



Annual Report

2025/2026

Connecting people who care, with local causes that matter.

We are a catalyst for social change, enabling and encouraging local giving and community philanthropy. Through a programme of informed and targeted funding and advice, we're helping to make our community a better place to live, work, play and do business.

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.
- » The members of our expert panels and committees.
- » Our dedicated office staff.
- » Our corporate supporters, 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



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



Chair & CEO's message



This year has been one of progress, ambition and collaboration.

Together with our donors, partners and supporters, we have continued to strengthen communities across Buckinghamshire, investing in projects and relationships that will create lasting impact for years to come.

As part of our **25th anniversary celebrations**, we recognised the amazing grassroots organisations in Buckinghamshire through our series of walks across the county, together with the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. This gave us the opportunity to meet funded organisations, hear inspiring stories firsthand, and deepen our understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing local communities. Our celebrations concluded with our first **charity awards evening**, recognising the outstanding individuals, organisations and volunteers whose dedication makes Buckinghamshire a stronger, more connected county.

Our commitment to supporting communities has been reflected in practical action. Through the **Rural England Prosperity Fund**, delivered in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council, we have helped strengthen local organisations. We were also proud to launch the inaugural **William Harding Bursary** through our Young Futures Fund, creating new opportunities for young people to thrive.

A significant milestone was the formation of **Capstone Circle**, our trading subsidiary. This will create new opportunities to generate sustainable income that will support our charitable mission. We also continued to develop the **Buckinghamshire Funders** partnership, including the launch of a new website, and secured renewed investment to expand both our policy and insight work and the Bucks Data Exchange, ensuring that local decision-making is informed by robust evidence and shared learning.

We have also looked firmly to the future following 25 years of supporting the Buckinghamshire community. The launch of **Vision 2050** sets out our long-term ambition for Buckinghamshire, providing a clear roadmap for how we will respond to changing needs, build resilience and inspire greater local philanthropy.

These achievements have only been possible because of the generosity, commitment and partnership of everyone who supports our Foundation. **Thank you for helping us build a stronger Buckinghamshire for today and for future generations.**

Moir Stewart, Chair of Trustees

Henry Allmand, CEO

Key achievements

We formed **Capstone Circle**, our trading subsidiary.

We completed **eight walks across the county** visiting funded organisations, with the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire.

We hosted our first **charity awards** to mark the end of our 25th anniversary celebrations.

We delivered the **Rural England Prosperity Fund**, in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council.

We launched our **Vision 2050** - what we plan to do, why it matters, and how we will achieve it.

We launched the first **William Harding Bursary**, through our Young Futures Fund.

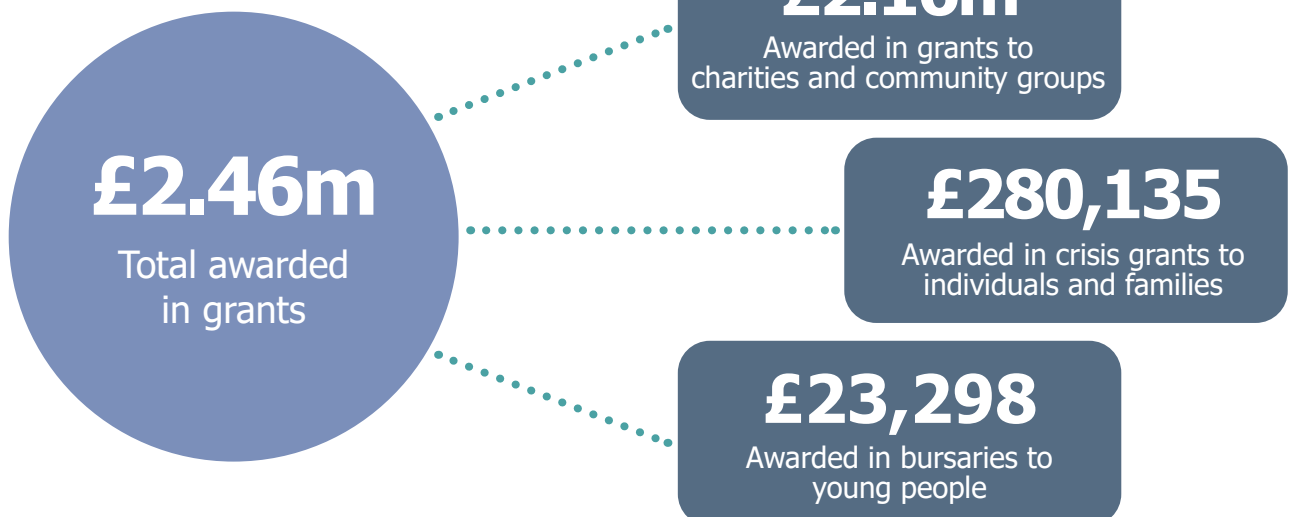
We secured a further three years funding for our **policy and insight work** locally.

We continued to develop the **Buckinghamshire Funders** project, including launching a new website.

We secured a further three years funding to host the **Bucks Data Exchange**.

Our grant-making in numbers

1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026



Partnerships

Collaborative working is an important part of our approach to support the community and we are grateful to the organisations we have partnered with this year, including:



Feedback

We are so impressed with Heart of Bucks and the way you raise the profile of small charities like ours. With the support you have been giving us we are able to buy essential equipment and provide services that make a big difference.

Chesham Community Fridge

Our relationship with Heart of Bucks has been invaluable; our conversations have consistently offered meaningful insight and added real value to our work as a growing organisation. We have always found the team to be understanding, engaged, and genuinely supportive in helping us pursue our vision.

One Eighty

The sense of direction and cohesion that you have given the community is really quite magical - you are creating a family with a real sense of purpose.

Private donor

It was quite inspiring to listen to the organisations we visited talk about their work with such obvious dedication and passion ... there are many, many people willingly working hard to help others less fortunate than themselves.

*Supporter
After a 'Seeing is Believing' event*

I genuinely value the Foundation's approach to grant-making. The support provided is both practical and flexible, and it makes a real difference to our sustainability and the services we deliver. We are very grateful for Heart of Bucks' continued support and for the understanding they show towards local charities like ours.

High Wycombe Shopmobility

Funding for

Health and wellbeing

109
grants

Totalling
£783,613



Honeypot Children's Charity



Wycombe Wanderers Foundation



Restore Hope

Projects funded include:

- ♥ **Accompanied walks for service people**
£7,450 to Chiltern Open Air Museum
- ♥ **Dance-inspired exercise for people 65+**
£15,000 to Wycombe Wanderers Foundation
- ♥ **Monthly support group for men**
£600 to Hectors House
- ♥ **Counselling support fund**
£7,500 to South Bucks Counselling
- ♥ **Therapy sessions for children**
£7,500 to The Pace Centre
- ♥ **Respite break for young carers**
£5,000 to Honeypot Children's charity
- ♥ **Grow it, cook it, eat it course**
£2,250 to Restore Hope
- ♥ **Specialist physiotherapy**
£7,500 to Chilterns Neuro Centre
- ♥ **Coffee mornings for older adults**
£3,630 to Chesham Town Council
- ♥ **Security fencing and pitchside barriers**
£7,500 to Buckingham Football Club

Funding for

Isolation and disadvantage



Projects funded include:

- ♥ **'Go Play' holiday club**
£10,000 to Southcourt & Walton Court Community Project
- ♥ **Baby bundles for new parents**
£7,500 to Kindness in Bucks CIC
- ♥ **Winter night shelter**
£10,000 to Wycombe Homeless Connection
- ♥ **Aylesbury Muslim seniors group**
£2,000 to Al-Kahf Foundation
- ♥ **Befriending service**
£3,000 to Thomley Hall Centre
- ♥ **Drop-in centre for young people**
£4,240 to Youth Concern
- ♥ **White goods for vulnerable families**
£7,500 to The Link Foundation
- ♥ **Support for people with disabilities**
£6,000 to Enrych Buckinghamshire
- ♥ **Companionship in homes & care settings**
£11,965 to Florence Nightingale Hospice
- ♥ **Support for former carers**
£3,216 to Community Care North Bucks

**77
grants**

**Totalling
£478,273**



Funding for

*Life skills, education
and employability*

**50
grants**

Projects funded include:

- ♥ **Digital literacy workshops**
£1,750 to Community Youth Ventures CIC
- ♥ **Camping equipment**
£1,800 to High Ash Scout Group
- ♥ **Barista training cafe in HMP Grendon**
£4,788 to NewGround Foundation
- ♥ **Outdoor classroom**
£3,000 to Speen School PTA
- ♥ **Safety equipment**
£1,855 to Aylesbury Youth Motor Project
- ♥ **Volunteering for young SEND adults**
£5,000 to Vana Trust
- ♥ **Internship programme**
£5,000 to The MoneyHeave Community Project
- ♥ **'Plate Up!' food education programme**
£4,820 to FoodRise
- ♥ **DIY and home skills training**
£7,500 to Wycombe Central Aid
- ♥ **Construction multi-skills course**
£7,500 to New Meaning Training

**Totalling
£347,442**

NewGround Foundation



Community Youth Ventures



Vana Trust





Aylesbury Hindu Temple Trust



Black Park Shed



Wycombe Youth Action

Projects funded include:

- ♥ **Youth violence prevention programme**
£10,000 to Wycombe Youth Action
- ♥ **Holi Spring Festival of Colours**
£1,500 to Aylesbury Hindu Temple Trust
- ♥ **Community hall refurbishment**
£20,000 to Waddesdon Hall
- ♥ **Wycombe 'cool hub'**
£10,000 to Wycombe Wanderers Foundation
- ♥ **New community facility**
£5,000 to Holy Trinity Hazlemere
- ♥ **Workshop equipment**
£5,000 to Black Park Shed
- ♥ **Replacement roof**
£3,000 to Wendover Guide Hut
- ♥ **Peer group for young victims of crime**
£4,000 to SAFE!
- ♥ **Kit and equipment for girls' rugby**
£3,639 to High Wycombe Rugby Union Football Club
- ♥ **Break-in recovery costs**
£500 to Missenden Walled Garden

19
grants

Totalling
£123,851

Funding for

The arts, culture and heritage

15
grants

Totalling
£142,064



Projects funded include:

- ♥ **Chesham Fringe Festival**
£3,500 to Chesham Fringe CIC
- ♥ **'Band in a Van' outreach**
£7,500 to Alina Orchestra
- ♥ **Children's social circus project**
£7,079 to The Theatre Shed
- ♥ **Art supplies**
£500 to Retina UK
- ♥ **Inclusion and access improvements**
£4,865 to Amersham Museum
- ♥ **Bucks Cultural Leaders mentoring**
£10,000 to Buckinghamshire Culture
- ♥ **Exhibition on influential women**
£9,655 to National Paralympic Heritage Trust
- ♥ **Enhance Grade II registered garden**
£9,825 to Milton's Cottage Trust
- ♥ **Restore 1940s display prefab house**
£14,940 to Chiltern Open Air Museum



Funding for

The environment and public spaces

Projects funded include:

- ♥ **New fit-for-purpose skatepark**
£10,000 to Wendover Parish Council
- ♥ **Biodiversity improvement**
£2,750 to Brill C of E School
- ♥ **Community kitchen refurbishment**
£7,500 to St Mary's Church Wendover
- ♥ **Upgrade school garden area**
£500 to Little Missenden C of E School
- ♥ **Accessible and sensory pathway**
£10,000 to Independent and Work Ready CIC
- ♥ **Increase biodiversity and accessibility**
£5,688 to Greener Padbury Group
- ♥ **Sensory garden**
£16,204 to Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish Council
- ♥ **Conservation sessions for young people**
£30,000 to Chiltern Rangers CIC
- ♥ **Playground equipment**
£17,893 to Princes Risborough Town Council
- ♥ **Equipment for school allotment plot**
£1,000 to Lee Common CE School



Little Missenden
C of E School



Chiltern Rangers CIC



Greener Padbury Group

Totalling
£291,577

36
grants

Supporting our community by

Tackling poverty

Heart of Bucks provides funding to individuals and families struggling with the cost of daily life through **Together Against Poverty**. In 2025/26 we distributed over £280,000 to those in poverty in our community.

Essential grants help households experiencing severe hardship and distress, including food, shelter, fuel or digital poverty.

The largest proportion of our crisis funding went to:



Housing costs (69%)



Energy and water (9%)

Over
£280,000
awarded to
those living in
poverty

“ I was in a really dark place and couldn’t see a light at the end of the tunnel. Now I can see a fresh start for us all, and we are very, very grateful for your help.

- Recipient of crisis funding

”

Our system of referrals from Community Advocates – front-line experts – helps us to reach those most in need and ensure funding is making a real difference.

**together
against
poverty.**

In some circumstances, we may also fund charitable organisations working directly with local people experiencing poverty and disadvantage.

A campaign by  **Heart of Bucks**
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**Supporting our
community by**

Empowering the next generation

Led by Heart of Bucks, **Young Futures** is a partnership of local organisations and people that funds opportunities and aspirations for young people across Buckinghamshire, with young board members directly involved in funding decisions.

During 2025/26, we awarded:

23 grants
to local
organisations
totalling
£98,330

29 bursaries
to students,
entrepreneurs
and those in
vocational training
totalling
£23,298



“This bursary is going to give me the freedom to explore CPD options for my career as a teacher in a special needs school, as well as free up some time not working to fully commit to it and my degree. I can’t wait to start looking for more opportunities this will provide me with.”

- Cara, Succeed Award recipient



**Thank you to the Young
Futures Fund 2025 partners:**

Rothschild Foundation
SWEF | Youth Voice Bucks
The Savoy Educational Trust
Kop Hill Climb | Seymour Taylor
William Harding's Charity

Examples of grants awarded include:

Action 4 Youth - Group mentoring sessions focusing on topics such as alcohol and drugs, and gang and knife crime.

One-Eighty - A mental health project addressing factors affecting readiness to learn in school.

Theatre Shed - Inclusive workshops that build self-compassion through the arts.

The Young Futures Fund would also not be possible without a number of private donors who generously support the work we do.

Supporting our community by

Understanding local needs

Through in-depth data analysis and personal stories, we shine a spotlight on our county of contrast. **Buckinghamshire: Uncovered** reveals the hidden challenges - issues often obscured by statistical averages and areas of extreme wealth.



Did you know that...

51%

of Buckinghamshire's
Year 12-13 students have at least
tried vaping vs. 35% for smoking

7%

of Bucks 16-17-year-olds are
Not in Education, Employment or
Training (national average: 2.4%)

A female living in Gatehouse
(Aylesbury) has a life expectancy

13 years less

than a female living in Marlow.

Our reports include:

- ✓ **Alcohol misuse in our community**
- ✓ **The vaping generation**
- ✓ **Loneliness and isolation**
- ✓ **Creative health**
- ✓ **Youth, skills and unemployment**
- ✓ **Homelessness**
- ✓ **Air quality**
- ✓ **Cost of living crisis**
- ✓ **Our ageing population**

View all of the reports online: heartofbucks.org/bu-reports

**Working in
partnership**

Bucks Data Exchange



We put data in the hands of those driving change across Buckinghamshire.

The Bucks Data Exchange provides small charities, community organisations, policymakers and funders across Buckinghamshire with access to data, insight, and advisory support for social good.

Our free-to-access datasets and resources help you better understand local communities, evidence need, demonstrate impact, and ensure funding gets in the right hands to support those most in need.

Discover local data by exploring our Local Insight platform.

User-friendly and free to access, it holds data from over 2,000 neighbourhood level indicators. Updated regularly with the latest releases it provides you with clean and reliable data you can trust. Visit the Bucks Data Exchange website and start exploring.

bucksdataexchange.org

Have you explored our latest datasets?



The NEW **Children & Low Income Indicator after Housing Costs** provides a clear indication of child poverty levels in areas of interest to you.



The NEW **Index of Multiple Environmental Deprivation (IMED)** considers pollution, climate risk, and nature deficit to provide a picture of how environmentally deprived an area is.

Coming soon...

- Rough Sleeping Data Framework
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions



CONNECT WITH US

Sign up to our newsletter, visit bucksdataexchange.org



Follow us on LinkedIn [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bucks-data-exchange) /bucks-data-exchange

Get in touch
hello@bucksdataexchange.org

Working in
partnership

Buckinghamshire Funders

Buckinghamshire Funders is a collaborative hub for organisations committed to addressing local challenges and cultivating thriving communities.



Be the first to hear about new **funding opportunities** by joining the Bucks Funding Alert WhatsApp group.

Scan here to join*

*Please note: your profile picture and number will be visible to other members of the group.

Meet the members



ROTHSCHILD
FOUNDATION



Stratton Chase
FOUNDATION



bucksfunders.org



Objectives

By working together we want to:

Encourage more investment in Buckinghamshire

Elevate our grant-making quality

Help the local community

Enable fact-based philanthropy

Constructively work with fundraisers and grantees

Values

As we work together, we will strive to be:

Transparent

Fair

Adaptable

Inclusive

Collaborative

Local businesses giving back

Community Investors

Our business supporters are valued, responsible and caring companies that make a difference through donations, fundraising, sponsorship, or establishing funding programmes. Below are some of our current Community Investors, the full list can be found on our website: heartofbucks.org/our-community-investors



advania alcom
WITH US IT WORKS



Ashridge
Group



Baklsen



If your business would like to make a real difference, we'd love to welcome you into our network of Community Investors. Get in touch: giving@heartofbucks.org

**Make a
difference**

Inspiring local generosity



Regular giving

Provide ongoing support to help meet urgent needs, creating positive change where it's needed most.



Create a fund

Establishing a fund is a meaningful and tax-efficient way to support your local community.



Charitable trusts

From transferring a charitable trust to managing grant-making, we provide personalised support and a bespoke approach to ensure your charitable aims are delivered effectively.



A gift in your will

Including a legacy gift to Heart of Bucks provides a tangible way to ensure your values continue to shape the community and causes you care about for generations to come.



Support our work

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



Get in touch

giving@heartofbucks.org
01296 330134

Supporting opportunity and enabling success

We advise individuals, families and businesses across a variety of sectors.

We provide a full range of accounting, audit, tax and business advisory services to help clients achieve their personal and business objectives.

For more information, contact:

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www.saffery.com

Proud to support Heart of Bucks





Our values

We listen *respectfully*

We fund *inclusively*

We advise *professionally*

We support *locally*

We lead *collaboratively*

Photo credits

In order of appearance

Front cover:

Pace Centre
Chiltern Open Air Museum
Lighthouse Princes Risborough
Chilterns Neuro Centre
Speen PTA
Chesham Town Council
Youth Concern
Growing Hope High Wycombe
Friendly Bombs Theatre Co.

Back cover:

High Wycombe Shop Mobility
Sport in Mind
Bucks Older Peoples Action Group
Origami Wings CIC
Wendover Youth Centre
Heart and Soul Hub CIC



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