



Foundation
Derbyshire

Enabling Giving.

Putting Generosity to Work.

A Review of 2024/25

2024/25

was a strong and steady year for Foundation Derbyshire's grantmaking and endowment building, at a time when the need for a sustainable, responsive and supportive funder for our county has never been greater.

// Our grantmaking exceeded £925,000 again this year. //

Global volatilities and uncertainties continued to take their pervasive toll in our city, towns and villages, resulting in an ongoing "triple threat" of falling income, rising costs and increased demand, to a voluntary and community sector already at breaking point and still reeling from the impact of the pandemic. In these challenging times, the role that Foundation Derbyshire plays continued to be as crucial as ever.


Thankfully, and due in large part to £368,000 of funding from Derbyshire County Council for Food Banks and Food Access projects, our grantmaking exceeded £925,000 again this year.

Grant application levels continued to break records and the increased demand for the funding we have available resulted in the number of partial grants awarded rising by 15%, to just over a third of total grants made during 2024/25. Although not ideal, providing partial awards, where appropriate, gives donors the flexibility and capacity to "stretch" their philanthropy and to reach as many beneficiaries as possible. The increase in the number of partial grants awarded has also enabled us to keep our success rate high at 95% (up from 93% in 2023/24). However, with more groups than ever turning to the Foundation for help, competition levels will continue to rise and we therefore anticipate more groups receiving partial awards and/or rejection rates increasing, unless and until grantmaking funds and programmes are secured.

All of this makes the role of our dedicated team of voluntary grant panel members even more difficult and crucial and we thank them, as always, 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.

It also puts the importance of local giving centre stage once again and reminds us of the need to be resolute in our mission to grow philanthropy in Derbyshire, by enabling anyone to be a philanthropist; in life, with a legacy, by establishing a named fund or through collective giving. Over the following pages, we will be reflecting on the difference that every donation, no matter how big or small, is helping us to make.

Raising the profile of Foundation Derbyshire, as an efficient and effective way for donors to find and fund grassroots groups and projects in their local communities, continued throughout the year. In November, we welcomed guests to an evening "in conversation" with Emma Bridgewater, the renowned pottery designer, at Cavendish Hall in Edensor. The event provided us with an opportunity to update and thank our friends and donors, whilst showcasing our work to new and potential supporters.





Enabling Anyone to be a Philanthropist

The power of collective & cumulative giving



For many, the word “philanthropy” is synonymous with names such as Rowntree, Carnegie and, more recently, Gates. As a result, being philanthropic is often mistakenly perceived as being the preserve of ultra-high net worth individuals and the wealthy.

But over the past thirty years, Foundation Derbyshire’s mission has been to enable anyone to be a philanthropist, by providing a mechanism for any and every donation, no matter how big or how small, to make an impact in our local communities. We are a vehicle for “joined up philanthropy”, pooling donations to ensure that every donor can give strategically and that their collective generosity will go further, last longer and have a greater impact.

We understand that every donor’s capacity and motivation for giving is unique to them and will often evolve as they are influenced and impacted by changes in circumstance or life experiences. For this reason, we offer a variety of ways to give through Foundation Derbyshire, supporting our donors every step of the way on their philanthropic journey.

Investing for the long term

At the heart of Foundation Derbyshire is our multi-purpose endowment, which we are building to provide an independent and sustainable source of funding for the county now and also for generations to come. Endowment gifts are invested for the long-term, under professional management, with the aim of long-term

growth of capital and income. Grants are made from the income earned year by year. Endowment funds enable us to make grants today and also increase our capacity to meet the community’s future needs. Over time, the amount distributed will outstrip your original gift, creating a lasting legacy for your community.

Donors that like the idea of contributing to this collective legacy for our county can donate to our General Endowment Fund, a vital part of our portfolio of over eighty named endowed funds, that is able to fund a wide range of issues and themes across the entire county and city. Our General Endowment Fund can accept as much or as little as donors are able to give. It is therefore a popular fund for people that want to give a few pounds on a monthly basis or perhaps donate the proceeds from a fundraising event and are happy knowing that their generosity will benefit a broad array of community groups and charities across Derbyshire.

Our other named endowment funds range in size from a few thousand pounds to several million. Some donors have established a fund with a lump sum, whereas others have chosen to build them

“Of course, philanthropy alone cannot make a city or a community, or reverse a social ill. But it can act as a spark that re-ignites hope and confidence and gives a community the confidence to revive itself, and to unleash its potential to adapt to changing economic, political and social circumstances.”

Charity Commission CEO David Holdsworth discusses the power of philanthropy at The Beacon Philanthropy and Impact Forum 2025





up with much smaller amounts but over many years; this can be particularly helpful for donors that want to use their named fund as part of their tax planning. Gifts can be added to a named fund at any time, as and when a donor's circumstances permit, and we can also accept gifts of shares, land and property.

For people that might want to target a particular issue or geography, your own named fund enables you to decide which projects to support. Donors can choose how much they are involved and can either be briefed about community issues, areas of need and new funding opportunities or let our expert team direct funding to those that need it most.

Right Here, Right Now

Some of our donors like to give on a "flow through" basis, so that their donations are used to make grants in the short-term, usually within a year of receipt. These "flow through" donations increase our capacity to meet current needs and if there is a particular theme or issue donors want to support, we

can direct it to groups and projects that are working in these areas. Again, donors can choose however much they would like to donate on a one-off, annual or even monthly basis. If donors choose to make significant flow through donations on a regular basis then we may suggest they establish a named flow through fund.

The Best of Both Worlds

An increasing number of our donors are choosing to have a "Hybrid" Fund that has both endowment and flow through elements and gives them the "best of both worlds" - i.e. more money for grants in the short-term, while also putting something aside for the future.

No matter how or how much people give through Foundation Derbyshire, all of our donors are welcome to join our "Seeing is Believing" visits to the groups and projects that have been funded and see the impact that their generosity is having in the community – our grant recipients love to meet the people that have supported them and made their work possible.

Become a Friend

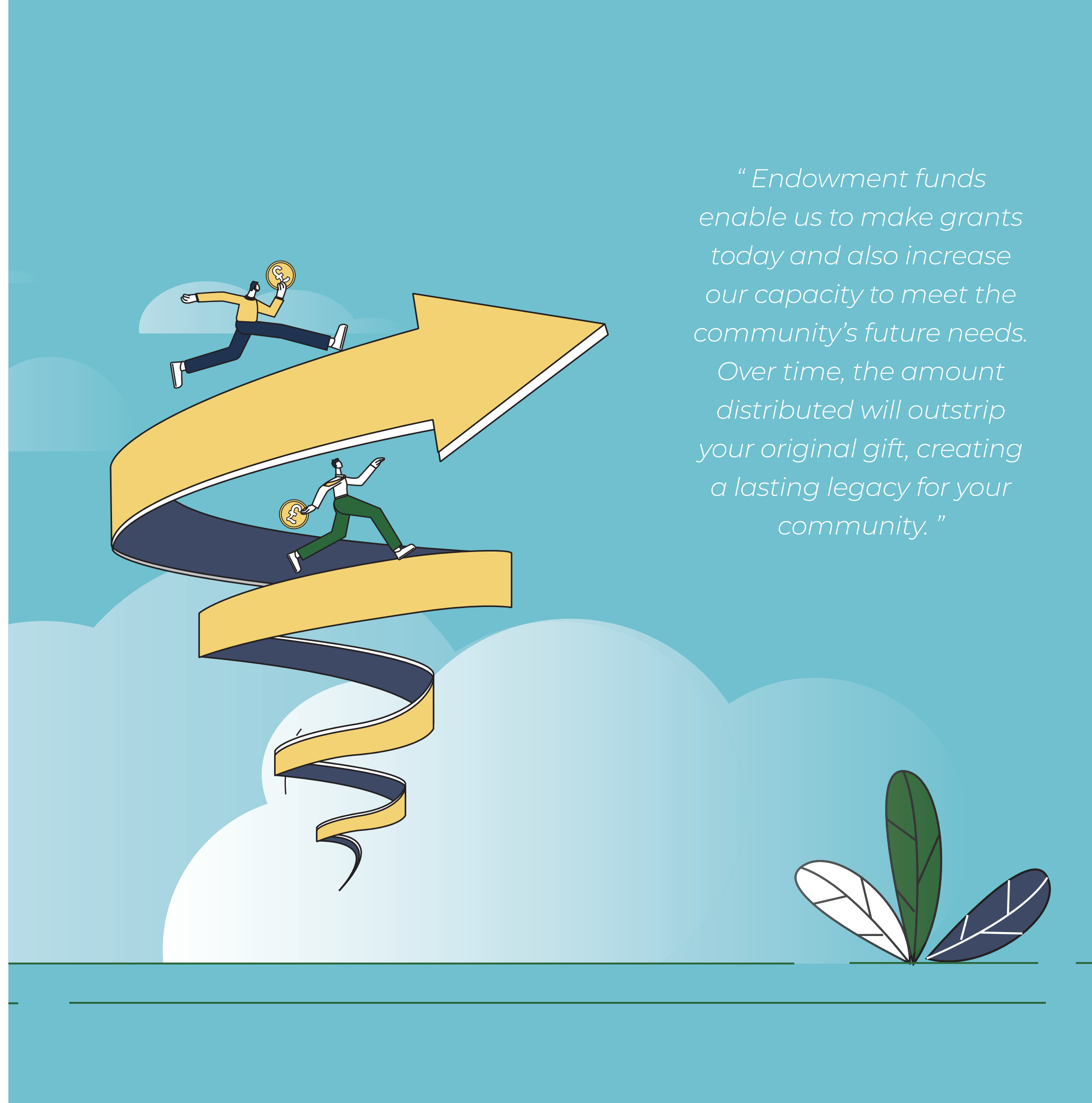
Many donors begin by becoming a Friend of Foundation Derbyshire and donating as much or as little as they can afford on a monthly basis, supporting the Foundation with its running costs and helping us to help the hundreds of local groups and organisations working to make a difference in Derbyshire.

Where there's a Will, there's a way

For many people, their Will is an opportunity to gift far more than they were able to during their lifetime and also enables them to continue their support of the issues and causes that mattered to them in life.

Many of our legacy donors ask for their donation to be used to support the area where they lived or a particular cause they cared about. Others leave it to the Foundation's Trustees to meet the most pressing needs in the community.

Some legacy donors want to support a voluntary group that they were involved with in their lifetime but, because local, smaller groups and organisations are often perceived as being less permanent than larger or national charities, are concerned that it may no longer be in existence or in need of assistance by the time their Will comes into effect. We can help, ensuring a donor's gift will continue to support similar issues and areas, even if a particular organisation no longer exists. Again, every bequest we receive, no matter how large or small, makes a real and lasting difference in our county. With a legacy gift of £10,000 or more, donors can set up a named fund that will associate their name with the local community in perpetuity.



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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2024-25.



£9,500,000

held in endowed funds

260 

grants awarded in 2024 - 2025,
totalling

£927,000

7,800 = £20,350,000

grants distributed over the past 29 years

awarded over the past 29 years

Darley Dale Reading and Discussion Group

Darley Dale Reading and Discussion Group were awarded £1,500 from the Hall Family Fund in January 2025 to support the group's running costs for a year, including room hire, a social trip, printing and resources.

The Reading and Discussion Book Group is intended for people living with early stages of dementia. Carers of people living with dementia are encouraged to attend to benefit from the group activity, have a listening ear, and receive peer support from other members of the group. Experience has shown the most benefit is gained when members attend as a pair.

The group provides a social and informal environment to discuss topics, read extracts from books or from the internet, and have an opportunity to meet new friends. The group provides:

- a cup of coffee or tea in a relaxed dementia friendly environment
- some mental stimulation
- an opportunity to meet other people and help reduce isolation - for both carers and people with dementia
- an opportunity to chat with other members of the group about opportunities and the issues of living with dementia.

Over the course of 2024 they supported 19 members and also delivered sessions to care homes in Derbyshire, with an average of 10 residents attending.



"We now go into a couple of care homes so that group members who have moved can continue to benefit. The care home sessions provide an opportunity for residents to come together for a focused activity, bringing fresh perspectives to the homes and enabling wide ranging discussions, which have helped residents to share experiences, knowledge and points of view and to laugh and to feel uplifted. At one care home meeting a nurse came in at the end and said 'I wanted to come in, there was a lot of chatter, and it sounded like you were having a really good time.'"

Given the target group is people with memory problems, it would be difficult to set a book to read in advance and then discuss. At the end of every meeting the group is asked to choose a subject that they would like to cover next, exploring topics and materials that interest group members and encouraging them to bring their own materials to contribute and share. The volunteers collect a selection of texts which are then read jointly by the volunteers and the group members so that everyone is included. For those with more severe memory problems, the group provides materials for the table, which they can look at with pictures and also have a short piece they can read out with support. The variety seems to work well, with everyone being able to contribute something to the discussion.

In 2024, the subjects covered included: New Year's resolutions and nature, colours and food, holidays and travel, comedy and verse, astronomy and the sky, mountains and hills, ghosts and pre-Christmas preparations and all things Christmassy.

"We have been told by members that the group is inclusive and provides an opportunity for them to be together. One member said that what she enjoyed most was that the group didn't focus on labeling people with dementia".

"We've found that some people with dementia might not always say a lot, but their body language indicates that they are following the session. Sometimes a topic fires someone up who doesn't always contribute, and they have shared lots of past experiences. One group member did not participate much in the reading of materials but always followed what was being said and responded to questions. It was heart-warming to see that the month after they had a minor operation, they were much more confident and able to read more short pieces aloud".

"The group provides a social and informal environment to discuss topics, read extracts from books or from the internet, and have an opportunity to meet new friends."



In 2024 the Darley Dale Reading and Discussion Group worked with Chatsworth House, who provided dementia friendly buggy tours of their gardens during Dementia Action Week in May.

The group linked with three other local organisations supporting people with dementia (Moorland House Care Home, Forget Me Not group in Bakewell, and The Connection Space Community Interest Company). Over 40 people were able to have Chatsworth garden tours.

“One of the people with dementia who can be quiet in the group meetings was able to show her extensive gardening knowledge. Other group members commented what a delight it was, and that they learned a lot from her. A discussion group was held at the end of each tour so that Chatsworth staff could learn from people with experience of living with dementia how they could improve their visits in the future.”

In 2025 Chatsworth invited the group to two further events, and hope that it will become a regular event.





Buxton and High Peak Samaritans


The Buxton and High Peak Samaritans were awarded £2,500 from the Hall Family Fund in January 2025. The grant was used to purchase promotional and educational materials (leaflets and mugs), as part of a new outreach project to raise awareness about the service offered by Samaritans, targeting males who work in construction, the quarry industry and long distance driving.

The Samaritan's outreach project is part of their work to be there for people not only for their moment of crisis, but to prevent the crisis in the first place, with trained volunteers delivering sessions on how to look after your own mental health and emotional wellbeing.

As part of the project, the Samaritans "mug dropped" quarries and construction company canteens, drop ins, roadside cafes and Foodbanks. The intention was not for people to take the mugs home

but for them to be used in communal areas, and parts of everyday work life, reducing the stigma, and encouraging talk about mental health, shifting cultural expectations and perspectives and allowing at risk groups to identify mental health crises amongst their peers.





“Four in five suicides are by men, with suicide the biggest cause of death for men under 35. In 2020, workers in construction were at some of the highest risk of suicide in the country, at 3.7 times higher than the national average.”

“In May this year 3 of our volunteers trained in outreach responded to a request to offer emotional support following a suicide in a small local factory. A traumatic incident, involving workers searching into the night for their colleague who had not returned after lunch. The emotions following such a tragedy are complex, not only grieving but complicated by guilt and unanswered question. The session was informal, our volunteers led talking about the effects of suicide and reassuring it was a safe environment to talk. Many were visibly upset, others uncomfortable but most were able to share their memories of their colleague and discuss mental health and the difficulties of not knowing how people truly feel. A short film was shown which illustrated sometimes it is not always obvious that people are struggling. Literature and contacts for further help were left”.

There are twenty six operational quarries in the Peak District area and approximately 900 direct full time equivalent jobs in the mining and quarrying sector across the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales, as well as a high number of linked companies and construction businesses.

Four in five suicides are by men, with suicide the biggest cause of death for men under 35. In 2020, workers in construction were at some of the highest risk of suicide in the country, at 3.7 times higher than the national average.

Construction work has a variety of pressures from tight contracts to long hours, time away from loved ones and

managing budgets, not to mention the added stresses caused by the pandemic and the rising costs of supplies. Additionally, over half of all UK employees (and notably 57% of Millennials) do not feel comfortable disclosing mental health or psychological conditions. This results in a culture which prevents many workers from seeking support and help when they may need it, putting further stress on their own mental health and wellbeing.

In terms of age, gender and socio-economic status, the group most at risk of suicide are middle-aged men from disadvantaged backgrounds. To understand why middle-aged men from disadvantaged backgrounds are more vulnerable to suicide, Samaritans commissioned five leading social scientists to go beyond the existing body of suicide research and look at the issues facing this group.

They found that a range of factors can play a role in suicide risk for middle-aged men, including:

- Personality traits
- Masculinity
- Challenges of mid-life
- Relationship breakdown
- Emotional illiteracy
- Socio-economic factors

Mid-life can be an important time for support services to make a difference in the lives of these men, but they need to do so in ways that work with the grain of the way men cope.



A tribute to

Michael Hall

Michael, a dear friend, supporter and former Chair and Trustee of Foundation Derbyshire, passed away on 19th September, aged 83 years.

During Michael's twelve years as Chair of Foundation Derbyshire he dedicated his time and unstinting energy to the role, overseeing a £3.5 million growth in the Foundation's endowment, the distribution of over £10 million of grant funding across our City and County and the Foundation's purchase of its own premises in Belper.

In 2006, Michael also established his own family fund within the Foundation. Over the following two decades, he continued to build his fund and used it to introduce the Foundation and the benefits of our philanthropic model to his family, inspiring a younger generation to get involved.

Two generations of the Hall Family have now taken an active role in deciding which groups the fund supports and visiting, speaking to and understanding the communities that they have helped. For Michael, the challenges facing those living in rural areas were of particular concern and so the Hall Family Fund focuses its resources on community groups working in rural areas or groups

addressing rural issues. Another priority for Michael was to keep his giving local. He was the first to acknowledge that Derbyshire had been good to him; it was where he had built his career and raised his family and he wanted to put something back.

The team at Foundation Derbyshire have been privileged to turn Michael's philanthropic ambitions into reality and enable Michael and his family to transform his generosity into a myriad of small grants, each one creating brighter futures and making life that little bit easier. To date, the Hall Family Fund has already distributed 79 grants worth more than £103,000 and will continue to make amazing things happen across our county for generations to come.

Michael was a man who took his civic duty incredibly seriously. A Deputy Lieutenant, Michael was also the mainstay of countless organisations and institutions across the county. His many roles included Pro Vice-Chancellor at

the University of Derby, Chairman of the Business Services Advisory Board to East Midlands Development Agency, Chair of the Derbyshire Strategic Board of Young Enterprise, Foundation Governor of Derby High School and Anthony Gell School, Board member of the Derbyshire Education Business Partnership, Chair of the Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council Audit Committee, member of the Learning and Skills Council National Audit Committee, inaugural President of the Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of Derby Playhouse.

It is, of course, as Chair of Foundation Derbyshire that we remember Michael so dearly and with such gratitude for the legacy that he leaves; under his stewardship, the Foundation more than doubled in size, becoming the strong and sustainable organisation that continues to serve the county, support those in need and make Derbyshire a much better place for us all to live.



A Focus On Our Grantmaking

Of the 260 grants awarded during the year, 32 grants (totalling £472,000) were in excess of £7,000, reflecting the larger grants that have been distributed during the year on behalf of Derbyshire County Council, supporting food banks and food access projects across Derbyshire County.

43% of grants awarded during the year (totalling £394,000) were from our 71 named funds that have been established by generous individuals, families and organisations who want to make a difference and whose grant making criteria reflects their own charitable objectives and the issues and/or areas of Derbyshire that they care about.

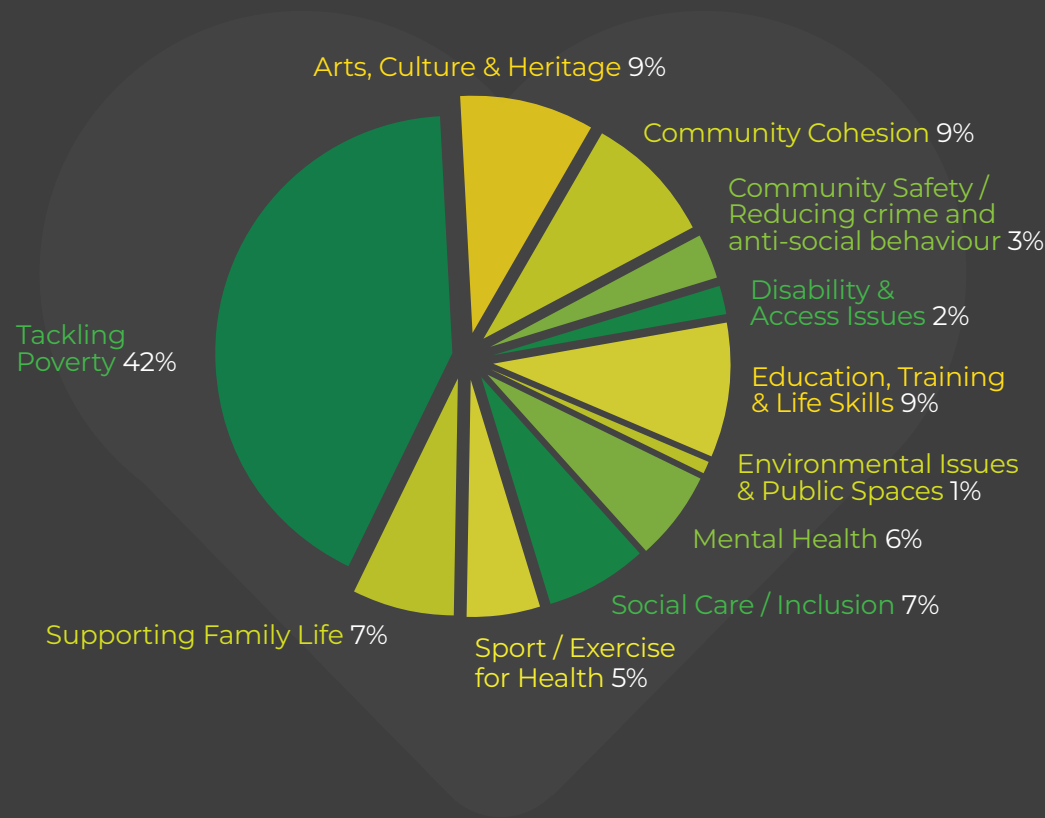
Smaller donations, and gifts from donors that do not want to establish a separate named fund, are held within our General Fund. This Fund has no specific

priorities and therefore has the flexibility to respond to emerging issues and fund activities that might not meet the criteria of our donor directed funds.

As a result, our funds support a wide and diverse range of issues and activities, from supporting carers, survivors of domestic abuse and isolated elderly residents to providing the people of Derbyshire with access to music, sport, advice, childcare, transport, counselling and a host of other services.



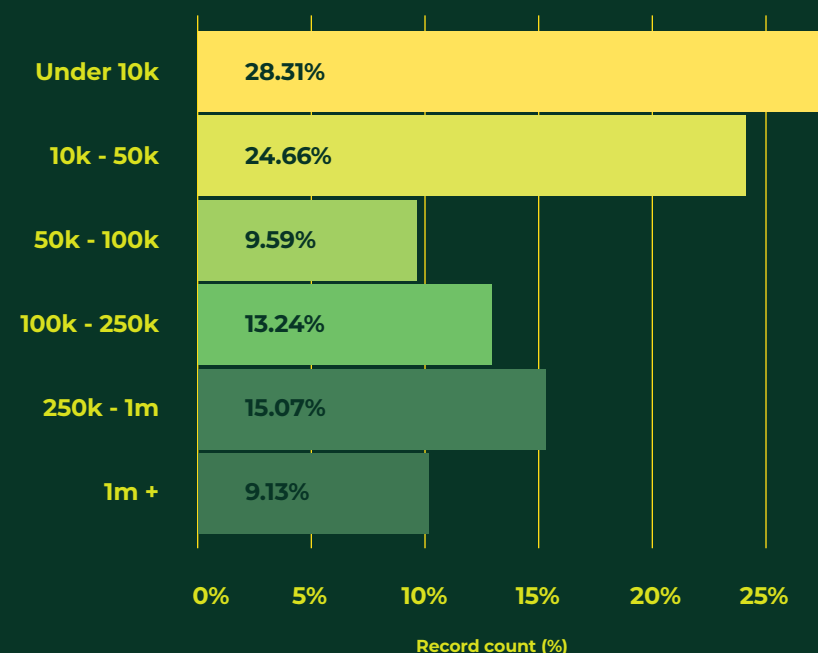
Grants Awarded (By Issue)



The above chart represents grants awarded by the Primary Issue addressed, as identified by the applicant. However, the majority of applications address one or more other issues as well.

// The Foundation prioritises voluntary and community groups of limited means, as this is invariably where our limited resources will have most impact. //

Grants By Income Band



The Importance of Local and the Power of Small

While national charities play a vital role, not least in terms of research, campaigning and lobbying, they often don't and can't reach our local communities, making them only a tiny part of the charitable work that supports our city and county.

Our towns, villages and housing estates are varied and numerous, as are our human needs. Without a secure home, stable income and good health, the challenges and problems that we face also become more numerous and complex.

It is often smaller grassroots organisations, embedded in their community, that are best-placed to understand and respond to the complex needs of an area or individual in a nuanced and holistic way. If you are:

- an isolated older person or have mobility issues
- a young carer or caring for a child with additional needs
- struggling with a dementia diagnosis or living with domestic violence
- working two jobs but still unable to afford food and heating
- living in a village that is not on a bus route,

it will most likely be a small local group that supports you with the debt advice, counselling, dementia support, youth club, playgroup, food bank, refuge, or sports club you need. We are all scaffolded with vital services provided by an estimated 5,000 voluntary and community groups and charities across our county, ranging from tiny grassroots projects to larger local infrastructure organisations.

The Foundation prioritises voluntary and community groups of limited means, as this is invariably where our limited resources will have most impact; over 28% of our grantmaking in 2024/25 went to groups with an annual income of under £10,000 and more than 62% of our grantmaking went to groups with an annual income of under £100,000.





The work of Foundation Derbyshire would not be possible without the generosity of our donors, supporters and volunteers, who give so freely of their money, time and compassion.

Your philanthropy is enabled and made real by the hundreds of people in our local community groups and projects who are working relentlessly to help others. Thank you to you all.

It is a privilege to be a bridge, between those of you with the willingness and wherewithal to help and the many people that so desperately need your support.

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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