



GUERNSEY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Activity Report

September 2023





Chair's introduction

Welcome to our first Activity Report. Within these pages you will find an update on our core work streams, a breakdown of recent grant-giving, information on changes at staff and board level, and more.

Over the last year the Foundation has changed the way it supports the third sector. We have for a long time encouraged the Association of Guernsey Charities (AGC) to raise funds so that it could recruit staff and provide services to its members such as free training, volunteer matching, meeting room booking etc – all of which we were delivering through our own Charities Support Centre as managed by Third Sector Liaison Officer Joni Nettleship.

The appointment in Autumn 2022 of Wayne Bulpitt as AGC Chair marked the beginning of a closer working relationship between the two organisations, and early in 2023, with funding provided via our Grants Programme, AGC recruited Joni as their first member of staff. We closed the Charities Support Centre and decided to direct more of our resources towards researching and taking action to alleviate complex societal problems such as homelessness.

We will continue to offer advice and mentoring to other charities, as well as supporting new charities to fill an identified need – something we have done successfully with the launch of the Guernsey Nature Commission LBG. We continue to be called upon by government and the media to represent the third sector, as has happened most recently in relation to the States' Funding and Investment Plan.

The commissioning of services is a recurring topic in discussions between charities and the States. The Policy and Resources Committee sought our advice on how to go about commissioning, and we expect to have a role to play in aligning the wishes of the third sector – to receive more funding in order to provide better services with better outcomes – with those of the States, as government seeks to reduce costs in so many areas.

Our work on homelessness began with the publication, in July 2022, of Alex Lemon's 'Homelessness in Guernsey' report, commissioned by Maison St Pierre. We have raised public awareness of the issue, which has attracted much media attention. States committees have said that our work has had an impact within Government, as evidenced by the Housing Plan, which contains explicit policy commitments relating to homelessness that would not have been there were it not for the Foundation.

The States is not solely responsible for solving the problem, however, and we have been working with Maison St Pierre and Action for Children to create new accommodation for young people. This was one of the recommendations made by Alex; another related to the need for a new local charity dedicated to assisting the homeless.

In Spring 2023, we used funding provided by Maison St Pierre to commission Homeless Network Scotland to explore in greater depth whether a new charity was required, and, if so, what role – if any – the Foundation should play in its creation. We expect Homeless Network Scotland to report on their findings imminently.

In all our work we are now more focussed on the principal objects of the Foundation as set out in our Memorandum of Incorporation, namely "to promote philanthropy and charitable giving ... and to bring about real improvements to the community and to the lives of people most in need...". We have adopted some of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to help us to prioritise our work, for example when deciding where next to focus our policy work when our involvement in homelessness reduces and ceases.

Sir Richard Collas, September 2023

Homelessness

Following publication of the Homelessness in Guernsey (HIG) report published by the Foundation and sponsored by Maison St Pierre (MSP), the directors agreed to progress several work streams based on recommendations in the report. This work has been a major focus of activity in 2023.



Influence on public policy

The States of Guernsey's Public Health Information Unit has adopted the Foundation's definition of homelessness. The latest of their five-year public health surveys includes questions about inadequate and insecure housing.

The Director of Public Health, Dr Nikki Brink, published her annual report in August. In a section on housing, she praises the Foundation's work:

"In 2023, the Guernsey housing crisis is an ongoing cause for concern. The publication of the report 'Homelessness in Guernsey' by the Guernsey Community Foundation shines a light on this topic. This excellent piece of research looks at the prevalence of homelessness in Guernsey - 'where the word "homeless" is used to describe anyone who lacks at least two of the three essential elements of being properly housed: affordability, adequacy, and security of tenure.' The report highlights the impact of inadequate housing on the lives of people who are not adequately housed, and 'whose precarious housing situation has a hugely damaging effect on their health, their job prospects, and their ability to care for their dependents.' "

Dr Brink goes on to emphasise the importance of good quality housing and the need to encourage a built environment that promotes wellbeing.

As a result of the HIG report, and with help from Jim Roberts (Foundation CEO) and Alex Lemon (Policy & Research Lead), P&R has started to collect data on homelessness. In April, their annual Indicators of Poverty report included statistics which showed that between 2016 and 2021 the number of "insecurely housed people" (defined as anyone living in temporary accommodation or at more than two addresses in the preceding 12 months) jumped from 750 to 1100: an increase of 47%. Jim and Alex gave several TV and radio interviews discussing this sobering statistic.

Earlier this year, Arc4 - a UK housing consultancy commissioned by the States to analyse the Island's housing market – asked to meet Jim and Alex to discuss homelessness. The consultants' analysis, which was appended to July's Housing Plan (see below for details), explicitly supports the HIG recommendations and includes a recommendation that the States "establishes an independent committee to develop a Homelessness Strategy [along with] an action plan [...] based on the Foundation's report and best practice elsewhere." Following a presentation of their findings given to politicians, housing providers, developers and charities, Arc 4 recommended that the Foundation chair the committee.

Finally, the new three-year Housing Plan - an updated version of the States of Guernsey's Housing Strategy - includes work streams relating to homelessness prevention. The first relates to a definition of homelessness to be applied across the States. The second is to "support the Guernsey Community Foundation in developing proposals to support those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness".

New homeless charity

The HIG report identified the lack of a local homelessness charity and recommended an investigation into whether one should be created. In February, the Foundation carried out a competitive tendering process and appointed Homeless Network Scotland (HNS) to develop proposals for a homelessness charity. This consultancy work is being funded by housing charity Maison St Pierre (MSP).

In May, HNS and the Foundation ran a 'homelessness summit' attended by representatives from charities, support agencies and States departments. In June, HNS met people with lived experience of homelessness in Guernsey. The HNS report is due in November.

Training flats

Training flats are bedsits or one-bedroom flats for 18 to 25 year olds who need to learn to live independently. Managed by Action for Children - who provide both the accommodation and the one-to-one staff support - they're intended as a steppingstone to private rented accommodation or social housing.

The HIG report recommended an increase in the number of training flats. Jim has been progressing this with Action for Children, MSP and various property owners. MSP hope to acquire a property to turn into a number of training flats, with Action for Children recruiting additional staff so they can provide support to the new tenants. If a property can be found, the Foundation will help Action for Children raise funds to recruit the extra staff.



Supporting the sector

The Nature Commission officially launched in 2023, following the Foundation's work to found the organisation in 2022. The Foundation negotiated a three-year match-funding agreement with the Committee for the Environment and Infrastructure, recruited a board, and provided advice and administrative support until the end of June.

The Commission has now recruited its first two members of staff. The Foundation has now stepped back from the Commission, as was always the plan, however Jim still attends board meetings as an observer. Fiona Bateson remains a director.

Earlier this year the Foundation was consulted on the creation of a new Civil Service post, that of Commissioning Lead. The Foundation is now working closely with the new recruit.

The Foundation also supports the sector by giving grants to charities and funding community projects. See pages 7 to 9 for more details.

Director and staff changes

In February, Joni Nettleship left the Foundation to join the Association of Guernsey Charities to do similar work.

In March, Nadine Gavey was appointed as "Board Apprentice" under the Guernsey Training Agency's Non-Executive Director Programme.

The board's second longest-serving director, Alastair Bisson, left in May after nine years. He was succeeded by Jo Cottell, CEO of Guernsey Mind, who brings with her extensive third sector experience.

Harriet Gowan, Professional Services Director for Teneo, also joined as a director, strengthening the board's project-management experience.

Since May, Harriet Aldous-Granby, a freelance social media consultant, has been promoting the Foundation across various platforms.



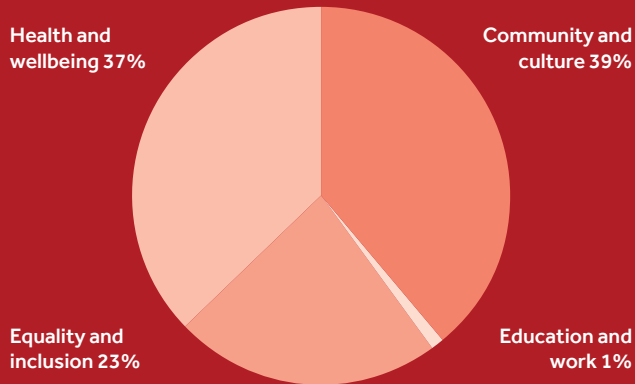
Clockwise from top left:
Nadine Gavey
Jo Cottell
Harriet Aldous-Granby
Harriet Gowan

GCF Grants Programme

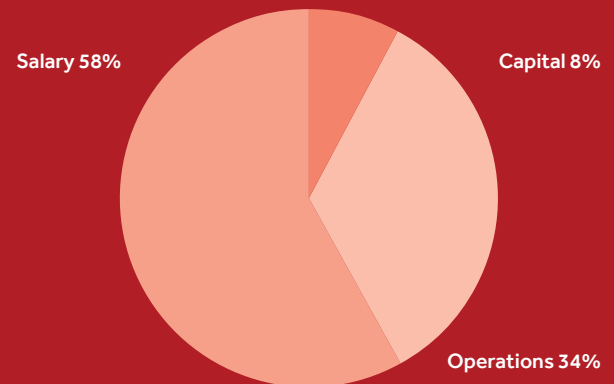
There were three grants rounds between November 2022 to July 2023

- £585,896 awarded to 12 grant recipients
- Largest: £100,000 to Guernsey Mind (co-funded with a private trust)
- Smallest: £5,000 to St Peter Port Christmas Lights
- Multi-year grants only awarded if existing funds allow
- Estimated impact on 53,540 people

Grants by sector



Grants by spend type





Ron Short Centre

Supports people with physical and sensory impairments and disabilities by providing access to employment and challenging discrimination.

£23,600 to create a fully accessible and usable retail space, with new shop front.



Trauma Recovery Centre

Provides trauma recovery focused creative therapy to young people aged 3 to 25 years, and bespoke support to their parents/carers.

£66,279 over two years, in conjunction with SIF, to increase clinical and therapeutic hours to help more children and families suffering the effects of trauma.



Guernsey Beach Wheelchairs

Provides specially adapted beach wheelchairs so people with restricted mobility can access the beach.

£6,900 to pay for staff time covering admin, marketing, IT, hut and wheelchair maintenance, user training, and expansion-planning.



Guernsey Botanical Trust

Preserves horticultural heritage and provides education on gardening through a community-focused restoration and conservation project.

£10,000 for the final tranche of electric, drainage and accessibility work so the Victorian walled garden project can be completed.



St Peter Port Christmas Lights

Fund raises to ensure Town continues to have Christmas lights each year.

£5,000 to replace lights to enhance Commercial Arcade and encourage shoppers during the festive period.



Association of Guernsey Charities

Supports the interests and meeting the needs of 300 member charities.

£122,000 over three years to assist with operational costs, including the recruitment of a Development Officer who will deliver certain services previously provided by the Foundation.



Bright Beginnings

Offers a combination of free and paid-for services to support the relationship between a child and their caregivers.

£69,354 towards operational costs, including the recruitment of a full-time CEO who will work to make the charity more financially resilient and sustainable. The Foundation has arranged for Sunrise Trust to pay the other 50%, and to pay Year 3 in full.



Guernsey Arts

Promoting the value and importance of the arts in Guernsey.

£40,000 towards general salary costs, including the cost of the new Development Officer.



La Société Guernesiaise, Astronomy Section

Welcoming anyone with an interest in astronomy, from beginner to expert, to a fully equipped observatory.

£6,086 to upgrade computers, AV and Wi-Fi.



Relate

Provides relationship counselling to those on low incomes.

£52,000 over two years, in conjunction with Lloyds Bank Foundation in Year 1, to fund the costs of recruiting, training and supervising counsellors.



Guernsey Mind

Providing services to support and improve mental health and wellbeing throughout the Bailiwick.

£100,000 in conjunction with SIF and Lloyds Bank Foundation, to contribute towards half of the cost of service delivery over the next two years.



St James Concert Hall

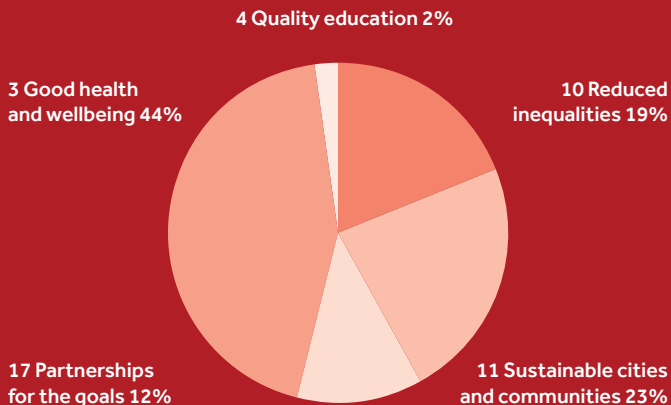
Staging music performances and events at Guernsey's only dedicated concert hall.

£50,000 over two years to cover running costs and prevent service cuts while the St James team puts in place long-term changes to improve business performance.

UN sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Earlier this year the Foundation adopted ten of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals which in future will be used to help prioritise the organisation's social policy work and measure impact. The board will review the Goals every year and re-prioritise them if necessary. Currently, the ten goals, ranked by the board in order of importance, are set out opposite. Below, recent grants have been categorised by SDG.

Grants by principal SDG



Good health and well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

No poverty

End poverty in all its forms

Quality education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Reduced inequalities

Reduce inequality by increasing inclusion and improving equity in opportunity

Sustainable cities and communities

Make the Bailiwick of Guernsey's communities and localities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Gender equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Life on land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

Decent work and economic growth

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and decent work for all

Life below water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Partnerships for the Goals

Implement the Goals through effective partnerships and coherent policy (e.g. funding AGC)





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