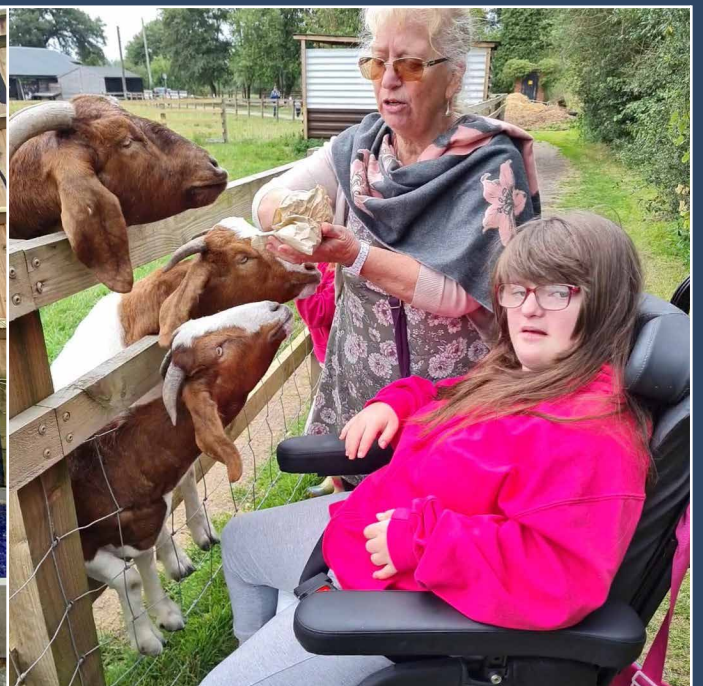




 **Heart of Bucks**
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2021/2022**



Thank you

We are incredibly grateful to our many donors and supporters whose generosity makes our work possible.

A special thank you also goes to:

- » Our board of trustees and the members of our expert panels and committees.
- » Our dedicated office staff.
- » Corporate suppliers, many of which share their services pro bono.
- » All of the voluntary and community groups that are working tirelessly to make Buckinghamshire a better place to live.

heartofbucks.org

Registered charity no. 1073861 | Company no. 03662246



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Chair's message



It is difficult to believe that another year has passed us by. This is my second message for the annual report and I have continued to enjoy being Chair and working with such dedicated staff, both at Heart of Bucks and beyond.

There is so much happening in the world that has a direct bearing on the poorest and vulnerable in our country and county. For example, it is easy to believe that the war in Ukraine is miles away and therefore has no direct bearing on the lives of those living in Buckinghamshire. Well it does and our task is therefore more challenging and essential.

Our grant-making covers the issues that matter to local people – including health, poverty, the environment, education and the arts. This year, we have issued over £1.3m in small grants to local charities. As you might

expect, these grants have been focused primarily towards health and disadvantage as the economy and personal wellbeing remain high on our agenda.

Charities and community organisations in Buckinghamshire are enriching our lives, providing a safety net for those who need it, connecting and uplifting people, and generally supporting our society. We are so glad that the generosity of our donors and partners allows us to give such significant financial support to so many local organisations. But we know that, despite the collective efforts of so many, the challenges of the future will be even greater.

In the face of Buckinghamshire's apparent affluence, we have seen increasing difficulties for many local people and families. We know that poverty and financial insecurity has been growing in our county, and so we distributed over £350,000 in small, direct payments to households who were struggling. While the total figures are significant, there are personal and difficult stories behind each and every one of the 468 individual crisis payments we made. We have helped an elderly lady living alone and struggling with energy costs, and with the rapidly rising cost of living. We have helped a single mother with a small grant to pay for adequate winter clothing for her baby and we've bought a desperate family the basic essentials for their home, such as mattresses and cooking utensils. There are a great many more stories like this, and each one tells us that there are people in Buckinghamshire who need help – urgently.

I must say a big 'thank you' to all our donors as, without you, we could not possibly make the difference that we aim for. We are also fortunate to be supported by a number of volunteer panel and committee members who share their valued experience to enhance the work we do.

Finally, the work of Heart of Bucks would also not be possible without our dedicated staff team, led by our CEO Henry Allmand.

Moir Stewart

About us

Heart of Bucks Community Foundation is a grant-making charity that is dedicated to improving the lives of people in Buckinghamshire.

Working in partnership with individuals, businesses and public sector organisations, every year Heart of Bucks delivers funding to hundreds of not-for-profit groups and to local people and families in a crisis.

An array of different projects and organisations have received funding since Heart of Bucks awarded their first grant in 2000. From cancer support groups, befriending services and counselling sessions, to support for children with additional needs, rough sleepers or ex-offenders.

As one of the largest funders in the county, during 2021/22 we distributed over £1.3m in funding, making this our second biggest year to date.

The Community Foundation network

Heart of Bucks is part of a network of 47 community foundations across the UK, all striving to help people and organisations invest in their communities.

Every three years we undergo an independent quality accreditation as part of our membership of UK Community Foundations.



CEO's message



I am delighted to have the opportunity to be writing my third message for our annual report. It has been a pleasure to have been part of the Heart of Bucks team during what has again been a very significant year for our charity and the communities we support. There has again been huge growth in our operation, and our grant-making has exceeded £1.3m, ensuring that we have been able to support even more individuals and charities across Buckinghamshire.

We could not do the work we do without the support and friendship of so many organisations in the county. Working collaboratively and in partnership remains, as ever, a fundamental aspect to our work. We know that we will make a bigger difference by working closely with those organisations who share our mission to support Buckinghamshire communities. For example, we worked closely with Buckinghamshire Council to financially support conflict refugees arriving in Buckinghamshire

from Ukraine and Afghanistan. We also worked closely with our long-term partners at Rectory Homes to develop the Rectory Foundation, a new funding opportunity for local communities. Looking nationally, we have partnered with Arts Council England to manage a small but popular local funding programme to deliver cultural activities to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Queen was a great role model for the nation, and will be remembered with the greatest of respect for her impact on so many charities throughout the UK.

The team was pleased to both give and receive recognition during a difficult year. 2021 saw the introduction of the Heart of Bucks 'President's Award', which will be presented to a different local philanthropist for their outstanding contribution to philanthropy in Buckinghamshire. We were delighted to present our friend and long-standing patron James Frost with the inaugural award at our annual reception in October. Our staff team were also delighted to receive a collective 'High Sheriff Award' from George Anson in December 2021, commending our charity for an outstanding contribution to reducing local hardship throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our strategy for the future remains on course. We will raise funds through close working relationships with our many donors and philanthropy partners; we will use these funds to make a significant impact in the Buckinghamshire charity sector; and most importantly, we will use our local knowledge and connections to champion everyone in our county, helping to find solutions to the social problems that affect us.

We are grateful to have the support of so many in helping us to achieve our goals. Thank you to everyone who has supported us, by donating money or time to help us help our community. For those who are considering getting involved in our work, we hope you will join us in achieving our vision, as we go about creating a culture of giving that strengthens and supports communities throughout Buckinghamshire.

Henry Allmand

End of year figures

£2,524,478

Income this year

£9,114,808

Long-term investments

£1,348,207

Total awarded in grants

£353,030

Awarded in grants to individuals and families

£4,013

Average grant awarded to community groups

£754

Average grant awarded to individuals and families

468

Number of individuals and families supported

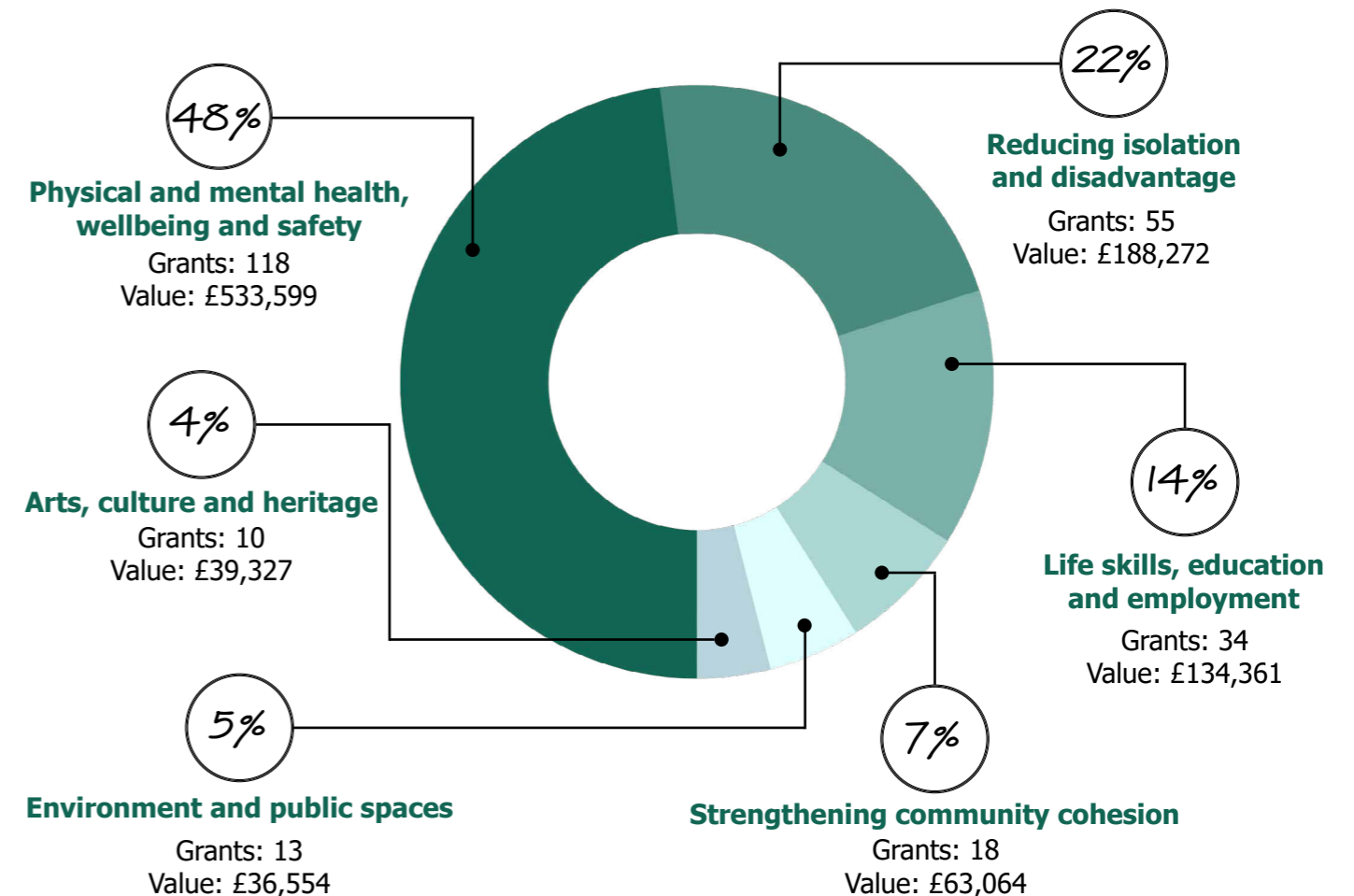
716

Total number of grants awarded

86

New organisations supported

Grants awarded to groups by impact category



Achievements

Over
£1.3m

awarded in grant
funding during
2021/2022

Over
£11m

awarded since our
foundation was
established in **2000**

Other highlights for the year

Received the 2021/22 High Sheriff Award for our 'outstanding contribution in reducing hardship in the county during the Covid-19 pandemic'.

Worked in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council and the local charity sector to **support refugees arriving in Buckinghamshire** who were affected by the conflicts in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Launched a number of new funds including ACE Let's Create Jubilee Fund, Buckinghamshire Building Society's Here to Help Fund, Bucks Covid Relief Fund, Saving Lives Fund, and Health Equity Fund.

Launched our Inspiring Buckinghamshire series which gives local people from a range of sectors a chance to share their knowledge and insights to help inspire others.

Heart of Bucks **chaired the Buckinghamshire Strategic Funders Group**, working in partnership with local funders to make better use of charitable funds.

Collaborated with the Rothschild Foundation, Leap and Buckinghamshire Council on **the Data Exchange - an online database** providing insights on Buckinghamshire and freely accessible data for the third sector.

Relocated to new office premises in Weston Turville which offer a more cost-effective and collaborative environment for our organisation.

Supported Rectory Homes in creating their corporate charitable foundation. The Rectory Foundation helps those most in need within the community and supports the local environment and community areas.

Feedback

We love working with Heart of Bucks because they enabled Ucare's community team to support people living with cancer better, through the development of online resources.

- Ucare

"Heart of Buck always seem to have our best interests at heart and often redirect us to a fund more appropriate to the one we have submitted an application to. The team are approachable and understanding that we are volunteers who have other pulls on our time. In short we like working with you."

- Bucks Search and Rescue

We love working with Heart of Bucks because they are always supportive, incredibly efficient, and always do everything that they can to help you source the funding that you need.

- Wycombe Women's Aid

"We'd like to say a huge thank you to Heart of Bucks for all their funding, support and advice, which enables us to reach so many local families facing such challenging circumstances."

- Restore Hope

The wonderful support of Heart of Bucks has enabled Hector's House to prevent suicide locally through our mental health education, awareness and support. We would be absolutely lost without your amazing community. Thank you so much, we appreciate you.

- Hector's House

"I would like to give a huge thanks to the whole grants panel for what has been a really interesting and helpful shadowing session. The breadth of knowledge, questions and opinions the panel brought is truly impressive and it was fascinating to see everyone's views come together to shape final decisions. I have seen so clearly the undeniable value of the grants panel and I can't thank you all enough for the opportunity."

- Grants panel observer

Crisis funding

Heart of Bucks manage a number of crisis funds which award grants to individuals and families in need. Cost of living increases and the resulting financial insecurity have hit hard across Buckinghamshire and continues to do so.

We have seen a huge increase in demand for one-off financial support during these desperate times and through our crisis funds have been able to support those in real need - from food and household essentials to help with energy costs.

Heart of Bucks work in partnership with 'Community Advocates' to ensure that the funding reaches those who need it most. Our Community Advocates come from a range of different organisations that provide support for vulnerable people, this ensures we cover different demographics and areas across the county.

These local support providers are already working closely with the individual or family. Through this partnership we can be confident that the applications that come to us are for people with a genuine need for support and also ensures that other avenues, such as public services, have been explored first.

Through this partnership we have awarded our largest ever number and value of grants to individuals and families in need across the county.



Katie Galvin
Community Advocate

"I first became aware of Heart of Bucks during the pandemic when I moved roles and supported Buckinghamshire residents who were clinically extremely vulnerable. Many residents were struggling financially and I became a Community Advocate for Heart of Bucks. It is such a rewarding role, supporting residents and colleagues to access grants that will make such a difference to people's lives. I have since moved roles and now manage the Helping Hand team at Buckinghamshire Council and have continued my role as a Community Advocate. It is a key part of my job and so lovely to be able to tell someone that a grant has been awarded."

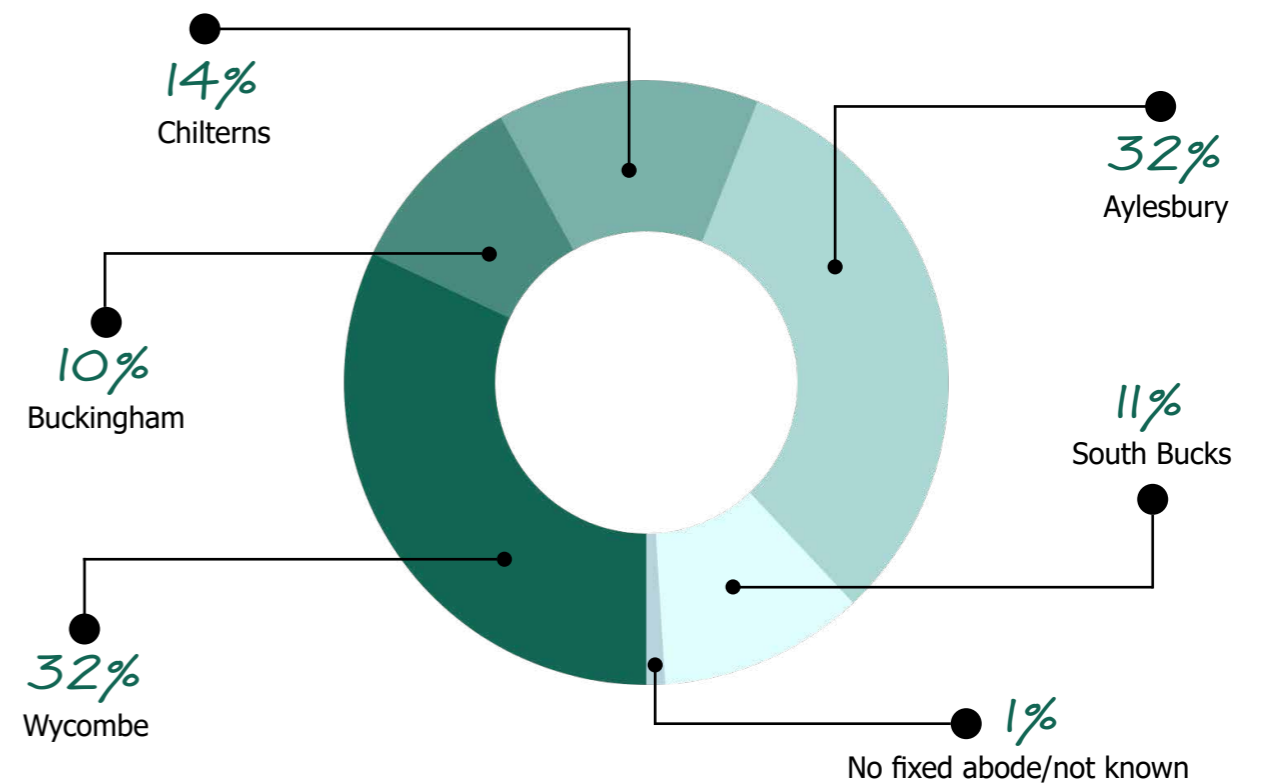
Feedback from a grant recipient:

"I just wanted to say a massive 'thank you' for accepting my application for financial aid with my gas and electric. It's made such a huge difference and taken the worry away on if I am going to be able to keep the kids warm or be able to provide hot water for a bath.

'Thank you, thank you, thank you!'

When I am in a better position I will be making a donation so that you are able to help someone else like me."

Crisis grants awarded by area



The largest proportion of our crisis funding went to:



Energy and water (49%)



Housing costs (25%)



Food (10%)

Partnerships

We are pleased to work on projects throughout the year with a number of organisations that have helped us achieve our charitable objectives in Buckinghamshire. Collaborative working is an important part of our approach to support the community and we are grateful to our partners who have helped us in the last 12 months, including:



Community Investors

Heart of Bucks is supported by a number of corporate and business partners; our Community Investors. These valued, responsible and caring companies work closely with us, whether it be by making donations to our appeals or core costs, fundraising for our organisation, establishing funding programmes, sponsoring research or events, or promoting our work to the community.



#QueensGreenCanopy



On Tuesday 22nd March, HM The Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Countess Elizabeth Howe invited local resident Sir David Jason and Hon. Milly Soames, Deputy Lieutenant to join her in planting three trees in Aylesbury as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

The tree planting took place at offices in Aylesbury, which boast a beautiful orchard and are home to two charities – Calibre Audio and Heart of Bucks Community Foundation.

The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and invites people from across the UK to "plant a tree for the jubilee".

"As a long-term local resident, it was a pleasure to be invited to plant a tree in Bucks to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. I hope that 'my' cherry tree will flourish and be enjoyed by future generations."

- Sir David Jason





Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety

Wycombe Wanderers Sports and Education Trust

Project: 'Football Fans in Training' - a healthy lifestyle programme

Grant: £4,969



'Football Fans in Training' is a lifestyle programme aimed at men and women aged over 35 and with a high BMI who are looking to lose weight, get fitter and lead a more active life.

This funding enabled three courses to take place; two specifically targeting males and one for females. Each 12-week course included sessions about diet, nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices as well as some gentle physical activity, with participants building up their ability to take part in football-related activities.

Case study:

When Graham started the course he was very quiet, had bad eating habits, and did not exercise apart from an occasional walk. He found it hard to fit in exercise or eat nutritionally as he is a shift worker and has no set routine.

As the weeks started to progress, Graham began gaining confidence and was achieving his SMART goals. He also joined another exercise programme and began doing home workouts. By week 11, Graham had shown great improvements in all elements relating to a healthy lifestyle - he was exercising regularly and had made diet changes, such as cutting down on drinking and fatty foods.

Graham expressed how he now finds it easier to balance everything through the new knowledge he has gained. His confidence has much improved, and his enthusiasm and willingness to always get involved has been amazing. He also has the second biggest weight loss of this cohort, with over 5kg lost at the halfway point!



Unseen

Project: Modern slavery and exploitation helpline

Grant: £5,000

Unseen is a charity providing safe houses and support for survivors of trafficking and modern slavery, including the UK Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline. This grant supported the Buckinghamshire branch of the helpline, providing a lifeline to vulnerable members of the community who were at risk of, or experiencing, exploitation.

Case study:

Family members were about to traffic Susan* and force her into sexual exploitation so they could profit. Susan bravely reached out to the helpline and explained that she had previously been sexually abused as a child by her grandmother and aunt before she was taken into care. As an adult, she had recently moved back to be with her mother but discovered that her grandmother and aunt also lived at the same property. Susan's family began to threaten her and were attempting to force her into prostitution against her will. When Susan resisted, she was told that she was going to be sent away so she could not escape. Susan told the helpline that several children also lived at the house and was fearful that they were also at risk of future exploitation.

The helpline advisors were able to contact the police, who facilitated her being able to leave the house. She was entered into the government support system for victims of modern slavery, and successfully entered into safe house accommodation to begin her recovery.

*name changed

Lady Ryder Memorial Garden

Project: Sensory garden for people with mental health issues

Grant: £5,000



This grant contributed to the development of a sensory garden, designed as a separate part of the main garden specifically for people with mental or physical disabilities. The sensory garden is split into three sections: one area for quiet relaxation, one for encouraging social interaction and teaching, and finally a productive area with large raised beds. This area includes wheelchair access points and built-in seating and encourages clients to try their hand at growing things and learning horticultural skills.

Feedback:

"It is obvious when clients are in the garden how much they enjoy it. Some from SEN schools cannot communicate at all but their pleasure is palpable."

"The vulnerable adults we brought to visit were overwhelmingly grateful and appreciative of their time in the garden, especially the wonderful 1:1 support. Their time with you was a real blessing."





Reducing isolation & disadvantage

Absolutely Leisure

Project: Thousands of smiles for Buckinghamshire

Grant: £4,064



This grant was used to purchase and distribute vouchers for a range of leisure activities to families with children who have additional needs.

The families were surveyed prior to the vouchers being distributed to establish how their children's needs affect their access to leisure facilities. 86% reported their access to leisure activities was negatively impacted and many families reported financial restraints that meant they simply could not afford them.

The activities included tickets to the Odeon cinema, Bucks Goat Centre and swim sessions at AquaVale Leisure Centre. The families were also offered free bowling and go-karting at Rogue Leisure Centre, which is managed by Absolutely Leisure.

Family feedback:

"The family activities you provided over the last few months have been the only days out for my son (who has very low functioning autism) since the start of Covid. The Bucks Goat Centre was a perfect venue for him - enclosed, with animals, and not crowded. Not having to pay for entry meant I had the money for a cake and drink for him too. Thank you so much, you have no idea how much it meant to me to be able to leave the house and take him out confidently."



Seerah Today

Project: Emergency food parcels for vulnerable people

Grant: £5,000

Utilising this grant, Seerah Today were able to provide support for local residents on a low income or in difficult circumstances through food parcels and a friendly chat on the phone. During the pandemic they also developed a befriending service where 'buddies' would look after a family or individual and take them food each week during periods of lockdown.



Volunteer feedback:

"Volunteering with Seerah Today has been a truly rewarding experience during the Covid lockdown. I don't often have exposure to vulnerable families and so it really helped me understand their situations."

A moment that stands out to me is delivering a food package to a family with several children. The young boy, after seeing a simple Asda Price pizza in the box, jumped for joy and shouted to his whole family "we have pizza!" - It was so nice to see exactly the positive impact I was having."

Everyone I met from the charity was kind and accommodating and I could see that Seerah Today was spending every penny in a way that improved the Wycombe community."

- Maddie

Quarrendon Community Cafe

Project: Free community BBQ

Grant: £1,440

As part of the local post-Covid recovery, this free community BBQ brought together local residents with the aim of providing a safe space to meet, reflect and reconnect. The event also included free family activities such as a bouncy castle, inflatable football, crafts, bulb planting and games. Over 300 people of all ages attended, with a volunteer team providing hospitality and coordinating the event.



"There was a fantastic community spirit at the event. There were lots of good and healing conversations and we were also able to encourage and invite residents to our free weekly community cafe where they can continue to find friendship and connection."



Improving life skills, education & employability

Weston Turville CE School

Project: Development of nature reserve

Grant: £1,500



This funding was used to develop a large and underused nature reserve in the school grounds, in partnership with Chiltern Rangers. Over two days, the children worked together to cut back an area at the edge of the nature reserve for birds, created a bird hide wall and sculptural feeder. They also carried out a meadow cut and rake, woodland thinning and created a glade area. After learning these new skills, the pupils were then able to continue with the upkeep on Friday afternoons when the weather allowed.

As a result of this project, the children now have a better understanding of a woodland ecology and how to care for it. They have also learned skills in caring for and developing a woodland habitat. The area can now also be used as a learning environment where children can visit the nature reserve and observe birds and other wildlife safely.



Case study

Tom* is a pupil in Year 6 who is very disadvantaged. He is the son of a single Dad, whom he lost to cancer two years ago, and has since been looked after by his older brothers. The family struggled enormously at the time of the Dad's illness and death and Tom became very angry and depressed. He needed a great deal of support to manage his emotions and his relationships suffered. The Chiltern Ranger days enabled him to work cooperatively with teams, and provided positive male role models. He responded well to the physical nature of the tasks and the sense of achievement from the outcomes, such as the bird hide. Tom has now experienced the second anniversary of his Dad's passing in a much calmer and more accepting way, and he is really settled in school with far fewer emotional outbursts.

*name changed

Daytop Multicultural Centre CIC

Project: Empowering women with fashion design and sewing skills

Grant: £4,990

This funding was used to empower 15 women through learning fashion design skills as well as CV writing, interview skills and key information on starting up a business. Most of the women were 'NEET' (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and some were low income earners. In addition to learning new and essentials skills, the project also facilitated friendships, socialising and networking among the group.

The project also involved a work placement, providing critical experience to help the women prepare for future employment. The feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive with each of them noting an increase in confidence, inspiration to advance their skills further, and motivation to find employment.



Participant feedback:

"I now have more confidence in myself and I hope to start a business with my newly made friends that I met on this project. Thank you so much."

Trailblazers Mentoring

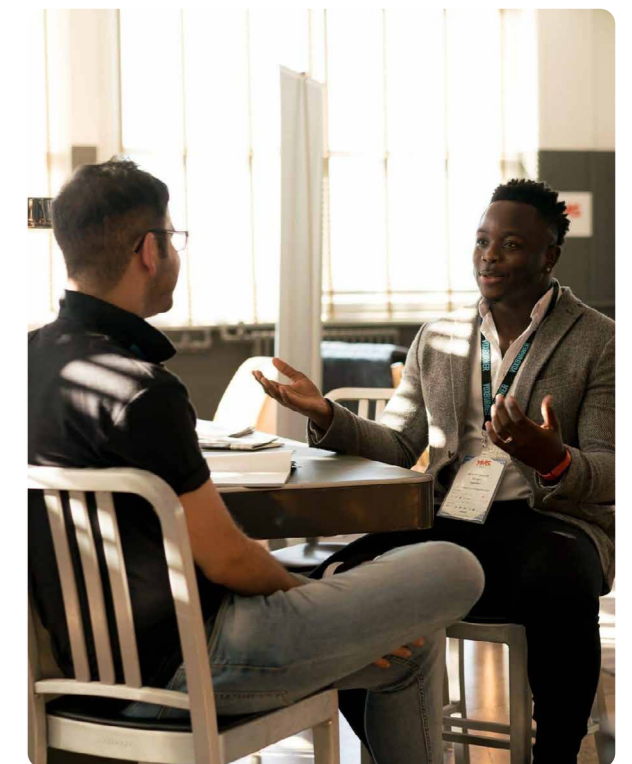
Project: Support for young men being released from prison

Grant: £5,000

This funding enabled the introduction of Community Support Workers, providing additional assistance to young men to seek out opportunities post-release and to make positive connections with potential employers. Identifying work opportunities and educational or training courses is a daunting prospect for young ex-offenders and so this support had a positive impact on their mental wellbeing as well as helping with their practical applications.

With the support of this funding, the Community Support Workers have been able to:

- » Offer additional support to mentees 'through the gate' and in the community
- » Be a friendly face for mentees at a particularly vulnerable time in their lives
- » Help to maintain consistently low re-offending rates (10% for both 12 and 24 months post-release)





Strengthening community cohesion

Sustain

Project: Buckinghamshire's allotment and community growing project

Grant: £9,611



This grant was used to promote community growing by setting up a network of projects and organisations. Sustain held monthly meetings for local organisations and together assessed existing provision across the county, looking at areas of opportunity for community growing.

The network collaborated under this project to produce 'Growing Food Together' a community food growing strategy for Buckinghamshire. The strategy combines national and local context whilst carrying out analysis in Buckinghamshire.

In addition to this, the funding was used to develop 'Good To Grow' within Buckinghamshire - an online platform to get people involved in their local community garden. The interactive map which is used to show community gardens in the area now has over 30 growing sites listed, helping to create a network whilst also listing volunteering opportunities for local people.

Sustain also carried out allotment surveys and through improved networking have found that more allotments are donating to local foodbanks in order to maximise fresh produce for those in need, as well as reduce the waste on allotment sites.



Wycombe Multicultural Organisation

Project: Refurbishment of community kitchen

Grant: £5,000

The refurbishment of the community kitchen at Hilltop Community Centre has resulted in a facility that is now fit for purpose post-Covid and suitable for individual and group access. There is now space for wheelchair users, for families with children, young people, elders and other adults.

This grant was spent on the completion of the first milestone which consisted of site set up, demarcation of the work area, provision of site services and delivery of materials and work equipment.



"We are very keen to continue to serve our local community as effectively as we can, and an up to date, efficient kitchen has enabled us to increase opportunities for people to meet together."

- Kojo Bonsu, Vice Chairman

Holmer Green Youth Club

Project: Contribution to the running of the club

Grant: £2,000

This grant supported the running of the youth club, enabling them to continue providing their routine activities. There was positive pressure from parents and young people for the club to reopen after lockdown, with many families under significant stress from the lack of social contact.

As a result of Covid, session numbers had to be halved in order to maintain social distancing. This funding helped the club to cover the additional hours of staff time needed to run their sessions and adhere to the restrictions.



Case Study

Steve is a young autistic boy who struggles at school and with relationships generally. Steve likes to take part in maths-related activities and in coming to the club he has 'discovered' sudoku and other similar games, and has made friends through playing them. His mother has expressly thanked the club leadership team for helping him positively broaden his contact base outside of school.



The arts, culture & heritage

Buckinghamshire Culture

Project: Celebrating Buckinghamshire's stories through creativity and culture

Grant: £1,946



Photo: Matt Fowler

The 'Story Stall' element of the project toured 11 locations across Buckinghamshire over the summer. Over 500 people engaged with the story stall and contributed stories via postcards and discussions – informing the artists' final responses which were shared at four showcase events.

Case study:

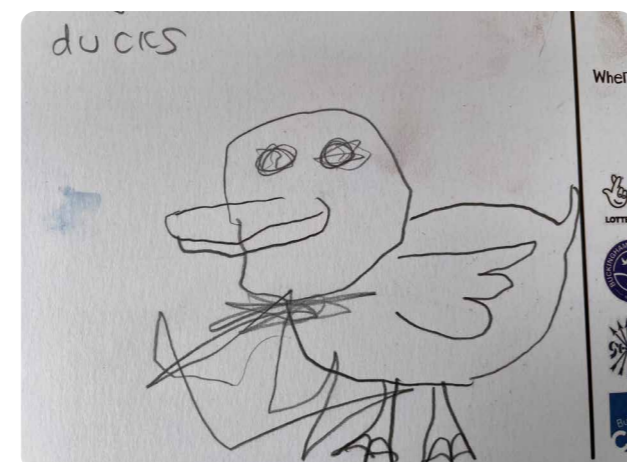
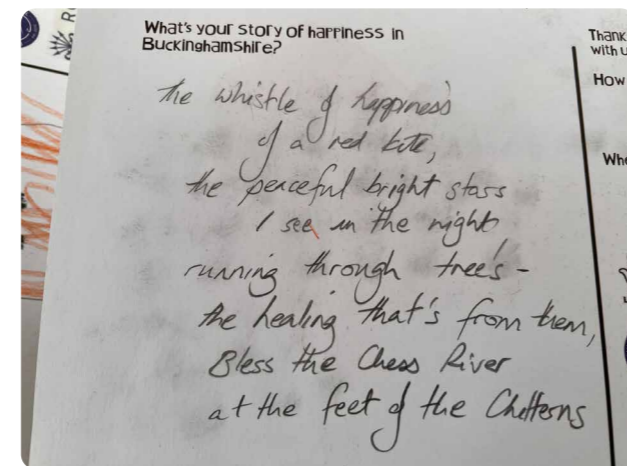
We met an older, isolated man who had moved to Bourne End just before lockdown, he didn't have any local contacts but had made a connection with the library.

At the event he shared stories about fictional woodland spirits he imagined when out walking. It was really positive for him to share his pleasure of creative thinking and to feel welcome, valued and listened to in a community of storytelling.

His stories were a moment of celebration and social and creative connection that enriched all of us who were there to listen to him.

This funding contributed to print, marketing and campaign budget for the Story Project: story-themed activities which aim to engage communities in creativity and culture.

Story postcards were used for collecting stories and activity packs were shared with target groups such as those who are isolated or adversely effected by Covid-19.



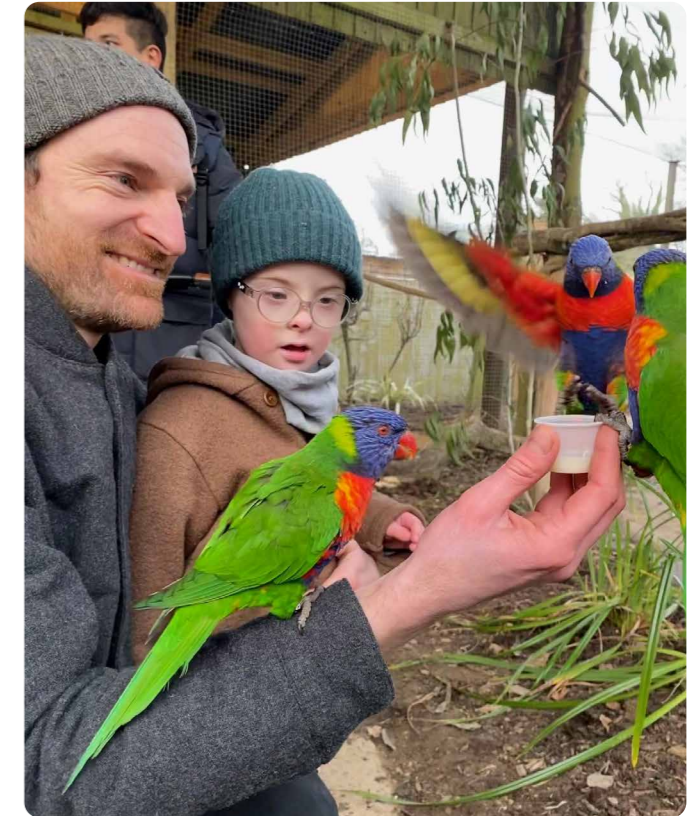
Happy Days Children's Charity

Project: Visiting theatre for children with additional needs

Grant: £1,000

Using this funding, Happy Days Children's Charity were able to organise a live performing arts pantomime show entitled 'Aladdin' for 80 children from Aylesbury who have moderate learning difficulties and associated medical needs.

The children were able to enjoy a live performing arts show, which is a rare opportunity due to the cost of going to a main local theatre. The experience helped to stimulate their sensory awareness and improve their social and communication skills. It also provided a fun and enjoyable experience for them, helping to improve their wellbeing, whilst also offering educational benefits.



Feedback:

"I liked the funny moments when the guy said 'I have the power!'" - Stephanie

"The teachers dancing to the music was very funny and cringey!" - Jamie

Chiltern Open Air Museum

Project: Digital transformation

Grant: £10,000

This grant has helped Chiltern Open Air Museum to continue providing access to culture and learning during lockdown and beyond. The museum's learning team developed a series of free, downloadable digital resources linked to the National Curriculum and suitable for all abilities, to aid home learning. This enabled them to continue supporting schools and home educators when they were unable to visit the museum.

In addition to this, the digital resources have helped the museum to reach new audiences and they have also been used to re-engage children and bridge the learning gap after long periods of lockdown.





The environment & public spaces

Chiltern Rangers CIC

Project: To enhance two gardens for the benefit and wellbeing of visitors and to improve the habitat for wildlife

Grant: £2,500



This funding enabled Chiltern Rangers to work with a wide range of individuals to transform two local green spaces.

Justin's Butterfly Garden at the Bucks Goat Centre and the CAMHS service garden at the Sue Nicholls Centre were both improved with new artwork, planters, wildlife habitats and recreation areas.

Justin's Butterfly Garden provides an additional space for visitors to explore and be in touch with nature. At the Sue Nicholls Centre, the garden provides a calming place for children and young people struggling with their mental health.

Many of the volunteers involved in this project came from disadvantaged backgrounds and the project offered them an opportunity to learn new skills.

22 young people and 11 adults helped contribute over 94 hours of volunteering to help make this project possible.

This funding will benefit over 30,000 people and will continue to do so for many years to come.



Inland Waterways Association

Project: Family-friendly volunteering weekend

Grant: £1,000

This grant was used to run an engagement day on the Wendover Arm Canal for 16 children and adults. The children were given the opportunity to learn new skills including bricklaying and building a bug hotel and hedgehog house. The day also included a nature walk along the canal which taught the families about the waterways environment and heritage.

The funding was also used to create a digital toolkit which contains information to help restoration groups expand their youth offering.

Inland Waterways Association are also working with the Wendover Canal Trust to install two educational monolith signposts which explain the history and environment of the Wendover Arm and the work that this grant has helped support. As a popular walking route with the local community, the signposts will become a lasting resource for the local community.



Groundwork South Trust

Project: Seeding social action

Grant: £2,359



This grant supported young people aged 10-18 to volunteer at Iver Environment Centre and devise their own social action projects to deliver at their schools. The students worked together to care for and enhance the grounds, for example by weeding, planting, and harvesting. They also learnt about threats to the environment and the actions that can be taken to mitigate these threats.

Whilst volunteering the young people were also given a guided tour of the centre and took part in focused discussions on an area of interest, such as the pond, sensory garden, hibernacula, raised beds, or composting. This knowledge informed their planning for their social action project. The volunteers all expressed an interest in habitat creation whilst on site and were provided with how-to guides and given an opportunity to choose plants and cuttings to take from Iver Environment Centre.

Support us

Set up your own fund

A great way for you to get directly involved in supporting your community, without the cost and administration of setting up your own charitable trust.

- » Endowment: Funds will be invested securely, with the annual income being distributed in grants.
- » Immediate Impact: An annual donation is awarded as grants within that year, providing immediate support.
- » Hybrid: A combination of endowment and immediate impact, enabling you to grow a fund over time but also make an impact right away.

Donate to an ongoing fund

We manage a number of existing funds that are impact theme or issue specific, as well as crisis funds which support individuals in real need. We welcome donations to these funds to help expand their reach across the county.

From time to time we also offer match-funding opportunities, which will help to make your donation go further. Please get in touch to find out about our current match-funding offers.

Support for your charitable trust

Whether you want to transfer a charitable trust or commission us to provide grant-making services, Heart of Bucks offers a range of services specifically tailored to meet the needs of charitable trusts and is well placed to be able to offer a comprehensive and tailor-made grant-making process.

The Charity Commission acknowledges that community foundations have a reputation for the effective management of charitable funds in order to maximise their impact at local level.

Wills and legacies

A great way to leave a positive mark on the community long after you are gone, is by leaving a gift in your will. Heart of Bucks offers an ideal way to leave a legacy easily and tax-efficiently. If you prefer, we would be happy to work with your financial advisor to find the best solution for you.

As an accredited community foundation, legacies made to Heart of Bucks qualify as a charitable donation and are exempt from inheritance tax. This could help reduce the total amount of tax paid on your estate.

We're a charity too!

Donating directly to Heart of Bucks makes a huge difference to our work within the local community.

Your support will enable us to help hundreds of voluntary groups and charities by delivering grants that address specific challenges.

"Supporting the local community is important to us, and there is no better custodian to do that than Heart of Bucks, who know Buckinghamshire inside and out and will use their expertise and experience to transform the lives of those living in our county."

- Ruth and Henry Amar

Get in touch

We'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to learn more about supporting the Buckinghamshire community, please get in touch.

giving@heartofbucks.org
01296 330134

You can also visit heartofbucks.org to read our impact stories, subscribe to our quarterly newsletter and more.



"It's really important to us that we support local charities and so we are very pleased to be able to sponsor the Heart of Bucks annual report and support its programme of informed and targeted funding."

Sheryl Davis, partner



The partners and staff of Saffery Champness Chartered Accountants in High Wycombe are pleased to be able to support Heart of Bucks in its charitable endeavours.

www.saffery.com

Our values

we listen *respectfully*

we fund *inclusively*

we advise *professionally*

we support *locally*

we lead *collaboratively*



Connecting people who care with local causes that matter

Heart of Bucks, New Road, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5QT

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Company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales

Company No. 03662246