaigners. The Fund plans to run a conference in autumn to draw together lessons on what worked to increase registration and turnout at the 2021 elections, and have already secured

the participation of a number of academics producing new research as well as the Electoral Commission.

The Fund will continue to build on the progress made towards reform of the electoral registration system. We will seek opportunities to influence government departments and Conservative MPs on how Electoral Registration Officers can use data to better target their efforts or pilot more automated registration. We will also support effort to ensure that an appetite for reform across other parts of the political spectrum remains strong.

### **The Fund's longer-term vision**

As we look towards the next phase of the Fund, there are two driving ambitions:

1) Initiate a framework for collective efforts to register and turnout a record number of new voters at the next general election.

Our aim is for the UK's voter participation field to make a significant impact on under-representation through coordinated campaigns for 2024 election. The Fund will support the development of a framework within which organisations can operate, and, over the next few years, grow the infrastructure, networks and resources to make this possible. This work could involve:

- Ambitious shared target (1 million new voters), with coordinated approaches to priority demographics from a loose alliance of organisations.
- Additional resources (£1 million) raised. Key to fundraising success will be to build a campaign that significant numbers of donors will want to be a part of with contribution levels of around £10 - £20k, as well as few large donors.
- New organisations with extensive reach involved in efforts, including the BBC, social media giants, employers, educational institutions, unions and charities.
- Better coordination between civil society groups and statutory bodies.
- Strengthened capacity: training/toolkits available to embed what works; resources and support on using data and digital tech; strong, clear guidance from Electoral Commission and lawyers on non-partisan campaigning; crisis support in place.
- Better resources: e.g. polling and focus groups on barriers to voting, MRP polling, strategic communications.
- Shared campaign goals: modernisation pilots with NI numbers, publishing government under-representation targets, data sharing with Cabinet Office.

2) We hope to set up a world-class evidence, analysis and policy centre, with a focus on political inequality and democratic participation. This centre would connect academics to those with statutory responsibility for registration (local authorities, in particular EROs, and Electoral Commission), civic institutions (e.g. schools and universities), campaigners, government (Cabinet Office and other relevant departments e.g. DfE) and regulators. By gathering, synthesising and sharing evidence on what works to engage the most under-represented groups, rigorously testing new approaches, disseminating learning in a way that practitioners can use and championing fairness in democratic participation, we hope the centre will drive a sea-change in the way political inequality is addressed in this country. We are currently working with a number of academics and academic institutions to scope the way forward.

Throughout this work, we see a pressing need to deepen our thinking about how to engage with different sorts of people who feel far from politics. We have always been led by the evidence in identifying priority target groups. Yet even within these demographic groups there is wide variation in people's experiences and needs. In the next phase the Fund will take steps to listen to and understand the experiences, attitudes and behaviours of different under-represented groups in

order to design and assess effective campaigns. Private renters, those who move home frequently and those who are vulnerably housed remain a priority. We will prioritise efforts that reach out to electors from the ethnicities and nationalities least likely to vote: people of African or Caribbean heritage, Commonwealth citizens, people of South Asian heritage, and EU citizens who experience additional racism or discrimination.

All younger voters also remain a priority, as the registration gap for all young people is significant. Scalable interventions that work for example through university enrolment or democratic education in schools have the potential to make a large shift in under-registration with less intensive work, and will need to be part of the Fund's approach. There are young people with demographic characteristics that make them even less likely to vote. A new focus on low income voters and those without educational qualifications opens up space for outreach to organisations that work with these groups.

### **Destitution Project**

*£4000 November*

*Funding assistant caseworker to support destitute asylum-seekers and refugees  
Bolton*

Your funding was spent on paying the salary of our hard-working assistant caseworker, a new post created in September 2019 due to the heavy workload of our existing caseworker. We took on one of our volunteers to fill this role and she was trained by the caseworker and has performed very well in the past year.

She and the caseworker provide a range of specialised and critical support to some of Bolton's most vulnerable and desperate residents – refused asylum-seekers and their dependents with no recourse to public funds. Over the past three years the casework demand has increased steadily, particularly for complex cases. These include people refused leave to remain in the UK who feel betrayed by the system. Our caseworker team find that this is often due to poor guidance/legal representation when they first came to the UK.

Our two caseworkers collaborate with capable local solicitors, health professionals (including mental health providers), the local council, Serco and other housing providers. They mentor our service users and help them navigate what can seem a difficult and hostile environment. We also provide our destitute service users with food and emergency funds for as long as is needed until they get their case resolved. This is done by no other charity in Bolton.

Following a judicial review coming out of the work of our team in collaboration with solicitors, two of our longest-term destitute clients were granted leave to remain, both after more than eight years destitute. We were able to continue our full range of support during the Covid lockdown, initially by homeworking, then by appointments.

During the past year, 617 asylum-seekers and refugees from 40 countries have been provided with casework help since we were able to hire the assistant caseworker. Support has focused particularly on the urgent needs of refused (destitute) asylum seekers. Currently these involve 38 people including two families (three generations in one household), three couples/siblings and several individuals - some women but mostly young to middle-aged men. They range from 16 to their 80s and most have mental health issues from trauma endured in their homeland or on their journey. Their general health is poor due to poor nutrition/malnutrition suffered over years. Without this

essential support their health and well-being will be compromised. They are destitute through no fault of their own and need this support to remain safe and healthy particularly due to the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis.

## **Family Voice**

*£4500 March*

*Intergenerational and parenting classes to boost early years  
Sheffield*

Through this project we wanted to develop the early years skills of parents and carers and increase their involvement in the development of primary children. We ran two different elements, parental classes and an intergenerational project.

The classes were for Year One parents/carers at Sharrow and Lowfield primaries in Sheffield with six-week courses in literacy and numeracy linked to their children's classroom work. Thirty six of the 60 eligible parents at Sharrow and 15 parents at Lowfield took part. The course was in two parts - phonics every Tuesday before half term then maths after half term. Each was introduced by the class teacher in the classroom for the first session then this information was taken to the following sessions and explained each week by the Family Learning tutor. Everyone was given activities to do at home with their children.

Parents from Sharrow came from many different backgrounds - Bulgarian, Sudanese, Pakistani, Chinese, Slovakian, Kurdish and Somali - mostly mums but a few dads too who were resilient and attended regularly. We organised a trip to the local library and were surprised that many parents hadn't been before although their children have visited with school. Five signed up and took home books and a new library card.

At Lowfield's numeracy course, parents learnt about building blocks for mathematics such as multiplications and times tables, counting, the number system and taking measurements. In the literacy classes parents learnt about reading tricky words in books, asking children questions about the books, making a book at home with your child and literacy tools such as phonics and how to make a word fan.

The courses were attended by parents who usually do not engage in school activities and by taking part they felt more comfortable at school. Most had not been formally educated themselves and spoke English as an additional language and these courses increased their confidence, they spoke to their children about what they had learned in class, and did some of the activities that they learned together. The children could see that their parents valued their school work and enjoyed doing activities with them.

There was a group of Chinese parents who started off very shy and quiet. As the weeks went on they talked and laughed more and more. Since the course we have kept up these new relationships with many different parents who had previously been more isolated from school staff and family support. Many came back with photos of their children doing the activities with them at home. One mum talked about how much more confident she had become and went on to register for more courses.

We had planned to run a literacy course open to all local parents but initial feedback found that they preferred to concentrate on computers and applying for jobs. So we worked with Family



Learning Sheffield to design a course on digital literacy and jobs skills. This was attended by 16 people who learned how to write CVs and look for jobs online and increased their confidence by practicing interviews with one another. Two mothers were called for an interview and were successful. They told us: 'I was scared to apply for jobs because I didn't know how to write a CV, this class helped me do that. I feel happy with my CV' and 'I applied for a job at this class and I got it! I am so pleased I can earn money for my family.'

We also ran a community cooking workshop where parents had to cook food from their own cultures then write down the recipe to improve literacy skills. This was a great way of improving confidence as most of the mums we worked with were confident in the kitchen but not in writing things down, when asked to do so for a recipe. They struggled at first but then were proud of the work they had done. As one said: 'I never thought to write down the steps of this dish, I like cooking for others and showing them how to cook my food.'

At the end of the classes we took the parents on a celebration trip to the local Botanical Gardens. Many didn't know they existed despite living in the city for a number of years. We arranged a tour with the learning community worker at the gardens, everyone enjoyed themselves and keenly took part in drawing and measuring activities. Although it rained, the families loved seeing all the plants and outdoor spaces and recognised plants from their home countries. Three who had never been before have made the effort to tell us that they have since been back there with their kids.

Our inter-generational project was based at Sharrow primary and a local care home where more than 20 children made weekly visits to carry out arts and crafts and musical activities. Many of the care home residents have dementia and for the children this may have been the first time they met an adult like that. Many of the residents didn't have many visitors and really looked forward each week to carrying out different activities with the children. It made them feel part of a group and they loved to see the children playing and having fun. The children made pom-poms out of wool, memory boxes, musical moments, and created portraits of the residents. Each child was paired with a resident to do the activity together, and working with one another the child and resident brought each other a lot of joy.

The children learned about working with an older person and were sharing and were caring which helped them learn about patience, sometimes showing residents a few times what they had to do. They often gave the resident the activity they had been working on together and residents couldn't believe they were being given a memory box or picture. It helped the children to grow in confidence as they worked with people that they normally wouldn't have and they spoke aloud in front of a new group. Each week the children would give the residents a hug before they left and would leave skipping and singing. Unfortunately, we had to cut the project short because of the Covid pandemic.

### **Friends of Bedford Fields**

*£2500 March*

*Workdays restoring an urban forest garden*

*Leeds*

For over a decade now, Friends of Bedford Fields have rescued, developed and maintained a previously derelict third-of-an-acre council-owned plot as an eco-educational, open-access, community forest garden on the edge of Leeds city centre, based on inclusive, accessible, holistic, ecological and sustainable principles.

The garden is in an inner-city area dominated by back-to-back housing without gardens where over a fifth of people report health issues. Friends of Bedford Fields uses volunteers to maintain the forest garden as a space where the local community can enjoy restorative and educational experience of nature. Our 25 public workdays have involved 350 local people and this is increasing, not least because your funding has let us plan ahead.

Public workdays are our bedrock for ongoing development, through informally collaborative and team-structured maintenance work which typically consists of a two-hour session, planned and delivered by a skilled paid coordinator. Since the garden is at all times an open access amenity, a workday also provides opportunity before and after the delivered session for time in the garden, so the schedule often expands to fill a full day. A core element of the forest garden principle is the cultivation of edible plants, and education on matters of nourishment is linked to horticultural instruction. This, in turn, often becomes a chance to prepare and sample some of the garden's edible produce. Volunteering members of Friends of Bedford Fields – and other regulars – help with practical support throughout the day.

Activities vary seasonally, so may involve design, pruning, or harvesting – all according to the promptings of the natural calendar, the needs of the garden, and the interests of our broad range of attendees. We are open to all and, given our city location, we are actively engaging a wide demographic. People who find themselves on low incomes, or unemployed or with mental or physical health challenges have the opportunity to access unique therapeutic resources in a beautiful outdoor space. Our commitment to the principles of the project holds the needs of the local community at its heart.

With the help of generous funding such as yours, which paid for 25 out of 46 workdays in the year, we intend to continue to provide a space for the local community to access and enjoy.

### **The Furnival**

*£1600 March*

*Setting up and running a toy library In Burngreave community hub  
Sheffield*

Your funding has allowed us to cover staff hours to set up, maintain and run the Toy Library in Burngreave and provide a good range of quality books and toys. We launched within weeks of receiving the grant and work with many women and children through our Creative English programme and our playgroup. Books and toys are made available at the end of these sessions.

So far around 30 families have borrowed well over 100 items between them which has, for instance, given them access to lovely picture books which we have often shared with them first at the playgroup. This is especially positive as the women we work with are all learning English and are newly-arrived and migrant families from across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, so it is beneficial for the whole family for them to read and enjoy stories with their children.

We have lots of great jigsaw puzzles for young children and wooden toys as well as larger items such as trikes and a doll's pram. These have been well received and are being enjoyed. We have been pleased that items have been responsibly returned to us with little or no damage. The majority of our families live in small flats with little space so the chance to borrow a larger item for a few weeks and then return it suits them well.

We visited one of our families, who have just had a new baby, this week. The Mum had borrowed a lovely wooden trike for the toddler and it was good to see her using it when we arrived at their home. The funding has really helped us to provide something different and helpful for these families. It is a lovely project that you have enabled us to carry out.

With the disturbing development of the Covid pandemic and the prospect of children being at home for weeks, many families are borrowing items to support and occupy them. We have been able to arrange this without any close contact to keep everyone safe.

At this point we have some spare SWC funding to replenish our stock over the coming months. We had planned to start a community garden this summer and would like to buy a few children's gardening tools for them to borrow to get involved in the planting and picking. This was delayed this year due to lockdown but we will buy gardening tools for families to be involved next Spring.

### **Gipton Pastoral and Community Worker**

*£11,150 March*

*Church and community work based at Gipton Methodist Chapel  
Leeds*

This twenty hour per week role has been funded by the Scurrah Wainwright Trust for 20 years, and continues to develop and offer new added value to the life of the Gipton community.

The work funded by the grant, which Michael Simpson undertakes in succession to Grenville Jensen, falls into two categories: work in the church community; and in the wider community. The first involves being pastor to the church congregation and leading them in developing church life for the benefit of local people. This includes visiting church members at home and in hospital and looking after their general wellbeing, as well as inviting and supporting new people to join in the life of the church. With Michael's encouragement and leadership, the church's home group has continued in different ways through the year, for example with a six week course for those wanting to explore Christianity. This ran from May to July at Newbourne Methodist Church in partnership with their community worker Catherine Henderson. The participants (3 to 7 each week) enjoyed it and suggested a Question and Answer Bible study group to follow on. A couple who are members of Gipton Methodist Church donated £40 towards lunch for the participants. In December one of the participants donated £100 to Gipton Methodist Church.

Michael met one local resident in March 2019 while litter picking and asking people if they would like to hear what God has done for him. She invited him in, they had a good chat and with the invaluable help of one of the women from the Gipton Methodist congregation, he has since been supporting her to make progress from some challenging life situations into a more stable and healthier lifestyle. The culmination of several months of 'get togethers' and Bible studies was her baptism in November, at a city centre Pentecostal church. She was moved to write a letter of appreciation to Gipton Methodist Church, saying, Michael "has been a tremendous support – I can't praise him enough – he also does lots for the community. He is a friend for life now."

Michael has organised several special services this year including Christmas Carols with 19 adults and 16 children enjoying a drama performed by two local residents, the story on a screen, a dance, an interview with Lisa about her baptism, the gospel explained with a science experiment and refreshments – *picture below*.

In the wider community, work includes a Toddler Group and Dads & Kids Sessions with 15-35 at each and recently one with 21 children and 19 adults trying activities including face-painting and kite and paper plane-making. Monthly meetings continue the 'Bright Hour' tradition at Turnbull Court care home and a neighbourhood barbecue was organised outside the chapel with the grass cut beforehand by a neighbour.

Michael headed-up the planning and running of the Churches Together stalls at the Gipton Gala in July and led the crowd with a guitar singalong. He has nurtured links with Action for Gipton Elderly (AGE) and GIPSIL which offers a range of services to people aged 18-25, the Foodbank at the Church of the Epiphany and the local Children's Centre where he is on the advisory board. He also encourages links with groups hiring the chapel private parties, Social Services Family Conferencing and other Christian congregations holding regular services and meetings. Unfortunately, this year Health for All lost the funding for the project they were running from the church's upstairs room. However, we have begun a new partnership with the East Leeds Project who are now using the rooms. They are beginning a series of local arts projects and we are looking at ways to work together with them where possible.



Gipton Methodist has a longstanding relationship with the Meeting Point café in Harehills Lane and Michael has worked in partnership with the Community Worker there on supporting parents and children on a trip to Harewood House, delivering the START programme and celebrating the café's 25th anniversary celebrations. Litter picking (including a session on hover boards!) and car washing continue and are useful for making new relationships with local people. Throughout 2019 residents have been invited to join the monthly litter pick followed by refreshments at the 'One Hour Café' at the church. Michael also uses Woolly Tree to give winter accessories away. An example of the value of Michael being available and present in the community in this simple way was a conversation with a lady who was very unhappy and drinking a bottle of brandy a day, who took his number to 'phone him for help when needed.

A previous partnership with KidzKlub which provides services for children aged 7-11 has been revived and Michael has maintained his role as a Leeds Playhouse Community Ambassadors, enabling him to offer tickets to shows for £3 each and free for asylum-seekers. These tickets are popular with the families he connects with through the Dads and Kids sessions. Overall the year has seen Michael consolidating the new projects he has begun and beginning to establish a regular pattern of community engagement through his various sessions. These are developing several new community networks, adding to local cohesion and community support.

### **Graves Park Health Walk**

*£300 March*

*Social trips for members of a Walking for Health group*

*Sheffield*

Graves Park Health Walk is one of the 26 health walks operated throughout Sheffield by Step Out Sheffield; a volunteer led group under the national umbrella of Ramblers. All walks in Sheffield have

been suspended for 15 months because of Covid pandemic restrictions with Graves Park restarting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Most of our walkers are retired, and quite a few were still concerned about social contact, and did not join the walk. We decided to tempt them back with a coach trip to Cleethorpes! This was largely financed by the £300 from yourselves. The temptation seemed to work, and after a couple of last minutes cancellations 38 walkers boarded the coach and set off to Cleethorpes. Before the coach pulled out, I told everyone where the funding had come from, so they were all aware of your generous support.

On arrival the party split roughly into two. Half came with me to the chip shop on the pier for fish and chips, while the 'rebels' went to a different chip shop on the sea front, which they heard was better! You cannot go to the coast without fish and chips. We only found out later that both shops are owned by the same people...The weather was glorious, sunny, but not too hot, with a gentle breeze, and being flat Cleethorpes is ideal for the age group on the trip. At some time during the day most people took the land train along the sea front to enjoy a walk in the park at the end of the route, and plenty of sitting on the front soaking up the sun took place. I did notice a lot of ice cream being consumed as well.

I asked everyone as they boarded to coach to return home if they had enjoyed the day, and received an enthusiastic Yes! from each and every one of them. A really good day, and a really good way to beat the post Covid-19 blues and get people socialising again.

### **Greentop Community Circus Centre**

*£3000 November*

*Circus workshop and performances for Roma children and their families  
Sheffield*

The project you funded reached over 300 local Roma young people in 25 sessions and was developing a stilt troupe performance when it was forced to close due to the Covid lockdown. We had initially struggled to engage participants but this led to a wider reach, including local schools, which increased the range of local young people involved. Sadly, lockdown brought the project to a premature end, without any performance sharing and the group is no longer able to learn together with no current prospect of a date when that may be possible.

The original plan aimed to focus on stilt performing and dancing, with a Link Worker (drawn from the Roma community) to provide participant support and family liaison services. CircUs Troupe hoped to build social skills including confidence, self-esteem and aspiration and to develop the fitness and agility of participants We planned shows to perform and public workshops at Grimesthorpe Family Centre, Pitsmoor Adventure Playground and Firth Park Funday for audiences of over 500.



We attracted 339 participants, more than planned, with a poster translated into Roma distributed to local shops and the family centre and classes at Brightside infant school. The first stilt dance troupe performance was in rehearsal to be shared with parents and friends on Monday 23rd March and the young people had brought their own songs and music and were developing routines and planning costume. Then on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March Greentop closed its doors due to Covid and all activity in the centre and at other venues was stopped. We have not been able to restart any activity since.

All Greentop efforts and resources have been redirected to providing creative and active



opportunities for families directly in 'Circus at Home' through equipment supply and online teaching and activity links and provision to those in school. Because of the stop/ start/ stop nature of the programme and the premature ending, we were unable to initiate our impact questionnaire or gather feedback through film or interview.

Lockdown was a huge frustration and more significant are the medium-term implications of social distancing and equipment quarantining for Greentop and the operation of CircUs Troupe within the risk assessment

requirements. The current view is that it will only be possible to programme CircUs safely with lower ratios and possibly only in family bubbles. It will also need more equipment and cleaning. The ability to respond is dependent on further fundraising for the core organisation and for the project. As 2021 is Greentop's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary we are keen for the neighbourhood Troupe to play its part. We are assuming restart of the programme will be mid 2021 at the earliest, pending Covid impact support.

Financially, the pandemic has changed the project budget with the cost of the project at £7940 well below the planned £11440 because the programme had to be stopped early. An element of direct project cost has been allocated to core costs with £750 of SWC support being re-allocated to this. Support from the Brelms Trust and the COOP that was to contribute to this project has been re-allocated to help support the organisation. Support from the Odin Trust was not secured.

### **Growing Works Young Shoots Project**

*£2730 July*

*Staff time to support hard-to-reach teenagers with an outdoors project*

*Huddersfield*

Our aim is to give teenagers new experiences and life skills and increase existing ones to reduce anxiety, feel more accepted and able to engage, develop a willingness to try and take instruction and engage in more complex and problem-solving tasks. In the longer term we hope to improve communication, outlets for emotions, ability to undertake educational or work experience and benefit from peer support. This should reduce the risk of violence/self-harm, develop interpersonal skills, find coping strategies and nurture individuality and independence with improved life skills and reliance plus an understanding of consequences.

Your funding enabled 3.5 hours of staff coordination of the project allowing networking with organisations and groups working to reach families who find engagement difficult. Support was made available for families, helping them get involved where they previously would not have been able to.

As part of the Young Shoots project we have also run short courses to increase independence and skills for young people with a range of additional needs, mainly anxiety or autistic spectrum



conditions. These are in small groups with at least one staff/volunteer to every two participants in order to develop the individuals' skills and encouraging them to reach their potential. Activities included a two-hour conservation course at Growing Works outdoor therapeutic site in Dalton,

Huddersfield, during June; three river exploration trips in the Holme Valley; a six-week cookery course at a community farm and a second one at Batley Bulldogs stadium which closed halfway through because of the Covid pandemic. Twenty young people attended the courses with volunteers providing a total of 53 hours of support.

We have seen great team bonding and friendships developed during these courses; the young people also created a welcoming and friendly environment for new participants to the group. Here's an exchange from the first session: "Are we friends then?" "Yes, everyone is friends here." "Oh, good! I don't have very many friends"

The day trips saw much social bonding, allowing the young people to feel confident to be who they are in a public space. They took part in open air yoga, water painting and questioning about what different plant and bird species were; it was obvious how empowered they felt. Catching the train and bus together allowed for exploring shared interests (an historic steam train passed while at the train station), and most importantly, feelings of independence. We talked about what to do if travelling on their own. We were amazed how they coped when a bus filled up with students who were standing in the aisle and we squeezed past to get off; many of the young people have sensory processing issues and normally would not be able to cope in such claustrophobic environment yet they confidently exited the bus.

The cooking sessions had great outcomes in developing skills for the future. They demonstrated good use of sharp knives (one participant with sight issues still cut safely and responsibly). We saw consideration for each other, sharing ingredients, supporting others to undertake tasks. One parent's comment is typical: "The course got the 'cogs turning' and he is now finding snacks independently, which is a complete change."

Covid forced us to put the Young Shoots sessions on hold interrupting the young people's development both socially and in skills for the future. We know that these children need routine, and they struggle in changing environments. We have provided activity packs to continue their cooking course at home, as this was cancelled part way through, and they have been sharing photos of the cooking they have been doing. We are acutely aware of the mental health impact on this already vulnerable group and so maintain contact by posting out activities, recommending activities through our closed Facebook group and check in regularly by text.

The organisation is under financial pressure as a result of Covid but we are preparing to resume small social group sessions with young people when regulations and the family's needs allow, to provide face to face support to aid recovery and build towards the future.

## **Hive**

*£3,500 March*

*Craftwork with the Roma community*

*Bradford*

The project's aim was to work with the Roma Community in Undercliffe, a particularly under-represented group in one of the most disadvantaged areas in Bradford. We used creative processes to tackle issues faced by this community and ensure their involvement local-decision making. Some 60 members of the Roma community and others took part.



In late August 2019, textile artist Musarat Raza was recruited to deliver Wednesday afternoon sessions at Community Works Bradford based on her previous experience and passion for working with diverse communities. We had a slow start with up to three participants learning new craft skills, such as personalised pens and jewellery-making which could be pursued at home. All three thoroughly enjoyed themselves and became regular participants.

It became evident, however, that it was proving difficult to engage more people from the Roma community even though the liaison officer would go around to all the families at the beginning of the week to remind them. Numbers just didn't seem to increase. By week four, Community Works decided to merge our group with another consisting of our ethos of bringing diverse communities together and sharing ideas and experiences. Although there was a language barrier, there

were always people there to translate and often participants found their own ways of communicating with one another.

We learnt that there were many positives in merging the two groups, each having different skills to share and inspire the other. Working in a bigger group also meant more interaction among people. The participants expressed an interest in making printed cushions for their homes and Musarat obliged with a project on this, starting from the basics of dyeing the cloth right through to printing, embellishing and then finally sewing on the sewing machine to complete the cushions.

A lot of participants had not dyed fabrics before or done any printing, embellishing or sewing so all these skills were new to them. We also found that over the weeks participants from the Roma Community began to increase as word got out there was demonstrations of using the sewing machine and also making cushions. People from the Roma community were going back and sharing what they were making in the sessions and so we had new people joining every week. The numbers increased with up to 26 participants at one time - a large group but full of encouragement and sharing ideas. Every week the cushions developed, from printing right through to embellishing them with beads, gems, sequins and finally sewing them.



The women were very interested in learning how to sew and thoroughly enjoyed it. One asked: "I have a sewing machine that was given to me but i don't know how it works If I brought it in, would you show me how it works?" The following week she brought her sewing machine in with such excitement.



In the New Year, we decided to move onto a different activity. Again, at the request of the women, we did a canvas painting activity introducing English and Arabic calligraphy and the work was displayed to celebrate the

groups' diversity. All the participants gelled really well and Roma participants were more confident in sharing their ideas and suggestions. There was a lot of praising of each other's work and at the end of the session, group members would all sit together and have their lunch in a shared space.



Next we made decorative tiles, inspired by a recent trip to Portugal and another activity which the women thoroughly enjoyed, one from the Roma community asking where she could buy the materials so she could give her bathroom a new lease of life. Finally, we were going to make a large collaborative wallhanging but sadly the Covid pandemic intervened and this idea could not go ahead.

## Home Start

*£2000 November*

*Core costs for home-visits to young families with children*

*York*

As we compose this report, we are increasingly aware how much families have struggled with their own and their children's health during the pandemic. Children have not had dental appointments or sight and hearing tests. We know that our volunteer service will be well used by families trying to access health services again and needing encouragement, overcoming fear and keeping appointments. The mentoring by the volunteers has the greatest impact to help them recover and build resilience for the future.

Our six members of staff are all currently working from home and providing support to families remotely. Our administrator will be returning to the office on 6 July. We continue to review this and are keeping up to date with the latest Government guidelines as they change.

We quickly adapted our support for families via 'phone, e-mail and social media communications and have continued to provide help with mental health and isolation by keeping regular 'phone/video contact with all families concerned. We have also helped to provide families with

information, advice and guidance to direct, up to date, relevant government financial support as it develops.

We are giving our volunteers updated training and equipment to support remotely including new safeguarding and mental health training. Our next Volunteer Preparation Course is still going ahead in September online and we are recruiting extra volunteers for our new Telephone Befriending Service. Our Group Workers are still providing weekly groups via video call and this has proved to be a great success for the mothers we support. We are still accepting referrals and are currently supporting 53 families in York. Next week we are delivering Activity Goody Bags to all of our families – these will include toys for the children and reusable facemasks. Most of our volunteers have stayed with us during the crisis, with some supporting more than one family.

Competition for grants is tough and we were sadly not eligible for any Government financial help. We have lost our event income for this year and some grants which were currently pending were suspended during the early days of lock down due to Trusts and Foundations changing their criteria. Thankfully, our reserves are currently healthy – although it is important we maintain this.

We are still very much active and have managed to keep the show on the road. Our service has had to adapt to the current situation and we are hugely grateful the Charity for support at a very difficult time.

### **Hope English School**

*£3000 March*

*English classes for asylum-seekers and refugees  
Doncaster, Rotherham and Thorne.*

Your grant paid for two terms – 24 weeks – of quality ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes to refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable migrants in South Yorkshire. Each is a fully-subsidised period of 1.5 hours for an average of 12 students in Rotherham, Thorne and Doncaster and your grant also provided a class co-ordinator. Our overall aim is to see vulnerable migrants set free from the social isolation that comes from not being able to speak the language of the culture they are in. Our classes are provided by qualified ESOL practitioners and tailor-made to meet the needs of the students. We conduct women-only classes with childcare provision when necessary.

The grant made a huge difference to the running of our ESOL courses in Doncaster. The money was spent on room hire, class co-ordinator wages and travel expenses, and creche support. The course covered basic English Literacy skills and 15 students benefitted, mostly Syrian and Sudanese women unable to access ESOL provision elsewhere due to a lack of childcare provision. They have made good progress and have unanimously expressed satisfaction with the project. Ultimately, ESOL provision changes the lives of vulnerable migrants who are often 'locked out' of their host community due to language barriers. Our classes enable students to access life opportunities, make friends, integrate into their communities and live independent, fulfilled lives here in South Yorkshire.

The project was a great success- we had at least 85% attendance throughout and currently have a list of students wanting to join the classes in the next academic year. We are hoping to continue the classes in Doncaster and are currently in the process of applying for funding for this.

**Humber Community Advice Service**

*£3000 November*

*Core costs for overstretched advice centre  
Humberside*

Your funding helped our work of giving free information, advice and guidance to Hull's minority ethnic communities. Issues covered include benefits, immigration, money and debt, housing, community engaging, health and looking for work.

Some 80 percent of our service users are refugees and most have complex needs caused by trauma from past experiences, language barriers, cultural shock and discrimination. Many suffer from a lack of family support, isolation and low levels of education and training.

Like most organisations, we had to close our offices in March 2020 because of the Covid pandemic. Problems proliferated during lockdown with many stuck at home without support and feeling even more isolated. Government guidelines were not always easy to understand. Our temporary ways of working included 'phone, WhatsApp and Zoom, occasional home visits with strict social distancing, helping volunteers negotiate benefits and with the Job Centre using interpreters as necessary, either volunteers or paid-for services when there was a volunteer shortage. We also liaised with medical services and provided essential supplies including top-ups to mobile 'phones.

Thank you again for your support.

**Just Enough Global**

*£2000 November*

*Modern slavery and knife crime workshops in primary schools  
Bradford*

Just Enough has gone through a tough period since the Covid pandemic arrived but all donations have been kept safe through this difficult time. In October 2019, I had to make all my staff redundant because of the effects of impending Brexit on us and our relationship with the Government. The election in December led to our 'phones ringing again and I was looking forward to getting my team back when Covid arrived. I furloughed myself and postponed all workshops until at least the Autumn half-term when schools are confident that we will be able to get back to work.

Until then, Just Enough and its sister company the Social Book Club are writing free books and resources for schools to distribute to students at home. One month in, we have had had over 1200 downloads across the UK. I am also contacting Bradford schools in readiness for a return to classrooms and am changing our business model to make it easier for rehired staff to work safely from home.

**Leeds Tidal**

*£3000 March*

*Building Leeds For Change online platform linking progressive movements in the city*

Your grant was mostly spent on half a day per week of staffing, to enable our worker to meet our project aims by organising outreach to new groups and individuals, recruiting them as members and encouraging them to sign up to our newsletter, and use the website tools. He also contacted new

venues to promote our online Venue Finder tool, kept our Events Calendar up-to-date, provided administrative support and produced reports for our steering committee.

### Leeds Activist Calendar



We also spent some of the budget on web development time, improving site usability by a more streamlined login system and clearer labels for visitors less familiar with using technology. The remainder funded supervision, revising our fundraising strategy and bid-writing. We also continued to monitor and analyse website metrics and research case studies of the role that grassroots, community-led platforms can play in building a just and democratic society.

A good example of success was a key political moment in Leeds was when 12,000 young people involved in the Youth Strike Movement won their campaign to get Leeds City Council to declare a Climate Emergency. The local climate movement capitalised on this critical moment and organised a community event in under a week's notice which pulled in 300 people. The group now called 'Our Future Leeds' was able to mobilise hundreds of people as a result of the Leeds for Change community and its online tools.

### Manic Chord Theatre

£3000 November

*Tour of a theatrical piano piece for 5-7-year-olds*

Leeds

Following a successful Arts Council bid in 2019 we wanted to develop our partnership with primary schools in Leeds using a Key Stage 1 project: Skylar's Missing Note.

We partnered with Leeds International Piano Competition to develop an innovative musical and theatrical experience for pupils aged 5–7, a 45-minute live performance and accompanying workshop to immerse pupils through storytelling and participatory activities. Children were taken on a memorable and educational journey as they learned the story of Skylar, a young girl whose piano is transported in a house move and loses its middle C.



This aimed to be an exciting adventure for pupils whilst providing robust learning opportunities about music: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure. As the music curriculum shrinks and specialist teacher training around music reduces this project aimed to kick start music teaching in Key Stage 1, build pupil awareness and understanding of how music is created and assist teachers in furthering the learning opportunities provided by Skylar with in-school resources.

We also aimed to develop our relationship with organisations outside the theatre and test how by working with a range of specialists (music-focused organisation, schools partnerships and curriculum, teaching and learning experts from Hubs) we would be able to increase the innovation and impact of the project.

After an initial 2019 tour across Leeds, 2020 saw the project shaped and delivered to Bradford primary schools. Evaluation forms rated the performance and workshop as 'excellent' (90 percent) and 'good' (10 percent). A teacher at Appleton primary told us: "The performance had the children engaged from the start. The quality of the delivery and the way that the children were involved by using their voices and bodies to create accompaniments to the story was fantastic."

Skylar's Missing Note was developed as a one-woman performance but the piano is a co-star, played traditionally, explored as a tool to build soundscapes and create percussive music making as well as forming part of the set. The piece exposes the piano's versatility and creativity and there were many magical moments of reaction from pupils as the instrument's anatomy was exposed and while listening to the live music. Another teacher, from Leytop primary, said: "The children were mesmerised when the piano was taken apart and many of them had sadly never seen a piano before, let alone what the strings inside looked like. They had faces of such joy as the story progressed."

A comprehensive set of teacher resources were produced and shared to all 20 participating schools where we reached 1260 pupils in spite of the Covid pandemic causing seven cancellations. We are hoping to work with 20 schools in Kirklees when restrictions are lifted. Meanwhile our work has been hugely affected – our main streams of income, namely schools, theatres and most funding organisations, have shut down with many not opening until 2021. As a small organisation we don't have reserves and despite having reputation, sadly, our industry is drying up. It is not the fact that working from home has affected us, it is that we have no money to live or to make work. We didn't receive the Arts Council Support Package, leaving us high and dry.

These are extremely tough times for all. Many small companies like ourselves are going to really struggle to maintain the delivery of grassroots arts. However, we are committed to providing high-quality work for children and young people and will stop at nothing to keep these provisions alive.

### **MASICORP Life Skills**

*£3000 March*

*Training 24 adults in English, computer literacy and sewing skills*

*Masiphumelele, South Africa*

This year a total of forty students graduated from our Life Skills programme which covered English Language and Literacy, Computer Literacy and Sewing Skills during two six-month courses, from our classrooms at Chasmay Road Campus. Students for each course are chosen from a waiting list of between 50 to 60 applicants, and two courses are run during the year.

At the end of their course, each student received a certificate of completion and a new sewing machine, which they may use to earn an income. This is handed over during a graduation ceremony where graduates model clothes made for themselves during their training.



At these ceremonies, we were able to hear inspiring stories from the graduates themselves on how the experience has changed their lives, and how grateful they each were for the opportunity to take part in the course. For many, this is a life-changing experience which brings personal growth and development and an increase in their confidence and self-esteem.

Life Skills has run since 2006 and is advertised by NGOs and former students' word of mouth.

Masicorp also owns and runs two nurseries looking after nearly 300 children aged 1-6 with fees subsidised to an affordable level. We liaise with some 40 unregistered shack-based rooms which provide the bare minimum of childcare

Masicorp own and run two registered ECD centres (nurseries or creches) which provide childcare for nearly 300 children aged 1-6 years. The standard of childcare is analogous to the best in the UK. The fees are subsidised by Masicorp to an affordable level for township parents.

There are at least 40 unregistered shack-based rooms in the township where pre-school children receive the barest minimum of childcare. The Mommas running these micro-businesses learn from watching our staff interact with the little ones and are given educational toys, games and aids to take back to their shacks to enhance the standard of childcare at a critical learning stage in a child's life.

We provide English, maths and science resources to 1089 children at a local primary as well as partnering with a sports club to coach PE, soccer, netball, hockey, rugby, athletics, cycling and now chess. There are 17 teams representing the school in these sports compared with none three years ago!

Ntombizanele Mhlakaza, one of our graduates, gives her view: *"I live in a small shack which I gratefully call home along with my single mother and knew that opportunities for a better life were endless but not for me. I always loved doing things with my hands and dreamed of being a fashion designer. Who was I kidding, fashion design schools are extremely expensive! When my cousin told me about a course that offered free sewing lessons and a free sewing machine at the end of the course I thought it was unbelievable. I took my chances and was surprised to learn there are still such good people in this world. Gratitude cannot be written down in words."*



Graduates go on to sew for themselves and their families, mostly traditional and church garments which are not available in local stores. Others work in the large food and merchandise stores in the area and many continue their work as domestics. Some are now part of the Sewing

Café on campus where they have become accomplished workers and earn an income. A few have gone on to fashion success.

### **MEN UP NORTH: CAN WE TALK?**

*£2000 March*

*Establishing safe spaces for male peer support in talking about self-awareness, suicide and other difficult topics*

*Sheffield*

Your grant made a difference for us by allowing the group to pay sessional staff who helped us to shape and finalise a methodology of engagement for the men. In 16 sessions – more than our original target of 12 - we had an overall attendance of 350 and 11 meetings were sold out.

Interviews with our members found that 82 percent felt feelings of improved mental health, 52% brought one other person to grow the community 76% feel that they are more open to talking therapy and feel more positive in navigating the changing world and 61% tried mindfulness for the first time and are open to the experience of doing more.

Practical lessons included using social media helps us to spread the word better incorporating breathing techniques into the sessions and the willingness of the men to try mindfulness and being more open to conversations when the surrounding space gave them permission to experiment. This highlighted the big part fear may play in men's lives, dictating what they feel 'allowed' or 'not allowed' to do. Fear of looking stupid or getting it wrong is very common from our experience of talking to the men.

Testimonials include:

Khairul Yussoff:

*"I went to MEN UP NORTH yesterday with brief info and it was amazing. I learnt a lot about managing skills and myself. Its very interesting because there are all different people from different backgrounds and age....we share, discuss and solve as a group. This is definitely what we need not just in Sheffield but all over the UK."*

Omar Aysha :

*"Positively channeling male energy in a welcoming and diverse environment."*

Luke Gibson :

*"A free thinking space for men to discuss REAL issues regarding masculinity, to relate to one another through personal experiences and ultimately to help one another grow. Highly recommended"*

Alex Barber :

*"Fantastic project, much needed and very valuable! Clearly enjoyed by all who attend from diverse backgrounds, ages and life experiences. Respectful environment to be open, share and learn from each other. Would encourage anyone to come along! "*



## **Partisan Collective**

*£5000 July*

*Professional development and training for volunteers and staff while the project's base is closed for building work*

*Manchester*

The £5000 awarded to Partisan has been incredibly useful in helping staff and volunteers gain the necessary skills and experience required to run a community business. Through the training purchased thanks to the grant, Partisan has become a more resilient organisation, standing in good stead to take on any future challenges as we look to reopen as a venue this year.

The larger part of the funding has been used to pay for training that the Partisan Cooperative has received from Seeds for Change, a worker-run organisation that helps activist and community groups to upskill and become more strategic and sustainable. In the past six months, Seeds for Change has provided two sessions on Facilitation of Meetings which has helped the Partisan Coop better design and facilitate participatory processes, enabling staff and volunteers to contribute equally and to be heard and involved in the final decision.

Partisan has also received training from Seeds for Change to help with our media and communications strategy. This helped us to develop soundbites and create events, being more strategic with the aim, audience and key messages of our campaigns along with help on writing press releases. Partisan is also to receive training in Accountability and Strategy and staff and volunteers are attending sessions on Creating Accessible Graphics and Social Content, a podcast workshop, mental health and IT skills.

The training benefited Partisan staff and volunteers and made a huge difference in helping us reposition and plan to come back from the pandemic a better trained, resourced and more resilient organisation. The Seeds for Change training, in particular, led to staff and volunteers feeling positive and inspired. For us as a group, working through the pandemic for a cash-strapped organisation has been immensely challenging and the training provided has increased our confidence in ourselves and for the future of Partisan.

## **Our Forest Our Future**

*£3000 July*

*Tree mapping to encourage a healthy learning experience for young children and their families*

*Hull*

Our Forest Our Future works with schools to provide education about trees and their environment and the relationship between them and children's well-being. This is the foundation for a planned series of school workshops making pieces of art for the Labyrinth exhibition at Hull College. Two schools will spend four hours each in workshops to create artworks for The Labyrinth, a meditative, one-way walk with pictures, photos, sculptures and sounds about children and trees. The schools are in areas of high deprivation in Hull. The project is also designed to increase students' experience of working with children.

The project has been delayed until at least the autumn of 2021 because of the Covid pandemic and school closures. An alternative could be Zoom workshops and a virtual walk round the Labyrinth.



Tree-mapping is central to the workshops and exhibits and the charity's grant will be spent on that and related activities for the children when things finally go ahead.

## **Phoebe**

*£5000 July*

*Peer support volunteers for mental health workshops with women survivors of domestic violence July*

The goal for the project was to improve well-being, self-esteem, recovery and livelihoods for women and young girls living with mental health illness. We aimed to empower women with mental health problems for improved health, physical standards and betterment of their livelihoods in Zimbabwe.

The programme offered a variety of interventions, including peer training with the support of care-givers and exploring self-expression and mental health recovery through arts, counselling and workshops. Women living with mental health are one of the most disadvantaged groups in the community and by empowering these women through this project, PHOEBE was able to give the women a chance to escape poverty and inequality. We reached our target of benefitting 6000 women and girls in Zimbabwe from diverse ethnicities, social classes, and life experiences.

Changes achieved by the project included an improvement in the mental well-being of women resulting in increased confidence, self-development and coping abilities. An increase in self-esteem and greater assertiveness in life, an increase in the sense of empowerment, and enhanced problem solving and development of new skills. Overall the project has been a great success and we wish to continue with the support we are giving women with lived experience.

Your funding contributed to the peer support networks formed as part of the overall project. A total of 10 district peer support groups such as the one in the photo were formed led by social workers with assistance from mental health professionals from the two main mental health Hospitals in Zimbabwe namely Parirenyatwa Psychiatric Unit annexe and Harare Central Hospital Psychiatric Unit. The money was used for transport for volunteers to visit the communities, internet for the volunteers to participate in online capacity building workshops, airtime used to contact beneficiaries during critical times outside working hours, and refreshments during workshops.



Our weekly mental health workshops at the two hospitals and in Chikurubi Female Prison's psychiatric unit were also a success as they became popular with our participants and walk-in patients. These sessions included introductions to mental ill health, different mental health conditions, medications, recovery, self-help, support networks and many other topics. Patients were able to learn their triggers and caregivers were able to understand the different conditions that affected their loved ones. The factors that contributed to this success included our Memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health and Child Health Care which allowed us to work closely

with the local hospitals. The support given by the Hospital staff also contributed to the overall success of the workshops.

The main challenges the project faced included constantly rising prices, Zimbabwe's fuel crisis which resulted in staff members queuing for more than six hours for petrol, dangerous political turbulence, mental health stigma and of course the Covid pandemic lockdown.

### **Premier Learning,**

*£3000 March*

*English classes for 60 local people at different skill levels*

*Rotherham*

Your funding was used towards our English tuition, a large part of it on our one-to-one and small group sessions. These see between one and three students working with a tutor to improve areas where they are struggling, usually in reading or writing.

They involved 84 students, many among our most vulnerable and without this additional support they would not be making the progress that they are. Fifty five of them have already passed their first exam which is a tremendous achievement and a great boost for their confidence and self-esteem

Your money is making a massive difference to people's lives. Without this funding we would not have been able to support these students in the way we have.

### **Rah Rah Community Theatre Company**

*£3000 July*

*Yorkshire dates for a theatre outreach project about human trafficking*

In October 2019, we delivered 19 Modern Slavery Awareness events to a variety of venues including theatres, the Scottish Parliament, Prisons, Churches, Community Centres and Schools. The events began with our play 'My Mind is Free'. The production used a mixture of imaginative physical theatre and skilful multi-role playing to tell the interlinked stories of four people trafficked to and within the UK and their horrifying tales of abuse, exploitation and enslavement. It was nominated for best stage play by the Anti-Trafficking Foundation in 2016 and Amnesty Edinburgh Festival: Freedom of Expression Award 2017.

The show was followed by either an anti-trafficking charity guest speaker or a frontline worker training session. The training session covered local information and case studies and gave



those attending the chance to engage with the characters from the play in a role-play exercise, highlighting the difficulties and barriers when dealing with modern slavery victims.

The main lessons were explaining what modern slavery is and the different types that exist. Recognising the signs or indicators and learning how to report it. The events were also funded by the Scottish Government, Action Churches Together Scotland, Foundation Scotland, other charities and individuals.

Unfortunately, on average we had a 25% drop out rate for each event. I believe as events were free, people would book their spaces very early and then closer to the time found themselves too busy to attend. We tried to combat this by sending out reminders prior to the event and inviting those on our waiting list. Also, for venues later on in the tour, we increased our capacity, expecting that we would have a 25% drop out rate. A total of 1627 tickets were booked and 1220 people attended. Among comments was this: *"This was a very powerful performance. I had some knowledge of Modern Slavery beforehand, but bringing it to life in this way and sharing the stories made it so much more relatable and brought a new level of understanding."*

Due to the interest we have had since running the events, and because the majority of events were fully booked and very well received by all partners, local authorities and attendees, we hope to run this tour again in 2020. We will be seeking more funding from various partners such as PCC, local authorities and Government to deliver this on a larger scale across the UK. As the majority of events were fully booked but not fully attended, we will consider different ways of booking and engaging with delegates prior to the events to ensure we get full capacity attendance at future events.

### **Talking Newspaper**

*£1200 July*

*New digital recording equipment for a free weekly service to 400 people*

*Rotherham*

We needed to update and replace our studio recording equipment, which at the time was old and we were experiencing repeated problems with it. The result was that it was affecting the quality of the recordings we were sending out to our listeners. Thanks to your grant, we were able to replace our main studio computer, perhaps the most important computer for our charity.

We use it to record the news/articles each week, the recordings are then edited, and a master copy is made and transferred onto master CDs/USB sticks and copied multiple times to send out to our listeners. The new computer is much faster than our old one which has speeded up the whole process, it also means that the quality of the recording we send out each week has improved.



We used the remaining grant to buy three head-worn microphones for our readers to use when recording and this too has improved the quality of the recording, rather than using the fixed microphones which tended to pick up external noises and be adversely affected by people moving in their chairs.

The result of these improvements is that our listeners are now receiving consistently high-quality recordings each week. A high-quality recording also helps us to attract more listeners and we are getting regular referrals from the local Visual Impairment Team, and the Eye Hospital. We are also finding that more people are recommending us to family and friends.

## Shiloh

£2500 November

Activities programme for homeless and vulnerable adults  
Rotherham

We applied for these funds to support our adult education programme at Shiloh to help homeless adults grow in confidence, learn new skills and manage their health/wellbeing. However, in the crisis caused by the Covid pandemic we have had to radically adjust our services and start to deliver all of our support from outside our building.

To date we have spent £612 of the grant on educational tutors. We have engaged 32 adults in the activity programme which so far includes ICT support and creative writing. There have been 21 hours of tuition with 69 cumulative attendances. The April to June activity programme has been suspended due to the current crisis, leaving £1,888 of the grant unspent. Our normal ways of working have been completely changed, but we are keen to reallocate the grant to meet a new and present need at this time.

We have adapted our services to offer remote support and assistance. The package of services are still developing but so far includes:

- \* A telephone check-in service to help people to manage their mental health, navigate the maze of changing services, offer information, advice, guidance, help with budgeting and offer wellbeing tips.
- \* Home delivery wellbeing packs which are tailored to the person, but can include, books, magazines, educational resources, IAG leaflets, drawing/craft materials, toiletries, CDs/DVDs, edible treats and small items of clothing.
- \* Emergency mobile phones - issued to guests (especially rough sleepers) who do not have any means to be contacted.
- \* A tablet loan service to help guests get online and make the most of all the help and resources the internet has to offer. Free data and telephone support will be provided as part of the service.
- \* Virtual activities - supporting guests to attend virtual appointments, social 'meetings' and organised group and 1:1 activities with professionals, educational tutors and support organisations.
- \* Hot Food - delivered door to door for homeless adults who are most in need of a nutritious meal.

These services have been developed based on telephone consultation with our guests. We have been making direct contact with the 265 adults we have contact numbers for and so far we are directly supporting 45 adults with more being added each week. We will continue to shape the service based on the needs of homeless adults who need assistance, but we are planning to deliver these remote services for at least the next six months, or until we are allowed to re-admit groups of adults and partners into our building again.

Covid disruption was greatest in March/April as we adjusted to new ways of working together as a team and on ways to keep essential services operational. We are now fully operational within the resources we have and all staff where possible are working at full capacity. Funding has been hit however as we normally rely on community fundraising through events etc, which have all stopped.



Our regular donors continue to support us, but we have had to apply for additional grants to cover some expenditure that used to come from the community.

## **Sorted Church**

*£3000 July*

*New weekly support group for disadvantaged young people  
Bradford*

Thanks to your support, we have been able to empower vulnerable young people in our community to establish a group focusing on improving their mental health. We have meanwhile been able to continue to make a huge impact on young lives across three of the poorest and toughest estates of Bradford. We have been able to strengthen existing relationships and connect with new young people.



Vulnerable young people, in particular young people suffering with poor mental health, worked together to establish a new weekly group and other ad-hoc support activities. Coordinated by our Community Enabler, they took an active lead in developing the group. We were able to bring in a range of professionals to lead regular workshop style sessions, focusing on mental health and wellbeing. The open-access group has become a safe space for young people with poor mental health, including those who identify as LGBT.

and/or are in care.

Twenty one young people have regularly accessed the project, and 3 young people have expressed an interest in joining sessions when we re-open as Covid restrictions ease.

At the start of lockdown we made weekly phone calls to each of the project beneficiaries and sometimes more often. We were aware that our beneficiaries could be more at risk and we made sure that immediate needs were supported, including accessing food. More recently, we have been able to run a number of sessions online, where young people could connect with their peers and our team. We have enjoyed quizzes and games together. We have also held online sessions focusing on resilience, confidence building, self-esteem and identity. We have prepared a number of wellbeing packs, with resources to help young people focus on their mental and physical health.

At the start of the project we enjoyed some outdoor activities together, but unfortunately Covid meant we could not go on a trip which our young people planned, but this money has been able to be used toward our Covid wellbeing packs. We are looking to work with our young people to fundraise for this trip when we are able.

We believe that many of the improvements we see in other areas such as increased self-esteem, reduced anger, increased confidence and improvement in communication skills have had a significant impact on the wellbeing of our beneficiaries. The most recent results of our emoji questionnaires show that 89% of Young people feel more confident since their first contact with Sorted. One of our young people who would often get in fights and conflicts, has had opportunity to talk things through and explore anger management techniques, and has excelled from seeing the positive behaviour of other peers in the group. Another who struggled with his self-esteem, has

talked about how he loves the sessions as he doesn't have to 'compete' for attention as he does at home. We have noted more positive attitudes to school, college and finding work.

Learning from this group has also fed into the development of our wider programme. For instance, we have used a traffic light system for establishing how young people feel at the start and end of a session. Red is not feeling good at all and often rather angry, amber is neither really good nor really bad and green very good. As people become more confident in the sessions we have seen them more openly sharing their traffic light colour and the reason for it.

### **South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice**

*£2,500 November*

*Core costs for help to asylum-seekers making a second claim to refugee status  
Sheffield*

The grant went towards the rent of our office, storage and interviewing space in The Sanctuary, the centre for refugees and asylum seekers run by Sheffield City of Sanctuary. The office space is an essential resource, our first city centre base shared with many other key services offering support and advice to asylum-seekers in the city.

The Sanctuary also serves as a social space for asylum-seekers, a welcoming, safe and diverse space, centrally located, where asylum-seekers can spend time. This makes it easier for refused asylum seekers to find out about, build trust in, and access our service where appropriate. The centre is next door to Assist Sheffield, our partner charity which provides welfare support and accommodation to refused destitute asylum-seekers and is our biggest source of referrals. This means Assist staff and volunteers can easily refer clients to us, show hesitant clients where we are, and, where appropriate, organise joint appointments, especially at the initial stages where potential clients may be feeling mistrustful or despairing as a result of their negative experiences with the Home Office.

In March 2020 the Sanctuary closed at the start of the first lockdown and we moved to remote home-working. Sheffield City of Sanctuary rapidly developed both an emergency response service and the development of the Virtual Sanctuary, whereby services, including our own worked together to try to minimize disruption to our service, to maintain contact with our clients and to signpost clients to emergency response services. Since the majority of our clients are either destitute or living in very insecure circumstances it was crucial to work even more closely with services offering day-to-day survival services than we had previously. Understandably, for many of our clients these services were far more important than discussing their longer term need to secure their legal status.

We did not experience any break in our ability to provide a legal advice service (in spite of staff and volunteers at various times having to deal with Covid, self-isolating, and home schooling) mainly due to the dedication of our small staff and volunteer team but also because our client records are all electronic and we were also able to ensure that staff and volunteers had laptops and phones. We also continued to pay for professional interpreters and the agency we purchase from provided an excellent 3-way phone service or Zoom.

In autumn 2020 we began a gradual return to office-based working on a strictly limited basis, with only one staff member in the office at a time and only very limited client contact where essential (for example, handing over originals of key documents). During the year we received 42 new referrals, a reduction of at least 15 from our normal rate of referral over the last three years entirely due to the fact that the Home office has not been evicting refused asylum-seekers from its accommodation

since March 2020, and also that the rate of decisions on asylum cases slowed drastically and appeals cases were not heard for many months. The cumulative effect of all this was a temporary reduction in the numbers of clients presenting as refused and in need of our service. For example, for many months from March 2020 Assist Sheffield referred no new cases to us when normally they would expect to refer some four a month.

During the year we referred 18 clients to solicitors after conducting research on their cases. We consider a referral to a solicitor (for legally aided representation for a fresh claim) a successful outcome since legal aided solicitors are only able to take on such cases if sufficient research has been carried out to show fresh evidence in a client's case.

We also made direct further submissions in a further three cases where referral onto a solicitor was not possible. We await decisions on eight cases where SYRLJ has made an application. Home office decisions may take up to 3 years, even in 'non-Covid' times, and our assumption and experience is that delays are going to be even longer due to the impact of the pandemic.

This case study shows the sheer complexity of the work. Abdul is a national of Afghanistan who came to the UK aged 18 in 2009 after Taliban violence in his home area and the death of his family in a French aerial bombardment. He was detained for over two months while the UK tried to remove him to Greece where he had previously been fingerprinted.

The UK eventually took responsibility for Abdul's asylum claim and refused it in 2015, doubting his story because of inconsistencies in his interviews. Eventually they said that he could relocate to Kabul. By this point his mental health had deteriorated and he made a serious attempt to take his own life. Due to fear of being returned to Greece or even Afghanistan, he fled to France and therefore never had an asylum appeal. In 2016 he returned from France to the UK and claimed asylum again.

Abdul's case was initially very difficult to piece together and we had to obtain a Subject Access Request from the Home Office to determine that his second screening interview in 2016 had been treated as a fresh claim. Although he had not had a second substantive interview, he actually had an asylum claim outstanding. Due to his very poor mental health we obtained a medical report from the Mulberry Practice which confirmed a diagnosis of severe depression and complex PTSD initially diagnosed in Jan 2016 but confirmed in assessment by a consultant psychiatrist in 2018 as an ongoing problem. We also liaised with Abdul's transcultural social worker and obtained a report from him. We undertook research on treatment for mental health conditions in Afghanistan which are very limited and overstretched. After assisting Abdul to obtain proof of his asylum support from Migrant Help, we referred him to a solicitor to add further representations to his fresh claim, however we received a refusal letter before such submissions could be made. Due to Abdul's extreme vulnerability the news of the refusal again caused him to run away from his asylum support accommodation and the solicitor did not manage to open a file.

During lockdown new country guidance case law on safety in Afghanistan was handed down by the Upper Tribunal which we believed strengthened Abdul's case. We liaised with Abdul and a volunteer from SAVTE who has been providing support to him. Although Abdul was now living in Birmingham and self-isolating we managed to speak to him via WhatsApp. A local solicitor initially declined to take on the case for preparation of a fresh claim however we advocated on behalf of Abdul, arguing that our client's poor mental state would impair his ability to find work as a day labourer (the only work available) and to cope with the harshness of daily life in Kabul. Further, we obtained a pro-bono opinion from an academic expert on Afghanistan who stated that the pandemic had resulted in work opportunities becoming even more scarce in the country.

The solicitor agreed to take the case and we provided further support by supporting Abdul to complete and sign the legal aid form remotely. We also assisted the solicitor by drafting instructions for a medico-legal report for Abdul and obtaining quotes and availability from relevant psychologists.

### **Special Stars Foundation**

*£2000 July*

*Sensory equipment library for disabled children*

*Hull and East Yorkshire*

The money was spent buying specialist, disability-specific items for our lending library provision for disabled children and young people living in Hull and East Yorkshire. This provision gives disabled children the opportunity to try out specialist educational and sensory items which are costly and out of reach financially for the families we support.

The grant made a difference by giving families who may experience challenging behaviour, sleepless nights and exhaustion some positivity in their difficult lives. The lending library offers them a chance to try a variety of options to increase their child's communication, calm them in distress or help them fall asleep. Also, it gives them a chance to have fun and offer stimulation in a suitable way for their age or ability.

Ninety seven families have so far borrowed from the service. Before lockdown families would borrow the items from our centre and keep them for a month, during lockdown we have offered contactless delivery. The Covid pandemic forced us to close all face-to-face activities and events and we furloughed all staff except for myself and the Charity Manager.

### **St. Augustine's Centre**

*£2500 November*

*Increase in administrator's hours at an open-access community centre largely used by asylum-seekers and refugees*

*Calderdale*

Your funding enabled us to increase our Administrator's time from three days a week to four so that she could focus 7.5 hours of her time on the coordination of the Welcome Café. This had been previously done by our Activities Coordinator and when she left in 2018, by volunteers who worked hard to oversee the coordination of the café. The café has continued to expand in size over the years and it became apparent that we needed a paid member of staff who would have oversight when at the Centre. This role involved: managing the rota of volunteers and ensuring that there was a team each day; supporting the volunteers if they needed help with shopping; recruiting and training new volunteers when necessary; supporting volunteers with training opportunities. Alongside these daily tasks, the coordinator also provided additional support for events, for example organising a team of volunteers to cook and serve at the Christmas party.

Prior to the lockdown, the coordinator was supporting a team of around 20-30 volunteers who would provide between 70 and 100 hot meals a day. Set teams would work on different days and cook foods coming from a range of different countries: Nigerian, Pakistani, Persian and Syrian. By



the end of 2019 volunteers had served an incredible 12,908 meals to the community. Our Welcome Café is an essential resource; not only combating food poverty in Park Ward, but also helping isolation and loneliness by providing an opportunity for people to come together and eat. Having a Welcome Café coordinator in place who recruits and trains new volunteers also ensures that there remains the opportunity for people to cook in the café. Volunteers are predominantly centre users, and taking part in the café allows them to develop new skills (English, for example), meet new people, and share a part of their culture with others.



The grant has not been affected by the lockdown. Despite reducing the number of days when we provide lunch, we have continued to provide two days of takeaway meals, and the café and volunteers have required additional coordination and support. This has included putting in place hygiene and social distancing measures to ensure that volunteers and attendees are safe, that we have stock of takeaway boxes in place and that if needed, volunteers are completing their Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety award. Since the beginning of lockdown, a team of seven volunteers has provided a total of 1,644 hot take away meals.

The decision was made to continue providing meals due to the fact that free access to a hot nutritious meal seemed more necessary than ever. Park Ward already sees a high level of deprivation and poverty, which has been recently increased by more people losing their jobs or having to go onto Universal Credit. We have been working in partnership with Halifax Opportunities Trust and Himmat to provide a Food Parcel Delivery service, but still wanted to provide meals due to the fact that some people are unable to cook at home. We have one woman, for example, who has been accessing our meals due to the fact that her cooker is not working at the moment and her landlord is refusing to fix it. We are now looking into phasing more days of takeaway meals back into the week now the lockdown is beginning to ease.

### **St Christopher's Church Good Neighbours**

*£2,500 November*

*Contribution to budget deficit for a community centre on Holme Wood estate  
Bradford*

Our project has had a busy and challenging six months. We have been able to sustain our current activities as well as starting some new ones. However, the last few months have been a real challenge as we have had to respond to the Covid pandemic.

Our social hub continued to offer a range of activities designed to bring local people together. We have a particular focus on improving the lives of older people and as such we run a day care facility four days a week where people over 50 can come to socialise, receive a hot nourishing meal and take part in a range of health and wellbeing activities ranging from keep fit, tai chi and indoor boccia and curling to craft sessions, sing-a-longs, live entertainment and reminiscence sessions.

Many of our people have some form of disability and so we also provide door-to-door transport with our accessible minibus. The emphasis is on having fun and making friends and we have seen a

lot of friendships being formed over the years. During last year we started an Activity Day where people over 50 come together to play indoor bowls, table tennis, and pool and air hockey. This has proved to be popular with up to 15 people attending each session and with the help of the Souter trust we have also been able to purchase a table football game. Over the last six months we have seen some new people joining in our sessions. Here is a quote from one new client: *"It's like coming to a youth club but for older people, it's great"*.



As part of our Activity Day we also run a Dance facility in partnership with Yorkshire Dance which is a dance and movement session for over 55's. It is for everyone regardless of ability with emphasis on doing what you can in whatever way you can. This again has proved really popular with an average of 20 people attending each session. It is a great way to exercise and have fun. At the beginning of March we joined with other groups across Bradford to perform a Flash Dance in

the local Broadway shopping centre. This was a really wonderful experience and all our people enjoyed themselves, especially when shoppers stopped to watch! Here are a couple of comments from our beneficiaries: *"It's great to see everyone smiling" It helps me move a bit better."* *"Makes me feel well and is lots of fun"* *"Love the company"*.

Over the last six months we have linked up with the parent and toddler group at St Christopher's. Once a week the children and parents come into our centre to have 'song time' with our older people. The children sing nursery rhymes and songs and encourage our people to join in. This has been a real success, so much so that our people look forward to Tuesday mornings. There have also been some friendships formed between some of the children and some of our members. At Christmas we had a lovely session where both the children and adults took part in telling the Nativity story. Hopefully we will be able to build on this in the future by providing joint craft sessions and having a regular meal together.

Our Community Café continued to run three times a week providing good quality home cooked food at very reasonable prices. It is open to all the community and popular with all ages. Many of those who attend our activities come to have lunch. It is especially popular on a Friday where people come to the dance session, have lunch and then attend the activity afternoon. Our fruit and vegetable market has also provided both our beneficiaries and the local community with fresh and healthy produce at affordable prices. Our 'Out and about' minibus service has been popular over the last six months. This service offers weekly shopping trips to local supermarkets for older people who need help with their shopping and those who perhaps are unable to use public transport. Our minibus has disabled access and so we are able to take people in wheelchairs. Here is a comment from one of our beneficiaries: *"I enjoy getting out to do my own shopping instead of relying on someone doing it for me."*

Through our activities over the last year we have empowered some of our older people to become volunteers and we now have a number of our beneficiaries that have become facilitators completing roles such as cooking, computer design, gardening, minibus driving and escorting clients on shopping trips and also helping to lead our indoor bowls, table tennis and pool sessions. This has given many

of our volunteers an increased sense of self-worth and motivation knowing that they are helping both the project and community.

Due to the pandemic we have had to close our centre and all our activities until further notice. However, since the last week in March we have been busy in providing support to our older people and other local people in other ways. This includes preparing and delivering a hot meal at lunchtime plus a sandwich pack for tea five days a week, providing telephone support and a listening ear and delivering shopping when needed. We are now in touch with over 50 people and currently delivering meals to 35 older people in the area, preparing an average of 130 meals every week. We have also kept our fruit and vegetable market open so that we can deliver fresh produce to those who want it. To try to combat boredom and to keep our people active, we are sending out a news sheet every week which contains information, word searches, quizzes and jokes, along with a weekly craft activity pack. These have proved very popular. The first activity was to make a memory jar; the idea being that you decorate a jam jar and then fill it with slips of paper containing happy memories of past times and also any happy experiences during this period of isolation and then if you are feeling a bit low or having a bad day, then you can open the jar and hopefully relive some happy memories. We are unsure when we will be able to open our centre again but we are hoping that we will be able to continue to provide the above support for however long this crisis lasts.

#### **St Luke's church, Holbeck**

*£4000 July*

*Funding an Under-7s and Family Worker on a deprived estate  
Leeds*

Our worker Abbie did great work in the early part of the year but in March the lockdown confined her to her home with her three children. We took the decision to furlough her using church funds and so the SWC money has been frozen and will be used when the pandemic crisis eases. Her employment will be extended by the number of weeks that she has been unable to work.

Her husband is a key worker and so she had no choice but to focus on her family and child care. We topped up her 80 percent furlough money from the Government with 20 percent of our own. It has been frustrating to have to delay the work because the community's problems continue and Abbie's work is more needed than ever. Thank you again for your funding and for flexibility during the Covic period.

#### **Survivors of Torture Activity Fund**

*£1000 November*

*Leisure centre and gym sessions for survivors of torture  
Todmorden*

It has been a difficult year and we have had to adopt strategies which we have not considered before and, like many other charities, we are not through it yet.

The SWC grant was used before lockdown. We currently support 39 survivors of torture, all of whom find membership of a leisure centre very useful and therapeutic. Our average monthly per person payment is around £25 so the funding paid for 40 monthly subscriptions and was very useful and appreciated. We also fund one-off requests, all initiated and supported by psychological therapists or physiotherapists at Freedom from Torture's Manchester Office.

In the year April 2019 to the end of March 2020 our events brought in over 37% of our income. Since early March we have been unable to hold any because of the very sensible lockdown rules. Fortunately, Leisure Centres have been closed for the same period. At first, we thought that this would mean that we would easily survive the unusual circumstances. However, we quickly realised that some of the people we support needed help to survive the lockdown and therapists were soon asking if we could fund toys, books and running gear (trainers, a bike and running trousers for example) and a sewing machine or a cheap second-hand laptop to help individual survivors to get through.

Some of these items were pre-owned (bike and sewing machine) but many we bought new. More recently therapists have started to ask us to fund food, particularly for survivors with families and we have been happy to do that. However, this does mean that we had a lot of money going out and very little coming in. We quickly got to the stage where we would not have enough money to fund leisure centre memberships for very long after they reopened. So an appeal was launched and our supporters provided over £2,000 – which we had already spent on the items detailed above. Also, we had a grant of £500 from the Magical Little Grant fund. We are determined to help as many survivors as we can to get through this period and also to have enough to launch us into a post-Covid period. We know that when events are allowed again, it may be some time before people are confident enough to attend them.

Four fifths of our Trustees are in the 60-75 age group and all have been very careful for their own and their families' sake to adhere to lockdown rules. However, most of our work can be done from home. Delivering items to survivors where shops had no delivery system has been done very carefully by trustees wearing masks and gloves. The only event we have been able to set up has been a stall outside a trustee's house with an honesty box. At the last count this has brought in over £120. A shop in Hebden Bridge has been kind enough to let us have quite large quantities of rice, beans and lentils etc at cost. For this we are grateful. In all our dealings with survivors during the lockdown we have been determined to avoid tokenism and have tried to give good quality items and enough food.

So like everyone else we don't know how long this will last or how many requests for support we will receive and whether we'll have enough money to continue after lockdown is eased. But we are trying very hard to help as many survivors as we can during the lockdown and planning to be able to continue afterwards.

### **Survivors West Yorkshire**

*£2,500 July*

*Specialist service supporting male survivors of sexual violence or rape*

Survivors West Yorkshire (SWY) was set up in 2000 with the aim of providing support for people who had been victims of child sexual abuse or adult rape. SWY now focuses on providing support for male survivors, for whom there is – regionally and nationally – far less diverse and prolific support than there is for women.

Over the past 20 years, SWY has delivered a virtual signposting service via email and phone, providing support to an average of 150 survivors each year. Since 2016 we have developed and rolled out a pioneering 'virtual' counselling service using secure video, which has shown very

promising positive impacts. Male survivors can access a 20-hour course of counselling, delivered via a secure video system with a linked CRM to track clients' journeys and progress. This service makes West Yorkshire safer by creating a male-focused space for male sexual violence victims to work through their trauma. Research shows that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) correlate strongly with increased ill health including respiratory illness – those with 4+ ACEs (including child sexual abuse) were significantly more likely to be diagnosed with COPD, asthma, and heart conditions than those without (Public Health Wales, 2015). This has potentially extra negative outcomes as Covid-19 play out in world.

Our clients often comment on the immense impact that Ben's Place services have had on their lives: Recent comments in June 2020:

*'My sessions with W..... were really good useful!' (trainee medical doctor).*

*'Thank you for your support in helping me back to becoming more confident and more ambitious'.* (secondary mental health service user).

Both the above were from ethnic minorities and found the virtual service culturally useful in relation to discreet access.

Key outcomes generating from the digital arm of Ben's Place:

- Feedback from client's evidences improved coping strategies with 100% building resilience and self-confidence.
- Feedback from counsellors continues to evidence that our 'virtual platform' had significant benefits on a therapeutic level. (This is increasingly being seen by other agencies following Covid-19 as they move to digital offerings).

The SWC grant of £2500 was used as part of our core funding which allowed us, for example, to maintain our office space and support our fundraising efforts with a major bid to the Big Lottery Fund which unfortunately was suspended at the last stage due to Covid-19. Regarding Covid, our service was designed to be fully digital using the Cloud for many of its service needs. Therefore, while finding things challenging at times, our clients have experienced no disruption. The major issue has been the suspension of the Big Lottery bid due to the focus switching to Covid-19. As a result, cash flow anxieties have been an issue at times. Overall, we have been able to maintain our delivery whilst having to navigate the uncertainty generated by the Covid-19 situation for the future.



Looking ahead, we feel that having built and test-bedded the world's first male survivor focused digital teletherapy service to our knowledge, we have strengthened our board and collaborated with West Yorkshire Rape Crisis services to co-produce a 'Survivor Leadership' project to explore how survivors work with society to bring cultural services change. We see our next stage as developing a smart and Covid-19 safe innovative offline pop-up Ben's Place counselling service which can reach across West Yorkshire effectively and safely. SWC's support really has helped us to keep steadfast to our vision to create new innovative and evidenced services for male survivors of sexual violence in

the region. The Board of SWY are grateful for your SWC pro-active and positive support for male survivors.

### **Thornton Lodge Action Group**

*£3890 July*

*Bridging cost of ESOL classes and social/educational activities for marginalised black and ethnic minority women*

*Huddersfield*

The grant money was spent towards providing community based ESOL provision for marginalised, isolated and inactive BME women, most of them recent arrivals in our community from overseas, some fleeing war-torn areas, others leaving all their family behind to start a new life in the UK. They were aged 24-60.

Over 12-weeks 14 participants benefited from 60 hours of tutor support. As a result, their English fluency improved helping them to interact with others in everyday life, for example supermarket, GP surgeries and schools, and to gain work experience through volunteering. They also learned about local democracy and the possibility of taking part which in turn integration and their ability to access services. They feel less isolated thanks to new relationships, networks and friendships with other parents, wider school communities and local agencies. As one summarised for us:



*“The programme really improved my English skills, especially my grammar. The help from the teacher and mixing with other women in the class has really helped me. I am more confident in speaking”*

The participants also took part in a number of sessions where guest speakers were invited to help develop their confidence in asking questions but also to understand more about the relevant service. Guest speakers included a local councillor and the local policing team. The woman councillor talked to the group about the suffragette movement and their campaign to win the right to vote in political elections. She shared a broad overview of her work and encouraged the participants to ask questions.

### **THRIVE ALIVE, Filey**

*£1500 March Buying and equipping a mobile unit to deliver early intervention programmes for primary age children*

When you provided Thrive Alive with funding we did not have a mobile children’s centre. We have now. The money you contributed helped us to buy, convert and equip it with the resources we need to work with the vulnerable children in our area.

We also appreciate that your help at a time when the project was in its infancy encouraged other to support us. Over the last year we have received funding from Tesco and other charities which has

brought us to this successful point. Our website has also been finished and we feel that it gives a real flavour of our aims and achievements.

The mobile centre was nearing completion when the restrictions of the Covid pandemic were imposed. It was usable but still needed some minor finishing-off. There are older pictures on our website but we will be updating these as the centre is now branded and the inside is a lot softer and personalised.

Over the last year we have seen our referral rates increase; we had 20 when lockdown began. We have been fortunate to get licences from the council to use the country park site in Filey and Oliver's Mount and Raincliffe Woods in Scarborough as designated areas where we can park the centre and run groups. This has diversified the activities we can offer and built up our local partnerships.

The restrictions from Covid-19 have affected us all, but here at Thrive Alive we have not gone quiet. We continue to improve the centre and have been working in Partnership with the Rainbow Centre in Scarborough to deliver much-needed food and clothes to local people during lockdown or when self-isolating. We continued to receive referrals while the schools were closed and plan to work with these children when we can.

Looking ahead, we continue to seek new funding all the time. We need to maintain the upkeep of the centre and buy new equipment to keep ourselves up-to-date. We are also keen to develop our sensory den in the centre so we can work with children with sensory needs as their team have several they are keen for us to take on.

### **Trellis Foundation**

*£5000 July*

*Digital archive and learning resource on the works of Marxist economist Robin Murray*

Your finding went towards the Robin Murray Living Library, a digital archive and learning resource based on the work of the Marxist economist. The grant was spent on digitising and uploading content, designing and building the website, translating texts and design support. We raised a further £5,000 from the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust and the Lipman-Miliband Trust plus £2,000 from donations to the Trellis Foundation.



We have sorted archive boxes from the 1960s to date which contain books, articles, notes, essays and other written materials. We have now found an additional two boxes of unpublished or pre-digital reports, papers and books. We scanned a first batch of documents (circa six archive boxes). The Covid pandemic has caused difficulties and delays but the job is getting done. The website carries a bibliography, tributes, gallery, press cuttings, talks and videos. We are currently busy with the 'Work' section which categorises Robin's work into nine areas.

We are still working on publicising the project. The website had 60 contributors – many of whom have tweeted or posted about it on social media. In the three weeks since it was launched, it has received 1,862 unique visitors, roughly a quarter directed via social media. We have published an article on *Medium* (55 views in one week) and will continue to upload content on Wikipedia with links to the Robin Murray Living Library as well as disseminate information about the website through various channels.

## **Valley Project**

*£2,500 March*

*Providing safe outdoor play for children on Holme Wood estate.*

*Bradford*

This grant made a huge impact on our work by helping us to run a full year's programme and site development. We have worked with 485 different children and young people from the estate and had an overall footfall of 4887 and an average attendance per session of 44.

The children and young people's ages ranged from babies to 16-year-olds and more than 70 parents came too and engaged with their children and supported the running of the sessions. A few became official volunteers and one parent became an official paid member of staff. We have managed to recruit a group of young people on to our young leaders' programme and they are now contributing to the running of play sessions, involved in all organisational decisions and supporting the younger children.



Most of our time this year has been spent building trust and supporting vulnerable young people and those on the fringes of crime, those that have already had dealings with the police and those that are being drawn into this way of life. Our support offer has varied for each young person but has included being someone to listen to them and offer advice (both at sessions and online), providing distracting activities so boredom doesn't draw them back into hanging out with larger/older groups of young people who are

known for anti-social behavior, and liaising with partners and other agencies (including social services) on their behalf.

As an organisation, we have also supported families with food parcels, daily hot meals at sessions and even financial support to put money on their fuel cards. We soon realised that if a child's primary needs are not being met, they are unable to fully engage in our service and enjoy their experience.

Since the erecting of our boundary fence in June 2019 our site development has flourished. We have installed toilets, water, electric and floodlights so the site can be used for longer periods of time and all year round. We have cleared the site of tons of rubbish and debris, making it safe for the children to explore. The children and young people design and build their own playground, they have planted an 'edible forest' full of fruit trees, built large planters so they can grow their own vegetables, a large sand pit, a jumping tower and much more.

The site is fully child-led and the children and young people have done everything from den-building to water fights, arts and crafts to sports, messy play to music and dance and making a campfire to cook a meal every session.

A safe space has been provided by the community for the community where children and families feel able to meet and play. Parents were wary of letting children out of their site due to criminal activity and bullying. Children and parents who have lived on the same street have found opportunities to socialise, developing new friendships and support groups. The site is situated in the centre of the Holme Wood estate providing easy access to all. It has been designed to be a natural



playful place, play and access to nature has been shown to reduce mental health problems along with the ability to socialise and communicate with others.



We have recorded an increase in self-esteem in the children and young people due to their involvement in the development of the area. It provides a space to run, climb, dig, build, to play with friends and just to chill out. The fruit trees and vegetables grown will be eaten by the children, young people and families as snacks and ingredients for healthy meals cooked on our camp fire. The children cannot wait to try the fruits of their labour. The PCSO's who attend sessions have noticed an improvement in some of the young people's behaviour both at The Valley and within the wider community.

During the current Covid-19 crisis our regular play sessions had to close, we continue to operate as a service by providing online and telephone support, engaging social media to keep children and young people active, we are supplying bi-weekly play packs to over 150 children to keep them active at home and supplying food parcels when necessary. We have started to providing weekly hot meals and are also completing regular 'health checks' to vulnerable families, while liaising with other agencies to co-ordinate support.

### **Westwood 2015**

*£4900 November*

*First stage of Footsteps project, supporting residents to become community facilitators  
Sheffield*

I sometimes felt as if I was swimming in spaghetti while trying to get this initiative off the ground, but we are moving forward and trying to shine some light and hope into a dark and difficult period.

We are operationally based at the Paces Campus in High Green, sharing an office with a social enterprise run by one of my co-directors. In mid-March we were told that until further notice the campus was closed to all and were given three hours to clear the office and take what we needed. The main reason for this was that the campus included a centre for people with profound and complex intellectual disabilities who are extremely vulnerable and had to shield during the lockdowns.

As well as losing our office base, our community activities that we were currently delivering and our planned Spring Delivery including, Footsteps had to be abandoned as all the spaces we hire for activity delivery were closed. We were also working in six sheltered housing complexes for seniors and we were locked out of these.

We ground to a complete halt - but we have a fantastic group of sessional workers (all self-employed - a deliberate policy as we are a young organisation) and volunteers and our Children's

Lead, Charlotte, who is also a qualified Zumba Instructor, suggested: why don't we go online. We spent two weeks exploring options and ideas, looking at social media platforms and creating a YouTube channel. We already had a Facebook presence but had to fine-tune our skills around setting up closed groups. We were fortunate for a small organisation in having two highly skilled techies, one a director and the other a young disabled man who guided us on what to do and all the techie issues, such as holding your mobile camera landscape when filming a video.

By week three we launched Westwood Live, bumbling, not bungling, our way along, making headway, learning a lot, getting some things not quite right like Closed Facebook Groups - a nightmare to manage - do you make them visible or not *etc?* Lockdown Zumba was successful - one session a day - and we decided to create activity packs for children and carers to do at home - we called this Playing In. We used Facebook Live for the Zumba, got people to register with us and for the kids and carers and this was the way that activity packs got sent out. On the initial run of Playing In we touched 43 families and sent out 74 packs - we begged, borrowed and used remnants of craft materials to make the packs up.

Whilst this was going on I was putting in emergency applications to organisations funding applications to responses for the Covid situation - we raised just over £8,000 for this work. Online work has since gone from strength to strength - another couple of trusts who had already funded us to run creative activities were happy for us to use their grants to continue our work online. In the last three months we have run something like 16 different activities, including a bear hunt and a lot of outreach activity; all have been successful except for an online Family History Course which only attracted one interested person.

We have even tried doing things in different ways - Local History Videos on YouTube been released from private to public at a set time, tea time on Thursdays, instead of showing them in a physical location. The first video we showed had over 100 views on the first night. Our technical capacity as a virtual team has grown immensely; we have moved our operations virtually into other localities, but still within the area that the Charity Commission has defined we can work in.

What we have been doing has most certainly fulfilled our charitable objective which is to 'prevent social exclusion' - it had worked well; our team has responded well and we have engaged over 500 participants to our online events.

### **Whispers of Comfort**

*£4000 March*

*Parent training programme for children with silent disabilities*

*Zimbabwe*

Your funding contributed towards a Parent Training Programme for children with silent disabilities. The project consisted initially of a one-week road show raising awareness during World Autism Awareness Month in Bulawayo's deprived areas - high density suburbs and peri-urban areas - followed by bi-weekly workshops and feedback sessions on how strategies learned were implemented by the parents/caregivers.

Studies suggest that autism in Zimbabwe is a mystery condition to the general public and a lot of superstition hangs over it. This carries stigma, prejudice and discrimination to people and families of people with autism. The lack of awareness coupled with the government's inability to fund help leaves a lot to be desired for the families affected who are struggling and desperate about how to deal with their loved ones. Few have the knowledge to help them to cope and assist.

Whispers of Comfort conducted verbal consultations by visiting schools, churches and the Ministry of Education in 2013-2014 to find out about the awareness of silent disabilities in Bulawayo and the help available. Our research highlighted that there was little to nothing in terms of awareness and support. In August 2015 we launched our learning centre and technology suite in Paddonhurst, Bulawayo, to use new technologies to help empower those on the autistic spectrum. In 2018, three workshops for parents, professionals and the community as a whole in Bulawayo were conducted during World Autism Week in April. These identified a significant need for caregiver/parent support. Most parents felt helpless in trying to encourage their children but stood to gain a huge amount of support from meeting each other in a safe environment and learning different ways of dealing with their children such as sensory triggers, effective communication and meeting dietary needs. This would promote working together to gain understanding and to help other parents in the wider community by being Programme Champions.



Through your support we trained 27 parents/caregivers who are now have this community role and also bought broadband internet services for the learning centre which helped during sessions. Ten of the parents have since offered to volunteer at the centre thanks to the confidence their training has given them. Our overall reach from the roadshow, the workshops and work in the community at St Peters and Robert Sinyoka peri-urban areas was 550 caregivers.

Our Champions are very keen to spread their acquired knowledge to the wider community in Bulawayo and around. One of them who used to travel from a village about 100km from Bulawayo has since started community 'teach and learn corner' where she has gathered five other local caregivers to meet weekly at a church where they write about challenges they face, hoping to compile these into a booklet, especially for single mothers.

Overall lessons learned are that some parents found it challenging to use computers due to different levels of education and at times the language barrier. We will need to have some of our booklets translated to at least two of the main languages in Zimbabwe, Ndebele and Shona. This will help most of the participants gain in-depth understanding rather than relying on others translating for them. We also learnt to be flexible during implementation feedback session where caregivers were rated on how they met challenges with their children.

### **West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network**

*£5000 July*

*Night shelter for ten homeless destitute asylum-seekers*

*Leeds*

The grant was used to pay our Project Manager when the night shelter re-opened in late July 2019 after a break of two months. It operated successfully and close to full capacity for 34 weeks until we were forced to close by Covid precautions at the end of March 2020. During that time we provided a total of 1,786 nights' accommodation for 25 different individual asylum-seeking men. Twenty churches and other organisations provided venues for the shelter and over 700 people volunteered at the various host organisations. As in previous years the shelter opened every evening at 5pm

when guests were warmly welcomed by our volunteers and given an evening meal, time to rest and the chance to socialise with other guests and volunteers. The end of each stay was at 9am.

Every day we saw the difference that the shelter made. Within a day, week or month of guests staying at the shelter we noted improvements in both physical and mental health. Just by providing the very basic of human needs, food, shelter and a warm welcome, we give them strength to deal with the daily struggle of being a destitute asylum-seeker. Once their basic needs are met, we see them becoming able to engage with support systems, be it their support worker at British Red Cross or legal representatives making fresh claims or just looking for some kind of positive outcome to their destitution.

On the night of 25 March, one of our guests developed symptoms of Covid 19. At around the same time, the government announced lockdown and the 'Everyone In' policy, directing local authorities to house all homeless people. This resulted in all our guests being accommodated by Leeds City Council. The guest with Covid was put in isolation in a hotel and the other seven housed at Garforth House in Holbeck, South Leeds, a former hostel which had been empty for some time.

WYDAN has continued to play a significant role in supporting all 13 residents of Garforth House, organising and funding the provision of food for all the residents, including a cooked meal four times each week. We have also provided each resident with a weekly allowance of £10 to spend as they see fit (*eg* phone top-ups or public transport). In the light of the recent easing of lockdown restrictions which enable the residents to move around more freely, we have recently agreed to increase this to £20 per week – in particular to enable the residents to cover public transport costs. In the past, we have provided all shelter guests with the money to buy a weekly bus pass (current cost £18 pw) and have seen this as an essential part of the shelter project. The new allowance enables residents either to buy a weekly pass or to daily passes when needed and spend the balance on other needs.

We have also tried to provide such emotional support as we can to the residents during this period, although this has been limited by the lockdown restrictions. However, our project manager and a member of the night shelter committee, a local priest, have visited Garforth House and met residents several times a week. Our project manager is currently working reduced hours, but she is still heavily involved both in organising the support for the residents at Garforth House, and in preparing plans for the future.

Although the provision of accommodation by the local authority for destitute asylum seekers (albeit on a temporary basis) is a welcome development, and the residents benefit from not having to sleep in dormitory style accommodation, the Garforth House facility has been far from ideal. The kitchen is inadequate, social distancing is difficult and the behaviour of some of the residents has not always been ideal. It does not have the 'nurturing' quality of our night shelter. Moreover, this has been a period during which most of the networks and facilities on which the residents would otherwise rely for activities and support (for example drop-ins, English and other classes and public facilities) have not been available. This has had a significant effect on the mental health of a number of the residents.

What the future holds is very uncertain. The government appears in principle to be encouraging local authorities to continue their provision for homeless people, but it is unclear what this will mean in practice – in particular, whether LAs will be funded to provide accommodation and whether the policy will continue to include those with 'No Recourse to Public Funds', in particular asylum-seekers.

Our current working assumption is that sooner or later LCC will stop providing accommodation and that there will be a renewed need to provide shelter for this group which can only be met by the

voluntary sector. In this situation, we think that there is likely to be as much (and perhaps more) need for shelter-type accommodation as there has been in the past.

The other issue that we face in the short to medium term is the extent to which it is feasible to provide a shelter in a way that is safe for guests and particularly volunteers, many of whom are in their sixties or seventies or older. However, our working assumption and hope is that eventually things will return to normal and that it will then be possible to continue providing shelter accommodation.

## **Your Future Education**

*£3500 March*

*Cooking and work skills for women excluded through the justice and care systems and/or sex work  
Bradford*

Our course involved eight vulnerable women with a mix of experience including time in both the care and justice systems, whom we aimed to support in three areas: improving cooking and employability skills, gaining a qualification and widening their support network. We are very pleased to report that the project was a success and are seeking to make it a weekly part of Together Women's programme.



It has been wonderful to see the women progress from week on, which consisted of basic egg cooking (where we discovered that one of the women had never held an egg before and was scared to crack it) through to the final sessions of cooking a roast dinner and curry, with a few yummy desserts as well. The women were visibly more confident each week with handling ingredients and equipment and reported that they had been asked to cook dishes at home and to pass on their new skills to other family members. They also showed confidence in their social skills and have started to meet separately outside of Together Women – one of them who initially sat on her own has been described as 'a different woman' by her key support worker because of her increased self-confidence. Five of the eight achieved the Level 1 award in Cookery and Employment Skills and the other three would have, given more time. We hope to support them in finishing the course successfully. The teaching has been fantastic, in the view of Lois Lee, the chief co-ordinator at Together Women, who singled out the way our project made participants feel comfortable and gave them a practical and non-pressured type of qualification as their initial goal. Thank you again to the SWC for supporting us at such an early stage in our work.

## **Zarach**

*£3000 November*

*New beds for children who cannot concentrate at school  
Leeds*

The money was used to buy 30 beds at cost which met our needs for the first three months of the year. Overall it funded almost 15 percent of the beds we have supplied in the last year which has made a huge difference to our work.

In 2019 we delivered 227 beds, all brand new as we believe the children we support deserve the same as our own. The beds were delivered directly to families, the vast majority in some of Leeds' most deprived wards. Beds are usually in their homes within a week of a referral being made. Families are referred to Zarach by schools when it is highlighted that one or all the children in the home do not have an appropriate place to sleep. The bed is delivered along with new bedding, pyjamas, and a hygiene kit. We hope that providing the means for children to get a good night's sleep will give them a better opportunity to learn and succeed at school.

Data captured from our referral form shows that last year 45.2% of the families we supported were struggling with debt concerns, 38.1% were experiencing or had fled domestic abuse and 31.7% had issues with benefits, especially Universal Credit. This shows the sort of problems that led families into a crisis which meant that they were unable to provide the beds themselves. One example was a single mother forced by a sudden change in her health to leave her job and move to an unfurnished council property. Her daughter had to move in with her father, whose house was a significant distance from her school, meaning she was often late or did not attend. The bed meant that she was able to return to her mother's home and to school.

Within the organisation, the Covid pandemic has not affected us too much as most things are done from home. We have a Cloud-based suite for our emails, forms and documents. Except for Zoom team meetings rather than face-to-face ones, the internal workings of what we do remain relatively unchanged. Externally, restrictions have had a significant effect. Following a referral for a family, we would normally visit them at home. This helps us assess access and bed requirements and discuss the family's circumstances and see if we can offer more long-term support. We would normally take beds to the room required as families are unable to do so easily themselves. We note families that would benefit from ongoing support and normally a large amount of this would be done in the home.

The restrictions also highlighted to us the more immediate needs of families we are supporting such as food and hygiene products and high cost items like nappies or gas/electricity. Zarach responded by turning the vans we use to deliver beds into 'mobile pantries' enabling us to deliver supplies to the city's most vulnerable families and those elderly or shielding. Thankfully a large amount of our fundraising income is via social media posts. We have been able to publicise the work we are doing in lockdown and have had a great response to this. But if this were to continue for a longer period we might encounter issues, as many trusts and other grantmakers are on hold. We initially scaled down our response to bed poverty. However, we have managed to overcome this relatively quickly once suppliers were reopened and are now able to offer the same service as before Covid, plus securing funding to continue to provide food parcels until the end of the year.



## **Supplement – responses to the charity's Covid questionnaire**

During the year, our administrator Kerry wrote to all recipients of grants as follows:

I'm contacting you, and other Wainwright grantees, to ask whether your work has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent government restrictions. If so, my trustees are keen to hear

how and to what extent. Please note, they're asking in a supportive way, not in a threatening or judgmental one.

They only need a snapshot of your organisation's current situation and have suggested the following questions as a starting point. I hope this doesn't feel like a significant additional burden – and understand that the future is very uncertain as I write.

1. Has your work been affected by factors internal to the organisation, such as self-isolating or working from home / online?
2. Has your work been affected by external factors, such as Covid-19 restrictions affecting the object of your activity?
3. Has your work been affected by other problems related to the pandemic, such as fundraising and cashflow?
4. If you've been adversely affected, how would you describe the impact on the work for which we have made our grant; for example, has it been postponed or scaled down or are more complex adjustments required?

### **Action for Autism and Aspergers**

1. We are a small organisation without an office base so as an organisation we do not have the sense of being removed from our usual 'home'. Trustees have met virtually collectively; we held our AGM via Zoom and meet remotely with freelance workers that co-ordinate the programme.
2. We have worked hard to maintain regular contact with our group members. The three freelance staff that normally deliver activity of the group have been leading on the contact and a programme of virtual activity. This has included:
  - personal one to one contact wellbeing contact, either: text/email/phone call as preferred.
  - Small group zoom sessions that have focussed on creative activity, sports quizzes or games
  - Distribution of activity packs provided with our partner and friend Barnsley Museums
  - The recent introduction of socially distant walks, since the lifting of social distancing restrictions. We are doing these in different localities so members can walk to a meeting point and not use public transport. Group are accompanied by the two freelance staff and between one and 4 group members depending on where the starting point is. We are working towards giving everyone the opportunity to have a walk in their locality and are currently arranging two walks a week.
3. We were fortunate in that existing funders have allowed activity to be re-directed or temporarily halted. We have also managed to secure additional funding from South Yorkshire Community Foundation to support some of the additional activities we have put in place for members. Local arts organisation Qdos Creates have also been able to direct some of their emergency funded activity to support the group too.
4. n/a

### **All Saints Landmark**

Like many other organisations we had to close the facility from the March 2020 and furlough James Clayton, including awarding him the 20% employers' charge. We anticipate a return to function at the end of June or beginning of July, with up to four clients at any time in the room with

James, spaced at safe distances from each other, and separated waiting spaces in the body of the Church, outside the IT room. We are researching the purchase of Perspex screens inside the room, to protect him from clients sitting close to his work station, and software to allow him access to their computer screens without his having to come physically close.

Meanwhile the situation has not caused our clients excessive difficulties. As we understand benefit claimants do not have to show evidence of searching for jobs at present. We understand this will end at the end of June or beginning of July, although the government has not confirmed this. We anticipate ending James' furlough at that same time. And of course James is unable to work remotely, as our clients mostly do not have access to computers – indeed this is the predicament Landmark addresses. We are not in crisis financially, as we only have to pay James 20% of his salary, and no rent. Otherwise the project is on hold, saving funds for when we can safely return to the Church building.

### **Aspire**

1. Yes, all of the paid staff are mainly working from home, and as of the 17<sup>th</sup> March all of our seven groups were paused until further notice. As a team we have met fortnightly on zoom and been successful in getting a grant from the council to temporarily increase all our working hours so we can adapt our output.
2. We have initiated multiple new projects that mean we are thriving as a new charity under the difficult conditions. Although we cannot run our community groups as normal we are spending 50 hours a week doing phone calls to all our current service users, supporting them, referring them to relevant local organisations and helping the most isolated know how they can access us if they need someone to talk to. We have also launched #KeepKirkleesCrafting for which we have been given enough funding to deliver 150 craft and wellbeing hampers each month to every one of our current service users, plus new referrals in each of the patches that we work in. We also have funding from the council to run a technology pilot project for setting out beneficiaries up to be able to make video calls to friends and family – we have enough funding to purchase and set up 35 tablets.
3. Initially we were concerned as our normal fundraising routes were pausing and we had to adapt our strategy, however local smaller grant providers and COVID response grants have enabled us to work at a high level of effectiveness and to modulate the way we work for now, without reducing staff hours or pay. We have applications in that hopefully will help us to be funded in 2021 as we intend to grow as an organisation, currently planning to launch up to 3 new groups in Kirklees if the funding is available. We are aware that a recession and an economic crisis may affect us but of course it's very uncertain times for everyone. We do however have the support of the local authority to put measures in place to be a sustainable organisation as we are recognised as a charity that delivers a unique and high-quality level of support to many older people across Kirklees.
4. The grant was spent prior to COVID being an issue and prior to us becoming a charity, so it has not been an issue in this case. If you want further details on exactly how your grant was spent please do ask.

### **Beat Autism**

1. Yes, we have had to change our working methods immensely. We work from home and offer support to our vulnerable families through telephone contact or facetime or zoom meetings. This



has been extremely difficult as Autistic children like routine and structure so this has turned their world upside down and inside out. Therefore our work load has increased dramatically as there are more and more families needing support as they are in crisis due to their child's behaviour as they don't understand what is happening, no school, no family contact and no going out.

2. Yes. 90% of our work is normally done face to face. Support groups, crisis support and children's activities. All these were cancelled at the beginning of March and haven't yet re started. We are currently trying to source funding to allow us to rent our own office space. Once this is secured we will be able to continue our work as then we can control the cleanliness of the building and contain numbers and implement socially distancing safely with all the families that we support.

3. Yes. The majority of our fund raising is done through the summer months. We had to cancel 11 events that were planned for world Autism awareness week. We have had 9 sponsored events that have been cancelled that people were committed to do for us. We also attend a summer gala almost every week from June to September raising funds. Once again all of these have been cancelled.

4 Unfortunately we will be unable to spend the grant in 2020 as the majority of the children that we support have severe learning difficulties so cannot understand and stick to the social distancing rules. Therefore all of our summer clubs and activities we have had to cancel this year.

## **Bethel**

1. BBCC: Self isolating and working from home have had an enormous impact on the church at Bierley in working with young people in particular. While a weekly meeting – Church @ 5 – had been offering food and fellowship with a message and prayer for young people and adults was one of the most vibrant and successful partnerships between youth work and the church family, that had to stop. In its place we tried a zoom church@5 but after one attempt felt that it was best not to invite young people as there were too many questions about how it could work ranging from the availability of zoom being off limits for under-18s to the loss of food and face to face contact. Other complexities such as whether or not it is appropriate to talk to a young person while they are in their bedroom also brought a pause to this activity. The fact is that, of the six or seven adults regularly meeting for church @ 5 with young people, only three were not self-isolating.

E:merge. The team were furloughed for one month. When at work, much of the contact with young people was carried out using social media. This is less strange for the members of a qualified youth team with professional accountability. David Wilson who is our liaison with E:merge continued to make contact with many young people but on social media.

Together – the flow of information about young people's work had to be restarted with the church @ 5 being reformed to pray and talk about young people's work. This is one of the real positives to come out of the period of lockdown.

2. BBCC. Yes – naturally, although the church people remain faithful and giving.

E:merge. Because fundraising is focused on the year ahead, there is not a shortfall if grants secured are allowed to be used in a different way. It remains to be seen if there is a decrease in available funding in the future.

Together – BD4 has received some reasonable extra funding for relief and supplies to vulnerable families. While this is good for the short term, a longer term strategy to strengthen and, in part,

rebuild the cooperation between church, youth work and other community outreach may need to look further afield for funding.

3 BBCC. The biggest complexity is in creating many different ways to communicate and meet. When there is a group of tech-savvy members; another of basic computer literate members and a group of non-tech members, there is a danger that one group can't communicate with another. While we have worked really hard at mitigating this, the work of specialised efforts in the community – such as youth work – can go ahead without reference to the rest of the body if we aren't careful.

E:merge. The biggest change has been the interruption of face to face contact with groups of young people, visits to schools and other services offered that have been shelved. While there is a great deal that can be done remotely, the past few weeks have enabled the valuable work of door visits and small group activities (games of football or tennis eg.). There are two areas that may be hit hardest – taking young people away is not presently possible. Also, holiday clubs may be more limited, though there are plans locally for holiday clubs.

Together. The pandemic has created distance between us – but we have worked hard to bridge this. The pastor and youth worker are in more regular contact and some things have come out of the crisis that may bear fruit. An example of this would be one-one employment of young people in working with young people to help with self-esteem, discipline, creativity etc that are endemic to working under supervision. What youth work does in groups may have to be scaled down at times but the opportunity is still there for more focused work.

4 BBCC. As above – the loss of the regular church @ 5 meeting has been felt – not so much a matter of funding but of situation.

E:merge. There is so much work to be done that funding will be used! The work is perhaps scaled down in terms of large groups meeting up but the demands of working more intensely with small groups and individuals will not go away.

## **Chopsticks**

We restarted our community business operations on a restricted opening basis 4 weeks ago, with a small number of our workshop staff and myself returning to Endeavour House workshop and office. We have been concentrating on upgrading our workshop and replacing equipment and improving facilities in preparation for the day when our work team members will return. We are not anticipating recommencement of day care services involving our work team members until September this year or possibly even later in the year, once widespread testing and new vaccination becomes available. This is proving very challenging for our work team members, as they miss the daily routine of attending their supported workplace and the connections they have with work team colleagues and the friendships they have formed. We too are missing having them alongside us, the individual characters and personalities and the level of support they bring us.

There is at least light at the end of the tunnel however and we are slowly starting to get back to close to normal. We remain very positive about our workshop operations and day care services. We have already started planning for the future by reviewing a range of possible new partnership opportunities and innovations in our services. These are both designed to reach out to a broader range of vulnerable adults in our local community. We believe that collaboration with other CVS organisations and private sector involvement will become even more important to ensuring organisations like ours survive and thrive post Covid-19 pandemic.

We are preparing a new three-year development strategy and investment plan which will be presented to our board at their monthly meeting in August this year. The main element of the plan will be a proposed two storey extension to our existing building (subject to gaining planning permission). The additional space will provide a new community workshop (ChopShed) which will incorporate a café style canteen and a factory shop - in which our work team members can become involved in selling products they have been involved in producing. The upper floor of the extension will provide a much-needed increase in storage capacity for our donated timber and completed products. We believe that new opportunities lay ahead, even in this time of uncertainty in many areas of local community life.

### **Creating Better Futures**

With regards to Covid-19, as with most charities we have been impacted in the way in which we are able to work and raise funds here in the UK, but our team have successfully transitioned very quickly to working from home and we have had a good response to our virtual events and fundraising campaigns during the past four months, although of course we have had a number of large face to face events cancelled or postponed.

The situation in Zimbabwe for our team and our beneficiaries has been challenging, as with schools closed and restrictions on movement, we have been unable to deliver our usual programs and we have been adjusting our approach by providing feeding parcels to over 600 families in a safe and socially distanced manner. Additionally, we have also been providing information to our beneficiaries around staying safe from Covid-19, as the awareness in Zimbabwe is not as high as we have seen in the UK.

With regards to the SWC grant made in relation to our sanitary pad project, we are continuing with the roll-out, although some of the activities have been delayed due to Covid-19. We have purchased four sewing machines in Zimbabwe to start the initial phase of the project and we are also shipping seven sewing machines which we have received free from Tools With a Mission (TWAM), they are expected to arrive at the start of 2021 for the full phase. Our team in Zimbabwe have recruited some ladies to start make the pads and a trainer to teach them how to develop the pads in line with methods and patterns developed here in the UK. This initial training has taken place (see attached photos), however, with many shops shut in Zimbabwe and travel restrictions, we have been unable to purchase the needed fabric to progress the roll-out. In addition, we are seeing increases in the price of many items in Zimbabwe, including the price of fabric, due to inflation. Our team are monitoring the Covid-19 situation and are looking into options to source the fabric we need. This means that we will not have fully completed the project by November 2020 and while this interim report is hopefully sufficient, we would like to request that the SWC trustees extend the grant term due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While the situation in Zimbabwe remains uncertain, as soon as the situation improves, we will be able to start making progress with the project roll-out.

### **Destitution project**

1 Yes. Because Victoria Hall shut on March 20th our weekly drop-in and casework office closed. All casework services had to be done by remote means. Our Caseworker and Assistant Caseworker have worked from home from that point until June 17th when we were given the go-ahead to move back into the Vic Hall for casework appointments and food support only. We had to invest in Zoom and have started continuing management meetings remotely. The casework team have extensively

used group calls on WhatsApp to ensure they work as a team and that information is shared in a timely fashion. Service users have mostly been able to send documents via WhatsApp or email. Lots of phone consultations take place.

2 Yes. There has been an increase in the number of destitute refused asylum-seekers and others with no recourse to public funds. Quite a few people have not been given access to hostels/hotels under the Covid emergency accommodation scheme due to lack of available space and have been advised by the local council to sofa-surf. We have had people who have moved into Bolton from other regions to sofa-surf with family or friends. Thus our list for food support has grown. As well, some people got stuck between phases of their case and had to wait for Home Office or Migrant Help to sort out their access to funds, housing *etc*. We then needed to support them during the lag time as Covid impacted staffing and policies at these key agencies. Red Cross also closed their depot in so we had some demand coming from refugees who normally would have been helped practically week to week by Red Cross.

3 Yes. We had to find significant funds for food support during lock down. As we could not give out weekly food parcels (cheaper for us and often made from donated non-perishable food from churches, schools etc) we sourced Covid emergency funds for a few sources. These funds helped us buy food vouchers for all our destitute service users (33 to 40 people). We were able to meet them outside the building to give them vouchers (£20 x 4 weeks each time) on March 18, May 22 and June 17. We will now also buy food to stock up our food store and re-start weekly food parcels as of July 15th. We also used emergency funds to help cover medical costs and emergency accommodation for certain cases who were in urgent need.

4 No. Luckily because our Assistant Caseworker was able to work remotely she has been fully occupied and able during then lockdown. She is now back operating out of Victoria Hall doing appointments along with our Caseworker. We have set up structures and systems to make sure they can maintain social distancing from each other and service users.

## **Furnival**

With the disturbing development of the COVID – 19 virus at this time and the prospect of children now being at home for several weeks, many families are borrowing items to support and occupy their children. We have been able to arrange this without any close contact to keep everyone safe.

At this point we have some spare SWC funding to replenish our stock over the coming months. We had planned to start a community garden this summer and would like to buy a few children's gardening tools for them to borrow to get involved in the planting and picking. The planned involvement in the community garden was delayed this year due to lockdown but we will buy gardening tools for families to be involved next Spring.

## **Greentop Circus**

We wholly agree that a good understanding of the C-19 impact is critical for next steps

1 Greentop closed its doors on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. All provision was stopped and 3 staff members were furloughed whilst the remaining worked from home on very reduced contracts.

2 Greentop had to close and all provision has stopped ending all income streams apart from grant funding. However the biggest impact is the continued implications of ongoing social distancing and cleaning regimes which will seriously reduce our provision. We estimate our capacity to deliver activity on site will be reduced by 75% and delivery at other locations will be significantly reduced because of perceptions of risk or reduced budgets. We have established a COVID secure set of practices for activity provision and have been running tests ready for a trial re-opening albeit of a heavily reduced programme in mid-July.

3 With very reduced income and a number of funding applications cancelled because of the pandemic, our cashflow is very tight and our future difficult. We have been supported through the government Job Retention Scheme and Business Support and Arts Council England. Current projections show us in the red in December. The board of trustees is meeting to review a first draft stabilisation plan for 2021 with a new fundraising plan and cost reductions. Our work has been affected positively, with us developing and testing new Covid secure activity for young people in deprived areas that promotes re-engagement in getting active and supports them in developing their resilience skills.

4 Our project had delivered weekly creative activity for 15 young Roma children from our immediate Grimesthorpe neighbourhood at Greentop and at the Grimesthorpe Family Centre. The impact of the pandemic on the project was instant – the first sharing of a performance was scheduled for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at Grimesthorpe Family Centre. The public performance booked for June 22<sup>nd</sup> at First Park Funday was cancelled. It is now clear that Covid secure programming for young Roma children in our neighbourhood and young people on the autistic spectrum will not be possible in the foreseeable future due to the difficulties of ensuring social distancing with these client groups. The project has therefore had to stop. We are now seeking your consent (as with all contributors to the project) to reallocate the remaining funds, approximately £750, towards our core costs to help ensure Greentop's survival. A project report on the activity we were able to deliver with young Roma pre-Covid will follow.

### **Growing Works**

The Young Shoots sessions have been put on hold due to lockdown restrictions. The young people's development both socially and in skills for the future has been interrupted both with the lack of activities such as Young Shoots but also schooling. We know these children need routine and struggle in changing environments. We have provided activity packs to continue their cooking course at home, as this was cancelled part way through, and they have been sharing photos of the cooking they have been doing.

We are acutely aware of the mental health impact on this already vulnerable group and so maintain contact by posting out activities, recommending activities through our closed Facebook group and check in regularly by text.

The organisation is under pressure due to ongoing costs yet without being able to provide some of our core provision, therefore income is reduced; this situation can only continue for a limited amount of time before it negatively impacts the financial position of the charity.

Growing Works is preparing to resume small social group sessions with young people when regulations and the family's needs allow to provide face to face support to aid recovery and build towards the future.

## Home Start York

As we compose this report, we are increasingly aware that families have struggled with their own and their children's health during the pandemic. Children have not had dental appointments or sight and hearing tests. The emerging needs of families are only now becoming apparent and we know our volunteer service will be well used by families trying to access health services again, often requiring encouragement, overcoming fear and keeping appointments. The mentoring by the volunteers has the greatest impact to help them recover and build resilience for whatever the family experiences in the future.

- 1 Our 6 members of staff are all currently working from home and providing support to families remotely. Our Administrator will be returning to the office on July 6<sup>th</sup>. We continue to review this and we are keeping up to date with the latest Government guidelines as they change.
- 2 Due to the current circumstances, we have quickly adapted and developed our service further to support families via telephone, e-mail and social media communications. We have continued to provide help with mental health/ loneliness and isolation by keeping regular phone/video contact with all families in our support. We have also helped to provide families with information, advice and guidance to direct, up to date, relevant government financial support as it develops. We wanted to ensure that we limited the anxiety surrounding people who are currently receiving benefits, prospect of losing jobs, the self-employed etc. We have been providing daily online communication, help, support and advice via our telephone service and providing active social media and website content to provide families with coping mechanisms and strategies which they may need to cope in this crisis. We are providing our volunteers with the necessary updated training & equipment to support remotely. All of our volunteers have just received updated safeguarding and mental health training. Our next Volunteer Preparation Course is still going ahead in September, via online training and we are currently recruiting new volunteers for our newly developed Telephone Befriending Service. Our Group Workers are still providing their weekly groups via video call and this has proved to be a great success for the mothers we support. We are still accepting referrals and are currently supporting 53 families in the York community. Next week we are delivering Activity Goody Bags to all of our families – these will include toys for the children and reusable facemasks. Most of our volunteers have stayed with us during the crisis, with some volunteers supporting more than one family.
- 3 Competition for grants is tough and we were sadly not eligible for any Government financial help. We have lost our event income for this year and some grants which were currently pending were suspended during the early days of lock down due to Trusts and Foundations changing their criteria. Because of this, we are now working on our financial strategy going forward. Thankfully, our reserves are currently healthy – although it is important we maintain this.
- 4 Home-Start York are still very much active – and continuing to provide support to families. Our service has had to adapt to the current situation which has forced us to make some changes to how we currently deliver our service. We are hugely grateful to your Trust for the support provided, which came at a very difficult time for our charity.

## Humber CAS

Like most organisations, we had to close our offices in March 2020 because of the Government directives due to the pandemic. Covid-19 has created further problems with lockdown and the majority of our service users have been at home with limited support and engagement opportunities, which have worsened the isolation. Understanding the Government guidelines is also a challenge.

We've been working from home and had to change the way we work by using means including:

- Consultations through other means of communication – phone, WhatsApp and Zoom rather than face-to-face.
- Offering occasional home visits, always maintaining social distancing.
- Providing telephone support and providing advice, interpretation, and explanations of government guidelines.
- Helping clients claim benefits and liaising with the Jobcentre, using volunteers as interpreters as necessary; and also paid interpretation services where we are unable to get volunteer interpreters.
- Liaising with medical services when people need access to health care. Accessing healthcare is particularly difficult for people who don't speak English, and current pressures on medical facilities.
- Buying essentials and mobile phone top-ups for vulnerable or needy isolated individuals.

Our best wishes as you carry on with the valuable work that you do, and the support you provide.

## Just Enough

Just as the election happened and a majority government was instated the phone started ringing again and was going to be in a position to take my team back on to get back to work. Then of course the Corona Virus hit the country. I have furloughed myself to keep the money in the Just Enough Group safe and we have postponed all workshops until at least the Autumn half term when schools are confident, we can get back to work. Until then Just Enough and its sister company The Social Book Club have been writing free books and resources for schools to distribute to their students to keep the social learning going at home. So far, we have had over 1200 downloads around the country in a month!

In the coming months I shall be contacting schools in Bradford offering the workshops and am very confident they will book the sessions very quickly for the Autumn term. We have changed our business model for when we are able to rehire staff as we will have a home working policy that will mean staff will not be expected to travel to the office to make sure everyone is kept healthy and happy. I shall be in touch when we are able to resume work and update you on bookings and feedback. Thank you for believing in us and we will not let you down.

## Manic Chord

1. Our work has been hugely affected. Our main streams of income, namely schools, theatres and most funding organisations have shut down with many not opening until 2021. As a small organisation we don't have reserves and despite having reputation, sadly, our industry is drying up. It is not the fact that working from home has affected us, it is that we have no money to live or to make work. We didn't receive the Arts Council Support Package leaving us high and dry.

2. Yes, our tours were cancelled mid-way through and all previous projects and momentum has been lost.

3. Fundraising has become non-existent, our cashflow halted and our projects redundant.
4. Your support enabled us to keep the project going right up till lockdown. However, now the project has had to be put on the shelf until we have the means and ways to bring it back to life.

These are extremely tough times for all. Many small companies like ourselves are going to really struggle to maintain the delivery of grassroots arts. However, we are committed to providing high-quality work for children and young people and will stop at nothing to keep these provisions alive. Now they are needed more than ever and any support funders like yourselves can give in these times would be incredible. If you'd like me to speak more to the funders about Manic Chord's experience I would be happy to answer any direct questions they may have.

### **PATT**

The three national lockdowns have impacted the delivery of the project massively due to the schools being closed; this still remains unpredictable so I propose that in the next 4 – 6 weeks, to meet with all partners to look the timeline, what is possible to deliver in person and what alternatives can take place within the current budget. This could include Zoom workshops and a virtual walk around the exhibit. This of course is influenced by any change in Government restrictions and budget.

### **Phoebe**

The unexpected hit from COVID-19 and the government-imposed lockdown made it challenging for us as we had to transition to online activities. Data internet bundles were expensive in Zimbabwe resulting in some beneficiaries not being able to participate in the online workshops. Data Cost for staff members who were now working from home also resulted in a strain of the limited funding that we had.

### **Shiloh**

1. Yes - this disruption was greatest in the March/April as we adjusted to new ways of working together as a team and on ways to keep essential services operational. We are now fully operational within the resources we have and all staff where possible are working at full capacity.
2. Yes - without question. The covid-19 restrictions closed down our centre based services completely. However, we were determined to keep services going, so reinvented our support to operate remotely (See attached).
3. Yes - we normally rely on community fundraising through events etc, but this has all stopped. Our regular donors continue to support us, but we have had to apply for additional grants to cover some expenditure that used to come from the community.
4. As agreed, we have adjusted the grant funded activities to achieve outcomes in a different way.



## **Sorted**

At the start of Lockdown, we made weekly phone calls to each of the project beneficiaries (sometimes more regular). We were aware that our beneficiaries could be more at risk through this time. We ensured immediate needs were being supported, including accessing food. More recently, we have been able to run a number of sessions online, where young people could connect with their peers and our team. We have enjoyed quizzes and games together. We have also held online sessions focussing on resilience, confidence building, self-esteem and identity. We have prepared a number of wellbeing packs, with resources to help young people focus on their mental and physical health.

At the start of the project we enjoyed some outdoor activities together, but unfortunately Covid-19 meant we could not go on a trip which our young people planned, but this money has been able to be used toward our Covid wellbeing packs. We are looking to work with our young people to fundraise for this trip when we are able.

## **South Yorks RL**

In March 2020 the Sanctuary closed at the start of the first lockdown and we moved to remote home working. Sheffield City of Sanctuary rapidly developed both an emergency response service and the development of the Virtual Sanctuary, whereby services, including our own worked together to try to minimize disruption to our service, to maintain contact with our clients and to signpost clients to emergency response services. Since the majority of our clients are either destitute or living in very insecure circumstances it was crucial for us to work even more closely with services offering day to day survival services than we had previously. Understandably, for many of our clients these services were far more important than discussing their (longer term) need to secure their legal status.

We did not experience any break in our ability to provide a legal advice service (in spite of staff and volunteers at various times having to deal with Covid, self-isolating, and home schooling) mainly due to the dedication of our small staff and volunteer team but also because our client records are all electronic and we were also able to ensure that staff and volunteers had laptops and phones. We also continued to pay for professional interpreters and the agency we purchase from provided an excellent 3-way phone service or zoom.

In autumn 2020 we began a gradual return to office-based working on a strictly limited basis, with only one staff member in the office at a time and only very limited client contact where essential (for example, handing over originals of key documents).

## **Special Stars**

1. Yes we have had to close all face time face activities and events as we support disabled people. We have furloughed all staff except for myself and the Charity Manager.
2. We are unable to resume face to face activities, due to the people we support being at risk and still wanting to shield and also due to size limitations/ social distancing requirements.

3. Yes all charity runs have been cancelled (usually raise 15k in the Hull Running Festival and also collection boxes income affected. A massive loss in funds due to no community fundraising.
4. The lending library is fortunately a Covid -19 friendly project. Items have been given extra cleaning and contactless delivery/ collection. It also inspired us to create the Box of Happiness project, which gives families a free box which is put together by us for the individual receiving it, they are filled with sensory items, toys, toiletries, non-perishable food and arts and crafts materials. We have so far sent 85 Boxes of Happiness out to families isolating in Hull and East Yorkshire. We are currently seeking funding to reach more families. We have received over 400 requests so far. The Box of Happiness project gives socially isolated families a link to the real world and provides the most vulnerable people in these extremely difficult times hope.

### **St Augustine's**

1. We have a number of staff who have are part of the vulnerable group, or have vulnerable family members, and have had to self-isolate at home. This has affected our work in various different ways. Two members of staff have been able to work from home, one of our immigration advisors for example has been able to carry out casework and complete intensive applications from home. Two members of staff have been furloughed, one of which was our Employability and ESOL coordinator. This hasn't posed much of an issue as the Job Centre has been closed and making payments as normal, however they begin to reopen and reintroduce requirements to carry out Job Search's we will need to think about how this is going to be coordinated.

2. We are an open access community centre for anyone who needs support and advice. Throughout the week we provide an advice drop-in, appointments for immigration casework, a free hot lunch 4 days a week, 9 English classes, a gardening club, a football club, walking group, a drop-in clothes hangar, as well as lots of social and wellbeing activities. The Centre is very much a thriving hub of activity, with many calling it their home. Due to the restrictions we have had to close our doors for the time being, move all of our files online, and move working remotely. Throughout the lockdown we have been providing weekly welfare calls, remote English classes and support, continued immigration casework, hot takeaway meals 2 days a week, a food parcel delivery service in partnership with Himmat and Halifax Opportunities Trust, and deliveries of activity packs to families and individuals. We are also in the process of putting Wi-Fi into people's homes along with donated laptops, computers and tablets so that they contact family, keep up with studies, school and English classes, and also curb lockdown boredom!

3 There have been a number of unexpected costs due to having to adjust our services according to the government restrictions, which weren't factored into our original budget for the year. We had to fundraise for additional projects and items, such as processing and taking all of our files online so that staff can access them from home; additional hygiene items to keep staff and volunteers in the building safe; prepaid Wi-Fi dongles to put into 50 asylum-seeking households; additional communication methods such as TextLocal to keep Centre Users up-to-date with important news; food items and takeaway boxes to provide two days of hot food, and the food parcel delivery service stocked.

4. We applied to Scurrah Wainwright to fund the additional salary costs for our Administrator, so that she could coordinate the cafe and volunteers in the absence of an Activities coordinator. Government restrictions meant that we made the decision to take our Welcome Cafe food provision down by two days (we are looking into phasing in more days over the coming weeks now that restrictions are easing). This has however not affected the grant, Despite the number of days being reduced and the number of volunteers, due to the complexity of the situation our administrator has continued to work an additional 7.5 hours a week to coordinate the cafe. This has involved being involved in decision making processes around continued provision; finding volunteers who are willing and able to come into the Centre and cook; supporting new volunteers as they complete their Level 2 Food Hygiene award; ensuring that social distancing is adhered to by volunteers and people coming to collect meals. As the lockdown eases and we begin to introduce more days, there is no doubt that our Administrator will

### **St Christopher's Good Neighbours**

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic we have had to close our centre and all our activities until further notice. However, since the last week in March we have been busy in providing support to our older people and other local people in various ways. This includes preparing and delivering a hot meal at lunchtime plus a sandwich pack for tea five days a week, providing telephone support and a listening ear and delivering shopping when needed. We are now in touch with over 50 people and currently delivering meals to 35 older people in the area, preparing an average of 130 meals every week. We have also kept our fruit & vegetable market open so that we can deliver fresh produce to those who want it. To try to combat boredom and to keep our people active, we are sending out a news sheet every week which contains information, word searches, quizzes and jokes, along with a weekly craft activity pack. These have proved very popular. The first activity was to make a memory jar; the idea being that you decorate a jam jar and then fill it with slips of paper containing happy memories of past times and also any happy experiences during this period of isolation and then if you are feeling a bit low or having a bad day, then you can open the jar and hopefully relive some happy memories. We are unsure when we will be able to open our centre again but we are hoping that we will be able to continue to provide the above support for however long this crisis lasts.

### **West Yorks Survivors**

1. Our service was designed to be fully digital using the cloud for many of its service needs. Therefore, whilst challenging at times our clients have experienced no disruption.
2. The major issue we have experienced has been the suspension of a major funding bid due to the focus switching to Covid-19.
3. With the suspension of our major core funding bid – cash flow anxieties have been an issue at times.
4. Fortunately, we have been able to maintain our delivery whilst having to navigate the uncertainty generated by the Covid-19 situation for the future.

### **SWCTS Saffron**

Since March we have been delivering our 1:1 services via telephone. We are now assessing new clients via telephone and will work with clients via telephone when both client and therapist think this is appropriate and safe for that client. Now we have adapted to this new way of working, we are gradually increasing our caseload and preparing to introduce video therapy as an option. Our group work is temporarily on hold but we are co-producing an online group format with our clients, which launches in July.

Those who have not engaged in the service during lock down have still been offered a range of support / signposting. It has been difficult for clients that are single mums with young children to access any kind of remote working due to not having a confidential space or anyone to help with childcare. It has also been difficult if clients live with a partner that does not know about their history and they also struggle to find a confidential space / are concerned about being overheard.

We have secured funding to deliver between 1 and 3 1:1 individual wellbeing sessions (offered via video or telephone) to all clients on our waiting list, to help their functioning and wellbeing while they wait for 1:1 therapy. We have participated in the Psychology Board on a weekly basis throughout the pandemic, and in April we offered and delivered supervision for a front line NHS worker from our most senior therapist.

On April 9th, the national domestic abuse helpline reported a 120% increase in calls since the Covid19 lockdown began. We know that many women who are current victims of domestic abuse often also have histories of trauma and abuse and that the current crisis will cause additional trauma, will increase the risk of abuse, and also exacerbate trauma symptoms. Therefore, we think it is crucial that we not only continue to deliver our work, but that we scale up our work to meet the increased demand which is certain to follow. In addition to this, we know many front-line workers and many families will be impacted by the trauma of the current crisis, and this will generate additional need for specialist trauma therapy.

### **The Valley**

During the current COVID-19 crisis our regular play sessions had to close, we continue to operate as a service by providing online and telephone support, engaging social media to keep children and young people active, we are supplying bi-weekly play packs to over 150 children to keep them active at home and supplying food parcels when necessary. We have started to providing weekly hot meals and are also completing regular 'health checks' to vulnerable families, while liaising with other agencies to co-ordinate support.

### **Thornton Lodge**

1. Yes, all our centre activities and services stopped from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to conform with government guidelines on social distancing. One staff has been furloughed and another working from home to support the community with have been impacted due to COVID 19. More about our COVID 19 response can be found here: <http://tactiongroup.org.uk/covid-19/>
2. Yes, multiple contracts and grants have been postponed. Funders have been flexible and have allowed us to resubmit new delivery plans. However, decisions on new projects that were in the pipeline have been postponed. Some have stopped taking new application for six months and are prioritizing application for projects linked to COVID 19 only.
3. Thanks to Sports England Emergency funding our cash flow has not been affected. The Sports England Emergency funding has picked up our core costs for four months from April 2020 to July 2020. We are hoping things will get back to some normality.
4. The grant from yourself has not been impacted, it ran over the period Sept to Dec 2019. However, we have continued to run ESOL sessions since the lock down through Zoom software. It has been

challenging but we are now in a routine with regular learners participate online use their mobile , iPad and laptop device from the comfort of their own homes. In June 2020 we also started our weekly Zumba sessions online using the same software Zoom. We have approximately 11 ladies taking part weekly.

### **Thrive Alive**

The restrictions from Covid-19 have impacted upon us all, however here at Thrive Alive we have not been quiet. We continue to improve the centre and have been working in Partnership with the Rainbow Centre in Scarborough to deliver much needed food and clothes to local people impacted upon by the virus. We continue to receive referrals whilst the schools have been closed and plan to work with these children once we are able.

### **Trellis**

1. Yes, a little, in that I haven't been able to work face to face with Frances Murray to sort through materials and boxes, although thankfully we have been able to work on Skype/phone so this hasn't been such a big impact.
2. Yes - I've been affected in that I now have two small children at home in need of home-schooling while also trying to work on the Robin Murray website. This has meant that progress has been slow. In addition, some of our contributors have also been affected by Covid and not been able to write their sections, as per the planned schedule, and we have not wanted to press / chase them. In addition, we were not able to access additional stored materials because of the Covid lockdown.
3. We have not undertaken any additional fundraising and have focused energies on doing as much work as possible on the website.
4. The launch date has been moved back – we are now hoping for a 'soft launch' later in the summer. We had also been hoping to raise awareness about the website at a number of events (book launches etc) which have now been cancelled/postponed. We had anyway been looking at how to use platforms (such as Medium) to help disseminate Robin's work and raise awareness about the site – and this is now more important than ever.

### **Westwood**

Our move online as described in our main report has worked well and furthered our central aim of preventing social exclusion; our team has responded well and we have engaged over 500 participants to our online events. Our workload has increased; the question for us now is sustainability of activity and how do we continue to operate, totally online, traditional physical group setting in a community space, or a mixture. We are predicting that it will be at least Christmas, maybe Easter 2021 when we will be able to hire community spaces and run the traditional way. Which leads us to the SWC grant to run Footsteps; as was indicated in a previous email this is delayed; we were ready to start on schedule in March, but CoVid 19 got in the way. We will now be running this online; the platform may be Zoom, and how we deliver may be a mixture of Video Tutoring, Correspondence (Email) type, Zoom Group Chats, Individual Mentorship sessions. We have advertised this initiative and are waiting responses. We have seen CoVid as an opportunity and not an obstacle and hence a lot has happened for the positive.

## Wydan

On the night of 25th March, one of our guests developed symptoms of Covid. At around the same time, the government announced the 'Everyone In' policy, directing local authorities to seek to accommodate all homeless people. This resulted in all our guests being accommodated by Leeds City Council from 26<sup>th</sup> March. The guest with Covid was put in isolation in a hotel. The other seven guests were accommodated in a property called Garforth House in Holbeck, South Leeds, a former hostel which had been empty for some time. LCC currently has a six month lease or licence of the building *ie* until the end of September, and has been using it to accommodate up to 13 men (all asylum seekers), and is committed to continuing this provision at least until the end of September. They have appointed one of their officers to manage and supervise the house, and provide a security guard 24 hours a day.

WYDAN has continued to play a significant role in supporting the residents of Garforth House (all of them, not just our former guests) since March. We have taken the responsibility of organising (and funding) the provision of food for all the residents, including a cooked meal four times each week. This has been taken on for one or more weeks at a time by host organisations and groups most of whom would otherwise have been involved in hosting the shelter during this period. We have also provided each of the residents with a small weekly allowance of £10 to spend as they see fit (*eg* phone top-ups, public transport). In the light of the recent easing of lockdown restrictions which enables the residents to move around more freely, we have recently agreed to increase this to £20 per week – in particular to enable the residents to cover public transport costs. In the past, we have provided all shelter guests with the money to buy a weekly bus pass (current cost £18 pw) and have seen this as an essential part of the shelter project. The new allowance enables residents either to buy a weekly pass or to buy daily passes when needed and spend the balance on other needs.

We have also tried to provide such emotional support as we can to the residents during this period, although this has been limited by the lockdown restrictions. However, our project manager and a member of the night shelter committee (a local priest) have been visiting Garforth House and meeting residents several times each week between them. Our project manager is currently working reduced hours, but she is still heavily involved both in organising the support for the residents at Garforth House, and in preparing plans for the future. Although the provision of accommodation by the local authority for destitute asylum seekers (albeit on a temporary basis) is a welcome development, and the residents benefit from not having to sleep in dormitory style accommodation, the Garforth House facility has been far from ideal. The kitchen facilities are inadequate, social distancing is difficult, and the behaviour of some of the residents has not always been ideal. It does not have the nurturing quality of our night shelter. Moreover, this has been a period during which most of the networks and facilities on which the residents would otherwise rely for activities and support (for example drop-ins, English and other classes, public facilities) have not been available. This has had a significant effect on the mental health of a number of the residents.

What the future may hold is very uncertain at the present time. The government (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government {MCHLG}) appears in principle to be encouraging local authorities to continue their provision for homeless people, but it is unclear what this will mean in practice – in particular, whether LAs will be provided with the funds to enable them to provide accommodation, and whether the policy will continue to include those with 'No Recourse to Public Funds', in particular asylum-seekers. The current government position with regard to night shelters (as set out in a letter from MCHLG to local authorities dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July) is that 'government advice continues to be that all communal night shelters should remain closed at the present time.' The same letter goes on to say that further advice will be provided 'in the coming weeks'. The latest information that we have from LCC (in an e-mail from the Head of Service, Safer Leeds dated 26<sup>th</sup> June) is that they 'will be in a better position to confirm our plans by the end of July/early August'. That e-mail confirms that much will depend on the extent of funding available to LCC from MCHLG.

Our current working assumption is that sooner or later LCC will stop providing accommodation for destitute asylum seekers, and that there will be a renewed need to provide shelter for this group which can only be met by the voluntary sector. In this situation, we think that there is likely to be as much (and perhaps more) need for shelter type accommodation as there has been in the past.

The other issue that we face in the short to medium term is the extent to which it is feasible to provide a shelter in a way that is safe for guests and particularly volunteers, many of whom are in their sixties or seventies (or older). However, our working assumption (and sincere hope) is that eventually things will “return to normal”, and that it will then be possible to continue providing shelter accommodation. At the present time, our most pressing concern is with what will happen after September. If LCC is able to continue providing accommodation, that is something that we would welcome. But in case that does not happen, we are actively considering the possibilities for providing shelter for homeless asylum seekers over the winter period. The issues being considered include whether it may be necessary in the short term to accommodate a smaller number of people, and whether it may be feasible and/or preferable to operate the shelter from a fixed location rather than rotating between venues as before.

## **Zarach**

1 Within the organisation most things are done from home. We have a cloud based suite for our emails, forms and documents. Except for Zoom team meetings, rather than face-to-face meetings, the internal workings of what we do remain relatively unchanged.

2 Covid-19 restrictions have had a significant effect on how we operate externally. Following a referral for a family normal processes would mean we would visit the family at home. This enables us to assess access and bed requirements but also to discuss the family’s circumstances and to discuss if we can offer more long-term support. We would normally also take the beds to the room they are required as families are unable to do so easily themselves. We also highlight families that would support from ongoing support and normally a large amount of this would be done in the home. The restrictions also highlighted to us the more immediate needs of the families we are supporting i.e. food and hygiene products and high cost items such as nappies or gas/electricity. Zarach responded by turning the vans we use to deliver beds into ‘mobile pantries’ enabling us to deliver supplies to the cities most vulnerable families and those elderly or shielding.

3 Thankfully a large amount of our fundraising income is via social media posts. We have been able to highlight the work we are doing to support families in lockdown and have had a great response to this. If this were to continue for a longer period, we may encounter issues as many Trust and Grants are on hold.

4. We initially scaled down our response to bed poverty. However, we have managed to overcome this relatively quickly once suppliers were reopened and are able to offer the same service we offered before plus securing funding to enable us to continue to provide food parcels until the end of the year.

## **Grants by area of interest and involvement**

In the case of groups with varied beneficiaries, the prime one has been chosen.

**Arts**

Alive and Kicking £2000

Manic Chord £3000

Rah Rah £3000

*Total: £8000*

**Asylum seekers/Refugees**

Arts on the Run £1000

Bradford City of Sanctuary 4000

Call for Duty £2500

Destitution £4000

Hope English School £3000

S. Yorks Refugee Service £2500

St Augustine's £2500

Survivors of Torture £1000

Wydan £5000

*Total: £25000*

**Community**

*Gipton £11,150*

*Hive £5500*

*Men Up North £2000*

*Partisan £5000*

*Rotherham Talking Newspaper £1200*

*St Christopher's Centre £2500*

*Westwood £4900*

*Total: £32250*

**Democratic reform**

Democracy Fund £10000

Leeds Tidal £3000

*Total: £13000*

**Disability/Mental Health**

*AAA Barnsley £1800*

*Beat Autism £3000*

*Chopsticks £2000*

*Special Stars £2000*

*Total: £8800*

**Education**

Just Enough £2000

Premier Learning £3000

*Total: £5000*

**Employment/Training**

All Saints Landmark £4000

*Total: £4000*

**Environment**

Casting Innovations £5000

Friends of Bedford Fields £2500

Our Forest Our Future £3000

*Total: £10,550*

**Ethnic minority**



Humber Community Advice £3000

Thornton Lodge £3890

*Total: £6890*

**Homelessness**

Shiloh £2500

*Total: £2500*

**Legal Aid**

Centre for Military Justice £2000

*Total: £2000*

**Older people**

Aspire £3000

Graves Park Health Walk £300

*Total: £3300*

**Southern Africa**

Africa's Gift £1000

Creating Better Futures £5000

Masicorp £3000

Phoebe £5000

Whispers of Comfort £4000

*Total: £17000*

**Women**

Your Future Education £3500

*Total: £3500*

**Victim Support**

Survivors West Yorkshire £2500

*Total: £2500*

**Youth**

Bethel church £4703

Bridge Project £4000

Family Voice £4500

Greentop £3000

Growing Works £2730

Home Start £2000

Sorted £3000

Thrive Alive £1500

Valley Project £2500

Zarach £3000

*Total: £30933*

**Total Grants Paid: £175223**

## **Previous Annual Reports**

These are available from the Trust and those from 2011 are on the website

Getting on with it 1991-95

The work goes on 1996

Wider still and wider 1997

Boules to Beijing 1998  
Water, water everywhere 1999-2000  
Campaigning and continuity 2001  
Big – and other – issues 2002  
Keeping the vision in sight 2003  
Review of grants 2004  
Lightening the load 2005  
Seeds for change 2006  
Resources for change 2007  
Same streets, parallel lives 2008  
Bright ideas – bright futures 2009  
Rising to the challenge 2011  
Create, inspire, change 2012  
Together for change 2013  
Helping others help themselves 2014  
Ending Isolation 2015  
Teamwork 2016  
A Massive Thank You 2017  
Adventures in a Challenging Time 2018