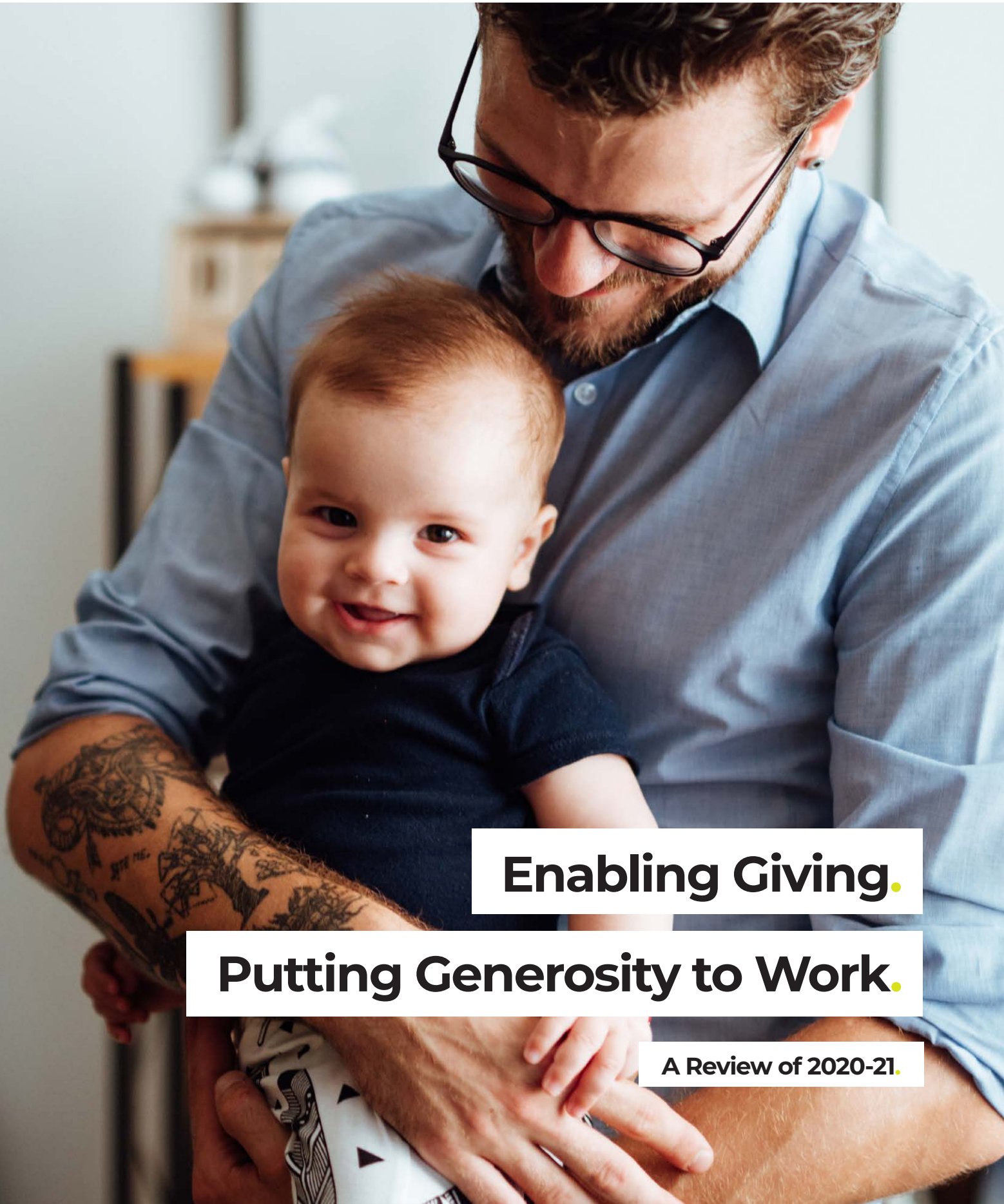




Foundation
Derbyshire



Enabling Giving.

Putting Generosity to Work.

A Review of 2020-21.



// As the world grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, donations and aid have poured in to help the people hardest hit cope with the fallout. But how do you ensure an effective and efficient response that provides emergency aid to those who need it most? In the United Kingdom, one of the best answers has been local community foundations.

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, May 2020



As Covid began to take hold in early March 2020 and we prepared to launch our Coronavirus Response Fund, little did we know that a year of unprecedented grant making awaited us; a year that would not only be defined by the pandemic and its impact on the communities that we serve but that would redefine the role that Foundation Derbyshire plays in the well being and prosperity of our county.

During the fast moving and uncertain months that followed, the need to be responsive, effective and creative became evident. After 25 years of working closely with our community and voluntary sector, we were able to quickly identify and support the groups and organisations that were providing frontline emergency support, including food banks, hospices, domestic abuse refuges and debt advisory services.

Longstanding relationships with our generous donors and funders enabled us to galvanise financial support incredibly quickly, securing our first £130,000 of emergency funding within the first ten days, including the first tranche of £250,000 foodbank funding from Derbyshire County Council.

By 1st April we had awarded our first emergency grant and had also started distributing funds on behalf of the newly formed National Emergencies Trust

("NET"), alongside the national network of community foundations.

Over the following year we would go on to distribute over £1.65 million of grants (over £1 million of which was awarded within the first 6 months), providing vital financial support to the community groups and organisations that were beginning to see (and to meet) overwhelming increases in demand for their services.

Despite its challenges, 2020-21 was the year that the Foundation Derbyshire model came into its own, with our on the ground presence and invaluable relationships with both grantees and donors enabling us to respond with agility and flexibility. More importantly, 2020-21 was the year that our fundholders, staff, trustees, volunteers and grant recipients worked tirelessly and collaborated in new and innovative ways to help those made most vulnerable in our communities.

Financial Highlights 2021/22.

£1,000,000+ 

emergency response funding distributed in the first 6 months of the year.

321 

grants awarded,
totalling

£1,659,000

£7,990,000



in endowed funds, supporting vital community activity on behalf of our donors.



A Community Response.

The importance of the county's voluntary and community sector to the well-being of our communities became ever more evident during 2020-21.



Whilst many endeavoured to weather lockdown by mothballing operations or furloughing staff, the community and voluntary sector were facing increased demand for the services that they provide. Thankfully, the sector is lean, responsive, agile and embedded in its communities.

These attributes enabled it to move quickly and effectively to support those most in need: Services were adapted overnight, new partnerships were established to get things done and people worked above and beyond, often putting themselves at risk, to help others.

- Foodbanks immediately increased their capacity and moved from collection to delivery based services, to ensure people were able to receive their food parcels safely.
- Community cafés forced to close during lockdown used their kitchens and volunteers to make batch cooked meals for those that were self-isolating or shielding.
- A cycling charity established a key workers bike scheme, providing free bikes and services for key workers, enabling them to get to work without using public transport during lockdown.

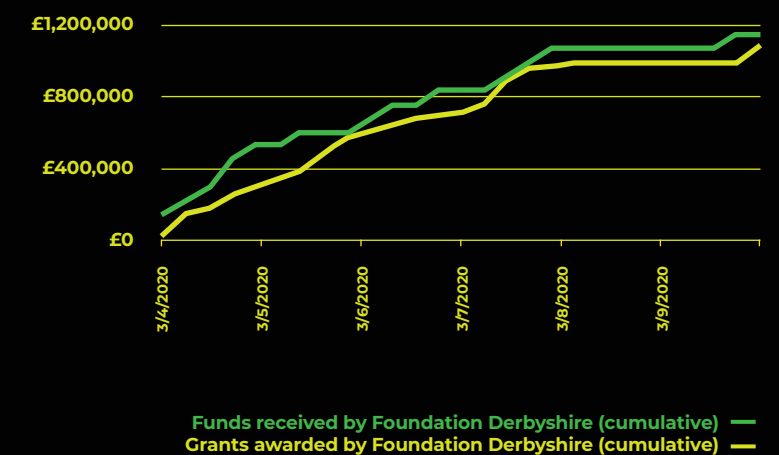
- Hospices created “Covid wards” and “at home” care packages to ensure those at end of life continued to receive the care and support they needed.
- Dementia, bereavement and mental health services quickly adopted online digital technologies to ensure that their clients could continue to access the support and counselling they so desperately need.

It was vital that funding for the sector was similarly responsive and Foundation Derbyshire's staff team and trustees worked hard to ensure that grants were distributed as soon as possible into our communities.

The graph (right) plots our receipt of Coronavirus funding (in green) against the Coronavirus grants that we awarded (in yellow) between April and September, 2020.



Foundation Derbyshire Coronavirus funding



Asian Association Chesterfield & North Derbyshire

Food banks and access to food was one of the key areas of focus for Foundation Derbyshire during 2020-21 and received 30% of our emergency grant-funding.

Foodbanks worked tirelessly and innovatively in challenging circumstances. Many moved from collection to delivery based systems to keep their volunteers and service users safe, as well as becoming a valued source of food for other organisations (including hospices and homelessness, refugee and domestic abuse charities).

Many community kitchens and café's that were forced to close during lockdown moved to a batch cooking delivery model, ensuring that vulnerable residents continued to receive warm nutritious meals and much needed human interaction. Well over **25,000** beneficiaries were supported by our foodbank and food access funding last year, including single, very isolated people, families struggling because their income stopped over night and people whose health issues required them to shield.

Asian Association Chesterfield & North Derbyshire were awarded **£1,000** towards their community project, the Saffron Kitchen.

Saffron Kitchen had identified the need for a community meals programme for elderly and vulnerable individuals who were shielding with long term health conditions and therefore had limited access to food supplies and/or ethnically specific food. Our grant helped towards their delivery of freshly cooked, nutritious meals across Chesterfield, three days a week.

During 2020, the Saffron Kitchen delivered more than **1,485** meals to those who needed them.





The Elm Foundation

The Elm Foundation is a Domestic Violence charity covering Derbyshire. They have four refuges for survivors of domestic abuse who need to flee their homes. They also provide a Domestic Abuse Helpline and deliver outreach services.

£33,424 of funding from Foundation Derbyshire enabled the Elm Foundation to maintain safe levels of staffing (despite high levels of employee absence due to shielding and coronavirus symptoms), which meant they were able to continue taking referrals into their refuges throughout the lockdown and ensure no one needing refuge was turned away. This extra staffing also meant that, once the refuges were full, they were able to work in partnership with the Police and local businesses to secure hotel and B&B rooms for those fleeing domestic abuse and ultimately support them to move on safely.

// *The abuse got worst when my husband was furloughed, it was always bad but he was more violent and had started drinking, I didn't know what to do or where to go, I was scared that I would be trapped, The Elm Foundation helped me to get out and managed to get me and my children safe in a Hotel. We have now been moved from the Hotel and are in the refuge where we are getting support for our future. My children have started a new school and they are really happy now.* **//**



Citizens Advice Mid-Mercia

Faced with a 62% increase in calls seeking guidance and support on issues such as accessing food banks, debt, unemployment, furlough, housing worries and health concerns, Citizens Advice Mid-Mercia used their £8,730 grant to purchase mobile phones and secure laptops, so that their highly-skilled and trained Adviceline volunteers could support clients from the safety of their own home.



Specialist Stroke Services

Many of Specialist Stroke Services' clients and carers were describing increased anxiety, depression, feelings of being unable to cope and loss of control that had been triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Many of the charity's vulnerable members struggled to understand social distancing rules, whilst others were self-neglecting (e.g. not taking medication, not dealing with bills, not eating, washing or self-caring). Constant media news was impacting on already heightened anxiety and the number of people with depression and low mood had increased significantly. Carers were also at breaking point. Without access to the usual peer support and respite they got from attending the Stroke Centre, many were considering residential care for the person they cared for or scared in case they became unwell and were unable to continue with their caring role.

Specialist Stroke Services therefore used their **£6,488** grant to employ a sessional counsellor to allow survivors and carers to discuss their anxieties and look at how they could build new routines. They also provided carers with much needed opportunities to talk about the challenges of having to be with the person they care for 24 hours a day with no respite. A nurse advisor was also funded to provide medication advice, mood screening and coping skills.



A New Way of Working.

The Foundation's Grants Team reaches over 200 community groups every year through our Funding Workshops and presentations, delivered across the whole of the County and City.

This crucial work allows us to connect with emerging new groups and ensures fresh volunteers and workers in existing groups continue to be aware of our grant making.

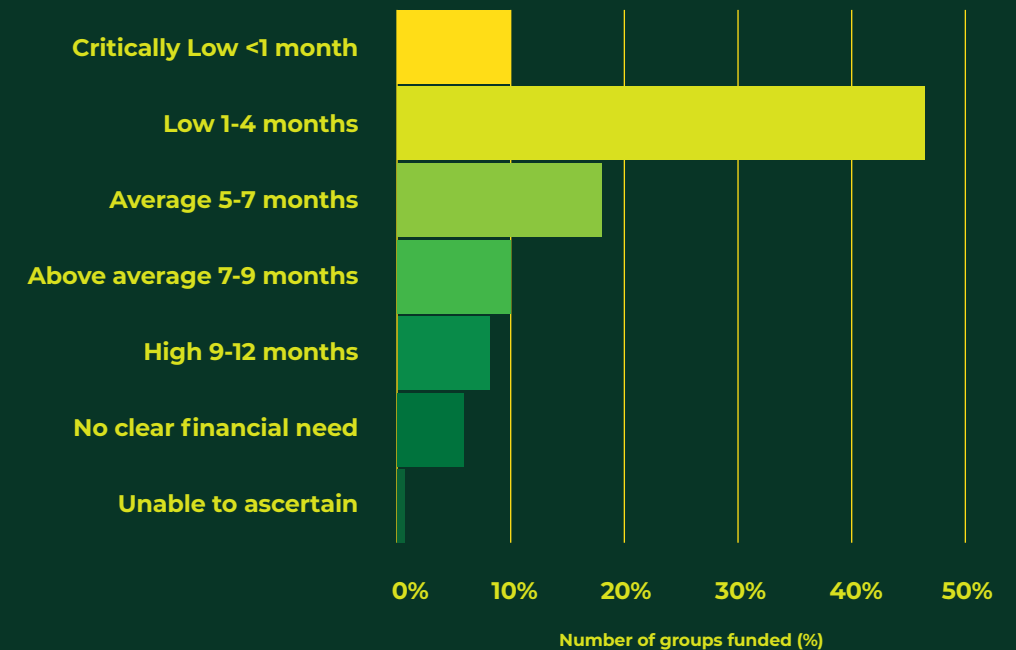
In 2020 and 2021 that connection continued, albeit in new online ways! Over the last year we have still been able to undertake many workshop sessions - reaching new community activists, volunteers and old friends in the sector and spreading the critical message that

groups big and small, new and old, can access much needed funding through the steady and secure presence of Foundation Derbyshire.

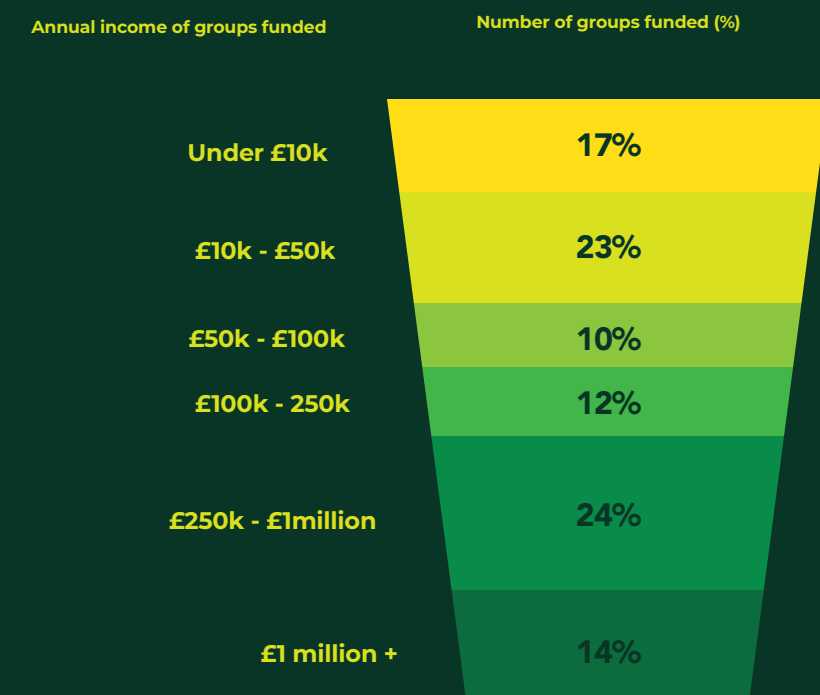
40% of groups awarded grants over the last year were small grassroots groups, with an annual income below £50,000. **56%** of groups coming to us have **low reserve levels** (below 4 months). **10%** have **critical reserves** of less than one month.

// ***They are interested in learning as much as possible about our charity & values. They provide honest insight & support to make an application. It is good to know that locally our city and county has Foundation Derbyshire.*** //

Grant Recipient Free Reserve Levels



Groups Funded by Income Band



A black and white photograph of a person from the back, wearing a patterned knit hat and a jacket with a fur-lined hood. Their right arm is raised with a clenched fist. The background is a blurred city street at night with bokeh light effects from streetlights and buildings.

OUR CALL TO ACTION...

The voluntary and community sector's
reach into all aspects of society place
it, and Foundation Derbyshire, in a
unique and invaluable position



Our voluntary and community sector has played a crucial role during the pandemic, alleviating pressure on the health service and providing support to people suffering from the economic and social impact of Coronavirus.

Unfortunately, the voluntary sector has itself been financially impacted. During 2020, fundraising and sponsored events had to be cancelled and charity shops had to close. This loss in income has been compounded by the cost of continuing (and in many cases increasing) the delivery of vital services to the community, resulting in many groups exhausting already dangerously low reserve levels.

Many organisations are now operating on “thin air” and a worrying number are folding without significant support (nationally, a combination of lost income and increased demand has led to an estimated funding gap of £10bn across the sector in 2020*).

*Covid Charity Tracker published by Pro Bono Economics, in partnership with the Institute of Fundraising and the Charity Finance Group.

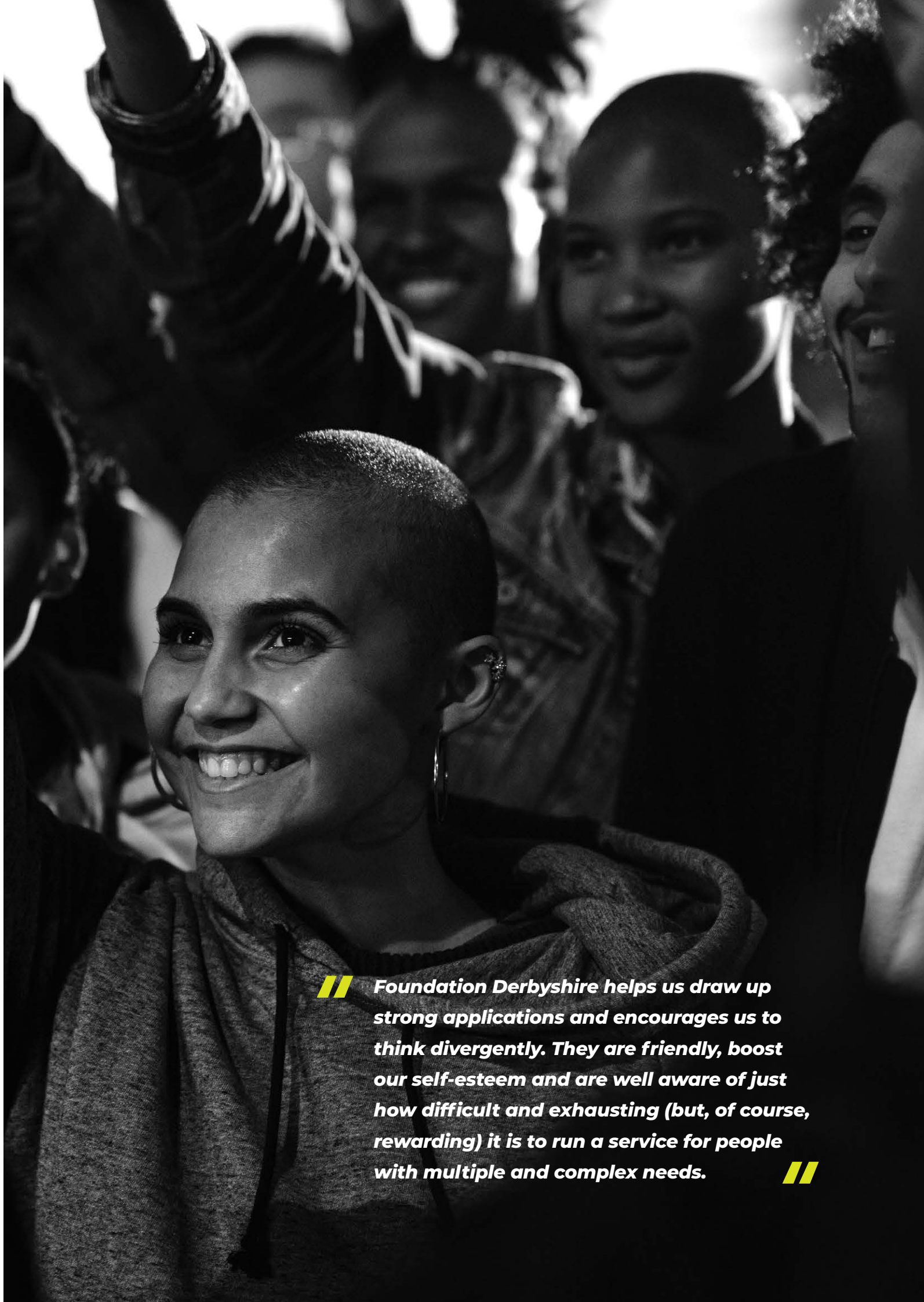
A Vital Role

The pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities in society and created new issues and concerns for the sector to address, particularly around mental health, food poverty, access to education and equity for black and ethnic communities.

At a time when every penny counts, the voluntary and community sector's reach into all aspects of society – from health and well-being, training and employability through to tourism and the arts – place it in a unique and invaluable position. It is often the bridge between the individual and the public and private sector. Working and embedded in the local community, voluntary groups and organisations are trusted and independent. They understand (and are often created out of) real need and can focus on an individual in a nuanced and holistic way.

A community café will notice if Ida hasn't been to its Monday lunch club for a while or is starting to have mobility issues. During lockdown, a local befriending service would have known that 80 year old Ken was probably using his food parcel to feed his dog rather than himself and so arranged for him to have a pet food delivery.

At a time when there are many existing and emerging communities made vulnerable by Coronavirus, our grassroots community groups and charities are best placed to ensure that they are quickly identified and effectively supported.



// Foundation Derbyshire helps us draw up strong applications and encourages us to think divergently. They are friendly, boost our self-esteem and are well aware of just how difficult and exhausting (but, of course, rewarding) it is to run a service for people with multiple and complex needs. //



// We urgently need a new flowering of the entrepreneurial, communitarian spirit which powered the Victorians to build the economic and social infrastructure of their day. A big part of this is the role of private philanthropy. Already considerable philanthropy represents an enormous potential source of support for communities. //

*Levelling up our communities: proposals for a new social covenant
A report for government by Danny Kruger MP, September 2020*

Putting Generosity to Work

As we look to a future post pandemic, with historical levels of public debt and ever-increasing demands on the public purse, the role that private philanthropy and local giving has to play cannot be over-estimated. However, an incredible amount of vital, life changing work is undertaken in our local communities by smaller, grassroots groups and charities that are hidden from view. For people that want to support national issues closer to home, it can therefore be difficult to know where to start.

And this is where Foundation Derbyshire comes in to play. We provide a link, inviting applications for funding and then assessing the probity, financial viability and need for these groups, before bringing

them to the attention of donors who have the means to support them but might not otherwise have the confidence to fund them or know that they even exist.

We help our donors to give intelligently and strategically - connecting their interests and passions to relevant activity in the county. We use our own giving, philanthropy and funding experience to understand what matters to, and inspires, our donors, before helping them to put their generosity to work in their local communities.

Our reach to a huge range of causes across Derbyshire is unrivalled, having distributed over **£17.5m** on behalf of our donors and funders to well over **5,000** groups and charities over the past twenty five years.

If you've been inspired, please contact Rachael Grime, our Chief Executive, to find out more about our work.

✉ **rachael@foundationderbyshire.org**
🌐 **foundationderbyshire.org**
☎ **[01773 525860](tel:01773525860)**
🐦 **[@Foundation_dbs](https://twitter.com/Foundation_dbs)**
f **[@FoundationDerbyshire](https://www.facebook.com/FoundationDerbyshire)**



Foundation
Derbyshire

Unit 2, Heritage Business Centre,
Derby Road, Belper DE56 1SW

01773 525860

www.foundationderbyshire.org

hello@foundationderbyshire.org

