

# TWO RIDINGS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## **Coronavirus Community Fund**

Update report June 2020

# Introduction

## Update on Two Ridings's Coronavirus Community Fund: supporting local communities across North & East Yorkshire through the Covid-19 crisis.

This report gives a brief insight into the work so far of the Two Ridings's Coronavirus Community Fund. This fund, launched just three months ago on 18<sup>th</sup> March, was established with the generous support of many new and existing donors & supporters of Two Ridings. Its aim is to support local groups needing essential funds to respond to the coronavirus crisis across North & East Yorkshire. As the local community foundation for North & East Yorkshire we support groups via grants from funds managed on behalf of donors. Since 2000 we have distributed over £10m to groups and currently hold over 40 funds. The Coronavirus Community Fund is one of them.

Covid-19 is creating rapid and profound impacts on all aspects of our lives, economy and communities. This, against the backdrop of existing needs and challenges in our area (areas of deprivation, rurality, isolation and impact of recent flooding to name but a few) means that Two Ridings, as the local community foundation, is committed to using all our available resources to do what we can to help. This report gives donors and supporters a snapshot of our activity.

In our region, as in all parts of the UK, local charities stepped up quickly & effectively to respond to the coronavirus crisis. Many rapidly adjusted how they operated, pivoting their services and support away from face to face contact to online and remote. They did this knowing that demand would increase significantly with more and more people needing help. The pivotal nature of local groups was recognised by many public sector agencies who asked key local charities to be community support hubs. Yet despite all of this, groups responded knowing that for some if not most, their means of raising essential, unrestricted funds had disappeared overnight. Fundraising and income from room hire, ticket sales or other trading activity has gone. This is why we are determined that our fund will not only help with the immediate and short term response, but also be a fund that local groups can access for longer term funding for essential costs like rent and staffing.

The Two Ridings Coronavirus Community Fund is:

- **Supporting local groups' immediate response – keeping people fed, safe, well and connected;**
- **Help supporting key local groups sustainability by covering essential costs of operating whilst responding;**
- **Helping those groups working with the most marginalised whom Covid-19 or isolation is most adversely affecting; and**
- **Will assist with contributing funds and support to build back better in North & East Yorkshire so groups are still here, delivering positive activity and support into the futures, whatever that may look like.**

This report inevitably focusses on how we have supported local groups to respond to the immediate needs, but it does also present thoughts about our longer term approach.

# Our response: standing shoulder to shoulder

## The trustees & staff of Two Ridings Community Foundation stand shoulder to shoulder with the people and charities in North & East Yorkshire.

From both our experience of managing flood recovery funds and others\* we knew that our response to the coronavirus crisis had to be time sensitive, with a light-touch approach to applications and monitoring. We would manage risk through relationships & collaborate on delivery and most importantly of all, offer flexible funding. We hope we are achieving this. Feedback so far has been positive.

The groups we fund - small grassroots organisations with fewer paid resources, more volunteers and less reserves to draw on than larger organisations and often less well networked – need their local community foundation to address their funding needs in the most appropriate way. If we don't "get" them, who else will?

We have principles to guide our approach to grant making:

- Our focus is on the needs of grassroots groups
- We will make applying for a grant as easy as possible
- We will support groups for the long term & know now is the time for core cost funding & will advocate for this with donors
- We believe the health of the sector lies in the health and vibrancy of its people, so leadership support is vital
- There will be some hard choices, we know we won't be able to fund everything, but we will be transparent & accountable
- We believe in generous leadership & will collaborate & share knowledge & resources to make funds go further

To date we have maintained a responsive, flexible approach that has been recognised by groups. We have turned round applications in two weeks, collaborated with other funders & adapted our approach when needed. Currently out of every ten groups that apply we fund seven, our smallest grant is £200 to **Tuesday Afternoon Social Carers Club Hull** & our largest is a grant of £27,366 to **Scarborough Mind and Age UK Scarborough**.

\*From The possible, not the perfect: Learning from funder responses to emergencies. IVAR

### First steps 18 March

As soon as we decided to respond we contacted all funded groups to reassure them that whatever they deemed was the right thing to do with their activities we would support them.

This meant some groups re-purposed their funds to respond, others paused delivery.

The next thing we did was to set up the Coronavirus Community Fund to make initial awards of up to £2000.

We made the application process light touch, with a 2 week turn around for decisions & little if any monitoring. This allows groups to access money to do the things that are needed.

It has required us to be fleet of foot and so far we have funded the same number of groups in 12 weeks that we would normally support in a year.

# Keeping people fed, safe, well & connected

In response to lockdown, local groups transformed their services in days to deliver support. Many have shifted to providing remote support, finding new, innovative ways to keep in touch & engage. Some extended their reach.

Of the 235 grants made to date, many are to enable local groups to respond to need, pivoting their services and support so that they can remain in touch and keep people fed, safe, well and connected. As you'd expect from a place based funder, well known to local groups, many of the grants Two Ridings have made are to established groups but we have also funded a number of the mutual aid groups, where people are simply responding on the ground to help neighbours or other vulnerable people, not needing formal structures. We hope to maintain these relationships.

Another key way in which our funds helped was to support groups so they could work remotely. **Vision Support** in Harrogate received a £1000 grant to fund IT & telephone costs for staff working from home so they could produce their newsletter/audio tapes for visually impaired members.



Delivering food and medicines & telephone support were other key priorities for our £2000 grants. **Age UK** in York (left) received a grant to help with food and medicine deliveries as well as providing vital telephone connection to vulnerable older people.

## “Makes me happy & feels like I’m not forgotten”

Quote from user of Rainbow Gardens, Hull £2000 grant for digital investment to support volunteers & users of the garden.

## Immediate impact grants

To date we have made 170 immediate response grants of up to £2000, totalling £309,659.

Of which

- 19% went to groups in East Riding
- 23% in Hull
- 44% in North Yorkshire
- 14% in York

And an approximate breakdown of the type of support funded indicates that small grants were requested for the following primary needs:

Helping with food & medicine deliveries 39%

Maintaining or adapting delivery 26%

Providing telephone & other remote befriending 14%

Providing support for mental wellbeing 8%

Digital investment 7%

Essential capacity investment 6%

From the feedback from groups we think our funds are helping over 125,000 people.

# We might all be in the same storm but we're not all in the same boat

Small, local charities work with the most vulnerable at the best of times and now, at the worst of times, many are keeping the most vulnerable protected.

In deprived areas people are dying from Covid-19 at more than twice the rate than in affluent areas. The disease disproportionately infects and kills black and minority ethnic people, revealing a racial pandemic within the viral pandemic. The pandemic shows that our fates are interconnected but also that divisions unfairly leave the most vulnerable to bear the greatest human loss.

We are trying to ensure that our funds support the most marginalised and vulnerable. One of our first partnership grants is to Forum and HANA in Hull to develop better support to BAME groups and communities. And these are just three of the many 1000s of people the Coronavirus Community Fund has helped.



Mercedes & baby  
Home Start York



David  
RHM Recovery Hull



Matt  
Jonas Trust, Redmire

**“Thank you so much for partnering with us and ensuring that vulnerable people like David have the support and help they need in these unprecedented times.”** RHM Recovery Hull.

## Needs analysis

To assist with understanding of needs, particularly of more vulnerable & marginalised groups, we are doing the following:

We have set up an independent panel with people with expertise in issues such as homelessness & other funders

We are monitoring our grant making by beneficiary types. The following is the breakdown by the primary beneficiary group helped:

- 21% Older people
- 20% local residents
- 16% People from marginalised communities
- 15% People with mental health issues
- 9% Children & Young People
- 8% Families
- 7% People with physical illness or disabilities
- 4% BAME Communities

We have reached out to particular groups to ensure they are aware of our funds – e.g. travellers, BAME communities & refugee & asylum seekers.

We have mapped our grants against the British Red Cross Covid-19 Vulnerability Index to check for gaps.



# Supporting key local organisations now and in the longer term?

As the local ‘place-based’ funder in North & East Yorkshire we are only too aware of the local landscape of small groups that deliver vital services in our towns or districts. Our long term aim is to use our funds wisely so we have funds to help groups respond now as well as funding to “keep the lights on” for key local organisations ready for when we fully emerge from lockdown.

A major challenge for many local groups we support is keeping their lights on – paying rent, electricity, reimbursing their volunteers expenses, the list goes on, whilst the demand for their services increases. They are not giving up, they are continuing in this most harsh of climates. We cannot give up on them.

**Kingfisher Café Bridlington**, awarded £10,000 to support its work within a coordinated effort in Bridlington to support homeless people said in their application: ‘The biggest positive benefit of the grant would be a sense of security that this work...can continue’

**Kyra Women’s Project York**, awarded £11,980 for crisis counselling for women said...”lockdown has seen a sharp spike in need.”

**Craven & Harrogate Districts Citizens Advice**, awarded £10,000 to increase capacity to support an unprecedented increase in demand. This is one of many local Citizens Advice charities we have helped as we see these charities facing significant demand at the same time as facing funding shortfalls.

**Home Start, Richmondshire**, received £10,000 as a contribution to running costs to maintain the service “whilst we await outcomes of decisions from other funders.”

## Larger grants 27 April

On 27<sup>th</sup> April we launched our more flexible, larger grants of up to £10,000 as well as partnership bids for grants up to £30,000.

These grants can fund continuation of response work as well as helping groups maintain their services now & for the long term.

To date, we have awarded 65 larger grants, including 2 partnerships.

The flexible grants are proving very popular, with currently 71 more waiting to be assessed.

We have had to shift our approach to meet the demand, recruiting six additional volunteer assessors & moving to fortnightly panels.

There are a further 82 applications started on our online system and a number of discussions are being had about partnership bids.

# Grantmaking activity

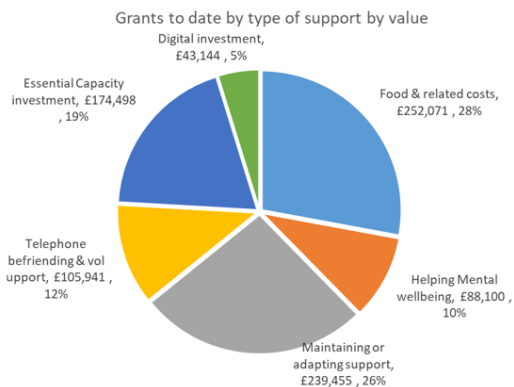
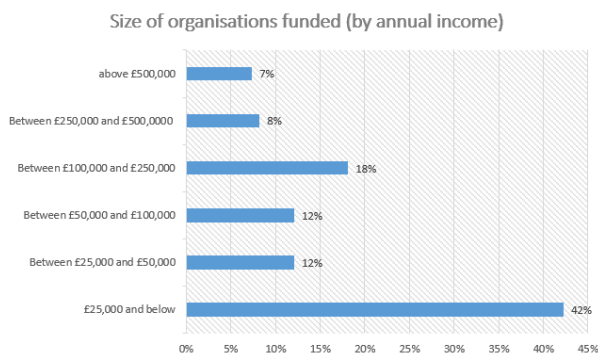
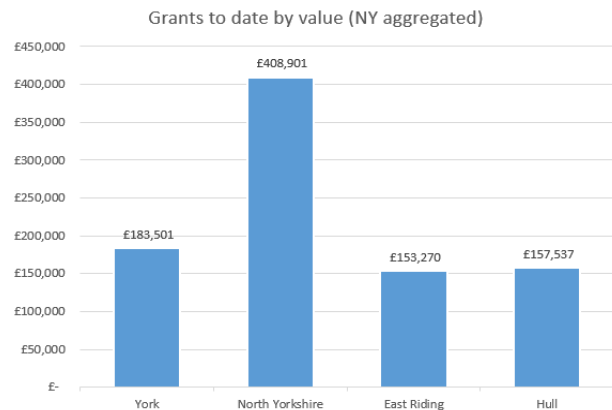
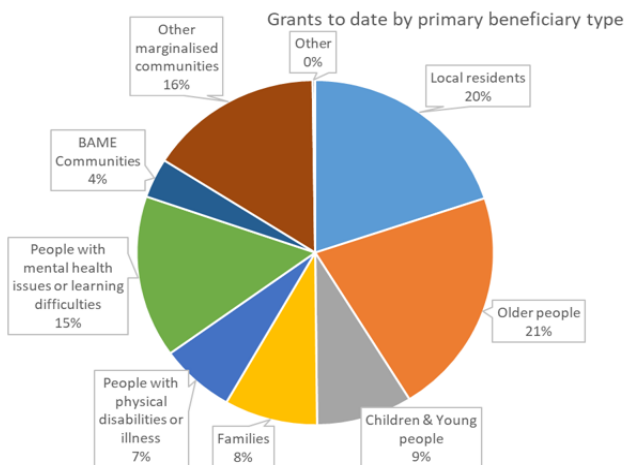
The following is a snapshot of our Coronavirus Fund grant making activity. Clearly there is much more detail behind the statistics (and we are publishing all our grants on 360 Giving) & this doesn't give a sense of all the hard work the groups are doing but it does give a sense of scale.

Total Number of Grants made = 235

(NB in 2018/19 we made 252 awards in total for the year)

Total value of grants distributed = £903,209

Average award = £3,843, smallest £200 & largest £27,366



# Building back better

Back in March we didn't know how long we would be in lockdown and it's still not clear, but our emerging viewpoint is that we need to see the future as an opportunity, albeit a difficult and painful one, to get to a place where we need to be.

The coronavirus crisis has, at the same time as being a public health and economic crisis, forced the pace of change (e.g. housing the homeless) and encouraged many to re-evaluate the contribution of the charity sector (most community support hubs in our region are provided by local charities). It has also allowed ideas and partnerships to be formed over Zoom so our region's distance from London has not hampered participation.

That's the up side. On the down side it may well mean we face a long term public health and economic crisis that blights a generation with ever widening health, educational and financial inequalities, alongside an economy unable to invest in decent public services. The implications for the charity sector are significant. This means that now more than ever we need to recognise that and think how we achieve the following:

- Funding core costs of an organisation should be what we do as a matter of course, not the rare exception
- Funders need to work better together
- We need to support leaders to be more effective
- Place matters but so do people, so some funding is better done at a local level but some needs to be done across places to engage broader communities of interest or identity
- If we are ever to fundamentally address the underlying issues we need to "challenge the way things are done round here"

We are fortunate at Two Ridings to be working with a number of partners and coalitions on these issues – e.g. Lankelly Chase Foundation in York, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust & Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust in York, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coalition nationally & locally and HEY Confident Futures in Hull & East Yorkshire. We welcome other conversations about how we help #BuildBackBetter

## Sustainability challenges

These are the challenges we see that our future funds need to address:

- Funding running costs – especially challenging for groups needing to operate face to face services and activities in a Covid-19 safe way – e.g. advice, children's activities and care.
- Addressing the digital divide both for groups and their beneficiaries.
- Addressing the systematic inequalities in accessing funding for BAME communities
- Rising health inequalities
- Food vulnerability
- The long term educational and mental wellbeing of our region's children and young people
- Unemployment and financial vulnerability
- Quality of life activity to support good mental wellbeing



# Inspiring giving

We would say this, but where you give matters. Just like our local economy needs the financial boost of us shopping locally, our local charitable sector needs donors to give in ways that means small, local organisations benefit.

We are the local delivery partner for The National Emergencies Trust (NET) which is using local community foundations across the UK to distribute £30m of the £80m funds it has raised. This partnership with NET has highlighted the role of the community foundation network to get national and local donations efficiently and effectively to the front line of small and local charities. Community foundation have distributed the first wave of funds through our unique local knowledge & relationships, with the £30m supporting over 6,000 groups in just 12 weeks.

Locally, many businesses, charities and donors have been very generous and donated funds to Two Ridings with the flexibility to use the funds where we determine. This complements the funds from NET, which having been raised through a major, national appeal, are currently very much more focused on addressing immediate needs. What this means is that we can locally determine and allocate grants based on local need. As a result we are able to help key local groups by covering essential costs of operating whilst responding.



NET Local Stories – Move The Masses

May 18, 2020 | NET Stories

NET Local Stories - Move The Masses  
Move The Masses in York has been awarded funds by the National Emergencies Trust to ensure they can keep communities healthy throughout the crisis. The...

**Move the Masses**, a local York group (left) got an initial £2000 grant via our NET funds but we have also given them a further grant of £10,000 from funds donated from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. This £10,000 grant for running costs will “support our organisation to grow & help more vulnerable & isolated people.”

Another similar grant gave **Local Works** in Hull: **“breathing space to**

**assess the impact the lockdown will have”**

## Funds raised

The Two Ridings Coronavirus Community Fund continues to grow and distribute funds and as at 19th June, we have distributed 42% of the £2.13m raised.

The source of the donations into the fund is as follows:

- Existing Two Ridings funds repurposed: 33%
- New donations: 29%
- NET: 38%

We are also working in partnership with a number of other funders so that we share resources, ideas & save groups applying more than once.

Thanks to:

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, who are matching our funds & doing some local grant making in Craven & Richmondshire.

St Monica’s Hospital Trust in Easingwold who are matching our funds in their area.

Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust who have “lent” us their grants team to assist with assessments in York

Members of Yorkshire Funders Forum who are meeting regularly to share ideas & support.

# Thank you...we'd be nothing without you

We'd not be able to do any of this without our donors, supporters and volunteers. To those of you who have given of your time or funds, thank you.

**Our existing fund holders who generously allowed us to re-purpose their funds to respond & in many cases gave us further funds:**

Anna Maria - CAF  
Bettys & Taylors Group  
Community First Prime Opportunities  
Community First Whitby + Scarborough Fund  
In-Site Property Fund  
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust  
Joseph Rowntree Foundation & Housing Trust  
Lyn & Trevor Shears Fund  
North Yorkshire Community Fund  
Peter Sowerby Foundation  
Richard Weare Fund  
York Disaster Fund

**To new donors and supporters who stepped forward to help in our communities hour of need:**

Brelms Trust  
Charles & Elsie Sykes Charitable Trust  
Drax Group  
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust  
Liz & Terry Bramall Foundation  
McInroy & Wood  
SSE (Dogger BankA&B)  
The National Emergencies Trust  
The Scarborough Business Ambassadors

And the many generous individuals who gave via cheque or online donation

Picture, right courtesy of Trinity in Whitby, showing Derek McNeil celebrating VE Day in lockdown

**To our volunteers & partners who gave of their time or shared resources:**

Our friends & colleagues from UKCF & the wider CF network  
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust  
St Monica's Hospital Trust Charity  
The National Lottery Community Fund  
BBC Radio York  
And an especial thanks to our volunteers who either as trustees, panel member or volunteer assessors have given of their time and expertise to ensure that we make the best use of donors' funds.

**Thanks from the team at Two Ridings Community Foundation**





# TwoRidings

Community Foundation

Giving across North & East Yorkshire

*“Two Ridings Community Foundation is the charity for North & East Yorkshire that improves lives and communities by providing grants and other support to the vital, small, local charitable organisations in our region. Our role at the heart of local communities and trusted by donors means we are well placed to manage emergency appeals for critical incidents. People know their donations, large or small, will be used to help people in crisis.”*

This is a quote from our Annual Review 2018/19 and rings true now more than ever.

**To find out more about Two Ridings Community Foundation  
or how you can give locally to continue this work**

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Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation no: 1166471

PLEASE NOTE: All data on grants made etc., are correct at 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020