

Oxfordshire
Community Foundation
Local people helping local people



IMPACT REPORT

COMING OF AGE IN 2016

ABOUT OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF) is an independent charity that connects people who care with causes that matter. We inspire local philanthropy, and nurture community-based solutions to key social problems across Oxfordshire.

We are one of 48 community foundations in the UK, and over 1,800 similar foundations around the world. Community foundations collaborate with private philanthropists, family trusts, businesses and the public sector to provide a permanent, flexible and growing source of local charitable funding.

OCF has built an endowment fund of nearly £5 million, and awarded more than £5 million in grants to local community groups working to make Oxfordshire a better place. We aim to increase our endowment fund to at least £10 million by 2020.

We believe in lasting, strategic and proactive solutions to complex social problems. To achieve these, we are committed to developing our knowledge and understanding of Oxfordshire's needs and all available resources.

We work in partnership with others so that we can have a greater impact.

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION



It is a real privilege to look back over the past 21 years and reflect on all that Oxfordshire Community Foundation has achieved. I would like to personally thank everyone who has played a part in enabling us to do this.

When we consider that there are now more than 1,800 community foundations around the world – several of whom have already reached their *one hundred years* – we can feel incredibly proud of our heritage and the global network of which we are a part.

But we also realise that our story has really only just begun.

Just like all the best stories, OCF has seen many twists and turns along the way to its 21st birthday, but we now find we have 'come of age', with all the optimism and ambitions to match.

I do hope that you will join us in our celebration, and that in the pages that follow you will enjoy the memories and stories we share. We only have space to showcase a handful of the local lives that have been touched by our work – indeed, the stories of change in this report only scratch the surface of the scale and scope of the funding we have provided*. What we can say though is that we would not be able to tell any of these stories without the generosity of so many people who have been inspired to support and work with us.

As Chair, what I find most exciting is how the experiences and knowledge we have gained over the past 21 years are now so clearly helping to shape and develop our plans for the future. It is my wish that when we look back in another 21 years, everyone in Oxfordshire will have heard of OCF, and that we will be fondly regarded as the 'people's foundation'.

Over the coming years, we will be growing this sense of commitment and social responsibility towards the common good. To do this, our priorities will be to:

- Achieve a step change in our **collaborative philanthropy**
- Develop a **knowledge hub** of Oxfordshire's voluntary sector and key social and community problems
- Work in partnership to develop **community-based solutions**
- Adopt a **strategic, transparent and proactive** approach to the distribution of OCF funds
- Enhance our **organisational capabilities** and infrastructure to deliver our growth ambitions.

With this focus, I believe we really can create a robust legacy and a better life for everyone across Oxfordshire.

With my very best wishes,

John Taylor





Chair, Oxfordshire Community Foundation

* For a full list of every organisation we have funded, please see the accounts section of our website.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FIRST 21 YEARS

Philanthropy services

<h3>Trusts and foundations</h3>  <p>1999: The first of many partnerships with trusts, with £25,000 received from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, £20,000 from PF Charitable Trust and £40,000 from Dulverton Trust</p>	<h3>In-memoriam</h3>  <p>2007: The JMC Fund is OCF's first fund in memory of an individual, followed later by funds remembering Maggie Evans, Martha Fernback and Paul Thompson</p>	<h3>Donor-advised</h3>  <p>2014: The Fund for Sankalpa established as OCF's first million-pound fund, on behalf of an individual wanting to channel their philanthropy through the foundation</p>	<h3>Businesses</h3>  <p>2016: Construction company Beard opens new £250,000 endowment fund, joining other businesses Meech International, Midcounties Cooperative and Witherby King</p>
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£11,326,184
in donations




4,460



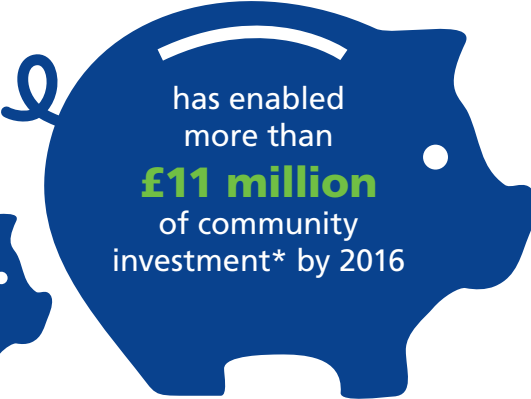
separate gifts from
1,311 donors



£4,246,759



£500 inaugural gift in 1995



has enabled more than **£11 million** of community investment* by 2016

*Community investment is the total grant-making over 21 years combined with the current value of our charitable assets.

Distribution of funds



£5,469,786

distributed in grants

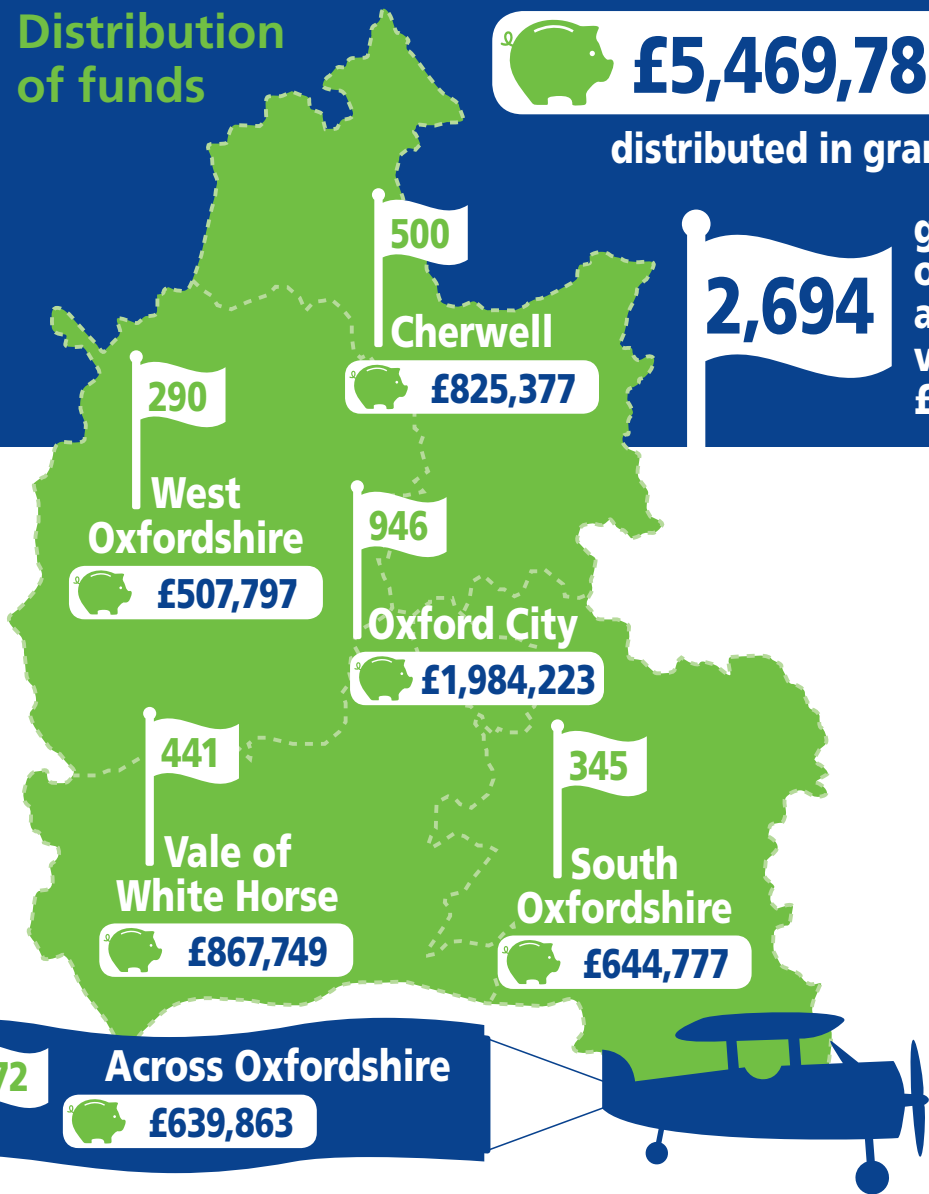
1,197



groups funded

grants of an average value of **£2,016**

2,694



1997



First ever OCF grants round gives away **£18,400** to 27 local charities, with an average grant of **£680**

2004



Comic Relief and Sport Relief grant-making starts in Oxfordshire and across the UK, via community foundations

2010



Surviving Winter appeal established, encouraging the donation of unneeded winter fuel payments for the benefit of vulnerable older people

2015



Largest ever value of grants made at **£825,149**

Our network



43 different volunteer trustees over 21 years

1914

World's first ever community foundation established in Cleveland, Ohio

1975

The UK's first community foundation – Swindon – founded

1991

UKCF established as the national association for UK community foundations

2014

OCF's first Oxford Union debate held, with speakers debating whether charity creates dependency

2012

Thames Valley Philanthropy Fellowship established

36 active volunteers in **2016**



COMMUNITY COHESION



To us, community cohesion means bringing people together by supporting projects that unite different generations, different ethnic communities, or people from different social backgrounds. This creates the bonds that make our society strong and resilient.

Home-Start

At OCF, we are proud of our long history of supporting the county's Home-Start groups, which between them cover the whole of Oxfordshire. Home-Start is a voluntary organisation that promotes the welfare of families with young children. Their volunteers visit the homes of families who are having difficulties managing parenting, and offer friendship, support, and practical and emotional advice.

This charity offers a real lifeline to families. Their work is vital in preventing problems becoming bigger in future, with parents



Derek Wood QC



Liz Brighouse

OCF is founded on 25th April at a meeting at County Hall, inspired by a visit by Liz Brighouse, then Director of OCVA, to the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation in the USA. Trustees are Derek Wood QC (Chair), John Bridgeman DL, Baroness Lucy Faithfull, John Harwood, Malcolm Smith and Sir Martin Wood, with the support of a steering group of local people, including future trustees Robin Birch, Anna Moon of local publisher Elsevier, and Jane Wates.

The trustees raise a sum of £500 to kick things off. The objects of the foundation are the advancement of education, the protection of good mental and physical health, and the relief of poverty and sickness.



Nick Thorn

OCF is headquartered at the Centre for Innovation, hosted pro bono by the Oxford Trust (now Science Oxford). Nick Thorn is appointed as OCF's Director.



Ashley Ponsonby

The Lord Lieutenant Ashley Ponsonby supports the foundation and becomes its President, securing major gifts from local trusts. The Duke of Marlborough becomes OCF's first patron.



Duke of Marlborough

London, County Durham and Heart of England Community Foundations are established in the same year.

1995

developing the skills and confidence to deal with challenging behaviour that can so easily turn into marginalisation or criminality. Volunteers help a variety of people, such as low-income or homeless families, parents with physical or mental health difficulties, and those with no extended family or with relationship difficulties. Parents and volunteers often develop a deeply trusting relationship that can lead to powerful change within the family.

Home-Start Oxford volunteer Fiona Bowler worked with a mother and her two young children, a family with complex needs as a result of domestic abuse. She says: "The children had major behavioural problems, especially the older boy who was mimicking his dad's actions. I was able to help build mum's confidence by listening and talking, and to discover what she needed in the way of support around her violent ex-partner. Mum was eventually very confident, and we applied for and got a restraining order against him."

"The older boy had help and support with his reaction to the after-effects of experiencing and witnessing violence."

Home-Start volunteer

Home-Start South Oxfordshire was a beneficiary of OCF's first ever grants round in 1997, receiving £500 towards the cost of books, videotapes and magazines for families helped by the scheme. Over the following 19 years, we have supported Home-Start's work regularly, with 27 grants awarded totalling nearly £60,000. Support has come from several of our named funds – for example, the **Midcounties Cooperative** and **Sovereign Housing**, and as recently as April 2016, from OCF's **Sport Relief Community Cash** programme.

OTHER COMMUNITY COHESION HIGHLIGHTS



- **Village halls and community centres** across Oxfordshire reach populations in the smallest villages, as well as urban areas. OCF has supported 60 halls and centres since 1995, ensuring that these community assets remain relevant and accessible.
- **The Oxford Mela**, an annual day-long festival of music, food and friendship, has benefited from OCF funding since it began in 2012, encouraging members of all ethnic communities in East Oxford to share their culture.
- **Bicester Good Neighbour Scheme**, which has received £6,500 from OCF since 2011, provides vital human contact for isolated older people – half of whom say that TV or pets are their main source of company.

Lessons learnt

Village halls and befriending groups may seem unglamorous, but they have a vital role to play. Increasingly, we are seeing these physical spaces being used to run projects that directly address current, pressing social problems, such as the marginalisation of older people, minority ethnic communities or disabled people.

Working with organisations such as Home-Start has convinced us that a **preventative approach to social problems** is the right way to protect community values in the long term. In the context of local government cutbacks, particularly those affecting children's centres, we will, more than ever, need to encourage citizens to keep building community bonds in this way.



Hugo Brunner

Liz Brighouse and Robin Birch join as trustees. Baroness Faithfull dies; Hugo Brunner becomes Lord Lieutenant and OCF's President, with Ashley Ponsonby becoming our patron.

OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

OCF's first logo is a simple black square with our name on it.



Jane Wates

The first individual donation to the endowment is received from Jane Wates (£25,000), with the Chair commenting "this represents a real milestone in the development of the community foundation's endowment fund."

OCF's first ever grants were made thanks to flow-through funding from brewery Morland plc (since sold to Greene King), as well as Elsevier and Perpetual plc.



A needs analysis report, *The Other Oxfordshire*, is published, produced by Robin Birch and Margaret Moodie and sponsored by Elsevier. It identifies housing and unemployment as particular issues, and housing estates in Blackbird Leys in Oxford, and Bretch Hill and Grimsbury in Banbury, as areas of particular deprivation.

Unipart opens a 'Partnership for Youth' named fund with OCF.

OCF moves to rent-free offices within Midland Bank on George Street, Oxford (now TSB bank).

1996

1997

MENTAL HEALTH AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING



Good health, safety and happiness should be afforded to every citizen. We cover multiple health-related areas with our work: alleviating mental and physical health problems; addressing threats to the person; and encouraging any activity that promotes general fitness and wellbeing.

Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC)

OSARCC is a collective of women committed to supporting survivors of sexual abuse, rape, domestic abuse and harassment. They offer a free and confidential service to women and girls who are dealing with the effects of sexual violence, and to anyone who is supporting them. OCF has helped fund this award-winning charity for many years.

OCF hosts guests from the Czech Republic who are seeking advice for setting up a Czech community foundation.

Jane Wates and Anna Moon are appointed as trustees.

OCF's Director is appointed board member for county-wide initiative 'Oxfordshire 2000', charged with coordinating local Millennium celebrations, alongside Thames Valley Police, the Oxford Mail and the Diocese.



OCF moves premises from 15-17 George Street to the Governor's House in the old prison yard – now part of the Oxford Castle quarter. We are hosted for free by the County Council until the site is redeveloped in 2001.



Emma Tracy

Nick Thorn leaves to take up a position as Development Director at Worcester College. He is now at Corpus Christi College. Emma Tracy is appointed as OCF's new Director.

OCF runs the European Social Fund capacity-building programme, making grants that help eligible groups scale up their impact.



A new logo is developed by Elsevier, and includes silhouettes of people, reflecting OCF's focus.

1998

1999

OSARCC is committed to listening, believing and helping women in crisis. They run a free helpline for women who have been raped or assaulted, as well as providing face-to-face support groups and advocacy services to help with the recovery process. The service is open to any woman, regardless of race, religion, sexuality, disability or age. OSARCC also recognises that being there for a survivor can feel isolating, so is available to support counsellors, parents, partners or friends of survivors, of any gender.

The centre aids over 300 women and girls every year. OSARCC's support groups help them process feelings of guilt, shame and lack of self-confidence. They gain strength by sharing their thoughts and experiences with a group of resilient, inspiring women. Survivors report feeling less alone and more understood, and having their experiences validated by the process of counselling and building friendships. As one survivor comments: "I feel more 'normal', and it has been hugely healing to feel accepted by other women. I have acquired a sense of self that is not contaminated by abuse."

"I feel much more confident to be around other women, and am more accepting of myself and positive about the future."

OSARCC survivor

Since 2000, OCF has awarded over £24,000 in ten separate grants to OSARCC to meet various training and infrastructure costs, allowing them to carry out their important work. Donor **Jane Mactaggart** has been a longstanding supporter via her OCF named fund, and the charity has recently received a large strategic gift from the **Future-Building Fund**, which operates under our umbrella.

OTHER HEALTH AND WELLBEING HIGHLIGHTS



- **Falcon Rowing Club** has benefited from both statutory and corporate sources of funding via OCF. The club is distinctive in its focus on including children from ethnic minorities and areas of deprivation in a traditional Oxfordshire activity.
- **Dance to Health** was awarded an OCF grant for its Abingdon and Banbury pilots of a programme designed to 'smuggle' physiotherapy exercises into engaging dance sessions for older people, building strength and preventing falls.
- **Cruse Bereavement Care** provides counselling after the death of someone close, and has received £15,000 towards its Oxford, Banbury and county branches since 2004.
- **Oxford Against Cutting** is a new charity, very recently funded by OCF to carry out vital work with girls at risk of female genital mutilation.

Lessons learnt

The problems of poor health and wellbeing are not going away: Oxfordshire is a county with a rapidly ageing population, and the prevalence of obesity was recently highlighted as a key concern by the local Director of Public Health.

However, we know that there is a rich seam of individuals and groups in Oxfordshire who are proactively working to address those issues that affect our mental and physical wellbeing. Just as we have done throughout our history, we need to **actively promote solutions coming from the grassroots.**

The 'Pye Challenge' takes place – a match fund from Mr & Mrs J A Pye's Charitable Settlement that promises to match any donations made to the endowment, up to a total of £50,000.

OCF's motto becomes "Here for good".

A Small Grants Fund is established to focus on grassroots community groups in need of emergency funding.



Simon Stubbings

Derek Wood retires as Chair and is replaced by Business Consultant Simon Stubbings.

OCF receives a £500,000 donation from the PF Charitable Trust, helping grow the endowment from £184,000 to £724,000.

The office is relocated to a basement in Vanbrugh House in St Michael's Street – now a top hotel – lent by property developers Mattock and Hall. Trustee meetings are held in the Boardroom at St Hugh's College.

2000

2001

LIFE SKILLS, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY



Educational attainment relates directly to future employability; but in several areas of Oxfordshire, poor results are having a negative impact on children’s overall chance of success in life. We support groups that put a stop to this cycle of deprivation by upskilling people and giving them access to opportunities that would not be available otherwise.

Leys Youth Programme and Thrive

Leys Youth Programme (LYP) started in 1999 as a football club for young people in Blackbird Leys, and has recently merged with Barton-based youth project Thrive, meaning the organisation now covers two of the most deprived areas of Oxfordshire. Thanks to funding from OCF and others, their activity clubs and mentoring are countering the effects of social exclusion.

Many of the young people in these areas suffer from low self-esteem and low expectations, leading to a lack of confidence, underdeveloped social skills and, in particular, educational under-achievement. All too often, this disadvantaged start in



EUROPEAN UNION
European Social Fund

The European Social Fund programme is renewed, with three quarters of all grant-making now consisting of the distribution of government or statutory funds.

2002



local network fund
for children and young people

OCF makes grants from the Department for Education and Skills’ Local Network Fund, supporting children and young people.



Lady Stephanie North

Former Magistrate Lady Stephanie North joins as a trustee and subsequently Chair of the grants panel.

2003



Wally Cox

Ex-police officer Wally Cox is appointed as Grants Manager. He still works for OCF in 2016, as a volunteer grant assessor.

life leads them to develop problems later, such as antisocial behaviour, crime, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

Feedback from participants in mentoring workshops funded by OCF has been positive and moving. One girl, who was at risk from making poor choices involving drugs, commented: "This group has given me something constructive to do rather than spending my time with people who do not have a good influence on me. I count this group as my extended family and our youth worker is really trustworthy. It has moulded me into a more confident person and always reminds me not to believe that I'm rubbish."

Another girl, who has lost close family to drug addiction, simply wrote, "I'm really very happy and I've come out of my shell. I now feel appreciated. Thank you for an amazing time every week."

"This group has helped me to be more confident in front of others and to accept myself as I am."

LYP workshop participant

OCF has been able to support LYP and Thrive consistently since 2003, thanks to the variety of funding sources we manage. In particular, the group has been awarded significant funding from both the **Local Network Fund**, a programme run by community foundations in the early 2000s to distribute cash from the Department of Education and Skills, and from our **Diamond Grants** fund during the Jubilee year – resulting in total funding nearing £50,000 over 13 years.

OTHER EDUCATION AND SKILLS HIGHLIGHTS



- **Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire (ARCh)** recruits volunteers to help children who have fallen behind, or who don't speak English at home, with their reading. OCF has helped by contributing £12,000 over the past five years.
- **NOMAD Youth Project** helps young adults in the Henley area escape generational cycles of deprivation and drug abuse. Over £20,000 in funding from OCF over the years has boosted their numeracy and literacy programmes.
- **The Pumphouse Project** gives marginalised young people in the rural Vale area the chance to experience parkour – an urban sport involving jumping and climbing 'freestyle' over complex obstacles. £13,000 from OCF since 2013 has helped.
- **Aspire** is the leading Oxfordshire charity working with ex-offenders and homeless adults to forge a path into paid work. OCF has awarded Aspire six grants totalling £23,000 in the past four years.

Lessons learnt

We have seen an increase in **collaboration amongst charities** working in this area in recent years. The merger between LYP and Thrive is an example of like-minded community leaders pooling their efforts and sharing their expertise to have a greater impact. Such initiatives focus on long-term outcomes as well as greater efficiency.

Because this approach works, OCF is now particularly keen to fund groups that can demonstrate their commitment to collaboration.



Jane Mactaggart

Jane Mactaggart starts working with OCF as a donor, having moved to Oxford from Wiltshire, where she was involved with Wiltshire Community Foundation.



John Briggs

Christ Church Cathedral Registrar John Briggs takes over as OCF's Chair from Simon Stubbings.

Vanbrugh House is repossessed by Oxford City Council, making OCF homeless. We 'squat' in the rat-infested basement at the house for two years before moving into our own office!

OCF's endowment reaches the £1 million mark on its 10th birthday thanks to a steady flow of donations from private donors and trusts.

Abingdon Charities Working Together, a consortium of community groups, transfers its activities under OCF's umbrella.

2004

2005

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE



Access to the arts and culture for everyone – not just an elite – helps a community thrive. Art, music, drama and literature enrich our lives, and many of the projects OCF supports use the arts therapeutically, enabling people to cope with disability, trauma or disadvantage.

Creative Dementia Arts Network (CDAN)

Founded in 2012, the Creative Dementia Arts Network is one of the newer community groups OCF has come across and supported recently. CDAN helps artists, arts organisations and arts venues to adapt their work for people with dementia and their carers.

OCF funded CDAN's £10,000 Flourish project, a professional development programme for freelance arts practitioners in Oxfordshire who want to engage people with dementia in the



Barry Tanswell

Barry Tanswell is appointed as CEO, replacing Emma Tracy, who leaves for a new role at the Ethical Property Company.



The office at 3 Woodin's Way is bought as an asset for the community foundation (for £277,000), using some of the endowment fund. The space is initially shared with other charities (including Planning Aid).



OCF publishes an updated version of its needs analysis research, *Understanding Oxfordshire*, in collaboration with researcher Jamie B. Wallace.

OCF manages the local grant-making for the Labour government's Grassroots Grants programme.

Future Prime Minister David Cameron MP speaks at an OCF event at Witney Lakes Resort.

Formal Quality Accreditation by CFN (now UKCF) is achieved.

2006

2007

arts. The project is upskilling singers, artists, craftsmen, dancers, actors, poets and other creative artists to be better informed about dementia, and to run their own small enterprise catering for people with these needs. After a 10-week intensive training programme, practitioners are equipped to deliver weekly participatory arts sessions as part of residencies at memory cafés, day centres, care homes or in arts venues.

A very successful arts and dementia conference was run at St Hugh's College, welcoming 170 delegates over two days, including people with dementia and their carers, who opened and closed proceedings. Carer Gwyn was a keynote speaker, and participated in a dance masterclass with his wife Margie, who suffers from dementia. Since the conference, dancer Rhonda Sparrey and pianist Nia Williams have set up a class for 23 older people at the Christchurch Centre in Henley, working in collaboration with Age UK Oxfordshire to recruit participants.

"Katharine and her carer came and were so engaged and inspired, and developed some really strong work that somehow conveys that growth and discovery. She is bringing her work back to put in her room, and a card expressing her love to her son."

CDAN practitioner

This is an example of the **discreet philanthropy service** OCF can offer. To meet a donor's needs, we have a variety of options, depending on their desire for confidentiality or complete anonymity. We can tactfully match an anonymous donor to their areas of personal interest, such as in this case, where the giver's passion was to improve wellbeing through the arts.

OTHER ARTS AND CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS



- **The Story Museum** runs an annual literature event for schoolchildren, in memory of Maggie Evans, a young literary agent who took her own life in 2008. Her family hold a fund with OCF and use it to support projects she would have loved.
- **Bookfeast** is dedicated to developing the habit and enjoyment of reading for children and adults, with all its attendant benefits. They have received a series of small grants from us to help fund their 20 'TeaBooks' groups with older people.
- **The Parasol Project** runs a playscheme across Oxford for disabled children at risk of social exclusion. A £1,000 grant from OCF's Comic Relief funding in 2013 paid for a theatre project that boosted confidence.
- **Thame Players Theatre Company** runs one of Oxfordshire's few community-owned theatres, and in 2014 received a £2,000 grant to enlarge their stage and seating capacity for a better-quality experience.

Lessons learnt

CDAN's Flourish project is a pilot for what the charity hopes will be wider and more ambitious activity. Increasingly, funders are looking to support the testing of new ideas that have come from the community, providing the basis for larger-scale and more impactful initiatives.

This type of **seed funding** is something OCF has espoused throughout its history – incubating good ideas and providing a platform for growth. We use our experience and judgment to make prudent investments and provide pragmatic, flexible sources of funding for the best local charities.



Tim Stevenson

Tim Stevenson takes over from Hugo Brunner as Lord Lieutenant and becomes OCF's new President. Hugo is appointed Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO) in the 2008 Birthday Honours and becomes a Sir, as well as patron of OCF.

2008

Government funding from the Local Network Fund and European Social Fund ends, leaving OCF with a large funding gap.

The financial crisis starts to affect OCF's ability to fundraise from private sources, with some regular donors cancelling standing orders and the value of investments falling. This reaches the stage where trustees consider winding down the foundation.

OCF takes part in the government's first endowment challenge, involving a 2:1 match for endowment funds raised.



Anna Moon

Senior businesswoman Anna Moon is appointed as Chair, taking over from John Briggs.

2009

ENVIRONMENT AND RESEARCH



The environment in which we live is integral to our wellbeing. We believe that community engagement with public spaces, and with the wider issues of food provenance, biodiversity and climate change, is essential in sustaining a healthy and fair society. We fund both outreach and research projects that drive better environmental outcomes for Oxfordshire’s residents.

Good Food Oxford (GFO)

Good Food Oxford was launched in December 2013 in order to help support the existing work of many organisations in and around the city working to make our food system more nourishing, less wasteful and more sustainable. GFO catalyses new initiatives and collaborations, and encourages more joined-up thinking and policy around food issues. OCF became involved with GFO when one of our key donors and fundholders highlighted their work and wanted to support it.

GFO has developed three focus areas: good food businesses, good food for all, and reducing food waste. The charity has published a food poverty report looking at the nature and



OCF’s founding patron Sir Ashley Ponsonby dies aged 89. A memorial service is held at Christ Church, with donations in his memory raising £26,000 for OCF.

The ‘Do it for Oxfordshire’ relaunch and campaign encourages more donors to think local when it comes to charitable giving, with the current logo being introduced. The office runs a telethon to raise funds and opens a ‘friends’ scheme.

A film premiere of Beyond the Pole, “the world’s first global warming comedy”, is held at the Phoenix Picturehouse in Oxford in aid of OCF, with guest star Helen Baxendale appearing.



A jazz picnic party is held at Towersey Manor courtesy of OCF trustee Marie-Jane Barnett.



Jayne Woodley

Barry Tanswell leaves and OCF appoints a new CEO, Jayne Woodley, who has ambitions to significantly scale up the size of the foundation’s endowment.

2010

drivers of food poverty locally, and exploring ways in which GFO might engage with residents in Oxford's most deprived neighbourhoods, including Barton and Rose Hill, where the study was based.

The research paints a picture of families regularly concerned about lack of food due to low incomes, and that have chaotically structured eating habits and very little nutritional variety. GFO's work also reveals how the very fact of living in a deprived area can exacerbate food poverty, with a very limited number of shops selling quality food at affordable prices to families without access to their own transport. Community initiatives in response to the findings, such as cookery classes, communal lunches for older people and families, and sports and exercise clubs, are now being developed using existing networks working within Rose Hill, Barton and Blackbird Leys.

"You don't care where your food comes from or what goes into it, not when you're in my position."

Good Food Oxford research participant

The **Fund for Sankalpa** is a named fund hosted by OCF on behalf of a major donor, who wanted a cost-effective and efficient alternative to creating their own private trust. Sankalpa gave Good Food Oxford over £100,000 towards its core costs during 2015–16. This enabled project support for a 24-month period, and monitoring and evaluation of the project using a Community Impact Modelling Tool.

OTHER ENVIRONMENT HIGHLIGHTS



- **Oxfordshire Woodland Group** received a £1,000 grant from OCF's Sovereign Making a Difference fund in 2016, which went towards tools for woodland- and countryside-based volunteer projects or 'green gyms'.
- **Sustainable Wantage** received £3,000 towards The Mix Community Space, which hosts DIY workshops, craft sessions and a resource bank where fabric and other items can be shared – and ultimately recycled or up-cycled.
- **Farmability** has accessed £30,000 of funding through OCF to support its co-farmers model – where adults with autism and learning disabilities are given work experience on a working farm in Wytham.
- **Oxfordshire Community Land Trust and Homes for Oxford** are working with OCF and some of our donors to develop an affordable and sustainable housing model in the form of co-ops, co-housing, custom-build or self-build.

Lessons learnt

As we have evolved as a community foundation, we have come to see that the biggest challenge faced by most not-for-profits is getting people to understand that charities need **funding for running costs** to carry out their work. Charities are seeing the imperative to develop a more business-like mindset – and funders are becoming a lot more intelligent and strategic in their giving.

We believe that collaborative philanthropy, where multiple funders come together to provide long-term support for a cause, is the best way to build greater stability in the community and voluntary sector.

BROMPTON ASSET MANAGEMENT

OCF's investments are moved from Hargreave Hale to Brompton Asset Management in order to increase the return and diversify the portfolio.

OCF's Quality Accreditation from UKCF and the Charity Commission is renewed.

The Board takes a strategic decision to focus on donor-advised named funds as a way of filling the gap left by the end of government funding streams. This leads to several new named funds for corporates, families and individual donors.



A street party is held in Woodin's Way to celebrate Small Charities Week, where guests have the chance to enter a 'Small Car Big Prize Draw' for a Fiat 500.

The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund

The Midcounties Cooperative sets up named funds with OCF and eight other local community foundations, who work together to deliver grant-making across the region.

SOCIAL JUSTICE, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY



One of our key roles is to take steps to tackle the disadvantage and exclusion that is the root cause of so many challenges people in Oxfordshire face. Through the projects we support, we promote greater equality, reaching out to the marginalised and vulnerable and offering them some hope.

South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance (SOFEA)

SOFEA is a new local charity that alleviates multiple social problems: the need for jobs and training for disadvantaged young people; the demand for nutritious food for vulnerable people; and the danger of supplies from the food industry going to waste.

Working in partnership with the FareShare Trust, SOFEA addresses all of these problems in one go: operating a warehouse that collects excess food from supermarkets, and



OCF celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by establishing a Jubilee Fund for Oxfordshire, with donations towards the endowment to support the county over the long term. This is launched at a reception at Turl Street Kitchen in Oxford, with a visit from Prince Edward.



Community foundations across the Thames Valley celebrate the Jubilee at a garden party in Henley, which includes a visit from HM the Queen.



The nationwide Philanthropy Fellowship is created, with community foundations across the UK offering networking and education events for philanthropists, and ultimately raising £25 million in new donations over three years.

OCF's Diamond Grants programme awards larger grants of £5,000 at a time, rewarding really outstanding projects that 'dazzle' the grants panel.



Monawar Hussain

Imam of Eton and local resident Monawar Hussain establishes Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Legacy Fund for East Oxford, supporting grant-making to groups that bring different communities together.

delivering it to local charities that can distribute it to people in need. Crucially, SOFEA creates jobs and training within the warehouse for young people who have dropped out of the education system or never had employment. They receive vital experience of the workplace, as well as Maths and English tuition, helping them build a better future for themselves.

The team at SOFEA is skilled in working with people who have not seen themselves as successful in traditional learning environments. Alongside practical and academic training, there is a strong focus on developing the attitudes and mindsets of trainees to facilitate fundamental behaviour changes. SOFEA has worked with over 100 young people and 40 adults to date, with over 25 people gaining their forklift licenses and 50 passing functional skills tests in Maths and English. The charity also works with local businesses to create employment opportunities for trainees, and has its own employment agency, Futures Placed, to help trainees find gainful employment.

“I need to continue here because you keep me out of trouble. I’m calmer and my attitude has changed.”

SOFEA trainee

According to OCF’s Grants Panel Chair Stephanie North, “this is one of the most promising groups we have seen for years”. Thanks to the yield coming from the **David and Claudia Harding endowment fund**, we have recently been able to award £25,000 towards cash-flow funding to SOFEA to help them develop their social enterprise and become self-sustaining.

OTHER SOCIAL JUSTICE HIGHLIGHTS



- **Banbury Young Homeless Project (BYHP)** supports young people who are sleeping rough in Banbury, or staying in abusive homes, B&Bs, hostels or squats. OCF has made nearly £18,000 in grants to BYHP since 1999.
- **The Agnes Smith Advice Centre in Blackbird Leys** helps residents to maximise income and tackle debt, empowering them to have more control in their lives. They recently received a large infrastructure grant from OCF’s Future-Building Fund.
- **Children Heard and Seen** works to mitigate the effects of parental imprisonment on children and families, reducing the likelihood of reoffending, mental health issues and family breakdown. They have received £6,000 in grants in the past year.

Lessons learnt

SOFEA’s example has illustrated to us the problem facing young charities in need of initial funding to help them implement a good idea. It seems that **social impact investing** of the sort that could enable young charities to grow, and that is being incentivised by government, is still not the game changer for funding that was initially predicted. Nonetheless, as a community foundation we remain keen to work more closely with those charities who could benefit from this type of support, where funders act as ‘investors’ rather than donors. This provides the opportunity to ‘recycle’ funds, which can provide a financial as well as a social return.

However, it is also our view that social investment will not displace the need for sustained, ‘traditional’ philanthropy any time soon.

OCF is one of the first charities in the UK to transfer from a Registered Charity (number 1046432) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (number 1151621), improving our governance and protecting our trustees.



The government’s Community First match-funding initiative begins a three-year programme, with every £1 donated to a community foundation’s endowment being matched with 50p from the government. This leads to big surge in endowment growth for OCF.



The Get Batty appeal asks people to play table tennis with older people as a way of reducing loneliness and isolation. Local slam poet Steve Larkin produces a humorous song and video for OCF, *Oi Codger, Be a Coffin Dodger*.



OCF successfully completes the QA3 Quality Accreditation

NOT GETTING OLD... BUT BETTER!

As we celebrate 21 years of Oxfordshire Community Foundation, we can observe that there have been many ups and downs in reaching this milestone. As we come of age this year, we want to take stock and learn from our history.

In looking back, we realise what a fabulous network of people we have built around us – the many types of donor who share their resources so generously, and the ‘doers’ within community organisations who make change happen. OCF is a one-stop shop for funders to access a huge number of connections. Local and national governments, individuals, companies and other trusts choose to work with us because we know which problems in Oxfordshire are most pressing, and which community groups are already working to solve them. We are not here to impose our ideas on the community, but rather to listen and to facilitate the simple, effective remedies to Oxfordshire’s problems that are being revealed to us all the time from people at the grassroots.

Through this powerful network, our local knowledge and our role as a convener have developed. We bring together people and ideas that make life in Oxfordshire better, and we enable community action that would simply not be possible otherwise. In this we remain independent, we champion the local and we challenge our network as a critical friend.

However, we also realise that much of our funding in the past has been too small scale to make a long-term difference. Many of our relationships have been transactional, rather than the collaborative, joined-up approach we now prefer. For a long time, OCF depended on statutory funding, and when these sources dried up, a new focus was needed. Large amounts

of our grant-making flowed straight through the community foundation, enabling us to have a short-term impact with the grants we made, but taking our attention away from building our invested endowment funds, which jeopardised our stability.

A community foundation’s endowment ensures there will always be money to fund the charitable initiatives the county needs. The capital is invested securely, and grows over time, generating an income that can be spent on projects happening now, whilst the fund continues to grow for the future. We now understand that focusing on endowment is the way for the community foundation to be here for Oxfordshire – forever.

What we can confidently say is that in 21 years, our core values haven’t changed. In 1995, our first ever President and founder Sir Ashley Ponsonby described OCF’s mission: “A pool of money is created and used to support the smaller charities in Oxfordshire who find it so difficult to raise funds. Those wishing to help these charities can do so without any administrative difficulty by instructing OCF how their donation should be distributed. It takes all the worry out of giving and it is a very cost-effective way of doing so.” Fast-forward to 2016 and donor Nigel Hamway comments about the Future-Building Fund, hosted by OCF: “It remains the most effective way of channelling my money that I have come across.” We continue to make it easy for people who care to support causes that matter – or as our strapline says, ‘local people helping local people’.



Tony Stratton

The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire for 2014–15, Tony Stratton, initiates a business challenge that raises over £303,000 for three charities, with OCF managing a fund to support the fundraising. Following this success, OCF now holds the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire’s Charitable Fund, to work in partnership with all future High Sheriffs during their year of office.



The Future-Building Fund is established under OCF’s umbrella by a group of donors wanting to make substantial infrastructure grants. This fund has since awarded £411,000 in grants to 13 charities.



Bob and Kati Evans set up the Maggie Evans Fund in memory of their daughter, who died tragically aged 29. The fund is the first to benefit from the Community First match-funding scheme.

OCF’s annual voluntary income exceeds £1 million for the first time.



Winton Capital Management founder David Harding and his wife Claudia support OCF with a large, match-funded donation to our endowment. The yield from their fund now provides a significant contribution to OCF’s unrestricted grant-making.

OCF’s first patron, the Duke of Marlborough, passes away.

2014



Building a stronger community with fewer social problems and a more secure future is no small task. We certainly cannot do it alone. If you are here for us, please let us know – as we are here for good.

We believe that community – and a structure such as a foundation designed specifically to support it – is more important than ever. As we have seen from our *Oxfordshire Uncovered* report, we face some big challenges, especially the housing crisis, the threats to our young people and the perils of isolation and loneliness. By understanding our achievements, our mistakes and our values, we know it is now time to start having an even greater impact. Our ambition is to distribute our funds in a more strategic, transparent and proactive way in order to face these challenges.

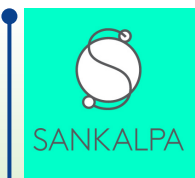
We know Oxfordshire has the collective resources to do this. It is only by pooling those resources in a spirit of partnership and collaboration that we will do more than scratch the surface.

At this point in our 'coming of age', we are delighted to now have a clear and focused strategy, as set out in our Chair's introduction. As we head off for our next 21 years, there are some immediate tactical activities we will be prioritising. The following five-point plan is a call to action for like-minded philanthropists, other trusts and foundations and the business community to pull together

with us for the common good. Here's how we see our task in the coming months and years:

OCF'S FIVE-POINT PLAN

1. Continue to research and develop our knowledge of Oxfordshire's voluntary sector and key social and community problems
2. Convene local groups and charities and work in partnership with them to develop community-based solutions
3. Identify opportunities to fund larger, preventative projects
4. Combine resources with other grant-making organisations from public, private and third sectors to invest in community solutions
5. Inspire local philanthropy and work proactively with donors to relieve deprivation



OCF creates its first ever million-pound named fund in the Fund for Sankalpa. The donor behind the fund AIM-listed their business and uses the proceeds to support charitable projects relating to the environment and research.



OCF's second Oxford Union debate is a roaring success, with six high-profile speakers debating the motion "there is nothing wrong with spending more on looking good than doing good".



Anna Moon retires after 14 years of service to the community foundation. She receives the High Sheriff's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of her years of hard work for OCF and others.



John Taylor

John Taylor takes over from Anna Moon as Chair. One of his first tasks is to revamp OCF's strategy and Board, with a view to achieving at least £10 million in endowment by 2020.



In collaboration with former High Sheriff Tony Stratton, the Reciprocate responsible business group is launched. Fifty corporate members are recruited who are committed to better community engagement.



Oxfordshire Uncovered, a new research report highlighting the needs of Oxfordshire, is published and launched at OCF's 21st birthday party for trusts and foundations at Broughton Castle, which includes a keynote speech by A.C. Grayling.

2015

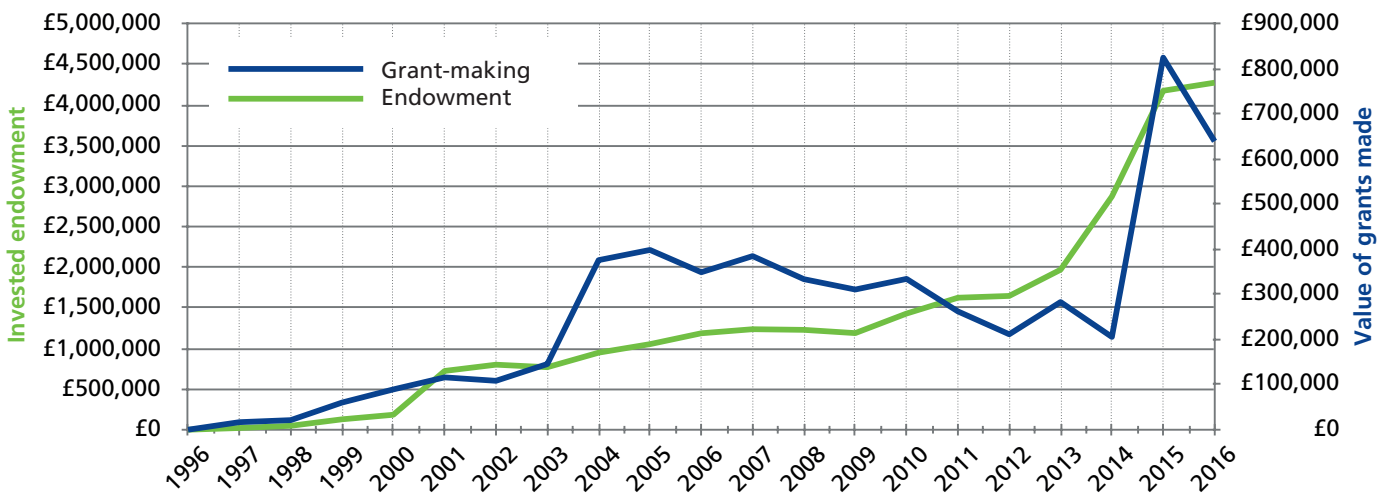
2016

FINANCES AND ENDOWMENT

The community foundation model is particularly effective because it involves building a permanent, growing and flexible source of funding in the form of an endowment.

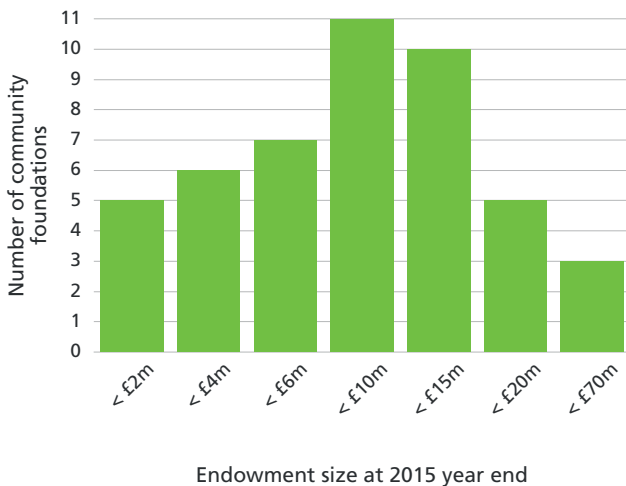
As this graph shows, it is only in recent years that OCF has grown the endowment significantly. We now have an ambition to grow the endowment to at least £10 million by 2020.

Endowment invested and grants made

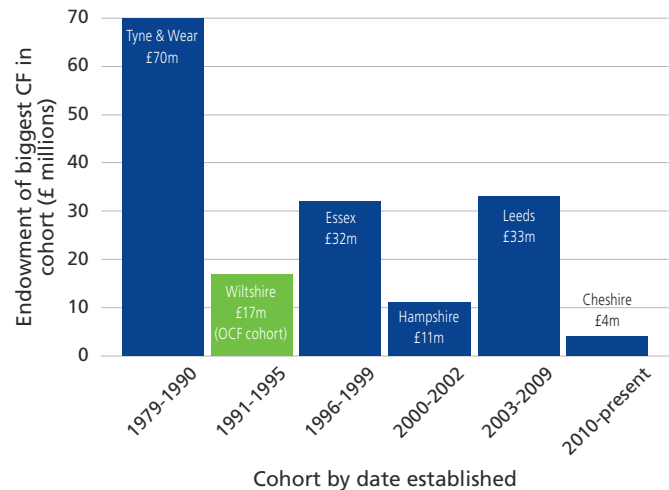


The achievements of the various cohorts of community foundations established since the 1990s is proof of concept for an endowment model. The charts below show how other foundations have grown their endowed funds and gained greater stability over their histories:

Community foundations by size of endowment



Endowments of largest community foundations by cohort



Whilst 29 of the other 48 community foundations were established after 1995, 18 of these (62%) have grown endowments larger than OCF's. This demonstrates that our own endowment ambitions are realistic.

Financial performance 2015–16 financial year

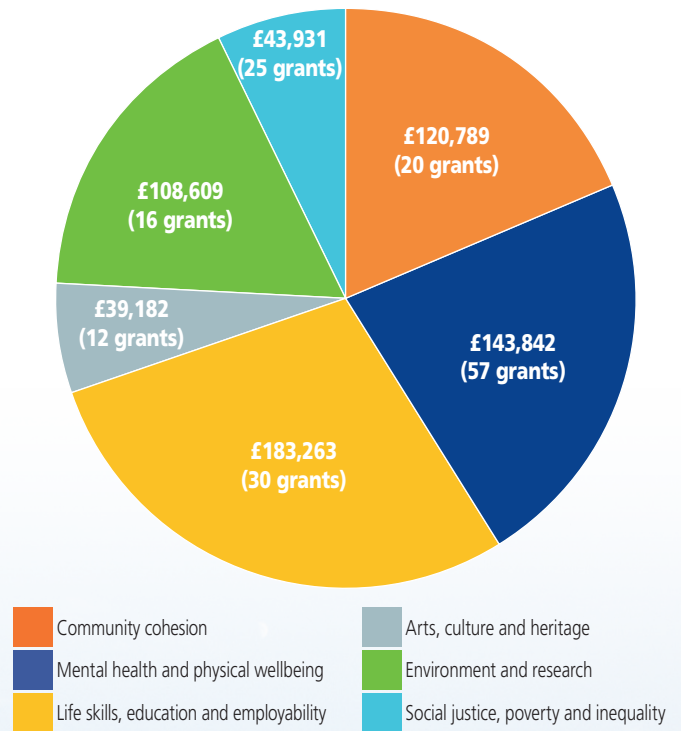
Extract from 2015–16 accounts

FUNDS	2014–15	2015–16
Unrestricted	£244,154	£138,872
Restricted	£628,407	£871,809
Endowment	£4,176,835	£4,246,759
Grants awarded*	£825,149	£639,615

NB accounts were unaudited at the time of printing

* Many grants were pledged in 2014–15 but paid in 2015–16, especially those awarded in tranches by the Future-Building Fund. These grants are all showing in the figures for 2014–15, hence the large jump in grant-making in that year.

Grants awarded by theme 2015–16



OUR REACH

Oxfordshire Community Foundation is just one among a supportive, sharing network of 48 accredited community foundations across the UK.

Our umbrella body UKCF is a membership organisation that ensures that all of us meet common standards of good governance endorsed by the Charity Commission. Every three years community foundations must pass a rigorous Quality Assessment System that ensures processes and due diligence are being carried out according to best practice.

But more than this, we are our own community. Foundations regularly meet to share experiences and resources, and to advise and learn from one another. For several funders, our geographical spread allows them to make grants across whole regions via the network of community foundations – or even across the whole country – while maintaining a single, simple point of contact with

their local foundation. One example of this is Comic Relief; but we can work in the same way with any individual, corporate or trust with an interest beyond Oxfordshire.

We also have a global network of community foundations – over 1,800 worldwide – so can work with donors wanting a truly international reach.

Quality accredited by UK Community Foundations to standards endorsed by the Charity Commission



UK Community Foundations
for thriving communities





Oxfordshire
Community Foundation
Local people helping local people



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