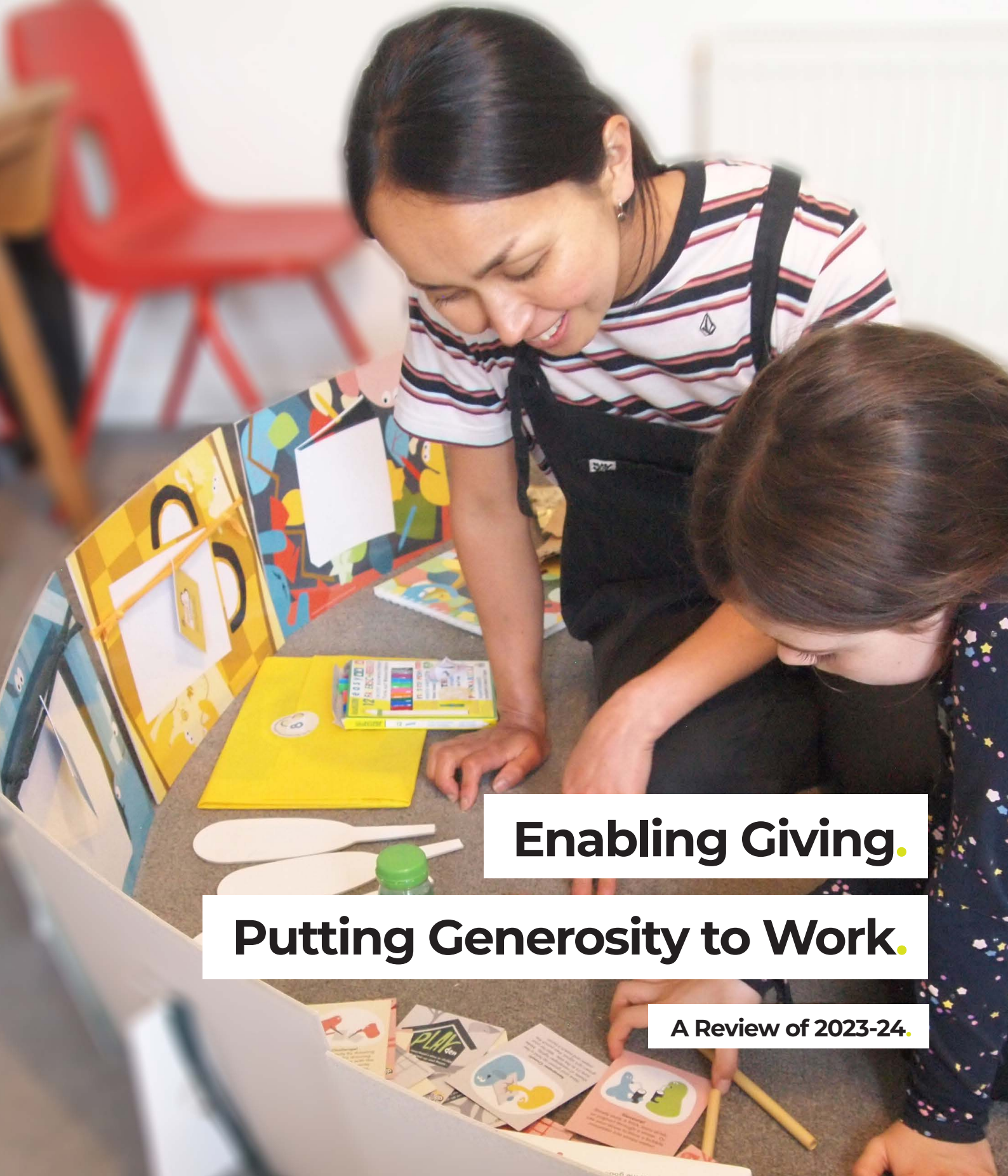




Foundation
Derbyshire



Enabling Giving.

Putting Generosity to Work.

A Review of 2023-24.



// The continued support of our donors and funders left us better placed to meet increasing need, and enabled us to almost double our grantmaking to £933k. //



2023/24 was a year in which Foundation Derbyshire was able to consolidate its position as both the county's largest independent distributor of grant funding for our voluntary and community sector and also a trusted philanthropic enabler for those that want to make a difference in our county.

Against a backdrop of ongoing social and economic uncertainty for us all, the importance of a strong and thriving community foundation for Derby and Derbyshire has never been more evident.

Applications received and grants awarded during the year were at their highest level since the pandemic, with groups and organisations working to tackle poverty receiving 53% (£499k) of funding. Although this is in large part due to the £344k of grants that we were able to award from Derbyshire County Council's Food Access Programme, we also saw an increase in applications from clothing banks, warm spaces projects and advice and welfare organisations.

Thankfully, the continued support of our donors and funders left us better placed to meet this increasing need and enabled us to almost double our grantmaking during the year to £933k.

However, with more groups turning to the Foundation for help, competition levels will undoubtedly rise and we are therefore envisaging more groups receiving partial awards and rejection rates potentially increasing. This in turn makes the role

of our dedicated grant panel members even more crucial and we thank them for giving so freely of their time, insight and understanding of our local community and voluntary sector, to ensure that our grantmaking decisions and policies continue to be informed and apposite.

Last year we reported that a portfolio of over £1 million of educational trusts had successfully been transferred to the Foundation by Derbyshire County Council. During the year, these trusts, which have been used to establish named funds within the Foundation, began providing grants to support educational opportunities for young people and to enable them to develop talents in the arts, sports, or science.

Over the following pages, we're focusing on the power of local and celebrating the donors and grassroots groups and charities that, together, are making Derbyshire a better place for us all. We're also sharing an exclusive preview of the collection that has been created by our ninth Jonathan Vickers Fine Art Award winner, Max Gimson, and some exciting news about the upcoming exhibitions of his work in Derby and London.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2023-24.



£9,663,000

held in endowed funds

326 An icon of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, holding a heart shape between them.

grants awarded in 2023 - 2024,
totalling

£933,000

7,500 = £19,425,000

grants distributed over the past 28 years

awarded over the past 28 years



A Sense Of Place: The Power Of Local.

The concept of place-based giving is as old as philanthropy itself, with a long history of donors and funders supporting the area where they live, have generated their wealth, or feel a sense of connection.



There is now a renewed focus on place-based philanthropy as a more strategic and sustainable way of addressing inequalities in our society; a realisation that tangible and lasting change can be effected when philanthropic resource and the wisdom of local communities are brought together.

The unique role that community foundations already play is therefore as vital as ever, providing the bridge between those with the resources to help and those in need of support.

Local Delivery

Recent events have put the importance of a thriving local voluntary and community sector centre stage. Often referred to as the “glue” that binds communities together, grassroots groups are typically a direct response, by one or more people, to a need within their local area.

It may be parents that have identified a lack of activities for young people in their rural village, a carer struggling to support a loved one with a dementia diagnosis, a teacher concerned about increasing numbers of students in food poverty, a group of friends that want to share the mental health and well-being benefits of a particular sport or activity with others, or a neighbour who wants to reduce the chronic loneliness of the older residents in her street.

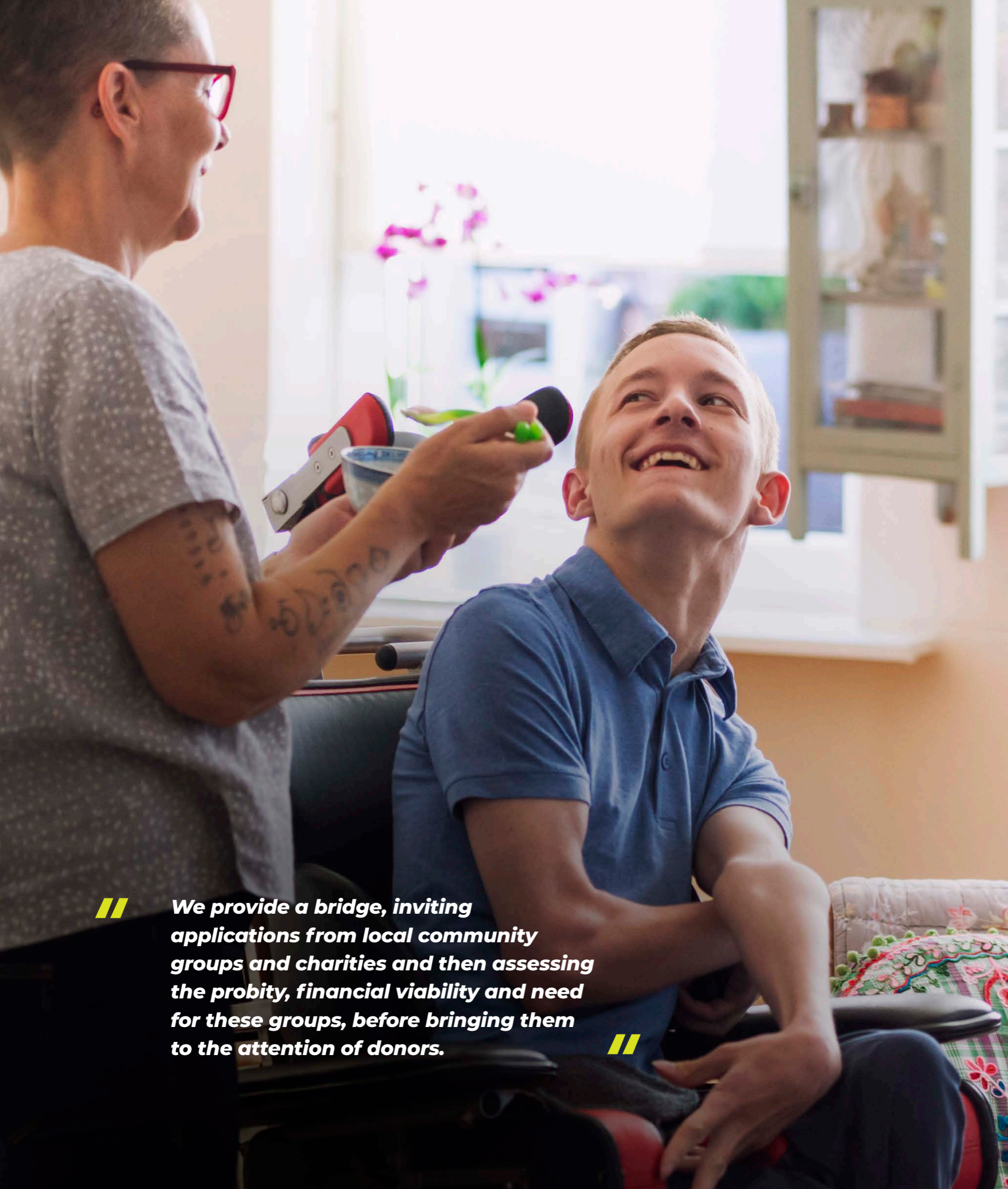
The reasons why small local voluntary groups come into being are as diverse as the issues they address and the individuals they support but they are all created from, embedded in, informed by and responsive to the communities that they serve. And this brings a holistic approach and an insight, agility, and effectiveness that larger charities and the private and public sector struggle to deliver.

All of this has not gone unnoticed, with recent research* revealing that 50% of UK adults agree that if a family member or neighbour needed help, they would trust a small, local charity to support them more than other organisations such as national charities or government.

Over the past 28 years, Foundation Derbyshire has been privileged to work with thousands of local groups, created by and for the communities that they support and working relentlessly to make Derbyshire a better place to live for us all.

* Source: The Centre for Social Justice Foundation: Underfunded and Overlooked, May 2024





// We provide a bridge, inviting applications from local community groups and charities and then assessing the probity, financial viability and need for these groups, before bringing them to the attention of donors.



Local Bridging

As valued as our local voluntary sector clearly is, many small groups are in a state of financial crisis, as they struggle to fund the ongoing increase in demand for their services, without a corresponding increase in income.

Part of this problem is the wider funding landscape, with 85 per cent of all charitable income in England and Wales going to just 4 per cent of registered charities**, a disparity exacerbated by the fact that so many grassroots organisations operate under the radar and hidden from view.

Impactful and crucial as local and hyper local organisations are, they operate in a world where larger charities have the resources to shout much louder for donations and public sector funding. Inevitably, many small grassroots groups, working tirelessly to deliver their frontline services, do not have the time or resources to shout at all; a fact borne out by the fact that only 41% of people in the UK could name at least one small charity when asked***.

But there is good news; with 45% of UK adults wanting to discover and support more charities that are local to them****, the tide may well be turning.

But for those people that want to keep their giving local, it can be difficult to know where to start; how to find the groups that are working in their communities and then to ensure their giving will reach those that need it most.

And this is where Foundation Derbyshire and its sister community foundations across the UK play a vital role in facilitating local philanthropy. We provide a bridge, inviting applications from local community groups and charities 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 even know that they exist.

Because Foundation Derbyshire manages over eighty individual funds on behalf of our donors, each with its own charitable criteria and objectives, we are able to fund a wide range of issues and activities, including Physical and Mental Health, Sport, Arts and Culture, Young People, Rural Issues, Community Cohesion, Education and the Environment.

This means that resource poor groups don't have to try and pre-empt what any particular donor would like to fund and try and make their project or activity "fit". Our one stop application form enables them to tell us what they do, how well they do it and how much money they need to do more. Our role is then to match each application to the most appropriate Fund, in order to give groups the very best chance of being awarded the money they need.

** & **** Source: The Centre for Social Justice Foundation: Underfunded and Overlooked, May 2024

*** Source: Charities Aid Foundation, June 2019

Local Philanthropy

By helping our donors and funders to give locally - connecting their interests and passions to relevant activity in their area – we enable them to see the difference that they are making on their own doorsteps.

Many donors have very clear charitable objectives and giving through their local community foundation enables them to deliver these objectives close to home. For many others, particularly those at the beginning of their philanthropic journey, focusing on a local area, rather than a particular issue or theme, gives them the flexibility to consider and support a wide range of groups and activities and also to respond to new needs as and when they emerge.

In many instances, a grant award will be pivotal for an organisation; the confidence boost that comes from a first successful funding application, the support that enables the delivery of vital services to continue and expand, or the investment needed to launch a new project or build the capacity of the organisation. Realising that just a few hundred pounds can be truly catalytic for a small grassroots organisation can be a profound and inspiring experience for a donor. And seeing that impact in the communities that matter to them can be very powerful and rewarding.

All of Foundation Derbyshire's awarded groups and projects provide feedback on the difference that their grant has made. By sharing this feedback with donors and also arranging "Seeing is Believing" visits to funded groups, we hope to make our donors feel engaged, informed and connected to the local community activity that they are making possible.



Did You Know?

Foundation Derbyshire is Derbyshire's **community foundation**.

1

Established **28 years ago** to be a sustainable and trusted resource for both supporters and beneficiaries of local causes, Foundation Derbyshire has become the leading independent distributor of grant funding for the county's grassroots charities and community groups.

2

Experienced in managing donated funds, we provide individuals, businesses and organisations with the **philanthropic advice** and mechanisms they need to keep their charitable giving local.

3

We are **independent** and we are **unique**, but we are nothing new. In fact, we are part of a global philanthropic movement that's now more than **a hundred years old** and operates in over 1,800 communities worldwide. In the UK, we are one of **47 quality accredited community foundations** and a member of UKCF, our membership organisation that helps us to share best practice, promotes the capabilities of our network and supports us in leveraging in national and regional funding for our local communities.

4

With on the ground presence in every part of the country, our **local knowledge** and **national coverage** makes community foundations valuable partners for national agencies and government departments that want to use our grantmaking expertise to get their funding to the **people that need it most**. Over recent years, we've worked with our fellow foundations to deliver programmes for a wide range of partners including the **Office for Civil Society, Sports Relief, Comic Relief, DCMS** and **the Arts Council**. Closer to home we work with our sister foundations across the East Midlands to deliver grantmaking programmes on behalf of regional funders.

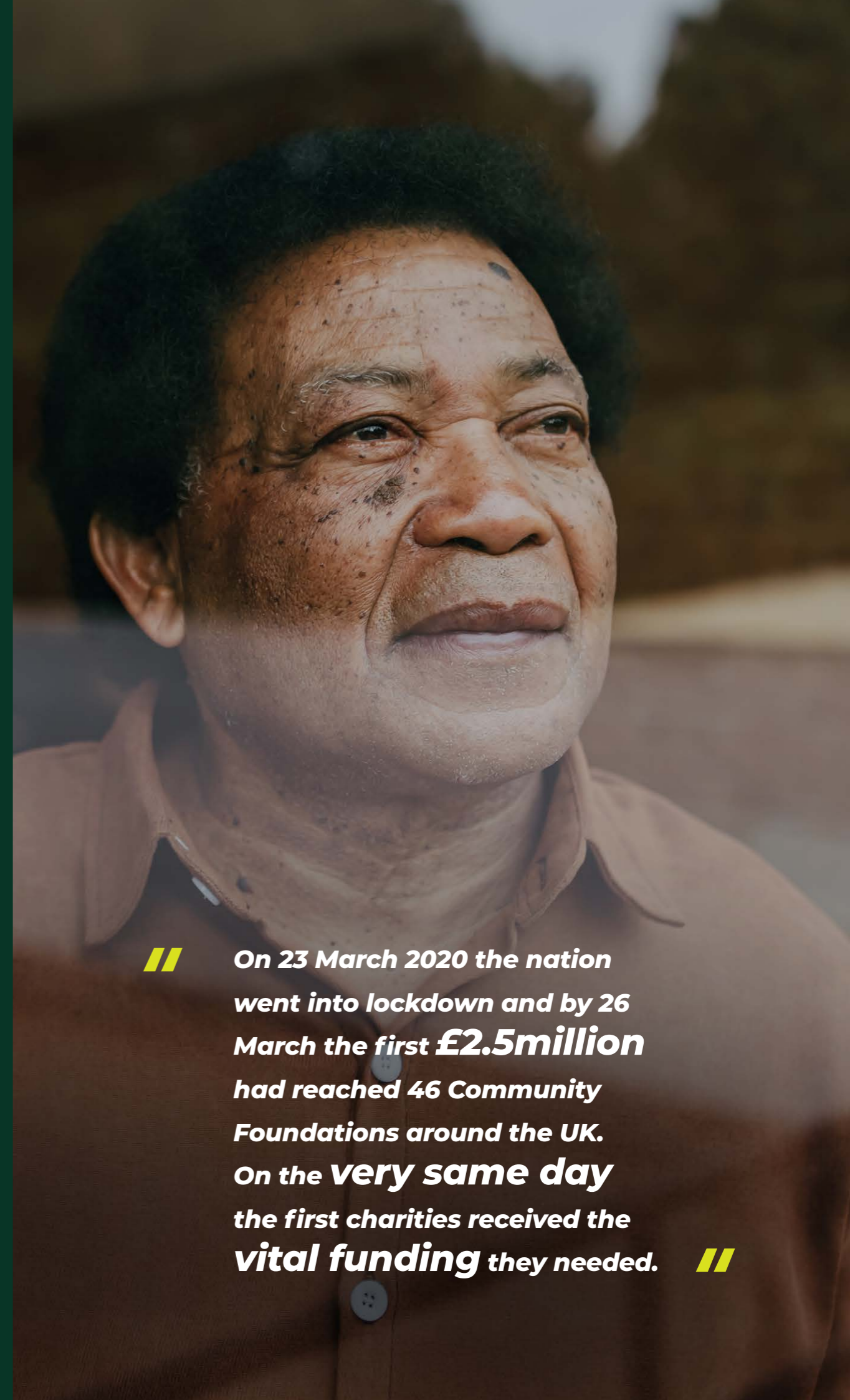
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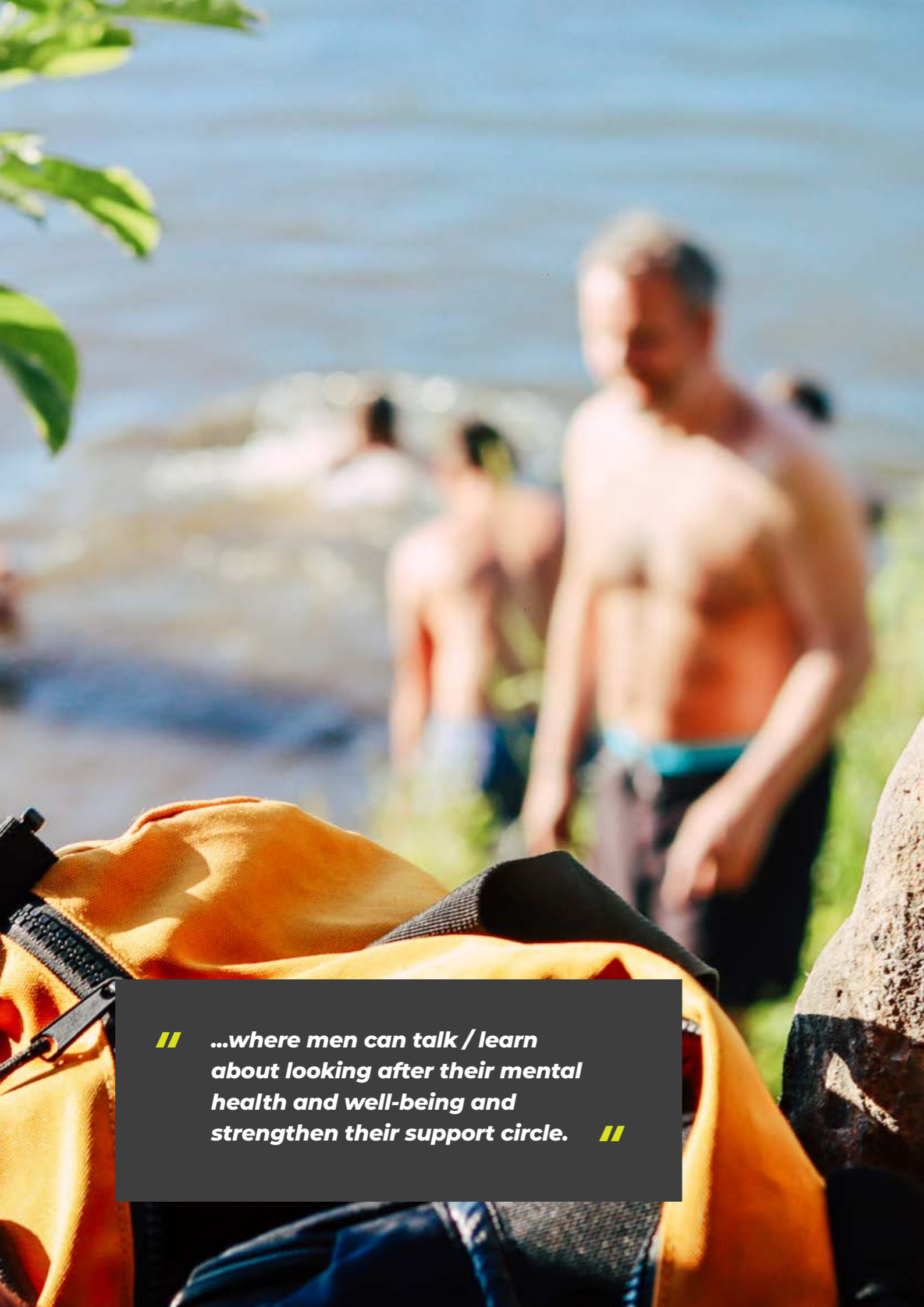
As a network, community foundations partnered with the **National Emergencies Trust** to deliver around **£70million** of NET funding to over **13,000 local organisations**, working quickly and effectively to help address the ever-changing impact of the pandemic and support those most in need. Within the first 6 months of the Covid pandemic, Foundation Derbyshire had distributed **£1.2 million** of this emergency frontline response funding across the county and city.

//

On 23 March 2020 the nation went into lockdown and by 26 March the first £2.5million had reached 46 Community Foundations around the UK. On the very same day the first charities received the vital funding they needed.

//





Bluetonic.

In February 2024, the 1% Matters (Derbyshire) fund awarded £1,444 to Bluetonic, to cover the costs of an accountant and accountancy software. Bluetonic is a small charity that works to improve people’s quality of life by creating experiences for them in, on, or around water (or “blue spaces”).

Bluetonic focus on individuals facing various barriers, including financial hardship, mental and/or physical health or social circumstances. Examples of their projects include:

Swim Safe, which gives local children and their families free water safety sessions. Bluetonic work alongside Swim England and the RLSS to ensure the sessions they deliver have up to date advice and guidance. The charity pays local swimming teachers to deliver sessions that give people:

- Practical experience of how to survive if getting into difficulty in the water
- What to do in an emergency
- Where not to swim
- Where to swim safely and who you should be with

The charity also teaches children and parents about the positive effects of being in, on and around water, encouraging lifestyle changes that benefit long term mental health and general well-being. During the summers of 2022 and 2023, just over 3000 people participated in this free activity.

Under the Bridge is a project that predominantly meets outside the lock keeper’s cottage in Long Eaton on Tuesday evenings. It sees local men coming together in a safe space and focuses on positive activities in, on and around water, including kayaking, wakeboarding, and swimming. It’s also a space where the men can talk / learn about looking after their mental health and well-being and strengthen their support circle. As part of learning new skills, they can also get involved in singing as a choir...under bridges. Around 60 men have attended the sessions since the Spring of 2022.

A new project has also started with the aim of supporting women going through the menopause. **Undercurrents** started in June 2024 and sees women coming together to engage in activity in, on and around water. They meet once every two weeks on Thursday evenings and so far have listened to guest speakers, paddle boarded, wild swum and taken part in art activities by the water. Demand has been high with the latest session fully booked and 17 women attending.

// ...where men can talk / learn about looking after their mental health and well-being and strengthen their support circle. //

Growing Me.

The inspiration for Growing Me is a very special boy, adopted from care. Many who have been through the care system have survived an emotionally and physically abusive start to life. Their minds and bodies know the world and the people in it to be dangerous and not to be trusted.

In order to grow into happy, healthy people, able to learn and form relationships, the world needs to feel safer, adults need to feel trustworthy, and children need to know that they are not to blame for the trauma they have suffered.

Growing Me was founded by an adoptive mum, Nicky. It has taken time and a lot of learning, but play, creativity and unconditional positive regard have helped her family thrive. And while things are not always easy, Nicky is passionate about spreading sunshine and hope into the lives of care-experienced families. Nicky wanted to use her skills as an illustrator, along with all that she has learned, to produce a unique and effective system to help all children who have suffered early life trauma feel safe and secure.

And so, Growing Me was born; a therapeutic digital web app and physical toolkit to help all children who have suffered early life trauma feel safe and secure. It contains a 10-step journey that guides a child and their trusted grown-up

through playful games, animations, and creative activities that strengthen a child's attachment with their caregiver, and builds confidence to talk about thoughts, feelings and behaviour. Growing Me creates therapeutic space within family life where children and grown-ups learn vital, but often overlooked, aspects of well-being.

Foundation Derbyshire awarded £2,500 to fund a range of office and software costs to support the organisation's growth, as it launched its main product in 2024.

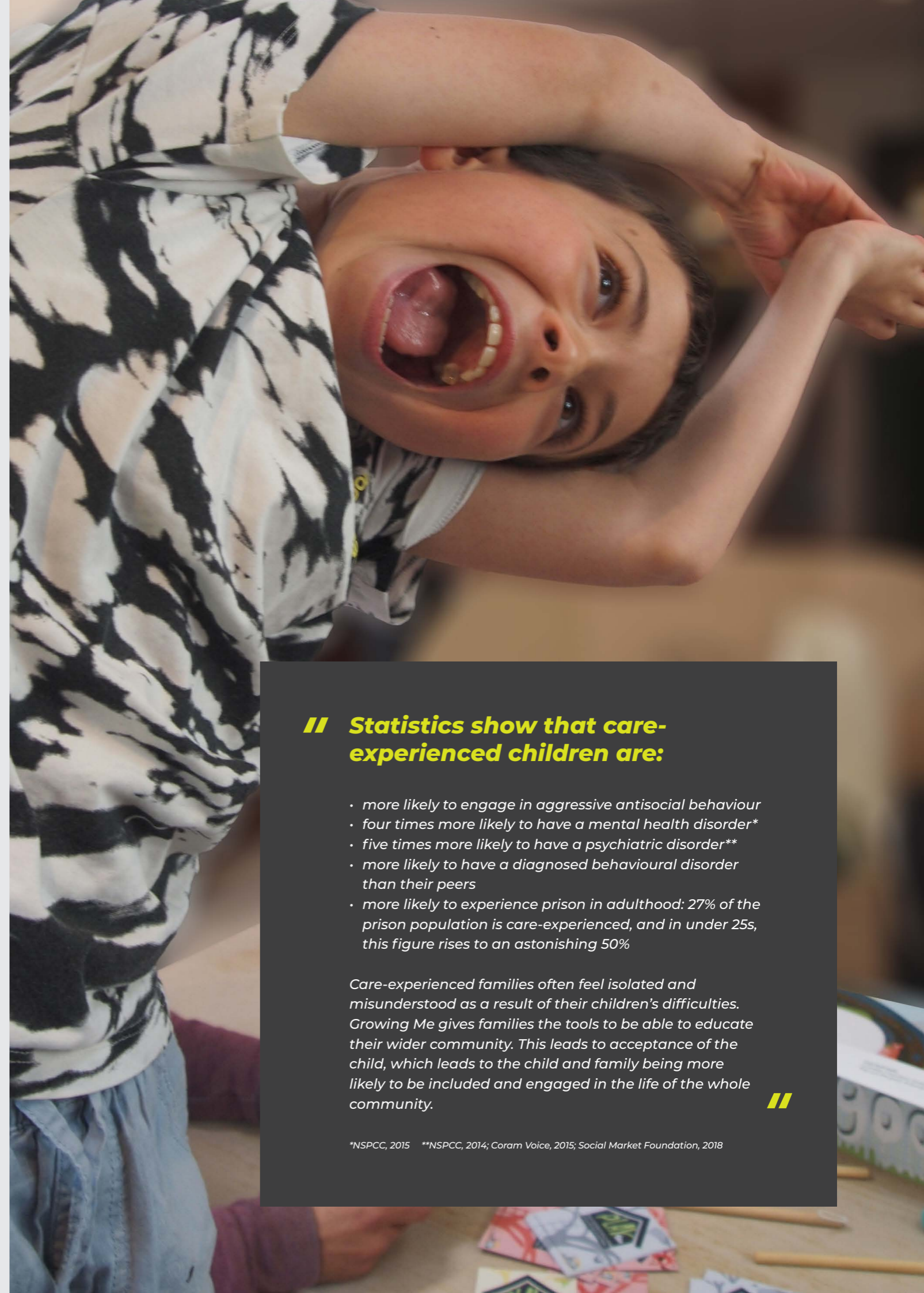
Although Growing Me had been successful in attracting investment in the development of the tool kit and app (which has been seen as an innovative project to get behind) they had found it difficult to find funders willing to cover the back-office functions and core costs that will ultimately make implementation effective and ensure the tool kit gets into the hands of those that need it most.

// Statistics show that care-experienced children are:

- more likely to engage in aggressive antisocial behaviour
- four times more likely to have a mental health disorder*
- five times more likely to have a psychiatric disorder**
- more likely to have a diagnosed behavioural disorder than their peers
- more likely to experience prison in adulthood: 27% of the prison population is care-experienced, and in under 25s, this figure rises to an astonishing 50%

Care-experienced families often feel isolated and misunderstood as a result of their children's difficulties. Growing Me gives families the tools to be able to educate their wider community. This leads to acceptance of the child, which leads to the child and family being more likely to be included and engaged in the life of the whole community. //

*NSPCC, 2015 **NSPCC, 2014; Coram Voice, 2015; Social Market Foundation, 2018





The Starlight Club.

At the end of 2023, the Hall Family Fund and Bakewell Fund awarded £2,000 to the Starlight Club to fund running costs. The idea for the club came from a local parent who was frustrated by the lack of appropriate social activities for her son who is in his 20's and has learning difficulties.

He wanted to go out and enjoy a night out like other people his age do but, as is so often the case, found it difficult to find appropriate groups and activities. This problem was exacerbated by living in a rural village, where buses stop at 6pm, resulting in opportunities for him to gain independence and socialise in a safe and appropriate environment being practically non-existent.

And so, a group of people came together in their local community to establish the Starlight Club, to promote new and existing friendships, provide social opportunities, reduce social

disadvantage and isolation and promote equality, inclusion and, where possible, independence for young adults with additional needs.

Starlight Club provides a safe and welcoming space for adults 18+ with a range of learning difficulties and additional needs to socialise together regularly. A range of supervised activities is provided, such as a disco, pool table/air hockey and table games such as cards and dominoes, as well as a bar and burger van. There is also a chill-out area with sensory equipment for those who require a quieter, more sensory environment.

Starlight Club Case Study

Daniel has an active mind but struggled to find appropriate groups he could attend without his Mum. As he can't get out of the village in an evening because there aren't any buses, every time he wants to do something he has to rely on his mum to take him there and support him. He came to the trial night and said, "I went [to the Starlight Club] for a disco night with my friend Sam. We had a game of snooker. It was very friendly and I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed the burger and chips and would go again." Daniel's friend, Sam, said "It was my first time going and I really enjoyed it. The people were friendly, I made some new friends. I enjoyed the disco, I had a few drinks at the bar and played a bit of pool and I won a raffle prize. I'm looking forward to the next one."

When one member left, he said to his mum, "I loved it Mum, it was amazing. Can I go again and tell my friends?" One parent said it was the first time in as long as she could remember that she and her husband have been able to go out as a couple. Another parent sent a heartfelt message after her daughter attended the social night, "I wanted to acknowledge the incredible impact you are having... your dedication and commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment... is an inspiration to us all."

The Starlight Club continues to go from strength to strength. It now has over 20 members, many of whom have become good friends and see each other outside the club.

// It is great to see our members walking around the village, going to events and inviting each other to their own family gatherings. Another thing that volunteers have noticed is how comfortable the members now are with each other. There are a growing number of interactions - those who only danced with a particular person are now joining in with others and those who didn't chat are now engaging wonderfully with our volunteers. //

A man with dark, curly hair and a beard, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and dark trousers, stands with his arms crossed in an art gallery. He is positioned between two large, vibrant abstract paintings. The painting on the left features bold, expressive brushstrokes in shades of red, yellow, blue, and green, with a prominent yellow circle. The painting on the right depicts several blue and yellow birds perched on a branch. The background is a plain white wall.

THE MISSING ACT.

As the Jonathan Vickers Fine Art Award celebrates its 25th year, it does so as one of the largest art prizes in the UK and a shining example of just how creative Foundation Derbyshire can be when helping donors to deliver their philanthropic objectives.

The Award is a commemoration of Jonathan Vickers' lifelong love of fine and decorative art. In October 2023, we welcomed our latest artist, Royal College of Art graduate, Max Gimson, to begin his residency here in Derbyshire.

Max Gimson is the ninth emerging artist to have taken on the Vickers' mantle, creating a beautiful collection in response to the cultural heritage of our county.

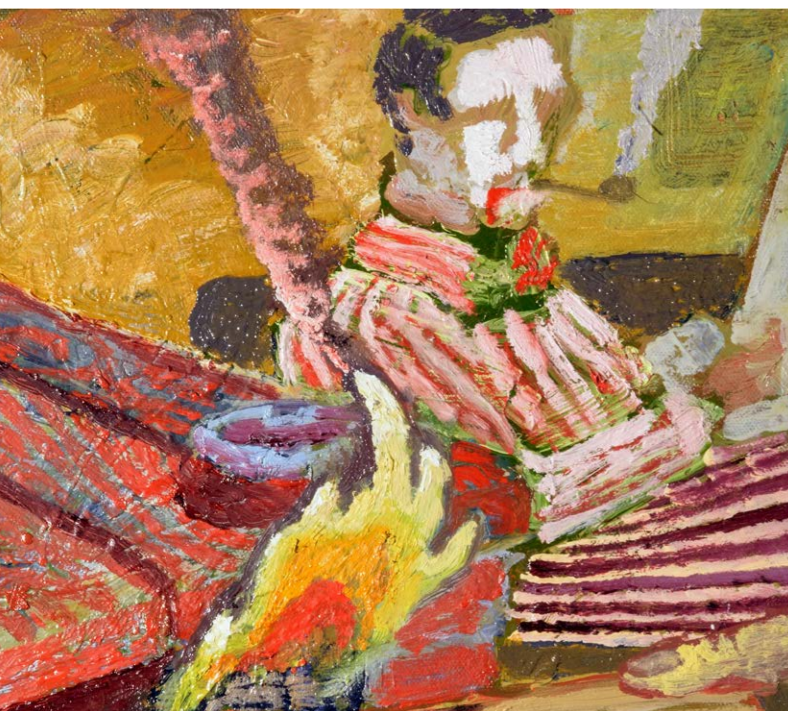
Max's unlikely muse has been Derby Hippodrome, a large Grade II listed variety theatre that, from 1914 until 1959, showcased performances from international stars such as Gracie Fields, George Formby, Morecambe and

Wise, Bela Lugosi, Tommy Cooper and Shirley Bassey but now stands partially demolished and derelict.

Inspired by the programmes, stills and posters from the Hippodrome's golden age, Max has created a body of work that, like the theatrical world it reflects, is a spectacle; a riot of colour and caricature that entertains, uplifts, intrigues, challenges and, at times, disturbs.

The Award was created to be more than just an art prize, so education and community outreach have also been integral parts of Max's residency. In addition to sharing his insight as a practising artist with undergraduates at the University of Derby, he has worked closely with Foundation Derbyshire and Derby Museums on an audio description project, to increase the accessibility of his upcoming exhibition.

Max's exhibition opens at Derby Museum and Art Gallery on 13th Dec until 14th Feb, before moving to Mall Galleries, London from 10th to 16th March 2025. We are extremely grateful to the members of our Award Committee and our Partners, Derby Museums, the University of Derby, Rolls-Royce plc and Mall Galleries for their ongoing support of the Award. 🌱





10% MATTERS

// Imagine how powerful it could be if we could harness 1% of the turnover or profits or dividends directors pay themselves and bring it all together to help local communities. //



In 2018, David Ryley established the 1% Matters™ Derbyshire Fund with Foundation Derbyshire, supporting local projects who are helping young people, the elderly, those with Alzheimer's or Dementia, vulnerable people and those suffering mental health issues.

However, David's story began three years earlier when, as a successful businessman in Nottingham, he realised that he could afford to live on 99% of his earnings and wanted his 1% to support local issues.

Working with Nottinghamshire Community Foundation, he used 1% of his profits to establish the 1% Matters Fund™ in Nottinghamshire. A second business leader quickly saw the potential and was the first to offer his support.

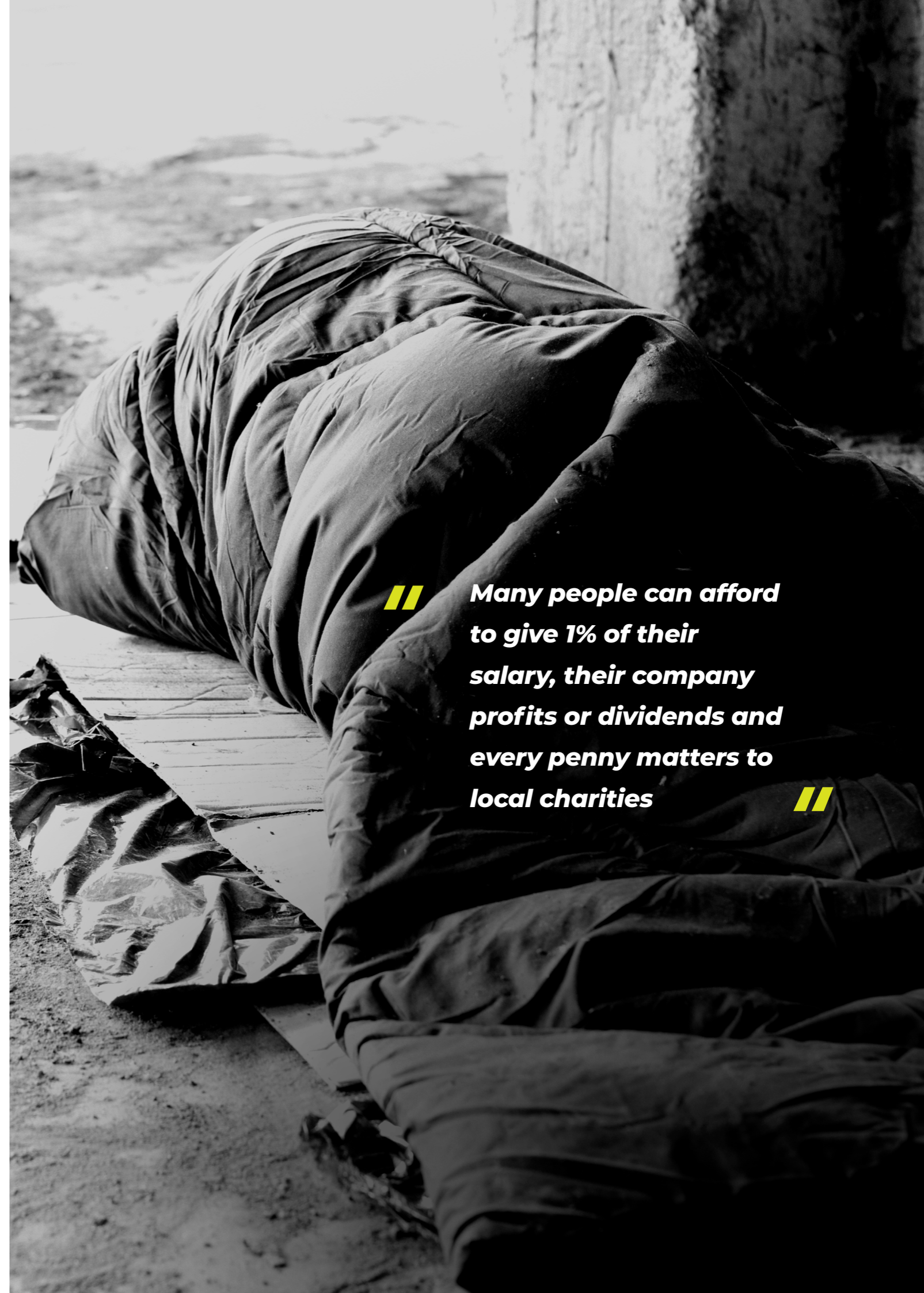
"Many people can afford to give 1% of their salary, their company profits or dividends and every penny matters to local charities. £500 can go a long way for a small local project providing essential support in our communities".

Whilst we know many people give generously to charity, many would like to give to more local projects, if they knew which ones to give to and if they knew the groups are carefully checked and the spend monitored."

And this is where Foundation Derbyshire comes in. Our expert and robust grants assessment service ensures monies are awarded to projects that are viable and where there is a genuine local need. Our end of grant monitoring enables us to check financial spend and feed back to donors on the impact that their generosity has had in their local communities.

So far, 1% Matters™ Derbyshire has distributed more than £17,000 of grants, supporting a wide range of groups and projects across Derbyshire and Derby City.

"I'm really passionate about the local community and doing all I can to give back and believe that as business leaders we have a duty to give back where we can. This is why I made the decision to launch the 1% Matters Fund, funded through donations of 1% of profits of business leaders across the region".



// Many people can afford to give 1% of their salary, their company profits or dividends and every penny matters to local charities //



As always, we thank our many donors, supporters and volunteers for their generosity of money, time and compassion.

We also thank the hundreds of people in our local community groups and projects who work relentlessly to make life better for others.

It is a privilege to see your alchemy at work in our communities and the extraordinary things that, together, you achieve for the people of Derbyshire.

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

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Image credits: Front cover and page 18, *Growing Me*; page 12 and 15, *Bluetonic*; page 19, *The Starlight Club*; pages 23 - 24 (from left to right *Bela Lugosi Between Performances*, *Marie Lloyd Between Dandelions*, *Romance*, *The Backdrop of Genteel War*) all by *Max Gimson*. Jonathan Vickers Fine Art Award Collection, Foundation Derbyshire. © Max Gimson.

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