

Covid-19  
support  
fund

Supported by the insurance  
and long-term savings industry

From Crisis to Impact:

What the Covid-19 Support Fund Delivered

The Covid-19 Support Fund is supported by members of **The ABI**, **British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA)**, **The London Market Group (LMG)** and the **International Underwriting Association (IUA)**.

*The***ABI**



**AVIVA**



**Allianz**

**LLOYD'S**

**HISCOX**



**Rothesay**



**ageas**



**Phoenix**

**CHUBB**



**AON**

**esure**

**JUST.**



**NFU Mutual**

**TESCO Underwriting**



**canada life**



**Sabre**

**aberndeen Investments**

**THE Ardonagh GROUP**



**unum**



Donations were made to charities across all four nations of the UK. The map below gives an example of where some of the many donations were made.



Five years ago, the insurance and long-term savings industry, the ABI Board and we at the association were struck by the huge impact of the pandemic on every aspect of people's lives. We all remember the anxiety for our loved ones in the face of a new virus which claimed so many lives before the vaccines were rolled out. Lockdowns forced an overnight transformation for families having to juggle working from home and home-schooling. Other families' livelihoods were put at risk when the country was locked down.

This industry is all about supporting people through life's unforeseen events and protecting them against financial uncertainty. It was natural to think about how we could help those most affected, and the concept of the Covid-19 Support Fund was born. The Fund galvanised the entire sector. Everyone could see the huge problems for charities facing massive drops in income from having to close their shops whilst the demand for their services skyrocketed at the same time.

The ABI raised £84m over the course of six weeks from members, trade bodies (BIBA, LMG and IUA) and the wider sector. Launched on 18th May 2020, the purpose of the Fund was simple: to support community based charities under unprecedented strain with a focus on charities supporting the most vulnerable people.

The Fund initially focused on the crisis response, with £20m donated immediately to the National Emergencies Trust. The Trust worked with Community Foundations who understood who was impacted locally, what help they needed and how it could best be delivered. A huge focus was on food and essentials, for example hot meal deliveries to people with learning and physical disabilities. The Trust also tackled social isolation and offered mental health support, including through emergency counselling.

Over the course of the summer of 2020, the Fund's Governance Committee then approved the next phase for the Fund's donations, making 15 large donations, all targeted at people and communities most impacted by the pandemic and its consequences. These donations supported people with dementia, unpaid carers, disabled people, people affected by domestic abuse and mental health conditions, and vulnerable and disadvantaged people and others disproportionately affected by the pandemic, in need of retraining.

We are proud to share this report detailing the fantastic work that the Covid-19 Support Fund made possible. The Fund touched the lives of millions of people. It sustained and expanded mental health support and other vital advice services. It created new support networks for adults and children with caring responsibilities. It opened the doors to new careers. It even launched groundbreaking volunteer services for people affected by dementia which continue today.

Thank you to every firm who gave so generously and to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for their match-funding which took the overall total raised to £104m.

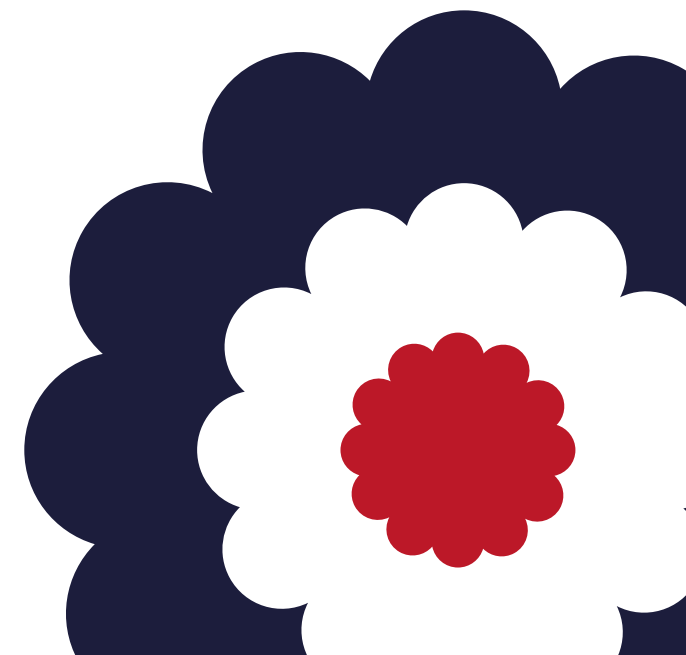
Thank you to every one of the charities for your phenomenal work. We are inspired and grateful for all that you have done and continue to do.



*Yvonne Braun*  
**Dr Yvonne Braun OBE**

ABI Executive Lead, Covid-19 Support Fund and Director of Policy, Long-Term Savings and Health and Protection

July 2025





## In numbers

---

**£104m**

total raised

---

**£84m**

given by the insurance and  
long-term savings industry

---

**£20m**

from DCMS match funding

---

**£20m**

donated to the National  
Emergencies Trust

---

**£7.4m**

to support people  
with dementia

---

---

**£7m**

for mental health support

---

**£7.3m**

to help victims of  
domestic abuse

---

**£7.8m**

to support unpaid carers

---

**£4.9m**

to support  
disabled people

---

**£7.1m**

to reskill people into new careers  
and for financial literacy

---

---

**£40m**

for charitable organisations  
in the communities hardest hit  
by the pandemic through a  
partnership with the Charities  
Aid Foundation and DCMS

---

**£2.5m**

donated to Business in the  
Community's National Business  
Response Network

---





**David Schofield**

Sustainability Director – Social Action & Sustainable Business, Aviva



When the Covid-19 pandemic struck, its impact was vast. From the devastating losses of loved ones, pressure on our health services, disruption to our education system, and the widespread upheaval to jobs and livelihoods, it rocked every corner of the country – some more than others.

Through the Covid-19 Support Fund, our industry was able to pool its strength and support those who needed it most. By working with charities on the frontline, the Fund helped tackle poverty, address poor mental health, and enabled community organisations to continue their vital work during a time of unprecedented demand.

The pandemic left behind scars, but also lessons. It exposed our society's vulnerabilities while demonstrating the power of unity and the importance of long-term resilience. The Fund stands as a testament to the unique role our industry can play – and what it can achieve when it comes together."



**Colm Holmes**

CEO, Allianz UK



It's hard to believe that just five years ago, we were in the midst of a global pandemic that had left most people stuck in their homes for months with a sense of uncertainty. It was an incredibly unusual and difficult time for many of us.

But one positive to come from it was the way the insurance and long-term savings industry in this country pulled together to form the Covid-19 Support Fund. As the Chair of the Fund when it was established, I take great pride in what it delivered.

With support from government, £100m was shared among multiple charities and organisations that were supporting those most severely impacted.

I am delighted that we were able to help so many people, through a number of vital organisations which played a critical role during this difficult period."

The ABI collaborated with representatives from across the insurance and long-term savings industry to set up the Covid-19 Support Fund which was launched in May 2020. It had three core objectives: to support community-based charities who were under unprecedented strain, to help charities working with the most vulnerable and to help organisations supporting people's mental health.

To make sure there was appropriate oversight for the decisions about where the money was going, and the projects it was funding, a Governance committee was set up consisting of senior leaders from insurers and long-term savings providers, as well as an independent representative. It was advised by the Charities Aid Foundation which also distributed money from the Fund to the chosen charities.

In the initial phase, the Fund focused its efforts on the immediate crisis response. Over the course of the summer of 2020, the Governance Committee then approved the next phase for the Fund's donation, focused on six priorities: creating a mentally healthier UK; supporting unpaid carers; addressing the adult reskilling crisis and boosting financial literacy; ending domestic abuse; empowering people with disabilities; supporting people with dementia. Many of the organisations who received grants for this purpose ran longer-term projects which concluded in 2024.

This report sets out the details of all the organisations who received donations and how they were used. A huge thank you is due to Steve Grimmett, former Head of the Zurich Community Trust for his vital support throughout the project and in collating and producing this report, and to Chris Armistead, the ABI's Head of Legal Services, for creating the governance framework, the contracts with the charities, and his counsel throughout.





The Fund's initial aim was to get the donations flowing as quickly as possible to those most in need. Two highly effective routes were galvanised through the **National Emergencies Trust** and **Business in the Community** for the first donations.

## NATIONAL EMERGENCIES TRUST

The National Emergencies Trust (NET) Coronavirus Appeal was launched on 18 March 2020. The Covid-19 Support Fund's first donations was £20m to help the NET's vital work supporting community-based charities on the frontline of tackling the Coronavirus crisis.

In total, the NET Coronavirus Appeal raised £98 million, supporting in excess of 13,000 projects across the UK and 13 million people. NET partnered with UK Community Foundations and 10 other organisations to distribute the funds to voluntary and community groups across the UK. The money was allocated based on local needs by 47 UK Community Foundations.

### The top five primary services were:

- Food & essentials: £21 million through 4,600+ grants
- Mental health support & services: £17.8 million through 3,100+ grants
- Information & advice: £9.1million through 1,500+ grants
- Tackling social isolation: £6.4 million through 1,300+ grants
- Education: £3.2 million through 590+ grants

**13,000+**  
projects supported across the UK



Amber House



Norfolk Community Foundation



Warrington Youth Zone



### The other organisations the NET partnered with were:

**Age UK** – whose 'Telephone Friendship Service' experienced a 300% increase in demand

**Barnardo's** – where more than half of those seeking support from the charity's therapeutic services were assessed as 'complex'

**Comic Relief** – who launched their 'Global Majority Fund' in July 2020 to support Black and minoritised communities disproportionately impacted

**Cruse Bereavement support** – who overnight faced the cessation of the charity's safely delivered face-to-face services, their primary service model for over 60 years

**Disability Action** – where the pandemic had a great negative impact on the lives of people with disabilities, the majority of whom were required to shield

**Heads Together** – where the Institute for Fiscal Studies found that, taking into account pre-coronavirus trajectories, mental health in the UK has deteriorated substantially because of the pandemic and over the coming years 20% of adults and 15% of children in England will need mental health support

**Refuge** – whose National Domestic Abuse Helpline saw a 61% increase in the number of calls and contacts

**Refugee Council** – where people seeking asylum required specialist services to address homelessness, extreme poverty, legal and health needs

**Shelter** – where throughout the pandemic, the charity's Telephone and Online Advice Service saw a marked increase in demand for their services

**Consortium** – who saw a three-fold increase in the number of organisations asking for support



County Durham EVS Blood Run





The Prince's  
Responsible  
Business Network

### The Covid-19 Support Fund donated £2.5 million to the National Business Response Network (NBRN).

The NBRN was launched by Business in the Community (BITC) in March 2020 to connect businesses with local charities, community groups and schools, providing essential resources, skills, and support from businesses to these organisations. The partnerships also enabled employees from across the country to contribute by using their skills and time to support local communities.

Over 6,000 connections were made through the Network, supporting two million beneficiaries and primarily focused on the following issues:

**Digital Divide** – children without access to IT devices were unable to join virtual lessons with their classmates. With a national shortage of new devices, BITC partnered with Computers4Charities to receive and refurbish donated second-hand devices from their members, before redistributing them to where they were needed most.

# 6,000

connections made through  
the NBRN network

**Food Insecurity** – Food banks saw an exponential rise in demand at the end of 2020. BITC were able to help meet this demand through the support of its members.

**Domestic Abuse** – BITC undertook a 'deep dive' into domestic abuse to review needs and identify the best way to support. BITC engaged with victim support organisations and conducted 22 in-depth interviews. 82 requests for support were received from organisations which BITC and its members went on to fulfil.

**Youth Mental Health** – BITC undertook a 'deep-dive' in Birmingham to identify where business could best support and expanded the work into a coaching programme for community youth leaders.

**Homelessness** – To support vulnerable individuals who were sleeping rough, BITC members provided 410,000 items of warm clothing, as well as home starter kits to help those moving into accommodation.

# 82

domestic abuse organisation  
requests for support fulfilled



# 410,000

items of clothing provided to  
vulnerable individuals sleeping rough

Community mental health care and online support services were boosted through a donation of £7m to **Mind** and **Rethink Mental Illness**.



The grant contributed to five strands of the charity's **Pandemic Recovery Programme**.

Mind undertook vital research to better understand the needs of their three priority audiences, and their intersectionalities: people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, people from racialised communities and children and young people. Mind's survey highlighted that existing inequalities in housing, employment and finances disproportionately affected the mental health of people from racialised communities during the pandemic. With school and university closures, family challenges during lockdown and youth unemployment, the pandemic created a surge in demand for mental health support for children and young people.

The grant helped develop Mind's national services including its 'Infoline' service, which responds to over 110,000 queries each year, as well as the charity's 'Side By Side' online peer support platform and other information resources. The grant period saw Mind's 'Side by Side' community grow from 25,000 to 77,000 members.

Funding was provided for projects addressing local needs in Rochdale, Harrow, West Sussex, Powys, Hackney and Salford. This includes mental health and welfare support,

youth groups and social education lessons for children, resilience building for young people and welfare rights and money advice services.

Development work concerning children and young people, anti-racism and poverty was another strand. A Social Media Officer was funded for 15 months to expand Mind's reach among young people. During this time, Mind significantly increased its reach by providing children and young people with trusted mental health information via TikTok, where it secured over 50,000 new followers.

Mind's Welfare and Benefits Line received funding, supporting 6,162 people to understand and navigate the welfare and benefits system. Partnering with Trussell Trust and Citizens Advice to develop 'warm referrals' between the charities' support lines strengthened this offer.

Finally, the grant helped Mind's partner activities with Scottish Action on Mental Health (SAMH). 1,271 people were supported through its information service and 3,488 people attended SAMH's suicide prevention sessions. Through a partnership with Inspire, 2,928 people from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland were supported via their online 'i-connect' platform.





**Research from Rethink Mental Illness revealed that 79% of people living with mental illness said their health deteriorated due to the pandemic.**

Rethink Mental Illness used the donation to roll out a community mental health care scheme that had been piloted in Somerset. Four new Mental Health Alliances were established benefitting more than 3.5 million people across Tower Hamlets, Sheffield, Coventry and Warwickshire and north-east Lincolnshire.

Across the four regions, over 300 micro, small and medium sized voluntary, community and social enterprise [VCSE] groups, local authorities and health providers worked together as Alliance members. They helped to ensure mental health services were accessible to all with 'Experts by Experience' taking the lead to ensure activities represented the varying needs of their communities. They mobilised the support people needed for their wellbeing and recovery such as help with finding or keeping a home, building a social network or finding employment.

An example of the success of these Alliances is in Sheffield where Synergy Mental Health Alliance now manages a range of contracts, grants and working groups including the Peer Support Framework, Marginalised Communities Focus Group and the Mental Health Collaborative.

The Peer Support Framework ensures that all 15 primary care networks in Sheffield offer peer support to their patients. Organisations involved include Sheffield Mind, SAMCHA an Afro-Caribbean mental health charity, SOMCAR UK a Somali-community organisation and SOAR, a community regeneration charity providing services to improve mental health, wellbeing and employability.

The expansion of the Mental Health Alliances was funded at a pivotal moment as Rethink Mental Illness had the opportunity to create systemic change in the way people access and experience mental health treatment and support in their community. The Alliances leave a lasting legacy, providing vital mental health support as the country recovered from the pandemic whilst helping to create a blueprint of best practice for the future.

Rethink Mental Illness published 'Building Community into the Integrated Care System: A practical guide to developing robust community mental health'. Alongside self-assessment frameworks and toolkits, this ensures the impact of this project continues to have effect beyond the life of this grant, evidenced by subsequent funding from local authorities and Integrated Care Boards.





## Supporting unpaid carers

Nearly £8m was shared with two charities at the forefront of helping adults and young people with caring responsibilities to access vital support.



Young carers across the UK faced mounting pressures and increased caring responsibilities during the pandemic. Action for Children used the donation to develop a unique new digital advice service, offer respite activities and provide colleagues with specialist training to support young carers with mental health issues.

'Sidekick' is the new online advice service for young carers, aimed at 13- to 18-year-olds and up to age 25 for those with special educational needs. It offers generalist, non-clinical support five days a week through text or email. Over 1,400 young people have contacted the service since it launched, accessing support during both crisis and early intervention circumstances.

Whilst the service was initially intended for young carers, it has become clear that young people who are not carers also access the service and are being supported. Crucially, Sidekick offers open-ended support as young people can return as many times as they want and consequently have told their Sidekick coaches how good it has been to have them checking in on them and celebrating their achievements and progress.

The Covid-19 Support Fund also enabled the development of the crucial 'Chance to be a Child' Activity Fund. This Activity Fund financed access to day trips, activities and experiences (including football stadium tours, Harry Potter studio tours, escape rooms and a trip to an Olly Murs concert) for young carers from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Without the stress and financial worry to fund the activities by the family, it gave the young carers experiences to talk about and share and memories to cherish. In doing so, it helped develop their confidence, identity, self-esteem and self-worth whilst also feeling valid, noticed and appreciated.

Finally, the funding enabled 41 Action for Children employees to receive specialist mental health training to enable them to provide critical support to young carers. A recent Action for Children report found that there could be over 3.3 million children experiencing barriers to their education because of issues outside school.



Esther completed AfC's Blues programme



Caiden, a young carer



**'Making Carers Count' was a multi-partner programme funded by the Covid-19 Support Fund. It aimed to improve reach and support for those carers often under-represented within existing carer support services, including those most affected by the pandemic.**

With Carers Trust working in strategic collaboration with Carers UK and 27 of Carers Trust's local carer organisations, 'Making Carers Count' was delivered in three strands: it improved engagement with unpaid adult carers who were under-represented in receiving local carer support services; it established dedicated services for young and young adult carers where support is inconsistent or doesn't exist; and it increased access to online peer support for unpaid carers.

Seventeen local carer organisations from the Carers Trust Network targeted support for carers from minoritised ethnic communities, male carers, parent carers, working carers, LGBTQ+ carers or carers of people with substance misuse issues. A further ten local carer organisations from the Carers Trust Network worked with young and young adult carers.

Carers UK delivered an extensive schedule of online carer meet-ups and an online forum. They also offered a free phone information service for older carers who do not use the internet.

Across three years, 'Making Carers Count' supported over 20,000 people through the local carer organisations. There were 15,000 attendees at Carers UK online meet-ups, along with millions of views of the online forum. Crucially around two-thirds of the carers reached through this programme said they had not previously received support for their caring role from any other organisation. The local carer organisations succeeded in increasing engagement with almost all carer target groups

'Making Carers Count' also significantly improved carers' quality of life by improving wellbeing, reducing isolation and offering time away from caring. In focus groups some carers spoke of the value of services formed around a shared identity. 81% of carers surveyed felt more able to cope as a result of the programme. And 88% of carers stated they were more aware of the support services available to them.

A legacy of this programme, which had at its heart the aim of delivering inclusive carer services, was the publication by Carers Trust of five new Good Practice Guides. These present some of the best examples of this work in an accessible and usable format and are available for others to learn from.

Find them at [www.carers.org/making-carers-count](http://www.carers.org/making-carers-count)





## Enabling new careers and boosting financial literacy

The **Shaw Trust** and **Learning and Work Institute** received over £6.3 million to help thousands of people who needed to reskill or find a new job. The **FT Financial Literacy Charity FLIC** received over £700,000.

### shaw trust

Through education and training, Shaw Trust supports those starting out or looking to progress in their jobs. The donation from the Covid-19 Support Fund enabled Shaw Trust to help people whose jobs and careers were affected by the pandemic in a number of ways.

The Shaw Trust launched three academies supporting more than 2,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged people to reskill rapidly and develop a rewarding career in care, construction and other sectors. The academies supported anyone over 18 whose jobs had been impacted by Covid-19, regardless of ability or experience in the sector and whether they had lost a job, seen a reduction in working hours or salary or suffered a decline in their health and wellbeing.

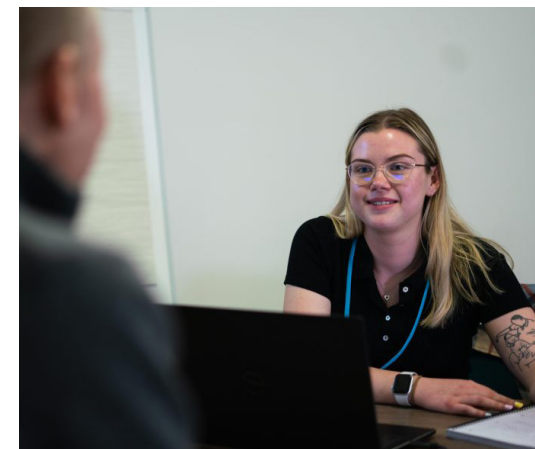
## 2,000+

vulnerable and disadvantaged people supported to reskill rapidly

Shaw Trust were able to support a wide area of the UK with the skills needed to progress into further education and/or employment. As the funding did not have any geographical restrictions within the UK it meant that both small and large employers could recruit across a wider area within the UK, enabling large scale access for beneficiaries to job opportunities and sustainable employment that they wouldn't usually have access to.

The funding also enabled almost 1,000 learners to take part in a construction course designed to prepare them for working in the building and construction sector. Each person who completed the course received a voucher to take the 'Construction Skills Certification Scheme' test. The team at the Shaw Trust further supported each learner with revising for the test, where needed.

Finally, a Shaw Trust office in Birmingham was repurposed in 2022 as an Employment and Skills Hub. Those looking for work were able to undertake 'English for speakers of other languages' courses as well as retail, customer service, cleaning, administration and functional skills courses in a socially disadvantaged area of Birmingham.





**Learning and Work Institute developed a programme for career changers called 'New Futures' to support those who needed to reskill as a result of the pandemic.**

This programme developed pilots in Edinburgh, Belfast, Tees Valley and Wales to provide targeted outreach and engagement with potential career changers, provide careers information and advice, and access to skills training. The schemes also looked to build the capacity of voluntary and community sector organisations. Each pilot was designed to create locally led solutions, tailored to the needs of the area's labour market.

The programme in Belfast was led by the City Council who established a Technology Employment Academy, training and supporting people to secure employment in the city's growing tech sector. The academy also helped local employers to access the skills they needed to sustain and grow their businesses. Those who successfully completed the academy were guaranteed a job interview and received aftercare to help them achieve a positive and sustained employment outcome.

In Edinburgh, the Capital City Partnership led the programme which enabled individuals who wanted to reskill to gain entry level qualifications in a new sector. By linking them in with a Vocational Training Academy offering courses in a wide variety of sectors, people who registered for these courses were guaranteed interviews with recruiting employers at the end. Careers advisors continued to support candidates either to find alternative suitable employment or sustaining their new job.

The Tees Valley Combined Authority, in collaboration with Redcar and Cleveland District Council, worked with local employers to establish skills academies. Through understanding current skills demands and the local labour market, people were matched to available job opportunities. The aims were to test what works in supporting individuals to change career by providing intensive career coaching alongside skills training.

New Futures in Wales was led by the charity Chwarae Teg who worked with training providers and the local fintech industry to support and empower women into tech careers. The pilot provided a tailored training and support programme to access career pathways in the digital sector, addressing individual barriers to training and employment such as childcare and transport.

The Tees Valley New Futures pilot, which concluded in December 2023, supported individuals into employment, enhanced local programme capacity, and informed strategic planning.

Meeting and engaging with 260 residents, it offered sustained, personalised advice that helped people identify transferable skills and explore new career paths. Many participants were guided toward opportunities in emerging sectors such as offshore wind and clean energy, reflecting the region's economic priorities.

Focused on improving people's future, the initiative helped 147 people access a range of training options, including certifications from the Security Industry Authority, Global Wind Organisation, and courses in business administration, accounting, and food hygiene.

Working with the voluntary organisation Tandem, the pilot supported a three-month programme in Darlington which helped people over 25-years-old who had been out of work for up to three years due to the pandemic or caring duties. It provided tailored support to help them re-enter the workforce or change careers, addressing a gap in existing provision and demonstrating the value of community-led approaches.



**Each pilot was designed to create locally led solutions, tailored to the needs of the area's labour market.**



**There are about 17.5 million people in the UK facing severe financial vulnerability. The effects of the pandemic, the cost of living crisis and a lack of affordable childcare provision and housing continue to dramatically impact the financial resilience of individuals and families across the UK.**

Research shows that those with protected characteristics across gender, race and disability and those facing socio-economic deprivation continue to face additional barriers to financial security.

The Fund's donation supports financial wellbeing among healthcare workers, carers, service personnel and lower income worker groups across the UK, including workers with variable incomes, in precarious or casualised employment, or working for multiple platform employers. FT FLIC are creating a suite of engaging and accessible learning resources for these beneficiary groups, sharing financial management insights and techniques most relevant to the circumstances and pressures they are facing.

Over the course of the three years, five new modules will be created which will be turned into e-learning modules along with 35-40 social media content creator videos. The five modules will cover the responsible use of credit, navigating housing and mortgages, understanding pensions, finance for those who freelance and investing for beginners.

An initial project in 2023 focused on the hospitality industry, as the sector's nearly 2 million workers had to contend with a great deal of uncertainty in the wake of

the pandemic. It helped participants understand their pay, including tax codes, entitlements and systems such as TRONC for the payment of their tips, and increased confidence with budgeting.

The first major project delivered was an awareness-raising campaign for National Carers Week in June 2024. Research shows that those who take on caring responsibilities often do not identify with their caring role. Instead people who often care for others do so without pay as they see themselves as a family member or friend. The widely viewed campaign shared crucial financial information through online resources and social media to raise awareness of the financial support available to carers. To engage young carers, FT FLIC collaborated with popular social media content creators to produce videos for Instagram and TikTok. The resources were downloaded more than 8,000 times and videos were viewed over 450,000 times across Instagram and TikTok.

Alongside creating the core set of adult learning materials, the grant will also enable FT FLIC to establish new partnerships with major employers to test, iterate and develop adapted resources for their workforce. FT FLIC has employed the Policy Institute at King's College London as the evaluation partner for the three-year programme. This team will also be providing research and capacity for the evidence-based approach to the major employer partnership activities.

*Continues >*







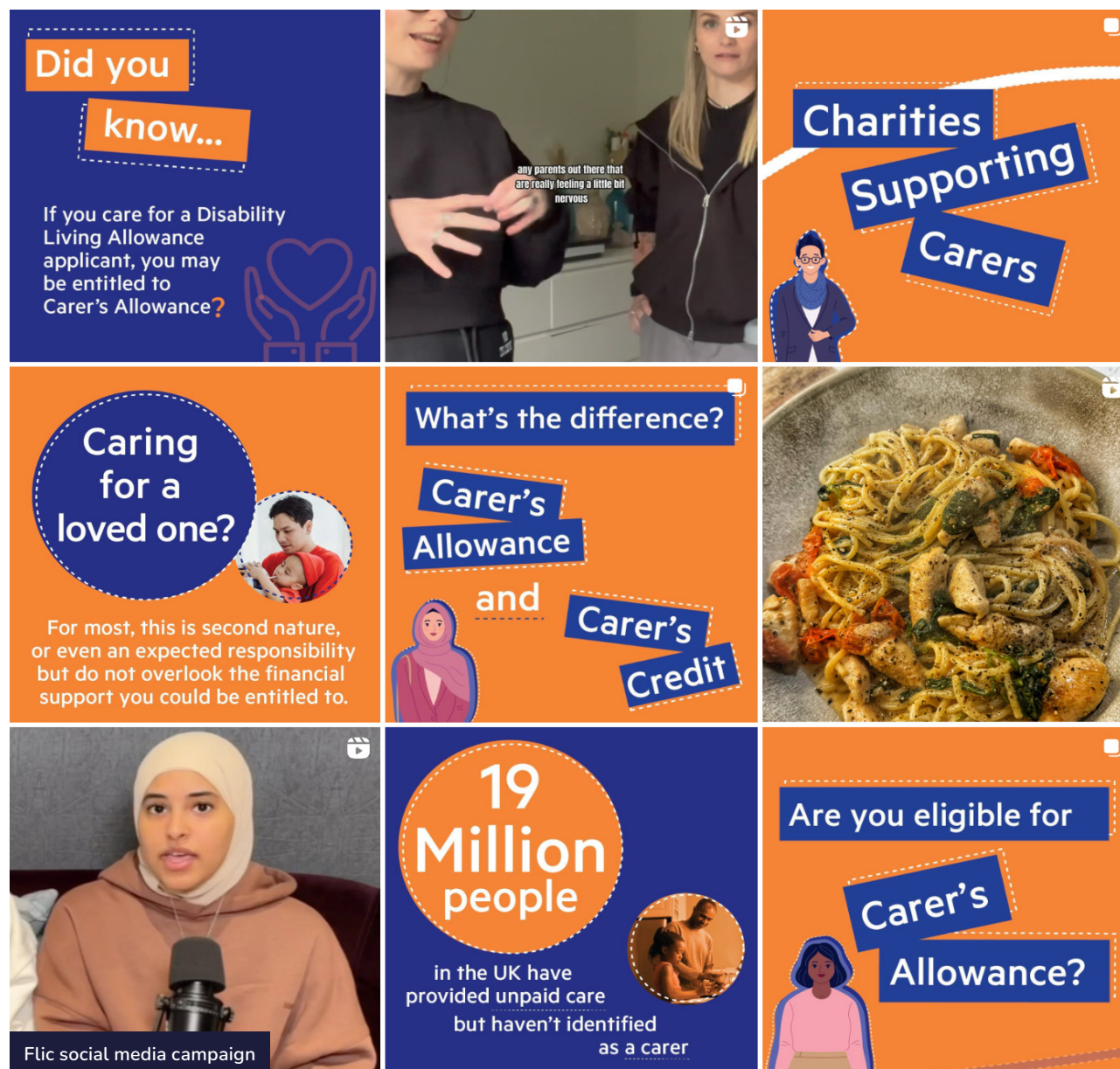
> Continued

The first collaboration in this programme has been with the Royal Marines, where FT FLIC has customised three existing core learning modules on budgeting, earning, and borrowing. In May 2024, the team visited the Commando Training Centre in Devon to run focus groups with 50 serving Marines, using their insights to tailor each module to their specific needs. FT FLIC is returning to complete focus groups on the five new modules.

A second employer partnership has been developed with NHS England and over the next three years, FT FLIC will continue refining modules for further armed services and the NHS, while expanding this process to organisations working with lower income workers. All learning sets will be produced in video format and distributed for self-paced learning across all partner institutions.

“

The first collaboration in this programme has been with the Royal Marines, where FT FLIC has customised three existing core learning modules on budgeting, earning, and borrowing.”



Flic social media campaign

## Supporting people with dementia

Over £7 million was shared between three charities to help services that provide lifelines for people with dementia and their families.



Nearly one million people in the UK are now living with dementia. Tragically, the pandemic had a devastating impact on people affected by dementia along with their families and carers. In 2020 25% of deaths due to Covid in England and Wales were in people with dementia – the most common pre-existing condition across all people who died due to Covid.

The grant of £2.4m from the Covid-19 Support Fund came at a crucial time. It enabled Alzheimer's Society to not only expand its reach at the height of the pandemic and into the following recovery period, but also throughout the subsequent cost of living crisis.

# £2.4 million

granted

# 100,000+

calls made to 3,143 people affected by dementia

Specifically, the grant fully funded the creation of the 'Companion Calls' service in its original form. In the first lockdown, one in eight people affected by dementia went a whole week without spending more than five minutes talking to someone. Between January 2021 and December 2023, the team made over 100,000 calls to 3,143 people affected by dementia.

From a small team of four initially created to provide support during the first lockdown, the 'Companion Calls' service is now an established and permanent Alzheimer's Society service comprising a team of 16.

The Fund also ensured the expansion of 'Dementia Advisers' on 'The Dementia Support Line' providing essential information, guidance and emotional support when people needed it most. The team has been able to focus on additional training and development as well as the introduction of new streamlined systems. As a result of these new processes the first-time answer rate to the support line now exceeds 80%, climbing from 55% in August 2021.

*Continues >*







> Continued

The donation was also instrumental in providing monies to pilot a culturally specific service in Manchester called 'Sahara'. The introduction of 'Sahara' in May 2023 provided dedicated community-based support to South Asian people affected by dementia in Manchester. It is one of the newest but nonetheless biggest changes to have happened to the delivery of services from Alzheimer's Society. Thanks to this innovative pilot, which received 79 referrals in the first year, Alzheimer's Society has made new connections into previously underserved communities providing meaningful support on a personalised level.

The development of the service is now improving the wider service offering from Alzheimer's Society and feeding into conversations around intersectional health inequality faced by people affected by dementia.

Other projects supported were 'Community Dementia Advisers'. As the country re-opened after repeated lockdowns people affected by dementia needed community-based support as soon as possible. By filling gaps in environments where support previously had been overlooked, people with dementia had access to support they needed regardless of circumstances.





**Age UK used the donation to provide expert and longer-term support for older people with mild to moderate dementia and their carers through a series of initiatives including the roll out of Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (MCST), an extension of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy [CST].**

CST is the only non-drug treatment recommended by the National Institute for Health & Care Excellence to improve cognition, independence, and wellbeing in people living with dementia. CST usually runs for 7-14 weeks and offers a programme of themed and structured activities. MCST was developed to maintain the positive benefits of CST through a longer-term programme, typically run for 24 weeks with each session lasting about two hours. Group sessions, usually comprising 8-12 participants, encompassed a variety of themed activities, including puzzles and word games, physical activities, creative and musical exercises and discussions and reminiscence.

The expanded MCST programme aimed to improve the wellbeing and cognitive abilities for people living with mild to moderate dementia, support the wellbeing of carers through respite and peer support and improve skills for Age UK staff and volunteers.

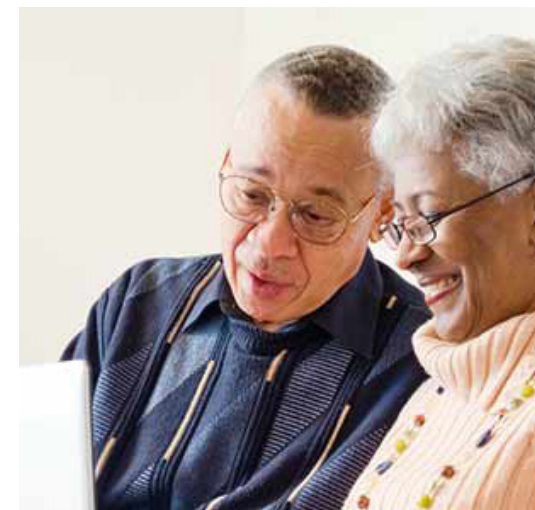
Over three years, the Covid-19 Support Fund donation enabled Age UK to set up 133 new MCST groups in 63 regions in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In addition, 24 groups were delivered online with 10 of these delivered by Age UK Telephone Friendship Service.

An example of the value of delivering this programme virtually was the roll out of this programme across the Orkney Islands, where the remote nature of the islands mean people have limited access to dementia support services.

In total there were 14,632 attendances across all MCST sessions. Independent evaluation of the programme reported that the programme contributed to better quality of life through social re-integration, improved mood, learning how to cope with dementia, and improved self-esteem, motivation, independence and orientation

Alongside training on MCST, the donation was used to provide dementia awareness training and resources to frontline staff and volunteers across the Age UK network. It also helped Age UK to ensure that older people were able to access expert information and advice on dementia through Age UK's Advice Line. 8,875 enquiries specifically relating to dementia were received during the period of this donation. In addition, 97,862 people living with dementia and their carers were supported through national information guides as well as 250,715 people accessing tailored and comprehensive advice and guidance on the Age UK website.

**14,632**  
attendances across all MCST sessions





## Supporting people with dementia (continued)



The £1.99 million grant to the Royal Voluntary Service was used to boost its network of 'Living well with dementia' groups. Thirty-five new support groups were set up across England, Scotland and Wales and twenty-five existing groups were able to offer additional activities and support for those living with dementia in urban, suburban and rural areas.

As a direct result of this funding over 1,800 people affected by dementia have been able to attend regular groups and have ongoing familiar support during their journey with dementia.

These two-to-four hour activity groups are based on the principles of cognitive stimulation therapy (CST), focusing on orientation and a range of multi-sensory and multi-skill activities. Activities include drumming, dancing, singing sessions, piano playing, song creation, gardening, and baking.

Many people living with dementia and their loved ones taking part in these groups report that they help them form much needed friendship and support networks. It helps them realise there is life after diagnosis.

**£1.99 million**  
granted

- 99% of people say attending these groups provides them with the support they need
- 97% say it is increased their social contact
- 98% of caregivers attending these groups said they were beneficial

Royal Voluntary Service report that for some carers being able to attend groups with their loved one is invaluable. They benefit from getting to know other carers and forming new support networks which helps them in their caring role and to understand and process life after diagnosis.

Other carers may use the group time as respite to take a break from their caring role. It's a time for them to do something for themselves whether it's a medical appointment, hair cut or simply to relax without worrying where or what their loved one is doing. Since joining these groups carers have reported an increase in life satisfaction for them and their loved one. Carers also report that the support networks and friendships formed through these groups remain years after their time with the groups end.

Data collected from attendees of existing dementia services run by Royal Voluntary Service found 81% had noticed some form of improvement in their loved one with dementia, from mood to general wellbeing, appetite and physical functioning.



### CASE STUDY

**RVS client and carer:** Shelagh Creegan (60) and mum, Jessie Muckart McDougall (92), Broughty Ferry, Dundee



When Jessie was diagnosed with dementia in 2014, daughter Shelagh became her full-time carer. In 2022, a friend of Shelagh's who volunteers with Royal Voluntary Service told her the charity was set to open a new Dundee dementia support group locally. After persuading her mum to come along, the group became a welcome opportunity for Jessie to exercise, socialise and enhance her general wellbeing on a weekly basis.

[Continues >](#)

### CASE STUDY

> *Continued*

The group take part in a range of activities and sessions including gentle exercises to music, quizzes, games and an all-important catch up over refreshments. The group have celebrated numerous special occasions together and enjoyed outings to the V&A Dundee and Caird Hall for dementia-friendly concerts by national orchestras, as well as an afternoon trip to a coastal village for fish, chips and ice cream. Jessie receives wonderful support from her family and friends, but living with dementia presents her with numerous challenges around-the-clock, which can make daily life a challenge, and unfortunately, independent living almost impossible.

Shelagh said: “It’s a stark realisation the only predictable thing about dementia is its unpredictability. It adversely affects mum’s roles, routines, everyday living skills and abilities in a myriad of ways each and every day. In recent years, mum has been unable to run her home including the management of finances, menu planning, food shopping, cooking, laundry, cleaning and managing medication.

“She would also struggle to take care of herself and needs my support with getting in and out of bed, changing clothes, and making a cup of tea or a simple snack. What’s also concerning for a lot of people caring for loved ones with dementia, are the risks of spillages of hot liquids, trips and falls. For mum, without help, she would likely forget to eat and drink.

“Some of the challenges dementia presents for the person can be incredibly isolating, like not recognising the ringtone of the phone and so missing phone calls from family and friends, forgetting how to work the TV remote, reluctance to go out and get fresh air, loss of handwriting skills and forgetting what day of the week it is and what is happening that day. It also presents emotional challenges, as mum experiences difficulty articulating what she is thinking and feeling. Sadly, I could go on.

“The St Aidan’s dementia support group is important to mum and me. For mum, it is a regular fixture in her weekly planning calendar, aiding her orientation and giving structure and routine to her week. The physical, social and mental stimulation supports her general wellbeing. Because the group is part of mum’s routine and she enjoys all it entails, mum is motivated to make the physical effort to get up out of her chair, put her coat on and leave the house.

“Despite mum’s word finding difficulties, the volunteers and fellow attendees and their carers show great compassion and empathy, kindly making the effort to initiate social interaction with mum whether that be a simple exchange of pleasantries, a short (one-sided) conversation or a gentle touch upon her arm. The warmth of this human interaction always brings a smile to mum’s face.

“After our activities and quizzes, we sit like one big family around a large table with our drinks and snacks, chatting and laughing.

“For me, it helps make precious memories of quality time spent with mum. For some carers, because of the stigma attached to dementia and behaviours of a loved one that might be perceived by others as challenging, such as restlessness and pacing, loud vocalisation or word finding difficulties, it can be difficult to embrace new social situations. Going to group enables all of us, myself included, to receive emotional support when needed and to offer it in return to anyone feeling distressed. The role of the Service Manager and the volunteers in creating a safe environment for trusting relationships to be developed in this way cannot be underestimated.

“It’s a privilege to provide care which enables a loved one to stay at home. However, it is a tricky balancing act caring for a loved one with dementia, or indeed any health condition, and maintaining your own quality of life – finding time for your children, your friends, your hobbies and interests - outside of the environment in which you provide care. Being on call 24/7, it’s difficult to organise regular and, or, spontaneous breaks from your caring responsibilities and find time to look after your own health and wellbeing.

“The volunteers are fantastic. I hold them in the highest regards. They are well trained, committed, kind and compassionate, and they work so well as a team. They are a credit to Royal Voluntary Service.

“Mum’s feedback is typically concise and very Scottish. The Thursday afternoon group is “affy guid” (translation = very good)!”

# Empowering people with disabilities

Almost £5 million was donated to **Leonard Cheshire** and **Mencap** to run innovative community-based programmes for people with disabilities.



For more than 75 years, Leonard Cheshire has worked directly with disabled people to give them the freedom to live their lives the way they choose, with the opportunity to fully take part in society.

Two-thirds of disabled people said the pandemic affected their wellbeing, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). With the donation from the Covid-19 Support Fund, Leonard Cheshire expanded its award-winning skills development programme 'Can Do' for individuals aged between 16 and 35 with a disability or long-term health condition. Activities took place across the length and breadth of the UK.

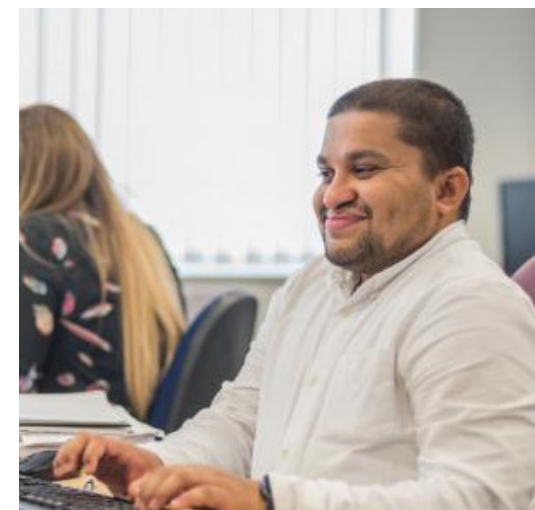
The programme connected people to their community in fun and engaging activities, designed around the interests of participants whilst helping to build confidence and new skills. It also enabled participants to take the next step towards their own goals. Those taking part could also gain a City & Guild certificate or an SQA Award by completing a 16 hour 'Building Communities' project.

During one of the lockdown periods Leonard Cheshire partnered with Allsorts Sports, a charity based in Gloucestershire providing extra-curricular activities

for young people, to develop a suite of regular physical activity and wellbeing sessions to keep young people connected with each other. 'Can Doers' participated virtually from home in sessions including yoga, dance and cheerleading. All sessions were designed to be fully inclusive, supporting young people with physical, learning and/or sensory disabilities, adapted to ensure full participation and benefit to everyone.

As one 'Can Doer' said "It made such a difference to my life during lockdown. Having a routine and something to look forward to eased my stress enormously. I've been able to socialise to some extent with others and I learnt new skills that help in my day to day life."

Following feedback from young people who wanted to develop their cooking skills, Leonard Cheshire partnered with the Station House Cookery School In Kirkcudbright, Scotland, an organisation providing cooking classes for children, adults and communities. The partnership enabled young people to attend a 'South American Street Food' class where they had the opportunity to observe food being cooked, prepare and cook urban street food themselves, eat what they had made and receive a certificate of completion for taking part in the session.







Mencap's vision is for the UK to be the best place in the world for people with a learning disability to live happy and healthy lives. During the pandemic support infrastructure was eroded and people with a learning disability lost confidence to spend time in their local community, leaving them isolated and impacting on the health and wellbeing of them and their family.

The 'My Community' programme worked with local people to rebuild after the pandemic, working with those who had direct lived experience of the challenges faced by communities, and partnering with them to find local sustainable solutions. This approach placed people with a learning disability firmly at the heart of communities as active citizens who drive change and contribute, not just as beneficiaries of services.

The programme recruited 'Community Partners' and 'Community Connector' roles. The Connectors used their lived experience to engage networks of people with a learning disability and used their voice to advocate for the changes, support and ideas that people wanted to see happen locally. The Partners supported the Connectors in their role and used their networks to engage local people and organisations who had the skills, experience and resources to help them achieve their local vision.

There are nine 'My Community' hubs across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The initiatives that take place are many and varied, and include raising awareness locally about learning disability. Mencap set up and delivered a wide range of new ideas and projects, for example, events to improve people's digital skills, family peer groups, gardening and growing projects, music and drama workshops, pub nights, workshops on self-defence and hate crime.

One example of the impact is the 'Positive Changes' group which was set up last year in Leeds to identify ways to improve the city for anyone with a learning disability. Through a series of group sessions, members identified two priorities they wanted to tackle – encouraging their community to get outdoors more and reducing digital exclusion.

Importantly the groups identified that the use of digital technology as a social tool may be a barrier to engage with other people. The hub worked with Leeds City Council to make digital videos to support people travelling independently, so they could spend more time accessing all that Leeds has to offer.

*Continues >*





> Continued

The 'My Community' programme succeeded in fostering greater community engagement and resilience in areas where the hubs were located, with an embedded culture of co-production across Mencap which resulted in:

- working with **6,571** people, **2,188** of whom had a learning disability.
- working with and engaging **1,091** local organisations.
- **22** colleagues with a learning disability employed.

The feedback to this programme has been overwhelmingly positive with:

- **92%** saying that 'I have been part of coming up with solutions to issues in my local areas'.
- **88%** saying that felt they had a stronger voice in their community.

As one 'Community Connector' in Bristol said, "For the first time in my life I feel like I have a paid job like people my age. I finally feel like I've found a place in my life where I can be grown up and just be like everyone else my age I know".

Critically, in all of the areas where the hubs were located, Mencap has been able to continue with this work beyond the initial funding.



One distressing reality of the pandemic was the impact on victims of domestic abuse who were unable to get away from abusers during lockdowns. The Fund donated over £7m to help three charities reach those affected.



Victim Support is dedicated to supporting people affected by crime and traumatic incidents in England and Wales. The £2.9 million donation enabled delivery of a free and confidential support service to people affected by domestic abuse.

Through a new programme called 'Spot and Stop Domestic Abuse', specialist staff delivered early help to those at risk of domestic abuse and supported existing victims and survivors. The most significant element was the development and delivery of the online 'iMatter' programme. It was designed for women aged 16+ with weekly sessions facilitated by trained Victim Support staff.

The programme aimed to empower women to have control over their environment by looking at intimate and close relationships and addressing conflict. It was suitable for those who were not high-risk and was delivered in English, Welsh, Urdu, Bengali, Polish and Gujarati. The charity also developed a young woman's group and an LGBT+ group.

The programme was delivered online over ten weeks for up to 12 women with each session lasting approximately 90 minutes. Sessions focussed around group discussion and the sharing of ideas, but participants were not asked to share anything they did not wish to. The focus of iMatter was not on individual experiences but on helping victims of domestic abuse move on in their recovery journey.

The funding also enabled Victim Support to develop tailored guides on its online resource platform, My Support Space, where victims can choose how they want to be supported after a crime. These guides give victims, their family and friends a secure and confidential space to get information on how to spot the signs of domestic abuse, the support available and how to help a loved one in an abusive relationship. My Support Space was designed for people to feel more informed after crime, to reflect on their feelings, and be given simple tips to support themselves during a difficult time. Victim Support produced animated and visual materials to promote these guides on social media.

Victim Support bolstered their 24/7 Supportline and Live Chat service to provide immediate assistance to anyone affected by domestic abuse. Supportline is Victim Support's free national telephone helpline available 24/7 every day of the year including Christmas Day, whilst Victim Support's 24/7 Live Chat service is an online messaging exchange with a trained supporter if someone needs support after a crime or traumatic incident.

Throughout the duration of this grant, over 16,000 victims of domestic abuse have been supported.

**£2.9 million**  
donated

**16,000+**  
victims of domestic abuse supported  
throughout the duration of this grant



### **I matter today, I matter tomorrow**

By CB – supported through Victim Support

I matter today, I matter tomorrow, my progress will change my future. I matter.

**I am enough. I am valued. I am worthy. I am brave. I am strong. I am powerful.**

I am beautiful. I am positive. I am confident. I am talented. I am blessed.

**I am loved by others. I love my self. I love who I have become and becoming.**

I believe in myself. I believe I can change myself. I believe I can make changes in my life. I believe I can make a better tomorrow.

**I believe I can make changes for my future. I believe I can achieve my goals.**

I can change my ways so I can succeed in my future.

**I can make things better to allow my destiny to be shaped into making a fresh and positive tomorrow.**

I can change my present by taking little steps, making little changes each day.

**I can make the little changes into bigger changes by creating a new existence, becoming a new me.**

I can improve by making better use of my time.

**I will not waste my time by doing nothing when time is gone it cannot be taken back.**

I can use my time efficiently by not wasting my time by doing none productive things.

**I will not waste my time when time should be spent wisely.**

I can make better choices in making my time more productive.

**I am proud of how far I have come. I am proud of who I am.**

I will keep fighting and pushing through by keep getting back up every day.

**I will make sure my past is behind me and not let it dull me.**

I will dust off the negative words and thoughts of yesterday.

**I will change my mind set by changing negative thoughts into positive ones.**

I will change my way of thinking into making positive actions leading to positive results.

**I will make changes to build a better and brand new path, so it leads to great things with positive success, of every hour, of every tomorrow, that's nothing like the last.**

### women's aid

until women & children are safe

Women's Aid Federation for England (WAFE) works to end domestic abuse against women and children. The £2.9m donation supported the work of WAFE and sister organisations – Scottish Women's Aid [SWA], Welsh Women's Aid [WWA], Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland [WAFNI] – as well as Imkaan, a national women's organisation dedicated to addressing violence against black and minoritised women and girls.

The funding assisted local domestic abuse services to maintain, improve and evidence the quality of their services, which were often greatly reduced due to Covid-19 and funding challenges.

Member organisations were supported through workshops, engagement, coaching, one-to-one meetings and consultation. Focus areas of support included governance, technical support, anti-racism, charitable status, management good practice, policies and HR.

The reach of this grant spanned many different areas with those listed below representing a small number of the initiatives undertaken:

## £2.9 million

donated to the work of WAFE and sister organisations

- WAFE provided their survivor 'Experts by Experience network' with skills and opportunities to inform local practice and national decision-making. Specialist training was also delivered to domestic abuse practitioners – something that may not otherwise have been possible due to budget constraints.
- WAFNI developed the NOCN Level 3 Domestic Abuse Practitioner Advocate Certificate as well as introducing a Regional Centre for Training Excellence for their members, including meeting the demand for increased knowledge around the considerable legislative changes in Northern Ireland in recent years.
- WWA provided capacity building resources and opportunities for their member services to further develop skilled sector practitioners who deliver trauma-informed, needs-led and empowering support to survivors as well as improving engagement with marginalised communities through an intersectional approach. They also provided opportunities for their Survivor Network to participate in consultations, awareness raising and advocacy activities.
- SWA's work in developing training and disseminating research prompted the Scottish Government to form a Domestic Abuse Killings Workforce whilst their new induction programme for Women's Aid workers had a far-reaching impact in their ability to advocate for survivors.

- Imkaan has supported their members with quality assurance, strategic planning, capacity building, fundraising and skills development as well as provided dedicated safe spaces for frontline practitioners supporting the ongoing development of staff delivering casework support.

The Fund also helped provide regional communications support, ensuring that member groups continue to effectively use social media platforms to reach women, children, and young people. Survivor engagement suffered as a result of the pandemic, however the donation was used to strengthen this, providing platforms to share experiences and a feedback loop to policy and decision makers leading on Covid-19 strategic responses.

Member organisations were also supported through workshops, engagement, coaching, one-to-one meetings and consultation. Focus areas of support included governance, technical support, anti-racism, charitable status, management good practice, policies and HR.

The grant fundamentally strengthened the UK network of domestic abuse services emerging from the Covid-19 crisis. It assisted them to offer tailored support for member organisations and enhance engagement with survivors and member services.

# NSPCC

The pandemic placed many families under heightened pressure whilst cutting them off from some of their usual support networks. During this time NSPCC provided a vital source of advice and a way for people to report any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of children.

In the first few months of the pandemic, the number of contacts the NSPCC Helpline received about domestic abuse increased by a third. The grant of 1.5m from the Covid-19 Support Fund enabled the Helpline to support children and families affected by domestic abuse.

For a child, being exposed to domestic abuse in childhood is child abuse. Children and young people may experience domestic abuse both directly and indirectly in many ways, such as by not receiving the care and support needed from parents or carers, hearing the abuse or trying to stop it, finding damage to their home or seeing someone injured or distressed.

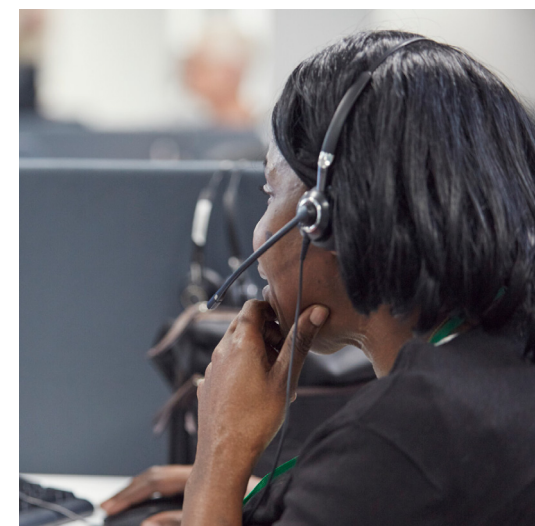
NSPCC recruited 14 new members of staff, including two Domestic Abuse Practice Advisors with specialist expertise to help meet the increase in demand for support. Training for staff across the Helpline was also enhanced to embed best practice and provide a strengthened service in response to domestic abuse contacts, particularly from people at high risk of further abuse.

Important upgrades were also made to the Helpline's technology including introducing a 'hide the page' function on the NSPCC website that visitors could use to quickly navigate away from the page.

For the individuals who contacted the Helpline over 200,000 times during the project, the key change was their ability to access support, advice, signposting and advocacy relating to their concerns. This included the NSPCC Helpline working closely with emergency services and other partners to intervene to protect children and families experiencing domestic abuse and other forms of harm.

The people and professionals who contacted the Helpline and provided feedback on the service shared the following:

- 95% felt they had improved knowledge and self-confidence of domestic abuse and wider harms including signs and indicators.
- 92% felt that the children and family members affected by domestic abuse and wider harms were made safer.
- 91% of agencies said the NSPCC Helpline's referrals to them directly contributed to the safeguarding of a child, children or adult/s or that the referral information provided was helpful and could be used to inform future safeguarding decisions.





The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Resilience Fund was a £40 million funding programme developed and delivered between 2020 and 2023. A £20 million donation was made by the Covid-19 Support Fund and £20 million came from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), provided as part of its Community Match Challenge.

CAF's Resilience Fund was designed to meet the challenges created by the pandemic by approaching grant-making in two ways: supporting communities hardest hit by the pandemic whilst also investing in the longer-term future of the charities supporting these communities.

Phase 1 of the Fund was funded by the £20 million donation from DCMS and helped charities survive and deliver rapid relief in the early stages of the pandemic. Phase 2 used funding from the Covid-19 Support Fund to provide the resources charities needed to continue to deliver support for communities, whilst also funding initiatives to build their organisational resilience. This included a grant for charities to deliver vital frontline services, a 'resilience support grant' to provide access to external expertise to help charities thrive in the future, and a support programme for charity leaders and their teams to maximise the impact.

The overall programme was targeted at three cause areas that had been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Organisations who received help were those supporting people who were living with a disability, working with and/or led by Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities or assisting young adults aged 16 to 35 years with skills for work.

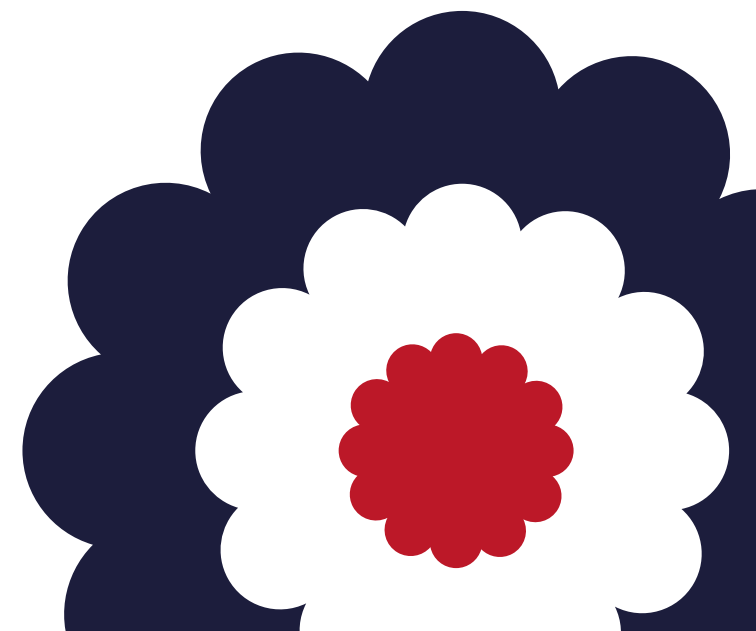
'Sector Partners' were also identified within these areas who worked with CAF to deliver onward grant making to boost impact in communities. These partners are experts with deep knowledge of and penetration in communities. They undertook additional complimentary grant making, further addressing the issues identified by CAF's research and creating a legacy within each of the areas.

£15 million was distributed in phase 2 across the United Kingdom to 102 organisations through grants ranging from £60,000 to £370,000. A further £4.5 million was distributed by the Sector Partners.

A wide variety of activity was funded through the 102 grants: from training and employability support, to advocacy, befriending, wellbeing and mental health activities. These grants enabled charities to help over 150,000 people, with a further 500,000 people indirectly helped through access to information, community events and other support. The Resilience Support grants enabled leaders and their teams to shore up their foundations with new systems, processes and policies and build for the future by reshaping operating models, and diversifying income streams. Understanding of resilience rose from 35% to 85% over the grant period and progress towards building resilience increased from 49% to 83%.



A wide variety of activity was funded through the 102 grants: from training and employability support, to advocacy, befriending, wellbeing and mental health activities.”





**18** organisations supported

Baobab Foundation was created in 2021 to significantly scale resourcing to Black and Global Majority Communities in the UK.

The £1.5 million donation contributed to Baobab's existing Collective Fund which seeks to grow, support and strengthen individuals, groups and organisations led by and serving Black people and communities affected by racism and racial disparities in the UK. This funding has supported 18 organisations with multi-year grants ranging from two to five years. Examples include:

- a five-year grant to Intercultural Youth Scotland, Scotland's leading charity for young Black people and young People of Colour
- a three-year grant to Black Girls Hike who provide a safe space for Black women to explore the outdoors through nationwide group hikes, outdoor activity days and training events
- a five-year grant to Urban Circle in Newport, South Wales, an independent youth arts organisation who provide creative opportunities for young people to actively and purposefully pursue their interests, improve their wellbeing and realise their potential across the creative arts, education, youth work and community development.



**77** grants awarded

The grant programme delivered by Scope supported projects to improve the wellbeing of disabled people and children, rebuild their resilience post Covid-19 and help them to mix socially either in person or virtually to combat the isolation many still felt.

Scope used its extensive contacts to engage communities across England, Scotland and Wales, as well as getting disabled people involved in the decision-making processes for this grant programme.

The 77 grants awarded ranged from £250 community grants through to larger grants of up to £100,000 with an average grant of £19,500 reaching over 130,000 people. They helped increase disabled people's access to participate in sport, created wheelchair accessible spaces, including beach and woodland access, and provided funding for arts and cultural participation.



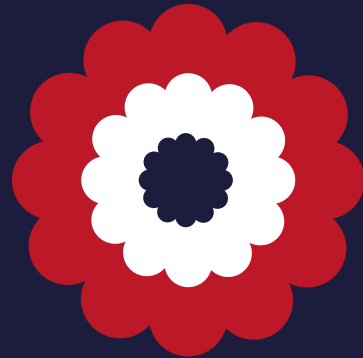
**2,327** young people supported

The £500,000 award to The King's Trust (known at the time of donation as The Prince's Trust) was used to support 2,327 young people across the UK.

970 young people participated in the 'Get Started' programme. These programmes are provided by community partners and targeted to support young people's career aspirations.

They deliver short courses that engage young people through the arts, sports and other activities. The programme energises young people, helping them gain the confidence and motivation to move forward with their lives.

1,357 young people were supported with Development Awards. Responding to the cost-of-living crisis, the financial support The King's Trust Development Awards provide continue to boost young people's access to education, training and employment by assisting with costs such as childcare, course fees and equipment for their work.



# Covid-19 support fund

Supported by the insurance  
and long-term savings industry