



Oxfordshire
Community
Foundation

Your impact 2022

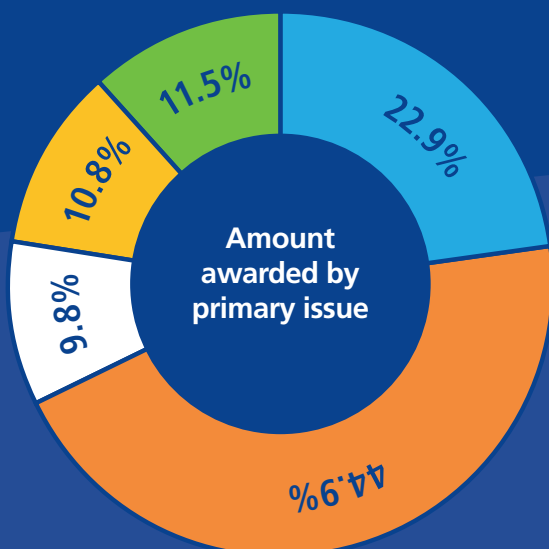
£2,057,438

in grants distributed in
the 2021–22 financial year

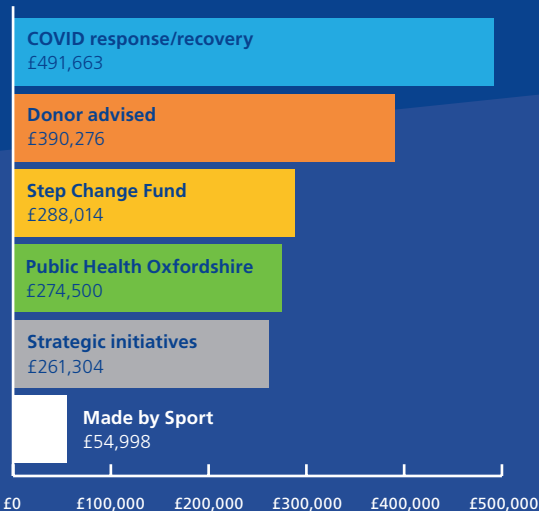
174

grants made reaching
56,030 beneficiaries

- Education & skills**
£471,927
- Health & wellbeing**
£923,946
- Homelessness**
£202,558
- Loneliness & isolation**
£223,119
- Poverty & disadvantage**
£235,888



Amount awarded by funder



We also paid out £296,683 to Black Minds Matter, a named fund under OCF's governance set up in 2020 to support black people to access support from black therapists. The initiative has since become a separate charity.

Our focus in 2022

As for so many people, 2022 was a year of post-pandemic reflection and refocusing for us at OCF. We had spent the last few years incubating and hosting partnerships focused on three of Oxfordshire's most pressing problems as well as continuing with our grant-making programmes. However, the experience of COVID-19, and then the cost-of-living crisis, highlighted how all the county's grassroots charities are experiencing unprecedented challenges to their very existence. We understood that support was needed across a more comprehensive range of causes.

It was the right time to support those partnerships to become independent of OCF, housed in organisations with the sector expertise to help them flourish further. 2022 saw three of these establish themselves, with Age Friendly Banbury incorporated into Age UK Oxfordshire, Getting Oxfordshire



STORIES OF CHANGE EDUCATION & SKILLS

BE FREE YOUNG CARERS received £10k as part of OCF's COVID recovery funding, to supply laptops to young carers from low-income families who were disadvantaged at school due to digital poverty, alongside support with poor mental health and other barriers to succeeding.

"It has a significant impact, not only on the children but on the parents as well. We love OCF – throughout the pandemic you have been our rock, providing useful webinars and funding when we needed it the most. Thank you."

Sabiene North, CEO



STORIES OF CHANGE HEALTH & WELLBEING

THE DIVERSITY FOOTBALL LEAGUE received £6.3k from OCF's grants with Public Health, to tackle heart disease in BAME communities through a multinational football tournament. Through this activity participants formed long-lasting bonds that give them support and resources to thrive.

"Two of the tournaments' participating teams were made up of young adult refugee and asylum seekers who are relatively new to Oxford and can often be socially isolated and excluded. This approach takes into account cultural preferences and helps people to take ownership of the project."

Mujahid Hamidi, Co-Founder

Online hosted by Aspire Oxford, and Growing Minds under the wing of Home-Start Oxford and People. Oxfordshire Homeless Movement also established itself as an independent charity and is on the cusp of moving out of the OCF stable.

We have now doubled down on our core mission of building thriving communities through effective philanthropy. With fewer in-house staff, we are able to channel more funds out to the community. The pandemic and spiralling cost of living have been immense challenges, but our donors have risen to meet it, making 2021–22 our biggest grant-making year yet, and 2022–23 looking like it will break that record again. We were delighted that Oxfordshire County Council pooled funds with other generous donors, reducing administration costs for donors and applicants alike. We are pleased to

provide a grant-making service for them and for our wonderful fundholders, in particular the Step Change Fund, which supported the sector with £288k in vital infrastructure funding in 2021–22.

It has also been a year when Oxfordshire's businesses stepped forward to support their local communities, with the Didcot Powerhouse Fund distributing £95k to 17 local organisations in 2022. This fund is fuelled by business donors who recognise the immense need in their area, where several neighbourhoods are in the 10% most deprived nationally when it comes to young people's education and skills. We also launched our corporate giving opportunity, the Collective Business Fund, which has seen businesses across the county donate to support charities struggling with the cost of living.



STORIES OF CHANGE LONELINESS & ISOLATION

CHOLSEY DAY CENTRE received £9k to employ an outreach worker supporting older people with one-to-one out-of-hours support, from OCF's post-COVID loneliness and isolation funding (thanks to the County Council's COVID recovery scheme).

"Mr and Mrs H were a very active couple until recently, when Mrs H fell ill and is now confined to the house. Sharon has supported them both through this, and although reluctant at the beginning, they have now agreed to a referral to Carers Oxfordshire to get some more support. Sharon calls and visits weekly to allow her husband a break."

John Wheeler, Trustee



STORIES OF CHANGE HOMELESSNESS

THE GATEHOUSE received £12k to supply a bespoke one-to-one case work service for people sleeping rough in Oxford. This service reduces barriers to accessing work and housing, supporting individuals to gain sustainable long-term independence.

"Client A relied on the Gatehouse for advocacy in communication with providers due to both trust and autism barriers. The client clearly grew a sense of control and opted to increasingly self-advocate. Client A feels that the Gatehouse is the only service that has helped them."

David Kay, Fundraising Manager

Our plans for 2023

Going forward into 2023, amid continued economic hardship, we know the future looks tough for the many grassroots charities struggling to meet even their core costs. We are determined to help them with this, and make our funds truly accessible to them. If small organisations are doing great work that responds to local need, but goes under the radar, then we want to support them.

This could be services for people experiencing homelessness, or it could be refugee assistance. It could be early years reading support, or it could be providing community larders. It could be a day

centre for the elderly, or it could be mental health counselling for teens. And it could be so much more. What unites them is kindness and community.

The last few years have also underlined the importance of getting ahead of problems before they turn into full-blown crises. With this in mind, we are committed to helping the most disadvantaged communities to truly thrive by caring for Oxfordshire's environment. New initiatives in 2023 will aim to improve local air quality, strengthen community energy security, cherish our county's green spaces and create good local jobs.

Our staff and trustees did sterling work throughout the last year as OCF navigated the crisis alongside everyone else, and we thank them deeply for their work. New staff and trustees have come on board for delivering in 2023 and we are excited to welcome them.



Zoe Sprigings, CEO, and Ian Busby, Chair



STORIES OF CHANGE

POVERTY & DISADVANTAGE

AGNES SMITH ADVICE CENTRE received a total of £15k to enable them to tackle poverty and prevent homelessness in Blackbird Leys in the wake of the pandemic. They helped users access additional annual benefits totalling over £1.7 million, and wrote off debts of more than £600,000, enabling people to make a fresh start.

"When Tom contacted us, he had run out of food and fuel and was distressed and bewildered. We have increased Tom's ongoing income by nearly £600 per month; he is managing to live within his cash budget, and his anxiety levels are much reduced. He told us he is able to sleep at night again."

Mandy Richards, Director

Get in touch

If you'd like to help us build thriving communities in Oxfordshire, please do get in touch!

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