BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Impact Report 2025



Think Local, Give Local

BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



We are so fortunate to have a relationship with BCF. They totally understand the work we do and are very supportive in every way. BCF are not just a funder but a partner, not just looking at the here and now, but the future.

Bridge for Young People

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About the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Together with other Community Foundations, we aim to ensure our grant making contributes towards the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A large part of our work goes towards tackling key SDGs at local level.



“

At Learning to Work, we are proud to partner with Berkshire Community Foundation, whose unwavering support has enabled us to expand our reach and create meaningful opportunities for young people across Berkshire.

Their commitment to strengthening local communities has been instrumental in helping us inspire, prepare and empower the next generation. Congratulations to all the Community Foundation’s in the UK on 50 years of incredible impact - we are honoured to be part of this journey.

Nancy Lalor,
Operations Director



Who We Are

Berkshire Community Foundation (BCF) is Berkshire’s charitable hub, connecting people who care with causes that matter.

Since 1985 we have worked across Berkshire to raise and distribute money directly to vital local causes.

We are a member of UK Community Foundations (UKCF), a network of 47 accredited Community Foundations across the UK. We work alongside philanthropic individuals, families, businesses and organisations to target funds and provide philanthropic expertise, ensuring the maximum positive impact.

Each year we award grants to a wide range of organisations who deliver local projects. We provide advice, networking and skills support, and raise the profile of local charities and community groups addressing vital needs across Berkshire, including modern day slavery, domestic abuse, knife crime, homelessness, fuel and food poverty, health and isolation.

169
charities and community organisations supported

Over £1 million
awarded in Grants



120,000
people supported

249
community projects funded across Berkshire

Message from the President

Mr Andrew Try, Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire



I would like to congratulate the whole team at BCF for such outstanding achievements over the last year. BCF has once again been able to award over £1 million in grants, making this our fourth most successful granting year. This funding supported 249 projects across Berkshire covering a multitude of needs, a small selection of which you can read about in this 2025 Impact Report.

Beyond the distribution of funds, BCF continues to play a key role in supporting charities and voluntary groups by organising online community events, holding the annual Charity Symposium and supporting the Lieutenancy Office by publicising the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS), the MBE for the voluntary sector.

The year ahead will see BCF continue to encourage and build local philanthropy and target it to meet the on-going challenges our communities face. This includes supporting voluntary and community organisations with funding to maintain their services and to meet increasing demands.

I would like to thank all the loyal supporters and welcome new ones who have joined with BCF to make a real difference to their community, and I look forward to another successful year for BCF.

Message from the Chair

Mr Stephen Howard, Chair of Trustees



I would like to thank the Board, Gerry and the team as well as all our volunteers and supporters for their incredible hard work, dedication and commitment to the cause.

We work alongside wonderful individuals, trusts and companies to target philanthropic resources to combat the continuing and changing needs of people and communities in Berkshire. Connecting such people who care with causes that matter remains our mission, and I hope to see more people and organisations partner with us in this endeavour. Thank you to all those we already partner with for helping us to be a leading force for good across Berkshire and in doing so, see their charitable aims coming to fruition. BCF is more important than ever to the charitable sector in Berkshire, and we are all striving to see how we can expand our funding sources and consequently our levels of granting.

In the year ahead BCF's focus will be on ending violence against women and children, homelessness, young people leaving the care system as well as the ongoing need of charities and community groups in Berkshire.



Think Local, Give Local

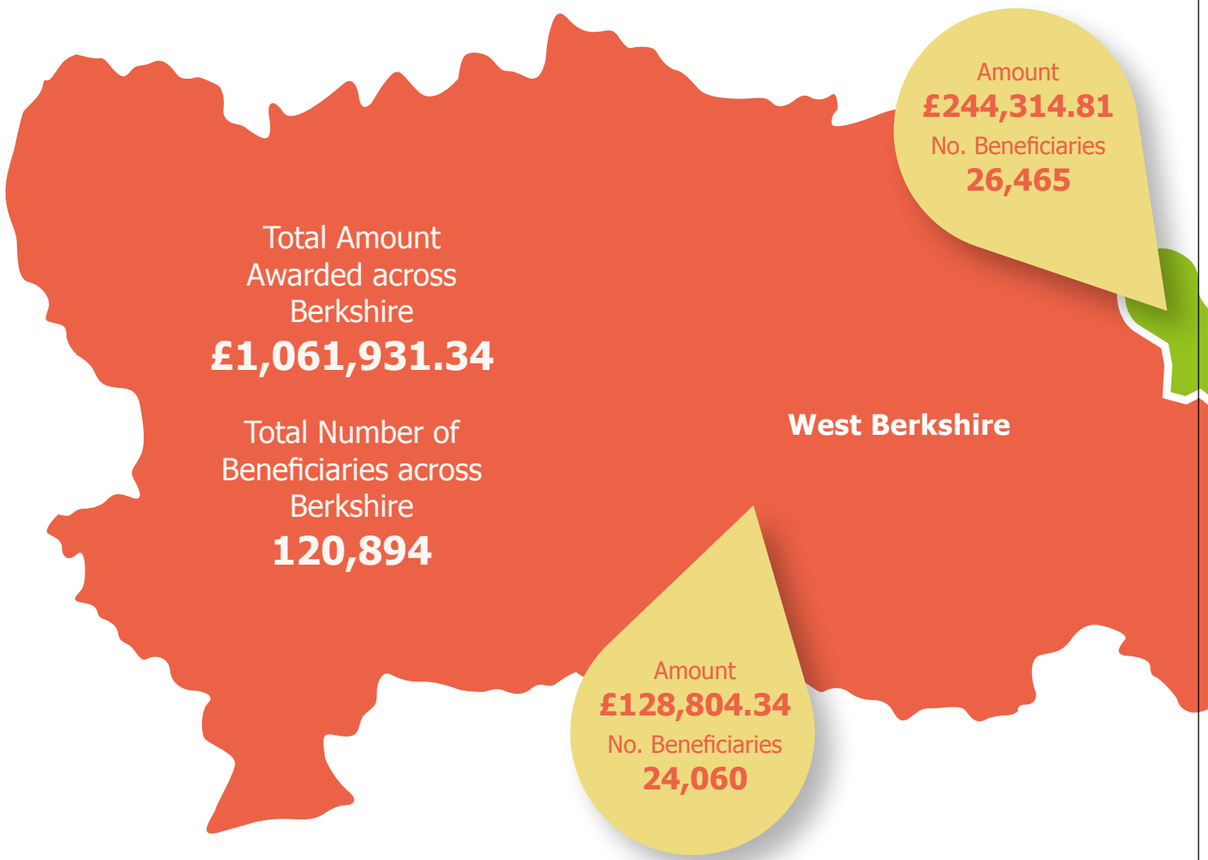
Berkshire Community Foundation is delighted to report another effective year in which we have granted £1,061,931.34 to 249 projects supporting 169 organisations.

Top 5
Issues Addressed:

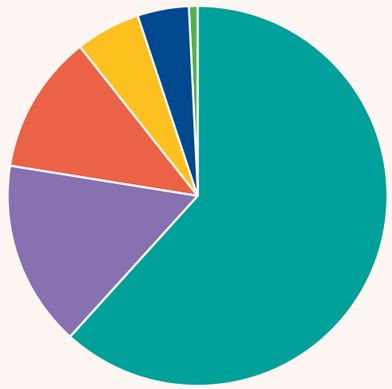
1. Health, wellbeing & serious illness
2. Education, learning & training
3. Mental health
4. Poverty & disadvantage
5. Domestic violence

Top 5
Beneficiary Groups:

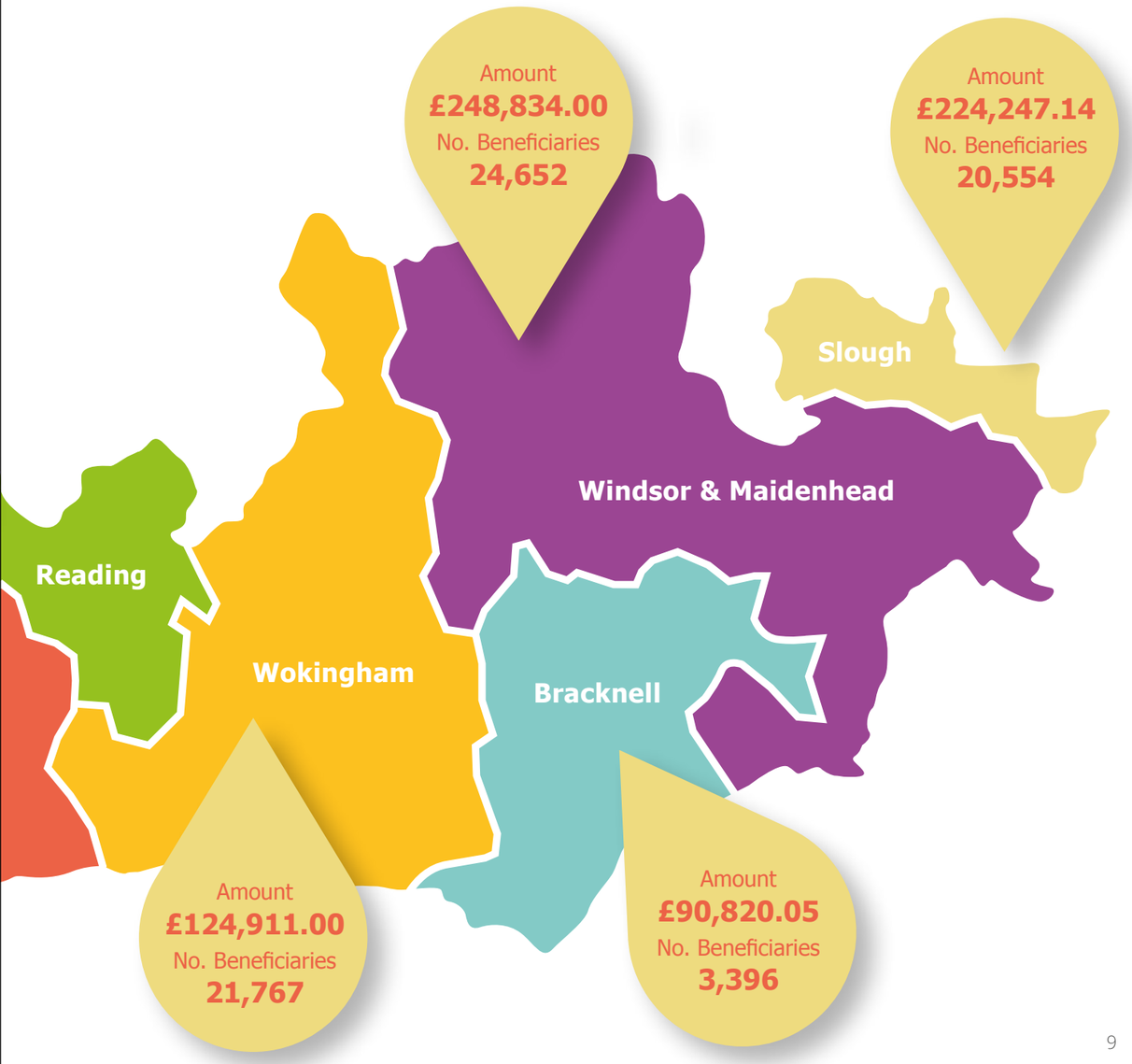
1. Children and young people
2. Victims of crime, violence & abuse
3. Older people
4. People with multiple disabilities
5. Local residents



Total grants awarded in 2024/25, per UN Sustainable Development Goals



- Good Health and Wellbeing
- Quality Education
- Reduced Inequalities
- Zero Hunger
- No poverty
- Climate Action



Together for
Women and Children

Berkshire Community Foundation's Together for Women and Children Fund enables people to support disadvantaged women and children in the county and tackle key issues affecting them, such as modern slavery, exploitation, domestic violence and abuse, sexual assault and social isolation.





We work closely with voluntary organisations to ensure support is in place and to provide funding to local charities who are a lifeline to women and children in need.

Since 2019 we have:

Awarded £1.29 million to charities and voluntary groups

Supported 224 projects

Benefited over 35,000 vulnerable women and children

In 2023, we launched our Last Resort Fund to provide food, essential baby goods, including nappies and formula, emergency taxi, train and bus fares, warm clothing, sanitary and hygiene products. This has supported 27 charities and community groups.

In December, BCF held its biennial Together for Women and Children event at The Braywood. We welcomed The Rt. Hon. the Baroness May of Maidenhead and bereaved mother Amanda Stephens as speakers.

Former Prime Minister Theresa May was the MP for Maidenhead for 27 years before stepping down in 2024. She continues to advocate for ending violence against women and children and modern-day slavery.

Amanda Stephens is the mother of Olly Stephens who was lured by a girl to open parkland near his home and stabbed to death by children aged 13 and 14, in January 2021. Through their charity, Olly's Work, Amanda and her husband Stuart, now campaign for children's safety online and offline.

Supporters and friends were updated on BCF's Together for Women and Children strategy and plans for 2026 addressing the needs of women and children in Berkshire, to raise vital funds and make a lasting difference.

BCF will continue to work with charities and voluntary groups by making grants that will have an immediate impact and also work with them on long term strategies to raise awareness and change behaviours.



The Rt. Hon. the Baroness May of Maidenhead speaking on women's issues at BCF's Together for Women and Children event.

We would like to thank our sponsors, CCLA and The Braywood for generously hosting this inspirational event.

Together for Women and Children

IDVA Story of Change

BCF is proud to partner with The Dash Charity and Parents and Children Together (PACT) to fund full-time Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)

These specialist roles offer immediate, on-site support to patients disclosing domestic abuse, ensuring no one is discharged without a clear route to safety.

Working hand-in-hand with hospital safeguarding teams, IDVAs respond to referrals, offer expert advice, and build strong relationships with staff. Their presence means fewer missed opportunities, faster interventions, and tailored support for those in crisis.

Medical staff only have an average of 3 minutes with each patient to identify injuries or trauma.

Training delivered by the IDVAs equips hospital staff to spot signs of abuse and refer patients confidently. Even bite sized sessions (30–45 minutes) have made a lasting impact.

One patient who was homeless and without a phone, had previously spoken to police but couldn't stay in touch. When she arrived at hospital, the IDVA recognised her name, offered a phone, and helped plan her move to a refuge.

She later called to say thank you; she was very grateful for the opportunity of a fresh start.





We are now exploring phase two of the Together for Women strategy, aimed at preventive action in schools. In 2026 BCF launches a pilot scheme with DASH and Learning To Work which will provide **"healthy relationships"** sessions to Year 7 students. This early intervention is key to ensuring that children recognise signs of abuse and have appropriate pathways to support.

As one IDVA said,

"We help bridge the gap."
And for many, that bridge leads to safety, healing, and hope.



Our Year

January
- Board Away Day
- Trustee Induction
- Vital for Berkshire launched
- SmartWorks 'Supporting Women to Gain Employment' at the House of Lords

February
- Slough CVS Funding Fair
- High Sheriff's Awards and BCF Showcase Event
- The Lord-Lieutenant's presentation of the King's Awards for Voluntary Service 2024



Windsor Baptist Church's Community Kitchen Group

March
- RBWM VCS Partnership Event
- Reading Voluntary Action Funder's Forum

April
- Berkshire Magistrates Mock Trials
- West Berkshire Poverty Forum
- Pride of Bracknell Awards

May
- Older People Fund launched in Partnership with Pargiter Fund
- Social Enterprise Competition Finale at University of Reading



Five a Day Market Garden

June
- House of Lords for Dingley's Promise SEND Support launch
- High Sheriff's Summer Reception
- West Berkshire Voluntary Centre Knowledge event



BCF's Summer Interns

July
- Vital for Berkshire Fund launched
- BCF Interns join the team
- Supporter and Volunteer Windsor Celebration
- UKCF CEO Conference
- West Berkshire Poverty Forum



BCF Community Impact Manager with KAVS recipient Veronica Ashley from Hurst Bowling Club

August
- The King's Award for Voluntary Service Nomination Presentation at University of Reading

September
- Parents and Children Together (PACT) Garden Party
- Surviving Winter Fund launched
- Reading Internship Scheme Launch & Celebration Evening
- Berkeley Homes Celebration event
- Meet the Funder Day with West Berkshire Voluntary Centre

October
- The High Sheriff Judicial Service
- Blandy & Blandy annual celebration evening
- BCF AGM
- Soldiering on Awards
- Thames Hospice event at St. George's Chapel featuring West Point Glee Club
- City Arts in Newbury Exhibition



Founder of BPC and Vice President Sean Taylor DL speaking at the BPC dinner

November
- BCF Symposium
- Celebration of 50 years of Community Foundations at Lancaster House
- UKCF Chairs and CEOs lunch at the House of Lords
- White Ribbon Day with DASH
- Lapland Christmas stocking collection
- Business Philanthropy Dinner



Family meeting Father Christmas at the Me2 Club



Vsi Razoom's Family Christmas Party

December
- Together for Women and Children event
- RBWM VCS Awards
- Stoke Park Christmas present giving
- Ascot Racecourse Supports Christmas gift wrapping

News

BCF's Annual Showcase and High Sheriff Awards

BCF was honoured to host its Showcase event and the Berkshire High Sheriff Awards with Alexander Barfield, the High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire 2024-25, in the Vicars' Hall, St George's House, Windsor Castle.

BCF welcomed donors and supporters to this grand occasion, which celebrated the remarkable achievements of individuals, local charities and community groups in Berkshire over the past year.

The event also highlighted BCF's ongoing efforts in supporting and uplifting the community. Outgoing joint CEO, Jon Yates, spoke about the impact BCF had made over the past year via granting and community impact work and current CEO Geraldine Lejeune gave an update on BCF's Together for Women and Girls initiative and modern slavery.



The High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire 2024 – 2025, Alexander Barfield with the award winners.

Heartfelt congratulations are extended to the outstanding individuals and organisations who received awards for their exceptional contributions to the local community:

- **Stuart and Amanda Stephens**, Olly's Work
- **Wendy Harris**, Readistreet
- **Debbie Casey**, Lower Earley Child Contact Centre
- **Berkshire Magistrates' Court Mock Trials Competition**
- **Parents and Children Together (PACT)**, dedication to service to families and children
- **John Sykes**, generosity to the community
- **Penny Savage**, The Office of the High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire
- **Betsy Horgan**, The High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire Police Cadet

A huge thank you to the remarkable Master of Ceremonies, Adrian (Ady) Williams and Stewart Turkington Photography for capturing the memorable evening.



50 Years of Community Foundations

In November, over 300 guests, including donors, partners and leaders from across the UK, gathered at Lancaster House to celebrate 50 years of strengthening communities through place-based philanthropy.

Organised by UK Community Foundations (UKCF), the event highlighted the influence of more than £2.1 billion directed towards grassroots groups and individuals, as well as considered prospects for what lies ahead. UKCF Chair Andrew Tuggey CBE shared a message from His Majesty The King, recognising the vital role of community foundations in driving progress through partnership.

Speakers included Emma de Closset, UKCF Chief Executive, who called for continued collaboration to build stronger communities, and the Rt. Hon. Darren Jones MP, who announced the upcoming **Better Futures Fund a £1 billion initiative to improve life chances for vulnerable children and young people.**

The evening celebrated past achievements while emphasising the urgent need to grow community investment for the UK's future.



UK Community Foundations team and trustees who attended the Lancaster House to celebrate 50 years of Community Foundations.

News

Business Philanthropy Dinner

The Business Philanthropy Club annual dinner was held at Cliveden on 27th November bringing together corporate supporters for an evening.

Guest speaker Gerald Ratner shared his business experience and Sean Taylor DL, Chair of the BPC updated supporters on BCF's work and the impact of BPC members.

Guests included local companies Honda, Content Guru, Hall Hunter Partnership and SAS International. A warm thank you to event sponsors Sean Taylor DL, CCLA and Cliveden House for hosting the dinner



Left - Right Chair of BPC Sean Taylor DL, Geraldine Lejeune OBE DL and guest speaker Gerald Ratner

King's Award for Voluntary Service Ceremonies in Berkshire

In February, the Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire presented the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024 to six outstanding local groups at an event held at Shaw House, Newbury.

Award recipients:

- Cianna's Smile Sickle Cell Awareness Charity
- Freely Fruity
- Loose Ends
- Newbury RDA
- Soulscape
- The Baby Bank

BCF extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the nominees and winners of this prestigious award.

In November the 2025 four exceptional local organisations were honoured with the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025.

- The Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre
- Kaleidoscopic UK
- Wokingham in Need
- Youthline Counselling Service



Berkshire MS Therapy Centre accepting their KAVS 2025

Stories of Change



KAVS award winners The Baby Bank



Thrive charity

BCF funding supports organisations across Berkshire to respond to urgent need and create lasting, positive change for individuals and families.

The Baby Bank

The Baby Bank has supported families across Berkshire since 2015, ensuring every child gets the best start in life. Funding from BCF enabled referrals to children's centres and donations of essentials like nappies and formula.

The charity often responds to urgent requests for beds and bedding. In one case, volunteers delivered bunk beds, a cot, mattresses, and clothing to a mother who had fled an abusive home. The new beds improved the children's health and school attendance, while ongoing support helped the family rebuild stability.

Learning to Work

Learning to Work (LTW) launched the Taking Control initiative to support Year 11 students at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training). Many faced barriers such as limited parental guidance, special educational needs, or language challenges, making the post-GCSE transition overwhelming.

With funding from BCF, LTW deployed Level 6 Careers Guidance Practitioners and Key Workers to provide personalised support immediately after exams, helping students secure post-16 destinations and reduce anxiety during this critical period.

Slough Homeless Our Concern

Slough Homeless Our Concern (SHOC) is a day centre supporting people sleeping rough in Slough, aiming to help them into sustainable housing while ensuring their safety and dignity. Open six days a week, SHOC provides advice, meals, showers, laundry, and clothing.

SHOC met a man living in a tent by the river in poor condition. Invited to the centre, he received a hot meal, shower, shave, and clean clothes while his own were laundered. With his immediate needs met, SHOC worked with him on the causes of his homelessness. He became a regular visitor, built positive relationships, and was eventually referred to a housing provider, moving into supported accommodation.

Windsor Homeless Project

Windsor Homeless Project, supported by the Adobe Hometown Commitment Fund via BCF, employed a part-time Support Worker to assist with casework and guest support. This role was key in delivering the 10-week Cold Weather Shelter and providing practical and emotional help to vulnerable individuals.

Impact highlights include supporting a guest with no public funds through cancer treatment—arranging transport, nutrition, and advocacy—and helping another guest gain confidence to organise their home, tackle debt, and work toward stability. This initiative demonstrates the transformative power of dedicated, person-centred support in enabling safety, wellbeing, and hope.

Community Impact Survey

Our Community Impact Survey helps us to better understand the community landscape across Berkshire by asking for first hand testimonies from the charities, community groups and voluntary groups on the frontline.

The survey asked:

What are the main issues currently affecting those in need in Berkshire?

The most frequently reported issues affecting those in need in Berkshire were directly linked to the **cost-of-living crisis**. Organisations described growing levels of:

- Financial hardship and debt
- Food insecurity
- Housing instability
- Difficulty meeting basic household costs

Many organisation's noted that beneficiaries who previously managed independently are now seeking support for the first time.

Charities also reported that beneficiaries are increasingly presenting with **multiple and interconnected challenges**, particularly:

- Poor mental health alongside financial stress
- Housing insecurity combined with social isolation
- Long-term health conditions exacerbated by poverty

What are the main issues currently affecting charities and community groups in Berkshire?

- **81%** of organisations reported an **increase in demand** for their services

Funding sustainability emerged as a central concern across the survey. When asked about their main challenges, organisations most frequently cited:

- Difficulty securing sufficient or long-term funding
- Increased competition for grants
- Short-term funding cycles making planning challenging

Overall, feedback on BCF was positive, with most respondents rating key aspects of BCF's support as good or very good:

- **90%** rated staff ability and helpfulness positively
- **84%** rated communication positively
- **84%** rated the ease of the application process positively
- **80%** rated monitoring requirements positively
- **73%** rated availability of funding positively
- **75%** rated frequency of funding rounds positively

Berkshire is home to around **992,000 people**

Almost **50%** of crime is violent or sexual offences

In Slough **1 in 5 children** live in poverty

66% of BCF survey respondents reported that isolation and loneliness is an issue in Berkshire

According to Shelter UK **1 in 51** people in Slough are homeless*

*This includes sleeping rough and those living in temporary accommodation.

8.3% of households live in fuel poverty

More than **1 in 5 adults** report high levels of anxiety

Over 4,700 households are at risk of homelessness

1 in 9 primary school children in Berkshire have identified special educational needs

How to get involved

Why donate with Berkshire Community Foundation?

BCF is a trusted philanthropy partner with 40 years of experience connecting people, businesses, and organisations with local charities and volunteer groups across the Royal County of Berkshire. We help donors navigate an uncertain landscape, identify community needs, and create the greatest impact. Working with individuals, families, companies, and charitable trusts, we target funds and provide expertise to ensure maximum benefit for those most in need.

Our support includes philanthropic financial services, strategic grant-making, and introductions between donors and charities. We also share insights on pressing social issues and highlight areas with the most potential for change. Whatever form your philanthropy takes, we ensure it delivers meaningful, lasting impact for Berkshire communities.

Together, we change lives



Andrew Simpson Centre supporting children accessing sailing

A small action can make a big difference



Rivertime Boat Trust



Home-Start Wokingham baby group

Personal Philanthropy

Philanthropy can be simply defined as the desire to promote the welfare of your community and giving with purpose. We can help you on your philanthropic journey. Whether you are looking to create a lasting legacy or make a single donation to a cause you care about, we can tailor a method of giving that is right for you and your loved ones.

Corporate Philanthropy

We work with businesses who now more than ever are discovering their potential to create immense positive impact. Investors expect businesses to incorporate social and environmental responsibility into their business plans, whilst customers and staff increasingly demand good corporate citizenship from the businesses they support.

Working with Charitable Trusts

We work with local charitable trusts to help fulfil their objectives effectively. Trusts use our services to find suitable beneficiaries, combine with other funds to create bigger impact, and provide a permanent home for their assets when it becomes hard to recruit new trustees.

Donate here

Community Partnerships

BCF works with companies large and small, individuals, families, and charitable trusts to target their generosity towards the causes they care most about. The generosity of our philanthropic partners creates a lasting impact. Here are examples of such partnerships that show the diverse ways in which we can meet the needs of our donors. BCF would like to thank all our supporters and donors for their commitment to our work. A small selection is featured below:

Stoke Park

BCF CEO Geraldine Lejeune was invited to attend the Boodles event at Stoke Park, where BCF was presented with a cheque for £5,000 to support BCF's work through the Give a Child a Chance initiative.

At Christmas, the Stoke Park Elves generously distributed toys for children in need in Berkshire.

Reckitt

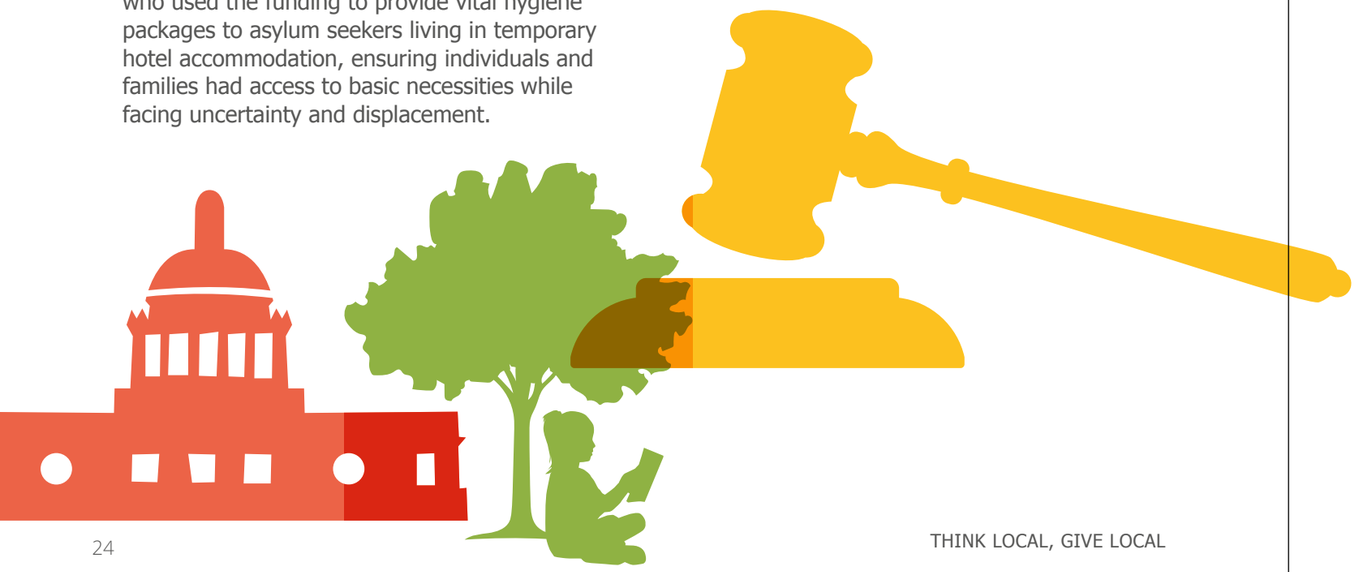
We work in partnership with Reckitt through the Healthier Slough Fund, launched in 2024 to support seven charities in Slough with three-year grants. The fund focuses on improving health, hygiene and wellbeing for some of the borough's most vulnerable communities. In 2025 alone, the funding supported more than 16,000 beneficiaries to access essential hygiene products and health and cleanliness education, helping to reduce health inequalities and improve dignity. One example of this impact is Slough Refugee Support, who used the funding to provide vital hygiene packages to asylum seekers living in temporary hotel accommodation, ensuring individuals and families had access to basic necessities while facing uncertainty and displacement.

The High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire

BCF has proudly partnered with successive High Sheriffs to support initiatives across Berkshire. One standout project is the Mock Trials Competition, which gives students a unique opportunity to step into the shoes of legal professionals in a simulated court environment. The competition helps to nurture civic awareness and confidence in the next generation.

This year there were 26 teams entered into the Berkshire heat, of which 25 were from Berkshire, and one from Hampshire. Congratulations to this year's winners, The Emmbrook School.

BCF continues to steward funds generously donated by former High Sheriffs, ensuring they are directed where they make the greatest impact.





At Reckitt, we are deeply proud of our partnership with BCF through the Reckitt Healthier Slough Fund. Together, over the last 6 years we've been able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of over 55,000 people in Slough and across Berkshire, supporting grassroots organisations that truly understand and respond to local health and hygiene needs.

Thank you to BCF for being a trusted partner in this journey, your dedication and expertise have been vital in helping us deliver real impact where it matters most.

Susannah Herbert,
Social Impact Manager

Care Leavers Programme

The Care Leavers Programme, launched in 2024 by the Local Authorities' Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT) and UKCF, in collaboration with investment manager CCLA, is designed to help care leavers survive and thrive as they transition to adulthood. From university bursaries and driving lessons to home equipment and career coaching, the programme supports young people to take confident next steps towards independence.

BCF is honoured to be involved in the programme and was awarded £30,000 per year for three years to support care-experienced young people across Berkshire. In collaboration with BCF supporters, we are currently delivering three-year grants to Bridge for Young People and Power of Parenting, covering West Berkshire, Wokingham, and Windsor and Maidenhead.

Working closely with Sovereign Network Group (SNG) and Greenham Trust, year 1 funding in West Berkshire supported Bridge for Young People's expansion through Wessex House and the creation of a Specialist Support Worker role, providing vital 'floating support' to care leavers moving into independent living.

Rob Daniels, Head of Grants at Greenham Trust, said: "By jointly funding a dedicated Specialist Support Worker, we are ensuring vulnerable young people receive the consistent guidance they need to move towards brighter, more secure futures."

We are pleased to confirm that we have since been awarded an additional £37,200 for the programme through investment from the Henry Smith Foundation, enabling this vital work to continue and grow.

Berkeley Homes

BCF is delighted to be working in partnership with Berkeley Homes to address homelessness and violence against women and children across the county through a new three-year funding programme. The fund is supporting Slough Homeless Our Concern (SHOC) and Parents and Children Together (PACT), enabling targeted, life-changing interventions. At SHOC, the funding is directed towards a dedicated Resettlement Worker based at the day centre one day a week, offering vital hands-on support to individuals moving into accommodation. For many, this is their first experience of independent living and tailored guidance is crucial to help them manage tenancies and sustain long-term stability.

PACT's grant is supporting a keyworker delivering trauma-informed, wrap-around support to women facing multiple disadvantages, helping them rebuild their lives and achieve positive change. In addition, Berkeley Homes made generous physical donations to SHOC and The Dash Charity during Christmas 2025. We look forward to continuing to grow this partnership over the next few years.



Philanthropy and You!

Giving to Berkshire Community Foundation is the easiest and most effective way to support hundreds of local charities and community groups.



BCF Business Coordinator Rebecca Biggs and Community Impact Manager Ellie Philpott fundraising with Berkeley Homes



Home-Start Berkshire East volunteers

We are uniquely positioned to be able to help people support the local causes they care about in Berkshire, whether it is a specific issue or in a certain area of the county. We help local people and businesses to manage their charitable donations, and we work hard to make sure that supporters see for themselves the impact of their giving.

YOUR GIVING OPTIONS

Set up a Named Fund...
A fund in your name gives you the opportunity to choose the causes and projects you care about the most. It's an ideal way for you to get directly involved in community philanthropy, without the associated costs of setting up a charitable trust. We provide personal support to ensure your giving is effective and we will help you to match your charitable interests with local needs.

Support an Existing Fund...
You can make one off or regular donations to an existing Fund which matches your own interests – in a geographical area or a particular area of need.

Leave a Gift in your Will...
For many people, a legacy is the best opportunity to make a substantial gift and we guarantee to respect your wishes and provide help for future generations.

Become a Friend of the Foundation...
Our Friends scheme is designed to allow donors to support several strands of Foundation activity with a regular ongoing payment.

Join our Business Philanthropy Club...
This is a vehicle for businesses to give effective, targeted funding to grassroots organisations and projects in their local communities.

Provide sponsorship or in-kind support...
The Foundation provides opportunities for local companies to link with community projects through sponsorship of events and publications.

Give Online
You can make a one-off donation or a regular payment online, to the Foundation or directly to local charities and community groups.

Supporter Spotlight and Tribute



Graham Barker MStJ DL

Graham Barker is trustee of a variety of local charities and organisations in Berkshire and has supported many more. Graham was first introduced to BCF when he took the office of High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire for 2018-19. He was appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant in 2019 and Vice Lord-Lieutenant in 2020. He is Vice President of BCF and Chair of the BCF Charity Symposium, an annual community event bringing together over 80 Berkshire based charities and community groups. Graham is proud to be an ambassador for BCF in his role as Vice President.

Graham says:

My previous role as High Sheriff and my current role as Vice Lord-Lieutenant, has introduced me to many wonderful charities and community groups across Berkshire. I am impressed at the achievements of many of these charities and also of the dedicated service that volunteers give to society. BCF works with many of these groups and, if they have not done so already, I always suggest they reach out to BCF if they need any support. BCF offers in depth knowledge of the charities, groups and volunteers in Berkshire. BCF makes a real difference and can help organisations to improve.



Cindy Cameron

Cindy has worked as a Business Development Manager in a variety of industries over the years and has been a long-term supporter of Berkshire charities. She was Ambassador of Venus Awards in 2017 - 20 where she met Geraldine Lejeune. After learning about BCF and how the community benefit so much from the work they do, she became involved and became an ambassador in 2018.

Cindy remarks:

BCF goes above and beyond, with an exceptional team supporting the community.

She now advocates on behalf of BCF's work and impact along with supporting the team at events.



BeatRoutes

Everyone deserves the chance to thrive.



Ufton Court



Samantha Lusty

Samantha's background is in childcare, where she worked as a Norland Nanny. Her later career focused on Early Years and led to a real passion for helping vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families during times of crisis. Samantha set up The Samantha Lusty Fund in 2024, focusing on supporting children across Berkshire. The fund has helped Together As One, Thames Valley Adventure Playground and Newbury Riding for the Disabled. She has also supported BCF's Care Leavers Programme in collaboration with UKCF, CCLA and the Henry Smith Foundation.



Tribute

David Potter

We were saddened to hear of the death of David Potter, who was a co-opted member of our Finance and Investment Committee. David and his wife Jane were long-term supporters of BCF. A funeral took place in September for David, followed by memorial service held in November, both were attended by BCF CEO Geraldine Lejeune.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support Berkshire Community Foundation has given to Newbury Soup Kitchen.

Their involvement goes far beyond funding; they have made a real effort to get to know us as a charity, to understand the challenges we face, and to celebrate the work we do in the community. That personal connection makes such a difference, as it reassures us that we are not working in isolation but as part of a wider network of people who care deeply about local causes.

BCF's encouragement, advice, and genuine interest in our journey have helped us to grow in confidence and to feel that we are part of the extended BCF family. Their support is not just practical, but also inspiring, and it reinforces our determination to continue supporting those in need. We feel proud to be connected with BCF and truly value this partnership.

Newbury Soup Kitchen

Meet the Team

The team at Berkshire Community Foundation is a small but dedicated group of people. They work every day to maximise their impact on the communities they serve.



Geraldine Lejeune OBE DL
CEO



Rosanne Hall,
Events Manager/Executive PA



Rebecca Biggs,
Business Coordinator



Elena Hogan
Finance Director



Ellie Philpott,
Community Impact Manager



Jacqui Roff,
Administration Officer

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Princess Beatrice

PATRON
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Governor and Constable
of Windsor Castle

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- The Rt Hon the Lord Iliffe DL
- Sir Hugh Stevenson
- Lady Catherine Stevenson DL
- Sean Taylor DL Founder of BPC

TRUSTEES
- Stephen Howard,
  Chair of Trustees
- Dr Raj Arora
- Lindsey Beard JP DL
- Shirley Bradbeer
- Nick Burrows
- Julie Elliott
- Margaret Haines MVO
- Jackie Henshaw
- Sir Philip May
- Christian Martin
- Simon Muir (appointed October 25)
- Paul Norris
- Sue Roberts (Retired July 25)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS
- Lucy Northmore
  Philanthropy Committee
- Christopher Robinson
  Philanthropy Committee

Connecting people that care with causes that matter.

Thank you to all our supporters for making a difference to communities in Berkshire.



For further information visit **www.berkshirecf.org**
or call us on **0118 930 3021**
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BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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