



# Impact Report 2023

The  
Henry Smith  
Charity  
founded in 1628

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This report comes in two parts. The first section covers new grants made in 2023 and the second section looks at the impacts existing grant holders have achieved.



# The Henry Smith Charity

We are an independent grant making trust. Our mission is to use our resources to help people and communities in the UK at a time of need and to bring about positive change.



## Welcome From Our Chief Executive

Welcome to the 2023 Impact Report and thank you for taking the time to find out about our work. Since joining The Henry Smith Charity in the summer of 2022, it has been a joy to be part of an organisation so resolutely determined and committed to improving the world we live in.

2024 promises to be a busy and exciting year, as we move office, develop a new brand and set out our thinking on future strategic priorities. Watch out too for our refreshed diversity, equity and inclusion plan which will be published later this year. I hope you enjoy reading the report.



Anand Shukla

## Welcome From Our New Chair of Trustees

Since joining the board in the summer of 2023, I have loved having the chance to get to know the trustees and staff team. It is inspiring to be part of a charitable trust that is making the world a better place, and I am looking forward to working with Anand and the team in this vital work. In my role as Chair, I would like to help The Henry Smith Charity become better known, to know better our beneficiaries and to become an expert in giving and engaging with the communities that we choose to support. Most of all, I would like us to be responsible for helping change the world for good. I would like to see everyone at The Henry Smith Charity being proud of both our contribution to the world, and of the organisation.



William Sieghart

# Grant Making Headlines

In 2023, we made grants worth more than £47m that will support more than 650 organisations and 400,000 people across the UK.



**2,840**  
applications



**1,132**  
grants



**£47.1m**  
grants value

Our total grant making in 2023 was £47.1m. This returned us to our customary levels of funding after an exceptional 2022, when our one-off 'Covid-19 Long-term Support' programme contributed £17.9m to a total of £64.9m. We distributed 17.5% more funds in 2023 than in 2021.

Grant spend through the Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities programmes increased by £2.1m in 2023. We also increased the maximum grant amount available to £210,000 over three years.

Applications continued to increase in 2023. The cost of living emerged, alongside reduced statutory support and inadequate incomes, as the primary driver of escalating demand for charitable support.

Over the next year we will be finalising our new grant making strategy. We learn so much from the frontline charities we support and our new strategy will have a more concentrated focus on the impacts we achieve and will prioritise diversity, equity and inclusion. We will also do more to listen to the voices of the people and communities we wish to serve and we will embed lived experience and technical expertise into our strategy and processes.

# Our Grant Programmes

In 2023, we funded a combination of open, responsive grant programmes and specialist programmes that reflect Henry Smith's original will.



## £47.1m

Total Funding

### Responsive

#### Improving Lives

Grants of up to £210k for charitable organisations that help people when other sources of support have failed, are inappropriate or unavailable.

## £35.2m

#### Strengthening Communities

Grants of up to £210k for grassroots organisations embedded in the community, working within the most deprived areas of the UK.

## £7.5m

#### Holiday Grants

Grants of up to £2,750 supporting group day trips and holidays for children with disabilities or experiencing disadvantage.

## £0.3m

### Specialist

#### Kindred Grants

Small grants for individual descendants of Henry Smith in financial need.

## £1.3m

#### Christian Grants

Grants supporting projects that promote the Christian faith and help clergy in need in the UK.

## £1.3m

#### Parish Grants

Grants of up to £23k for specified Parishes in England and Wales that help people facing disadvantage.

## £1.0m

#### County Grants

Grants of up to £20k for charitable organisations in one of two English counties with a historical connection to The Henry Smith Charity.

## £0.5m

# Where We Made Grants

## 2023 Funding - Top 20 Local Authorities

Local Authority	Grants	Funds
Bradford	15	£1,928,300
Bristol	14	£1,667,050
Manchester	14	£1,396,900
Hackney	15	£1,300,590
Birmingham	18	£1,232,009
Tower Hamlets	9	£1,196,400
Lambeth	14	£957,190
Leicester	12	£765,248
Edinburgh	4	£728,000
Brighton and Hove	5	£665,100
Glasgow	6	£657,600
Liverpool	8	£650,544
Barnet	4	£558,050
Nottingham	5	£526,000
Rotherham	3	£508,700
Haringey	5	£506,130
Milton Keynes	3	£498,600
Dundee	3	£498,200
Bedford	3	£493,800
North East Lincolnshire	4	£492,330

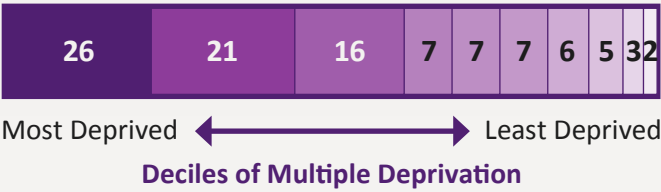
Excludes grant holders operating nationally

We are one of the largest independent UK-wide funders. A high proportion of our grants are made in urban areas, supporting organisations working with people who are economically and socially excluded.

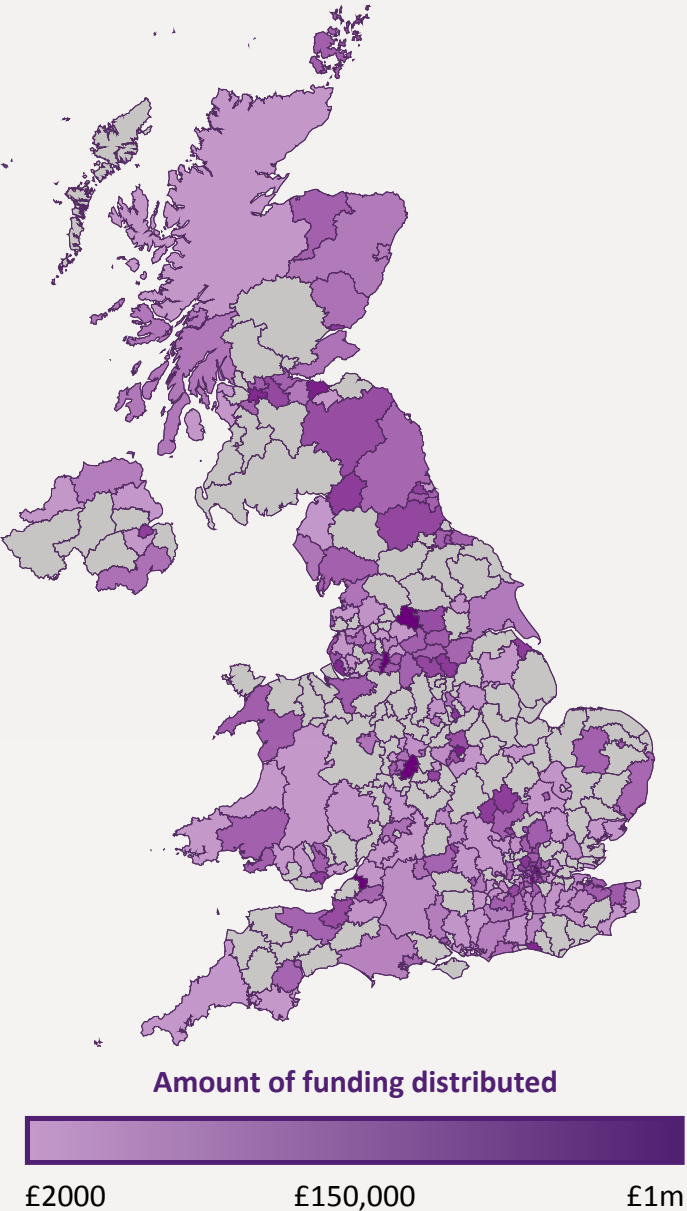
In 2023, we made a large number of grants to local authority areas in Greater London, the North West, Scotland’s Central Belt, Yorkshire and the Humber.

Nearly half of funds (47%) went to organisations based in the 20% most deprived areas of the UK, as illustrated below, reflecting our focus on people who are excluded and in high need.

### Distribution of funds by Deprivation Decile (%)



## 2023 Funding in Local Authorities



# Improving Lives

Project or running costs grants of up to £210,000 over three years for charitable organisations in the UK that help people when other sources of support have failed, are inappropriate or unavailable.



## Grants at a Glance



**1,321**  
applications



**216**  
grants



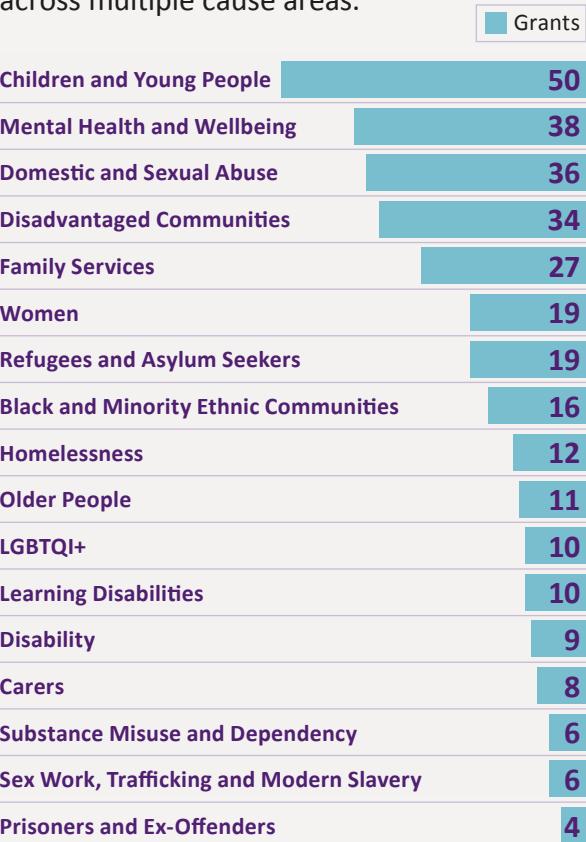
**£35.2m**  
grants value



**£162.8k**  
average grant

## Cause Areas Supported

For each grant holder we record the cause areas they work in. Some grant holders work across multiple cause areas.



## Update From Our Head of Grants

In 2023, we considered the cost-of-living crisis and raised the Improving Lives budget distributing over £35m. We supported organisations with both project and running costs grants. We increased the maximum grant size to £210,000 over three years. This meant that overall the average grant size increased and we made fewer, larger grants than in 2022.

We saw increases in first-time applicants and requests for core funding and so we made more running cost grants. 40% of grants went to organisations not previously funded. A quarter of grants will improve sector capacity by funding new staff. We are aware that staff recruitment and retention is a major challenge.

Organisations supporting children and young people accounted for the most grants, with a high proportion focused on supporting mental health and wellbeing. There was an increase in grants supporting people affected by domestic and sexual abuse, LGBTQI+ people and those from ethnic groups facing inequalities, including refugees and asylum seekers.



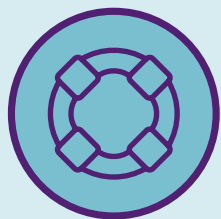
Clare Cannock

# Improving Lives Priorities

When applying, organisations tell us how their work will enable positive impacts related to one or more of our six [Improving Lives priorities](#). Improving Lives grant holders support people with different, often overlapping needs. Most grant holders select more than one priority.

In 2023, as in previous years, the most frequently chosen priorities were ‘Help at a critical moment’ – which focuses on supporting people to improve their wellbeing, mental health and resilience – and ‘Support networks and family’ – which focuses on supporting people to enjoy positive relationships, feel socially connected and less isolated.

## Improving Lives Priorities

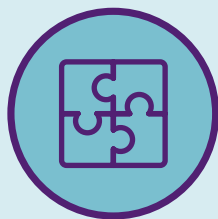


### Help at a critical moment

Support to overcome a crisis, trauma or abuse

147

Grants in 2023



### Support networks and family

Support to improve support networks, family relationships

107

Grants in 2023



### Employment and training

Support to move towards or gain employment

53

Grants in 2023



### Positive choices

Support to reduce harmful behaviours such as offending or substance misuse

49

Grants in 2023



### Financial inclusion, rights, entitlements

Support to overcome financial problems and claim rights and entitlements

43

Grants in 2023



### Accommodation/housing support

Support to work towards or maintain accommodation

31

Grants in 2023

# A Way Out

Stockton on Tees

**£207,000** Project Costs – 3 years

**Priorities:** Help at a critical moment, Positive choices



[A Way Out](#) supports women, families and young people in Teesside, with the philosophy that everyone should be able to live the life they choose without experiencing or fearing abuse, harm or exploitation.

We are funding their 'Blossom' project which will provide trauma-informed support for 180 young women aged 13-24 facing critical moments such as family or carer relationship breakdown, mental health and wellbeing challenges, and who may be at risk of abuse, substance misuse or exploitation. A key feature of Blossom is that young women co-design the services, which include 1-1 psychotherapy and group support.

Blossom is helping young women feel less isolated and more confident, independent and resilient, as well as improving their knowledge and understanding, reasoning and judgement. It supports them to make positive choices, maintain positive relationships and increase their safety.

*Claire\* was referred to the Blossom Project after being hospitalised due to self-harm. Blossom provided a safe environment alongside tailored trauma and gender-informed support. Claire was given the space, time and support she required to reflect and process...She has since moved into supported accommodation, has more stability and is looking forward.*

\*Real name replaced

# Rainbow Migration

UK-wide

**£210,000** Project Costs – 3 years

**Priorities:** Help at a critical moment



[Rainbow Migration](#) provides practical and emotional support for LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum, supporting them to improve their confidence and self-esteem, reduce their isolation and increase their knowledge of the system. Most of the staff and trustees have lived experience.

Our funding will support 220 LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum each year with 1-1 practical and emotional support and fortnightly peer support groups facilitated by a Support Worker. The impacts will be reduced isolation, an increased sense of community, and increased knowledge about support available. Hiba, the first trans woman filmmaker in the Muslim world, was supported through the asylum system by Rainbow Migration and went on to make 'The Swimmers' film about asylum seekers' journeys and to work with Rainbow Migration to share her experiences about the treatment of trans people undergoing the asylum process.

“Rainbow Migration has saved my life! They offer more than help and guidance. They give you love, compassion, and respect. They made me realise I am worth something. I felt so important to them...I have my life and my power! It has been an incredible journey.”

– Trans support group member

# Strengthening Communities

Running costs of up to £210,000 over three years for small, grassroots community organisations working in the most deprived parts of the UK.



## Grants at a Glance



**302**  
applications



**52**  
grants



**£7.5m**  
grants value



**£144k**  
average grant

## Communities Supported

Grants in 2023



## Update From Our Grants Manager

In 2023, application numbers were up by almost 50%, a clear indication of the increasing levels of need in the UK's most deprived areas.

We made £7.5m in grants, mainly in the north of England, including six in Bradford, three in both Liverpool and Manchester and two in Rotherham. Because both application numbers and the size of grants increased, we made fewer, larger grants than in 2022. We were disappointed that we made very few grants in some regions. Part of the reason for this was an unusually high number of ineligible applications and we will look to address this in our new strategy.

On the other hand, we were pleased to make nine grants in local authorities not previously reached, including Blaenau Gwent, Dudley, East Suffolk, Lancaster, Newry, Mourne and Down, and Redcar and Cleveland. Most new grant holders (63%) had not previously received a grant from us. It is also heartening that grant holders are using the funds to recruit new staff – mostly community workers – to strengthen their organisational capacity to deliver vital services.



Mary Mosinghi

# Rainbow Surprise

Manchester

£99,000 Running Costs – 3 years



[Rainbow Surprise](#) provides skills for life, inspiring activities and services for about 5,000 people in Crumpsall, Manchester, a diverse neighbourhood where 36% of households experience multiple factors of deprivation including low income, poor diet, under-employment and there is a high risk of disaffection amongst young people.

In addition, in its role as a trusted community hub, Rainbow Surprise provides a regular forum for community dialogue to discuss local issues such as health, job opportunities and knife crime.

Our grant will help fund two new posts – a sessional youth worker and a sessional community worker – who will help deliver a range of services from food banks and advice to leisure activities as well as homework and youth clubs, a women's health and wellbeing group, an older people's lunch club, counselling and culturally-specific mutual support groups.

These services help people overcome isolation, gain skills, increase their confidence and self-esteem and develop a strong sense of community.

# Newton Heath Community Learning Centre

Manchester

£180,000 Running Costs – 3 years



Newton Heath Community Learning Centre provides workshops for young people, drop-in support for older community members and runs an emergency food service in the Newton Heath and Miles Platting areas. Services also include advocacy and support sessions for members of the local traveller community, who face high levels of deprivation and social integration issues. Our grant will support about 900 individuals.

The Centre has successfully integrated young people from the traveller community, developed an advisory group with members from across the entire community and created a learning centre with IT facilities. The impacts of this grant will be decreased isolation, improved belonging and mental wellbeing and increased access to statutory services.

*“I’d come here every day if I could. I have become a volunteer on Mondays helping with the food bank session. Losing my sight knocked my confidence, I never went anywhere. My family can’t believe the changes in me, because now I can’t wait to get out.”*

– Newton Heath Community Learning Centre volunteer

# Equity of Our Grant Making

We ask Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities applicants to complete the DEI Data Standard survey to help us understand whether our funding is supporting people experiencing structural inequity such as racial or ethnic discrimination.



In 2023, 84% of successful applicants had the mission to support one or more groups experiencing structural inequities. More than half support people from educationally or economically disadvantaged backgrounds, reflecting the concentration of our grants in highly deprived areas. A quarter of new grant holders support younger people while one in five are dedicated to women and girls. Some grant holders support more than one group, reflecting intersectionality.

Applicants supporting LGBTQI+ people, women and girls and migrants were the most likely to secure a grant.

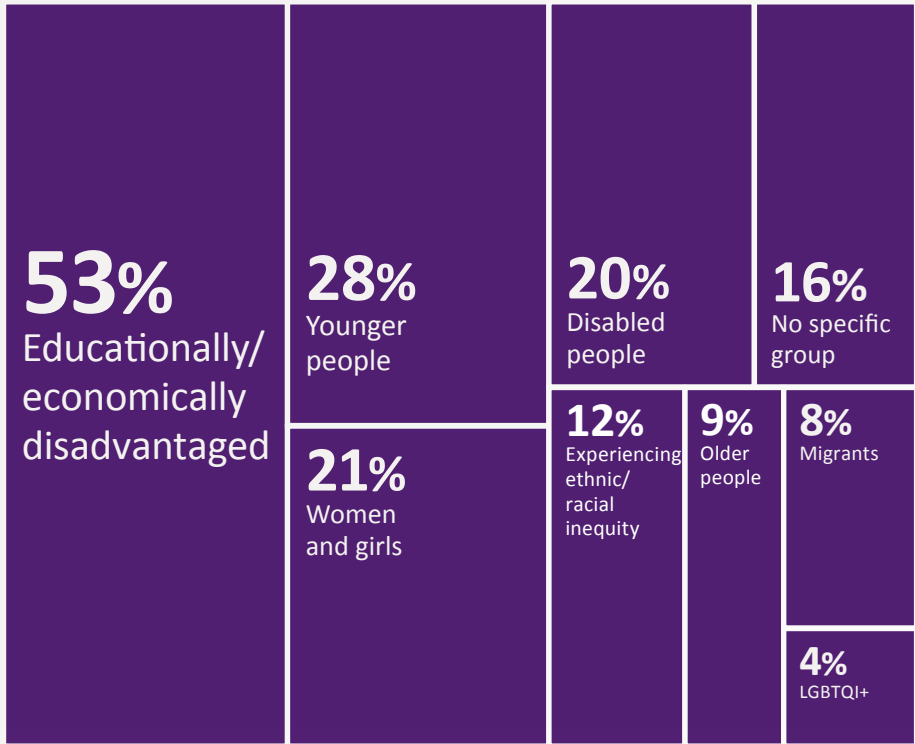
Half of organisations supporting disabled people identified disability as mental ill-health, reflecting escalating mental health needs.

We also collect DEI data about the leadership of organisations. This highlights which organisations are led by people from the same groups as those they have the Mission to support, known as ‘by and for’ organisations.

Among our 2023 grant holders, a high proportion of organisations supporting women and girls and LGBTQ+ people are ‘by and for’ organisations.

12% of new grant holders have the Mission to support people experiencing ethnic or racial inequity, while 5% are also led by people from these communities. This is consistent with Racial Justice Audits of our grant making in 2021 and 2022.

## Share of 2023 grant holders with the Mission to support those experiencing inequity



*Note: Percentages in the chart sum to more than 100% because many grant holders support people from multiple groups - e.g. disabled younger people.*

# Kindred Grants

In 2023, we made Kindred grants to 229 individual descendants of Henry Smith who were in financial need.



**409**  
grants



**229**  
individuals



**£1.3m**  
grants value

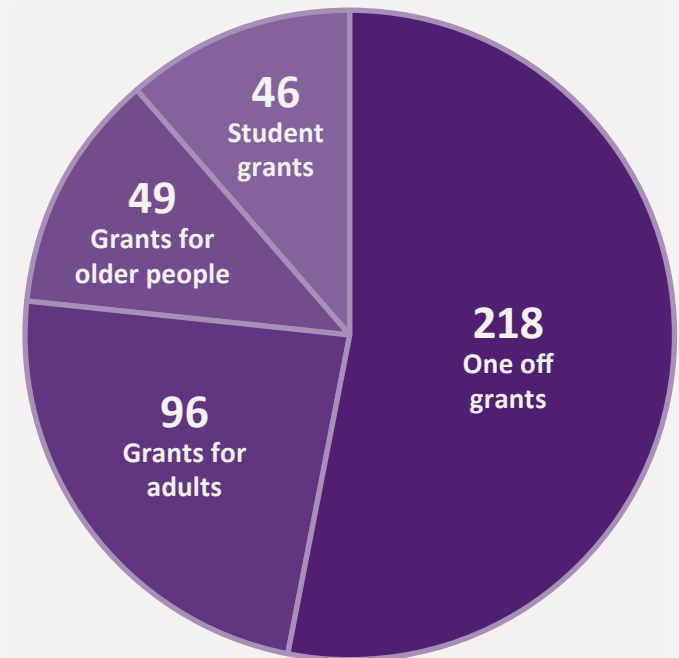
Henry Smith had no children of his own so when he wrote his will he left a legacy to the descendants of his sister Joane – the Kindred. More than 4,000 Kindred are registered with us.

If they are on a low income, Kindred can apply for four types of grants:

- Regular grants for adults (of working age)
- Regular grants for older, retired people
- Student grants (including laptops)
- One-off grants for specific items (including household goods, skills training, dental/ optical treatment)

Regardless of their financial circumstances, all registered Kindred can access the Helpline – a free, independent and confidential, advice, counselling and support service. In 2023, increased numbers of Kindred applied to us for help with day to day living costs and necessities, some of whom had never applied before.

## Grant Types



# Christian Grants

We made 55 grants supporting projects promoting the Christian faith and clergy in financial need.



**55**  
grants



**£1.3m**  
grants value



**8,600**  
people  
supported

Henry Smith's will stipulated that the Charity should support the relief and maintenance of 'godly preachers' and the furtherance of the Christian religion. We honour his wishes by making three kinds of grants with a religious focus:

## Individual Clergy

support for Anglican clergy in need

## Christian Projects

projects that promote the Christian faith

## Clergy Ordinands

support for training of Anglican clergy

In 2023, our funding was evenly distributed between 39 Individual Clergy and three Ordinands grants, and 13 Christian Projects. The projects mostly supported Church of England spiritual outreach for young people and their families while also including some projects meeting the spiritual and community needs of isolated older people.

# Parish Grants

We made 215 grants supporting community grant schemes in specified parishes in England and Wales.



**215**  
grants



**£1.3m**  
grants value



**£4,600**  
average grant



**14k+**  
people  
supported

During the early development of The Henry Smith Charity, trustees made connections to local parishes, largely in England. We make grants to Parish Councils, Parochial Church Councils and local charities, who then make small grants to individuals and families in need, predominantly people living on low incomes. In 2020, we expanded this programme to 22 of the most deprived parishes in England.

In 2023, many grants supported people living in food and fuel poverty, as well as helping with other essential needs such as school uniforms, white goods and hygiene products. The cost of living was a recurring theme and some grant holders noted they were conserving funds for winter, providing warm spaces and help for older people and people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

# County Grants

We made 32 grants to community-based organisations working in Kent and Leicestershire.



**32**  
grants



**£0.5m**  
grants value



**£14k**  
average grant



**15k+**  
people supported

The County grants programme supports disadvantaged communities in counties with a historical connection to The Henry Smith Charity. We fund capital, project and running costs grants to organisations working with a wide range of people. We have decided to target our funding for community-based organisations differently and so the County programme will close by the end of 2024.

In 2023, we funded a lot of work supporting people living with disabilities or long-term health conditions including cancer and multiple sclerosis. We made grants to organisations supporting people's mental health and providing activities to engage excluded young people such as music workshops and street football. There was also support for people affected by homelessness, abuse, human trafficking and modern slavery.

# Holiday Grants

We made 153 grants to enable groups of children to go on day trips and short holidays



**153**  
grants



**£0.3m**  
grants value



**£2,000**  
average grant



**7,600+**  
children supported

The Holiday programme funds organisations including schools, charities and community groups to take children from disadvantaged backgrounds or with disabilities on day trips and overnight holidays. These trips enable them to have fun discovering new places and activities they might not otherwise experience.

In 2023, we funded 60 day trips and 93 holidays, some lasting four or five days. We are focused on supporting children from the most deprived areas of the UK and 55% of grants went to organisations based in the 20% most deprived areas of the UK.

Most grant holders are from cities. We made a lot of grants to organisations in Birmingham, Kirklees, Sheffield, Leeds and Leicester.

# Impacts Achieved

The rest of this report highlights the impacts achieved by our grant holders under four grants programmes – Improving Lives, Strengthening Communities, Strategic Grants and Covid-19 Long-term Support.

## Update from Our Head of Learning

The Henry Smith Charity funds across a broad range of social issues. Grant holders report on progress each year and the following pages include some inspiring stories from organisations meeting or exceeding their goals and transforming peoples' lives, often in difficult circumstances. We listen to our grant holders and learn a great deal from them. They continue to tell us that things are getting tougher for the people they support and for charitable organisations to operate effectively. Households are getting poorer and more financially vulnerable. The people and communities hardest hit by the rising cost of living are those already facing exclusion and hardship and cuts to statutory services also contribute to escalating need.

One lesson that came through strongly was the value of peer support and mentorship, particularly in building stronger relationships and helping

navigate challenging life transitions. Examples included peer support groups for survivors of abuse and peer mentors helping young carers cope with their responsibilities.

Strengthening Communities grant holders have described how running costs grants have enabled them to build community capacity and organisational strength during a period when community-based organisations had to fill statutory service gaps and cope with more complex needs. While we didn't make any new [Strategic Grants](#) in 2023, our ongoing portfolio of grant holders have continued to develop evidence for what works and we were delighted to receive a positive external evaluation of our Housing First programme. Finally, Covid-19 Long-term Support grant holders told us how they have used their grants to increase their capacity, sustain new

services meeting escalating demand, and extend their support to new groups of people impacted by the pandemic.

As we review our strategy and funding priorities, we are looking at this data closely to inform our work, learning from those on the frontline who best understand issues of economic and social exclusion.



**Will Jacks**

# Improving Lives Impacts

Grant holders told us about the impacts they achieved for individuals and families. These can be grouped into five main types.



## Improved Wellbeing

People improved their mental health or emotional wellbeing, for example new parents improved their confidence and self-esteem and domestic abuse survivors felt safer. People often felt better about themselves and their futures after improving their situations, for example reducing their debts or securing refugee status.



## Improved Relationships

This most often meant people improving their family relationships (particularly new families), reducing isolation and loneliness and building support networks. This was frequently achieved by helping people increase their understanding of healthy and harmful relationships or by improving their parenting skills.



## Improved Situations

These impacts included people moving into employment, education or training, securing more than £20m in welfare benefits and debt reductions and finding safe housing. This in turn helped people improve their wellbeing and increase their capacity as they learned about their rights and entitlements, notably in the welfare and asylum systems.



## Improved Resilience

People were better able to cope with new challenges such as becoming a parent, or with past traumas such as those experienced by abuse survivors or refugees. They reduced their risk of engaging in harmful behaviours such as self-harm or substance misuse and were more able to improve their situations and relationships.



## Improved Capability

People improved their knowledge and skills, learning about their rights and entitlements, the welfare and asylum systems, parenting and relationship skills as well as employability and social skills. By increasing their capabilities, they often improved their situations or relationships and, in turn, their wellbeing.

# Home-Start Glasgow South

## Glasgow



**Impacts:** Improved parenting skills, Improved mental health

[Home-Start Glasgow South](#) supports parents-to-be and families with young children by visiting them at home and supporting them to cope with parenthood and challenges such as poor mental health, isolation, addictions and poverty. By intervening at the earliest opportunity, they aim to ensure that children have the best possible start in life. They also provide perinatal groups, bespoke antenatal workshops for fathers-to-be, and both one-to-one and group baby massage.

They have supported more than 580 families and 1100 individuals, with 90% of parents increasing their parenting skills and improving their understanding of their child's needs and 92% of families improving their mental health and wellbeing. Of the high-needs families who received their intensive support service, 78% have become more independent and have improved their confidence and self-esteem.

“Attending group has given me more confidence and improved my post-natal depression. The kids have come out of their shell a lot more and are learning lots of new skills.”

– Parent

# LandWorks

## Devon



**Impacts:** Employment, Reduced reoffending

[LandWorks](#) provides a route back into employment and the community through work placements for offenders, merging real work experience with resettlement support and counselling. Trainees participate in three enterprises; a market garden, a wood workshop, and pottery, all selling produce to the local community. They also help with the site's upkeep and small construction projects, share meals and cooking duties, developing both employability and social skills.

Key impact goals are for LandWorks graduates to be in work and avoid reoffending. The employment rate for economically active graduates in 2022/23 was above 90%, compared with just 30% for people who had been out of prison for six months. The rate of reoffending within one year of graduates finishing their placement is just 5.5%, compared with 37.4% for adult offenders released from custody.

“I went to LandWorks with no job, been in and out of prison and I didn't have the best look on life... I am now a married man and have a child on the way, my own rented flat, and a full-time job.”

– LandWorks graduate

# Strengthening Communities Impacts

Grant holders whose grants ended in 2023 told us about four main types of impacts for the communities they serve.



## Increased Community Capacity

Grant holders increased their community's ability to meet local needs, notably in response to Covid-19 and the cost-of-living-crisis. They embedded crisis interventions such as food provision and warm spaces into community infrastructure as statutory services eroded. They developed new services and activities, cultivated local support networks and developed the capacities of staff, volunteers and residents alike. For example, STAR Project told us that their work building people's resilience led to fewer people using their food bank.



## Stronger Organisations

Grant holders grew and sustained their organisations using our running costs grants, enabling them to adapt to community needs. *"Support for our core costs meant that we felt secure to immediately and positively look outwards,"* observed In2Play CIC, while others said running costs grants offered opportunities to develop new services, strengthen local partnerships and plan.



## More Responsive Services

Grant holders consulted their communities and adapted accordingly. *"We better understood the needs of our community, enabling the organisation to create new programmes of activity and expand existing ones,"* said The Crew Club, who responded to escalating mental ill-health by developing new outreach work alongside health and education workers.



## Improved Community Cohesion

Increased partnership working was a recurring theme. Running costs funding gave grant holders the time and space to build local networks and collaborations. For example, Community Solutions North West steered development of The Hyndburn Way, a new grouping of 70 local organisations that works on collaborative commissioning, collective impact evaluation, and shared leadership development.

# Skylight Circus Arts

Rochdale

**Impacts:** Improved community cohesion



[Skylight Circus Arts](#) provides inclusive indoor and outdoor circus classes and activities for more than 5,100 people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. They focus on exploring creativity to help build community cohesion and reduce isolation among marginalised groups such as people with disabilities, older people, refugees and asylum seekers and Roma. They have exceeded their targets in attracting Global Majority participants.

They have also addressed education gaps left by the Covid-19 pandemic, with participating primary school pupils improving their communication skills. Other impacts resulting from developing circus skills include participants experiencing reduced stress and anxiety, and improvements in their health and wellbeing.

“A friend of a friend told me about Skylight’s Silver Circus sessions...The staff were great. They encouraged me to try things...since then I’ve learnt loads of new skills. I’ve also performed aerial circus at lots of events which...is amazing at my age.”

– Linda, ‘Silver Circus’ participant

# Sport at the Heart

Brent

**Impacts:** Improved community capacity



[Sport at the Heart](#) provides sports, physical activity, creative arts, play and trauma-informed wellbeing initiatives for young people and their families in an area where child poverty rates sit at 41%.

They have increased community capacity by co-developing activities and services with young community members, by developing sports and after school clubs through partnerships with local primary schools, and by offering 1-1 mentoring for young people experiencing mental ill-health or at risk of school exclusion and involvement with gangs. The organisation is deeply embedded in the community and, unusually for the sector, a large proportion of the staff are under the age of 25 and are former service users.

“With this funding, we have been able to provide consistent, vital youth and community services to children, young people and their families during a period of intense rises in the cost of living.”

– Sacha Lumley, Programmes Coordinator, Sport at the Heart

# Strategic Grants Impacts

We use learning from our responsive grants programmes to make proactive Strategic Grants that aim to have legacy impacts beyond our involvement, such as building evidence for what works and influencing sector standards.

Grant holders in our four active programmes told us about ongoing impacts and learning.



## Building evidence for what works

### Housing First

Since 2019, we have supported six organisations in England and Wales to deliver the Housing First model of support for people with multiple and complex needs. The University of York evaluated the programme in 2023 and reported that Housing First:

- Is often successful in ending homelessness
- Can work outside major cities in rural and suburban settings
- Should include specialist services designed, managed and run by women

### Advocacy for People with Learning Disabilities and/or Autistic People

Since 2022, we have supported 15 charities to deliver intensive non-statutory advocacy and self-advocacy in England, Scotland and Wales. In 2023, our evaluation partners Social Finance reported:

- 3,575 people supported to access health and social services and accommodation
- Improvements in people's knowledge of local services and sense of 'feeling listened to'
- People value the flexible, tailored support

### Tackling School Exclusions

Since 2021, we have partnered with Impetus to co-fund the Engage Fund. This supports five organisations in England helping young people from disadvantaged backgrounds at risk of exclusion from school, or in alternative provision to:

- Improve their school attendance
- Improve their literacy and numeracy
- Move onto employment, education or training



## Influencing sector standards

### Supported Internships for young people with learning disabilities and/or autism

Since 2021, we have funded DFN Project Search's supported internships and their influencing of sector standards. In 2023, DFN Project Search reported:

- The Supported Internship Quality Assurance Framework they shaped was rolled out to 200 test sites across the UK and began to be used by Ofsted
- They trained more than 90 English local authorities and 200 local employer champions in supported internships best practice
- More than 1,150 participants have secured jobs during our grant (68% in 2023)

# Advocacy Service Aberdeen



**Impacts:** Improved social services support

[Advocacy Service Aberdeen](#) have been supporting people with independent advocacy for 25 years; people like B, who is in their 30s and lives at home with their mother. They have minimal speech recognised as selective mutism, alongside their diagnosis of autism. A package of social support was in place which was not meeting outcomes and B would not engage with the support team. B's mother said that B found it difficult to work with male workers. B's mother had already tried to communicate this to social workers but did not feel listened to.

Advocacy Service Aberdeen's female advocacy worker met with B to understand how best to communicate B's needs. After several short meetings, it became clear B would engage more positively with a female worker than with male staff.

Advocacy Service Aberdeen then met with social workers where it was voiced that B did not wish to interact with male workers and that B's mother had not felt listened to. This was understood and B now has a female support worker, support hours which suit their needs better and is engaging successfully.

# MCR Pathways

Hertfordshire, Surrey



**Impacts:** Improved attendance

[MCR Pathways](#) is a school-based mentoring programme that matches volunteer mentors with at-risk young people experiencing disadvantage. Mentors provide one-to-one sessions in school, which are focused on keeping students in school, improving attainment and progressing into employment, education or training.

Through the Engage Fund, our funding has supported MCR Pathways to successfully adapt their model from Glasgow to 16 schools in Hertfordshire and Surrey, 10 more schools than expected thanks to demand from those schools. Early results indicate that mentees are committed to the programme and have higher school attendance rates than their peers.

*“I got bullied to the point where I didn't really like going to school...I feel like I'm in a different place when I'm with my mentor. She's helped me so much this year. We talk about anything; we go for a walk around school and talk about our families, and she always asks me if I've had a good day. I used to feel angry with people... But now I can control it more. I won't say school is really, really good now, but it is good to the point where I like coming into school.”*

– Kayla, MCR Pathways participant

# Covid-19 Long-term Support Impacts

In 2022, we made 167 grants worth £17.9m to help existing grant holders meet long term needs resulting from Covid-19. In 2023, they told us about the four main impacts of these grants.



## Supported 30,000+ additional people

The funding enabled grant holders to support more people than they would have otherwise. In most cases, more than half of these people have complex needs, predominantly mental health concerns but also disabilities, long-term health conditions, homelessness and substance issues. Two-thirds of grant holders met or exceeded their own targets for additional beneficiaries supported during the year.



## Reached new groups of people

More than half of grant holders extended their support services to people they had not reached before, most often people from different ethnic communities – notably Ukrainians and Afghans. Organisations also reached out to people from new geographical areas (including more ‘affluent’ areas), people isolated by pandemic impacts and LGBTQI+ people. One third of grant holders told us that more than 50% of the additional people they supported were from groups they had not reached before.



## Increased organisational capacity

72% of grant holders either hired new staff or increased service availability, for instance moving from four to five days a week. Several used the funds to sustain posts created with our first emergency Covid-19 grants distributed in 2020-2021. Some commented that without the grant their capacity would have reduced.



## Sustained new service

Almost half of grant holders used the funds for new services, notably peer support work and outreach to ‘hidden’ communities such as homeless women or carers from ethnic minority backgrounds. While specialist services predominate, there are also numerous community responses ranging from youth drop-ins to community meals and an internet café.

# Motiv-8 South Hampshire



**Impacts:** Increased capacity, Sustain new services

[Motiv-8 South](#) have used our grant to fund a dedicated Family Development Lead who has developed their family wellbeing services into a new 'whole family' approach for families from disadvantaged communities in Hampshire. The Family Development Lead has also trained Motiv-8 South's Youth Support Workers in their 'think family' approach to health and wellbeing. As a result, the organisation has been able to offer additional wrap around support to families.

This has led to more than 80% of families reporting improved confidence in parenting and more than 90% reporting improvements in family relationships and their health and wellbeing.

“Just a huge thank you for the help you have given my family. Your kindness, support and commitment are second to none. Without this kind of service available my daughter would not be as confident and is now looking forward to a happy future.”

– Motiv-8 South parent

# Positive East East London



**Impacts:** Increased capacity, Support additional people

[Positive East's](#) 'ReAssure' project provides psychological support for HIV-positive asylum seeking, refugee and migrant women in East London. The women are from racialised minorities and have experienced torture, trauma, domestic abuse and often been retraumatised by their experience of the immigration system.

Positive East have used our grant to fund a clinical psychologist to respond to the increased demand for mental health support provoked by Covid-19-induced delays and the 'hostile environment'. They are now able to support more women (with complex mental health needs), offer more one-to-one appointments and culturally competent group therapy.

Their support has enabled women to make new friends, increase their self-esteem and reduce their levels of depression.

“I was broken when I first came here. Broken. Positive East is my home now and I feel I'm with friends.”

– Positive East beneficiary

**We would like to thank the organisations we featured in this report who have generously given of their time and granted permission to use their photographs.**

**Advocacy Service Aberdeen**

**A Way Out**

**Home-Start Glasgow South**

**Home-Start Telford & Wrekin**

**LandWorks**

**MCR Pathways**

**Motiv-8 South**

**Newton Heath Community Learning Centre**

**Positive East**

**Rainbow Migration**

**Rainbow Surprise**

**Rock Trust**

**Skylight Circus Arts**

**Sport at the Heart**



**The  
Henry Smith  
Charity**  
founded in 1628

6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
65 Leadenhall Street  
London  
EC3A 2AD

**Henry Smith was born in Wandsworth, London in 1549. By the time he died in 1628, he had become rich from trade and property deals, and had established a charity for 'relief of the poor'. Henry left the charity an endowment, and instructions about how to use it. Today, we continue to honour the spirit of Henry Smith's will.**

The Henry Smith Charity Registered Charity No 230102

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