

# Supporting our communities in 100 days of the Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund



# Working to respond to local community need during COVID-19

Welcome to our interim Impact Report sharing the achievements over 100 hundred days of our Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund. Our team has been working very hard on behalf of our generous donors and partners to fund community groups and charities that are keeping local people and communities safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's been a difficult and challenging time for all us within our communities. We have committed to having a rolling grants programme using an easy and simplified process and releasing funds within 24 hours so that staff and volunteers of local community groups and charities have been able to be immediately responsive to the needs of some of the most vulnerable residents in our local towns and villages and also to adapt their services to meet the demand head on.

We have also worked closely alongside the COVID-19 Community Resilience cell, the co-ordinated multi-agency emergency response partnership, to rise to the challenge of meeting the needs of local residents during this public health crisis.

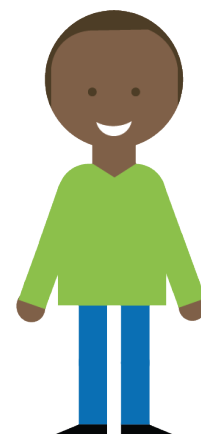
Our staff and trustees have been completely humbled and inspired by the breadth, reach and impact of the local civil society response here in Northamptonshire. We pay tribute to all the dedicated community groups and charities that have played a hugely enormous part in protecting people's health and wellbeing.



We are committed as a place-based grant maker to ensure that funds remain available during this public health crisis to continue to support the wellbeing of our communities and local residents and ensure the most vulnerable among us stay safe and well.

We also wish to say a sincere thank you to all our donors, their extraordinary generosity and heartfelt support to our co-ordinated efforts in keeping people safe from harm.

## Northamptonshire Community Foundation Staff and Trustees

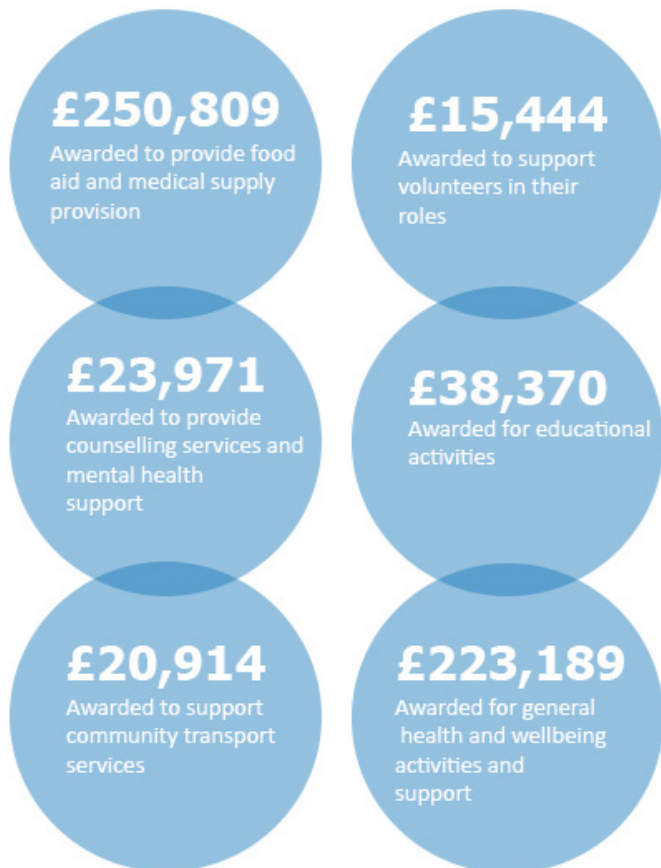


# Helping our communities stay safe and well

Our Grants Team has worked diligently and tirelessly to ensure funds have been paid to local community groups and charities efficiently and quickly to help them respond to the need in local communities. We have, to date, awarded £572,697 to 178 projects.

Overall 73,427\* people have been supported.

6464 volunteers have been supporting projects keeping people safe and well.



\*Please note that one beneficiary may have benefited by more than one project but this is not information we can track; also an individual may have had repeat support during the lifetime of a project.

# Tracking our impact by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



We are proud through our funding activity to have supported the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals during Northamptonshire Community Foundation's COVID-19 response in partnership with the National Emergencies Trust and other generous donors.

We are committed to contributing to tackle these global goals locally as part of our commitment to improve quality of life for all and especially in times of national and local emergencies. We wish to ensure that no one is left behind and everyone feels that they belong to the local community now and in the future.

The projects funded through our Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund have helped contribute to five of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: No Poverty; Zero Hunger; Good Health and Wellbeing; Quality Education and Reduced Inequalities.





## Impact Case Study: Baby Basics Northampton

During COVID-19 Baby Basics Northampton continued to support new mums on a low income. The group have been running as a core staff team of three and close their volunteer sessions for safety and social distancing. The grant awarded has enabled the group to purchase stock for emergency baskets of supplies including brand new Moses baskets (a safe place for the new baby to sleep), toiletries, sterilisers, baths, blankets, fitted sheets, baby grows and newborn baby clothing and socks. The grant has resulted in 50 baby basket starter packs completed to be sent to a new mum and baby to help keep them safe and well and items purchased for 12 further starter packs.

Victoria Miles DL, CEO is our staff champion for UN SDG 1: no poverty in our communities and says:



*“We are committed to playing our part in eradicating poverty in Northamptonshire. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have funded projects that help people who are*

*rough sleeping and homeless, families on a low income and people requiring support due to loss of income. We help fund a safety net that protects people during the most difficult times.”*



## Impact Case Study: Accommodation Concern – Kettering

During the pandemic Accommodation Concern has been supporting people who are rough sleepers and homeless in Kettering and who have been put into temporary accommodation but have no equipment or resources during lockdown and are self isolating. The group have provided 32 beneficiaries with hot meals, TV’s TV ariels, TV licences, fridges, bedding and basic equipment to help make life easier during this difficult time and to support their emotional, mental and physical wellbeing.

## Impact Case Study: The Swan and Helmet Food Bank



As a call to action to support the local community during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Swan and Helmet pub in Northampton established itself as a food bank and have been working alongside churches and schools to make and provide food hampers to local struggling families who have been identified as living in genuine hardship in the local Northampton community. The hampers include essential food items and home cooked meals including storage containers provided free of charge by Northampton Caterers. So far the Swan and Helmet Food bank has distributed 1,930 food hampers to keep families safe and well.

## Impact Case Study: SOFEA

SOFEA have helped establish a network of Community Larders across South Northamptonshire. 10 Larders have already been established in South Northamptonshire providing weekly food boxes to 1,900 vulnerable individuals and families. The organisation has waived their membership fee during the COVID-19 crisis to allow anyone in need to access and benefit from the larder network. SOFEA have been targeting vulnerable older people as well as families with children who would otherwise get free school meals, disadvantaged individuals and families who are socially isolated, those who are now in financial crisis and those unable to access regular food supplies.

2 ZERO HUNGER



Jorden Heffernan, Communications Officer is our staff champion for UN SDG 2: zero hunger and says:



*“Northamptonshire Community Foundation has long played a part in helping tackle food insecurity through its grant making activity and Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network.*

*We have funded an enormous number of projects providing food aid to vulnerable residents during the pandemic providing nutritious meals and emergency food parcels and ensuring nobody goes to bed hungry.”*

# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



San-D Godoy, Administration Services Officer is our staff champion for UN SDG 3: good health and wellbeing and says:



*“I’m passionate about ensuring all our communities maintain good health and wellbeing and during this public health crisis we have funded a range of projects that*

*help maintain local resident’s emotional and mental health especially. The lockdown has taken a toll on many and it’s great to see so many charities providing activities and help that keep people well and happy.”*

## Impact Case Study: Corby Mind

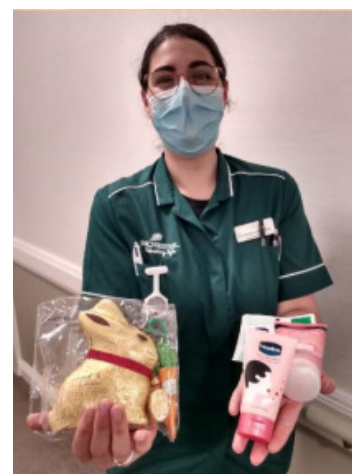
Due to social distancing Corby Mind has been unable to support clients face to face. The awarded grant has enabled the group to provide over the phone advice, counselling and emotional support to their most vulnerable clients during lockdown. Corby Mind have developed a 5 week online anxiety course which they will continue to offer beyond COVID-19.

The group has put in place a virtual phone line. This service has been offered 4 hours per day, six days per week and ensures people who need the service can access it. Corby Mind has responded to 451 calls and provided 232 call back calls through their call back service.



## Impact Case Study: Peak Empower

The organisation has been providing care and activity packages to people in Northamptonshire to help keep residents and families safe and well. Care packages delivered include: Pamper Me Pack (men and women’s) / New Mum / Mum to be Packs / Family Fun Packs (crafts) / Family Essentials Pack: Essential food and cleaning products / Over 50’s Afternoon tea Surprise / Sensory packs / Dementia packs (special drawing and painting packs). So far, the group have benefited 804 people through their support.



# 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



## Impact Case Study: Corby Community Arts

The group has supported 26 mainly vulnerable older woman who have been shielding due to underlying health issues, are socially isolated or on a low income through a creative course of making patchworks. Corby Community Arts has created packs with materials to embellish two panels that reflect thoughts and feelings about the lockdown. The group have stayed in contact through social media and by telephone which also enabled the beneficiaries to request more equipment and materials for their arts projects as well as make friends. The completed patches have been collected and put together. The group intend to put on a celebration event at a future date.

Rachel Cooke is our staff champion for UN SDG 4: quality education and says:



*“As an artist and parent I feel strongly about the provision of quality education for children, young people and adults. The lockdown has been an especially challenging*

*time for families having to home school and we have been committed to funding projects that help provide educational and learning support and keep building aspirations and skills during difficult times.”*



## Impact Case Study: Warts and All Theatre

The community theatre has provided online classes and workshops for young budding actors across Northampton and Wellingborough supporting 50 children and young people during the COVID-19 pandemic. The weekly sessions have helped build learning and skills, friendships and created a safe social space to keep occupied during lockdown. One of the projects for 9 - 13 year olds is to create Coronavirus Time Capsules, a week by week cumulative video time capsule, recording young people’s experience during the coronavirus pandemic.





## Impact Case Study: Support Northamptonshire

Support Northamptonshire covering Wellingborough and Northampton have been working in partnership with Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council, Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation, Pravasi Mandal and Wellingborough District Hindu Association to tackle the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on vulnerable local Asian citizens and communities especially older people and people with disabilities. The partnership network has supported 550 people keeping them safe and well through a programme of information and advice, food aid, welfare calls and family support.

Alex Rex, Programmes Officer is our staff champion for UN SDG 10: reduced inequalities and says:



*“The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore many inequalities within our communities especially for the BAME community which has been disproportionately*

*impacted by this public health crisis. I’ve been reaching out to community groups and charities that represent the most discriminated and under-represented in Northamptonshire to ensure they know they can access funds for essential support for those facing the most barriers to local services.”*



## Impact Case Study: Northamptonshire Association for the Blind (NAB)

During the public health crisis NAB have adapted their services to provide a virtual befriending support service for blind and visually impaired clients reaching 548 people. The organisation has been aware that clients have been at an increased risk of mental health problems due to lockdown including depression, anxiety and even suicidal tendencies. The adapted befriending service has helped support the wellbeing of beneficiaries.

# Foundation feedback



The speed and simplicity of this application is beyond helpful.”

**Carolyn Benjamin, Relate Northamptonshire**

“Many thanks to NCF for approving the grant which will support people from Asian communities to access the helpline and speak to them about their financial and social issues and mental health.”

**Deepa Bakrania, Dostiyo**

“We have had lots of thanks and great feedback and feel so proud that with your help we can do something to help those isolated and under pressure.”

**Carole Miles, The Eloquent Fold**

“Thank you to the Community Foundation for the swiftness of your response so that we had no break in providing much needed food to our service users.”

**Clive Ireson, Springs Family Centre**

“On behalf of everyone at NAB and our isolated, visually impaired clients, we want to thank everyone for supporting our vital work during this time of crisis. The professionalism and speedy support from the Northampton Community Foundation has been invaluable.”

**Vic Sheret, Northamptonshire Association for the Blind**

“The support of NCF as always a vital link of support to our work, however the way the Foundation has responded to the crisis is exemplary. Thank you.”

**James Bellamy, Daylight Centre**

“I cannot thank NCF enough for the difference that this grant has enabled us to make to the lives of so many families throughout this difficult time.”

**Nikki Farrar-Hayton, Home-Start Kettering**

*“This is the second grant that we’ve been lucky enough to have been awarded during the Coronavirus period. The application process was simple, and the money transferred to our account very quickly.”*

**Neil Balderson, Northamptonshire Search and Rescue**

“We were so appreciative of the quick response to our funding application which has supported our volunteer scheme during the COVID-19 crisis.”

**Jane Austin, Moulton Parish Council Covid-19 Volunteer Support Scheme**

“The grant will go a very long way to assist our hard to reach vulnerable individuals and families in our community.”

**Rutendo Nyatsine, Zim Women Association**

“NCF’s swift response to the Covid-19 crisis has enabled us to reach a group of women who would have been extremely isolated by the new normal.”

**Kate Dyer, Corby Community Arts**

# Please support our Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund appeal

Over the last 19 years, Northamptonshire Community Foundation has played a crucial role in supporting our local community and the outbreak of the Coronavirus has created unprecedented strain on the voluntary sector.

Working alongside the National Emergencies Trust and other generous donors, NCF have launched a Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund to raise the urgent funds our voluntary groups desperately need to continue providing care and support for older and vulnerable people hit by the social and economic impact of the coronavirus.

Donations will be targeted, in the form of grants, at local charities supporting local people facing a range of social issues including social isolation, food poverty, poverty and poor mental health. To find out more and to donate please visit:

[ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/coronavirus-response-and-recovery-fund](https://ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/coronavirus-response-and-recovery-fund)

## Thank you #NorthantsTogether

We would love to hear from you if you wish to find out more about the Foundation's work at this time supporting communities through our Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund and appeal and in general. Please get in touch. You can find our contact details at [ncf.uk.com/information/contact-us](https://ncf.uk.com/information/contact-us)

"No one has a better panoramic view of our communities and the charities and voluntary organisations who serve them than Northamptonshire Community Foundation. As a result, emergency funding reaches and supports those most in need in our County during this pandemic and beyond."

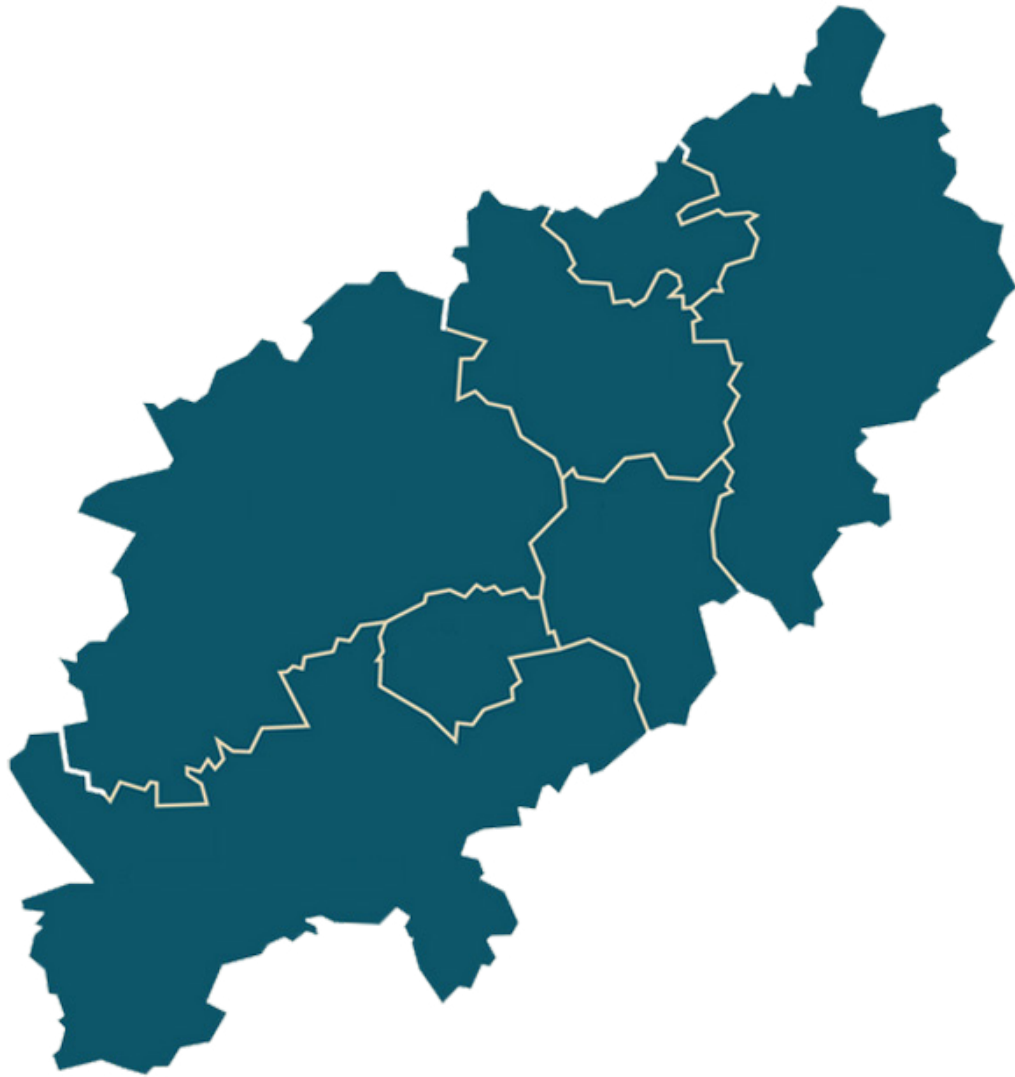
**Paul Parsons, High Sheriff of Northamptonshire and NCF Trustee**

"Hagerty feels strongly that businesses should be a force for good. During this unprecedented time, we feel it is our duty to support organisations that are providing relief for those in need due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate the efforts of Northamptonshire Community Foundation and your Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund."

**Sarah Friess, of Hagerty International, Response and Recovery Fund donor**


"We were confident that by making a donation to NCF we could be sure that our money reached the most needy and be distributed in the most effective way. A donation to NCF means that funds are shared throughout Northamptonshire by a wonderful team who know what's going on and how best to help people."


**Mo Shapiro and Mark Yoxon, supporter of NCF and Surviving Winter Appeal donor**




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