

The Community Foundation

Connecting people who care
with causes that matter



Annual Report 2018-2019

About Us

We're an independent charitable foundation connecting people who care with causes that matter. In a society where everyone can prosper and live in peace; we encourage and support those who want to give and empower the local community to effect change.

Helping communities in need through impactful grantmaking and innovative programmes, we've a wealth of experience supporting bespoke giving, providing philanthropic advice, and we're a trusted, secure means through which donors choose how, when and where to give.

It's always been the role of the Community Foundation as an independent funder in Northern Ireland to be looking out for what's coming next, what's up ahead and where the gaps that we should be stepping into are, that others can't (or won't?) fill. As we near our 40th anniversary we reflect on what has been achieved through the Foundation and focus on the causes that you've told us matter today.

Over £100m in funding has been awarded to groups and organisations across Northern Ireland in contributions to education, health, housing, the arts, social justice, employment, peace and reconciliation. Whilst the issues we are working on and supporting today are different to those of 40 years ago, we continue to be rooted in a tradition of community connections, risk taking and innovation, and we like to help smaller, community-led organisations that work directly with people who are at the margins of society.

Today the issues most prominent are mental health, poverty, disadvantage in education and rural isolation, amongst others, and charities and community groups continuously tell us their services are increasingly in demand whilst they struggle to raise core funds, find volunteers whom they rely on and plan long term.

That's why we're proud that this year our donors and partners have helped us to fund 531 community organisations directly benefiting and changing the lives of 246,914 local people.

Here's what some of them had to say...

"As a result of this project the sense of pride and cohesion is palpable".

Declan McAleer -
Loughmacrory Community Centre

"With Ann's Fund we are able to carry on the work she started, allowing her memory to live on through awarding small grants to community and voluntary groups. As Ann always said it's the small things that make a difference."

Jimmy Murray -
Ann McGeeney Fund

"When you see the smiles on their faces, it is amazing".

Caroline Birch -
Helping Hands

Love Works

Highlight of the last year!

Circle of Change - a new initiative bringing together a diverse group of people with a shared desire for social justice.





A Note from Andrew

CEO

I was talking to a new friend recently who had moved here from outside Northern Ireland. “This place is different to anywhere I’ve lived before”, she said. “When I go out with my friends to the pub, people talk about the community, about politics, about what’s going on. They’re invested in the place. They are committed to change. They’re engaged. They’re hopeful”.

She’s right; and as the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, we get to see the best of that - donors and funders who are passionate and thinking strategically about their resources used well; and hundreds of groups from Kesh to Keady to Kilcooley who are working on the front line of some of the most urgent issues that we as a society are wrestling with. All seeking change. All engaged. All hopeful.

It’s been more than 4 years since I started as CEO and we’ve come to the end of one cycle of strategic thinking. Looking back over the last chapter, 2016-2019, we saw the end of a 3 year strategy period for us; and that provided us with cause for extra reflection on the impact we have had.

We’ve achieved a lot and the numbers are tremendously encouraging - over the three years we saw £9,351,902 distributed, 2,088 communities supported, and through the work of organisations we funded more than 600,000 lives were touched.

We’ve also spent time thinking about what’s next for us.

Our charitable objects are broad and therefore it is right that we spend time thinking about where we should focus. As we look forward to the next 5 years, our vision will continue to be a peaceful, prosperous, shared and just society; and our mission to work towards that is to connect people who care to causes that matter.

We will particularly be working on:

- **Encouraging generosity** -
Leading to more money raised and invested in local charities and community organisations
- **Enabling innovation and building sustainability** -
Leading to a stronger, more sustainable, more innovative community sector
- **Supporting community Voice** -
Helping local communities find their voice and use it
- **Communities thriving after the conflict** -
Safer, stronger, confident individuals and communities who can move forward leaving the past behind them
- **People on the edge** -
A safer Northern Ireland for people living on the edge at the margins of society

In the midst of many issues, these are the ones where we think we can add unique value - using the independence and resources that we have as a foundation.

We’re grateful to all our diverse network of donors, funders, grantee partners and ambassadors, so we hope you’ll work alongside us in delivering these priorities. It’s in our nature to be an organisation of quiet, powerful conversations and we look forward to more of those with you.

2019/20 promises to be a very exciting year for the Foundation, with the announcements of new funds and programs due imminently. These include our Civic Innovation programme, the first of its kind putting people at the centre of decision-making in Northern Ireland and Community Innovators, supporting groups to find lasting solutions to challenges in their communities.

Andrew

MAC's Dog Walking



Our Grant Making in 2018/19



954
Grant
Applications



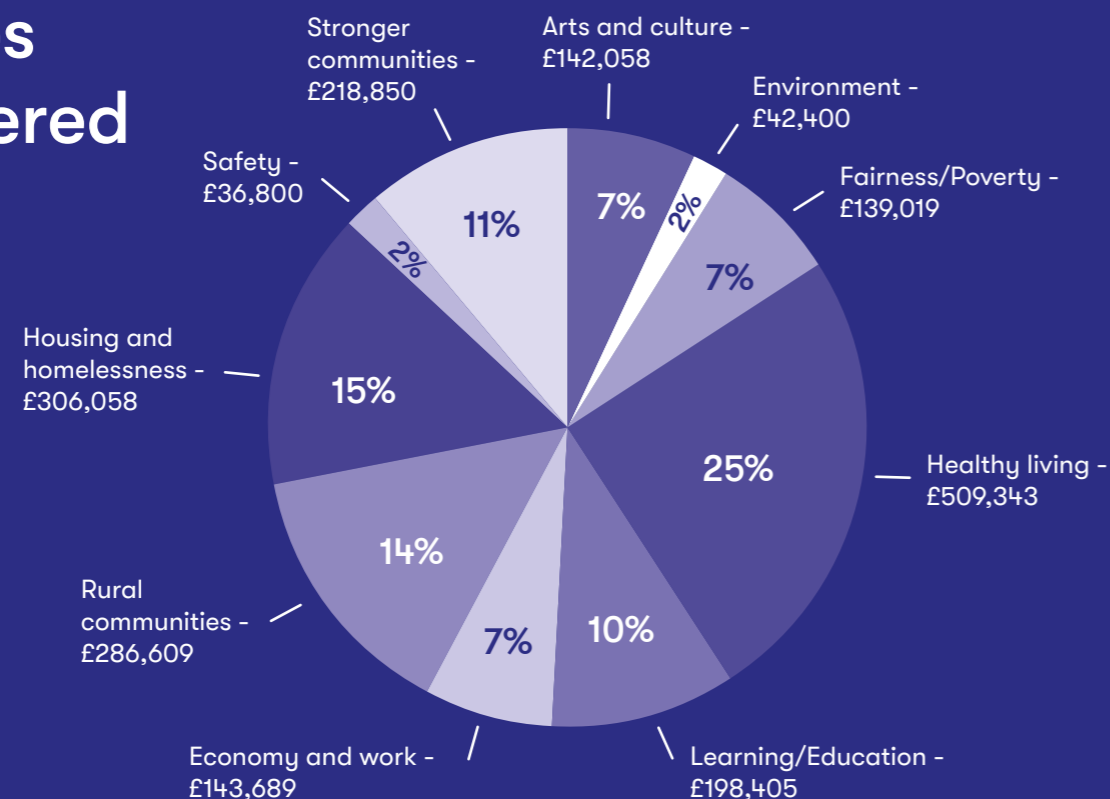
50%
Approval
Rate



**Average
Grant Size
£3,828**

**Total amount awarded
£2,023,231**

The causes that mattered to you



Tampon Tax funds Girl Coding Programme

Funded through our Tampon Tax Fund the Bytes project are running a series of sessions focused on introducing girls aged 10 – 16 to tech and basic coding.

Combining traditional youth work with the use of iPad based technology the girls completed after school sessions, where they were introduced to Scratch coding and Minecraft.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, and Bytes hope to run similar projects in the future.



**“ We are excited to continue to work with the
Community Foundation to make a positive impact.”**

Patrick Thompson - The Bytes project

Welcome launch of £1m fund for projects based in Derry~Londonderry

Further proof of NI's position as the most generous region in the UK, an anonymous donor made a significant difference and impact on the lives of people experiencing personal and family crisis; often through no fault of their own.

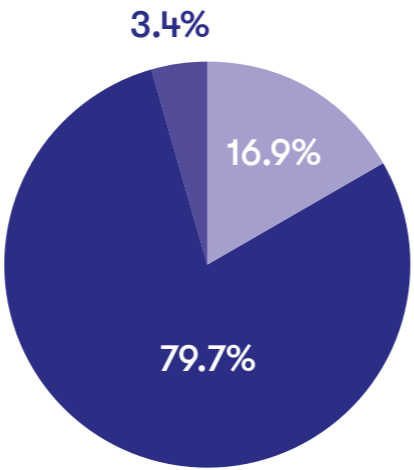
At a time when communities are increasingly struggling, the fund will be used to support projects based in Derry~Londonderry and the North West, helping tackle a range of issues, including homelessness, educational disadvantage and mental health.

Huge thanks to this generous donor.

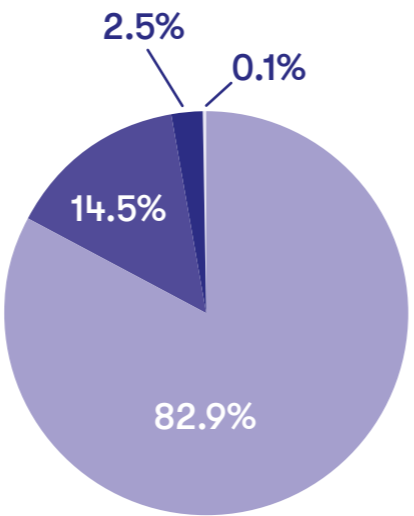


Financial activities for year end March 2019

Income	£	%
Donations	£1,668,018	16.9%
Funding Received	£7,862,111	79.7%
Investment Income	£333,262	3.4%
Total Income	£9,863,391	



Expenditure	£	%
Grants*	£8,354,292	82.9%
Programme Development & Support	£1,465,651	14.5%
Fundraising & Communications	£248,066	2.5%
Governance	£8,687	0.1%



Total Expenditure £10,076,696

*Grants expenditure includes payments for grants awarded in the current year and in previous years.



A Note from Maeve

Maeve Monaghan,
Chairperson

This year is a special one for the Community Foundation. **We'll soon be celebrating 40 years of connecting people who care with causes that matter** and as I look back over the years I am in awe of the dedication and commitment from the communities and organisations that we support and the impact they achieve at a local level in areas where it is most needed.

As the Community Foundation goes from strength to strength and our work here continues to grow, the range of individuals and communities that we support widens, but our mission remains the same, to connect people who care with causes that matter.

A number of notable initiatives stand out this year, one in particular welcoming Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England. We discussed business and social issues impacting on NI and the work of the Foundation supporting local communities providing a rounded view of our economic conditions.

Another highlight was the launch of a new independent service to promote, profile and grow philanthropy in Northern Ireland. We kickstarted this initiative by hosting a round table discussion between philanthropists and Permanent Secretaries at Northern Ireland Civil Service.

In addition, our crowd funding event held on Giving Tuesday raised just over £18,000 for 3 local groups, Ups and Downs, MACs and MYMY.

As part of our 40th celebrations in 2019/20, we will be holding a number of events, and visiting groups across Northern Ireland, to experience the impact they are making at grassroots and the opportunities and challenges they are facing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members and staff at the Foundation, who are committed to achieving impact within the communities of Northern Ireland. I would like to thank Dave Wall who stood down from the board this year for giving generously of his time and expertise to the foundation. This year we were delighted to welcome Mary McKee to the board and we appreciate her commitment and support in helping us overcome the challenges ahead.

With Brexit looming we look ahead into an unknown future for Northern Ireland and it is evident that local independent and philanthropic funding is vital for our community and charity sector. We will continue to be flexible and proactive to the changing environment and challenges we may face, continuing to help communities thrive. As we begin our new five year strategy, I am excited to see what the future holds for the Foundation and how we can continue to achieve impact working together.

Maeve



13-24 year olds manage ‘Change Something Fund’

In the run up to ‘Youth 19’ – a year dedicated to young people in the North West, a team of young people managed a funding pot of £100k towards projects developed by young people, for economically and socially disadvantaged young people.

Roisin Moran and Caitlin Farrelly were awarded £3k towards the costs of their training to become peer mentors in equine assisted personal development programmes, supporting local young people through mental health illnesses.



Space and Place completes 30 new integrated community spaces

Loughmacrory Community Development Association created a £500,000 enhanced community facility and riverside walk.

Sean Curran from Loughmacrory said “Our whole community is delighted. All our local clubs and groups came together on this project and agreed that improving our mental and physical health was a priority and that it should be available and promoted to all ages and abilities.”



Flourish empowers survivors to be able to lead safe, independent, resilient lives



Survivors of human trafficking in NI have been subjected to unimaginable trauma, and according to Flourish, a local charity set up to support victims of trafficking, activities that promote positive mental health benefits are a key component to recovery.

Awarded £5,070 from the Foundation, Flourish used the funding to purchase sewing machines to run courses and prepare individuals for work experience and employment.

“We have witnessed individuals less stressed and anxious. Thanks to this funding victims of trafficking have seen improved mental health and emotional well-being and increased confidence and skills”

Jill Robinson - Founder of Flourish

Institute of Directors Northern Ireland partner with the Foundation to support mental health issues

Five local charities (Links Counselling Service, Mid Ulster Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, Foyle Search and Rescue, PIPS Charity Newry and PIPS Charity Belfast) will benefit from funds raised by IOD and matched by the Foundation to make a great impact in the communities they serve.

Gordon Milligan, Chairman, IoD NI said “We are pleased to be working with the Community Foundation. By investing in wellbeing in communities, we not only help employees to thrive but enable businesses to thrive also.”



List of Funds and Supporters

- Acorn Fund
- Ann McGeeney Memorial Trust
- ARN Foundation
- Ballygrainey Fund
- Brockaghboy Community Benefit Fund
- Building Change Trust
- Business Eye Fund
- Carnhill Community Benefit Fund
- CEO Fund
- Change Something Fund
- Circle of Change
- Cloonty Community Benefit Fund
- Comic Relief Community Cash
- Comic Relief Core Strength
- Community Arts Fund
- Corby Knowe Community Benefit Fund
- Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund
- David Ervine Fund
- Dunbeg Community Benefit Fund
- Dungannon Community Trust
- Dunmore Community Benefit Fund
- Energia 3 Windfarms Community Benefit Fund
- Energia Crighshane Community Benefit Fund
- Energia Longmountain Community Benefit Fund
- Destitute Asylum Seekers
- Global Learning Project
- Hope for More Foundation
- Human Rights Fund
- International Fund for Ireland - PIP Programme
- Inishative Community Benefit Fund
- Institute of Directors
- Karen Mortlock
- Keadue Fund
- MAN Fund
- MARS Goodness Knows
- McCall Foundation
- Mike Fulton Fund
- Mike Moloney Fund
- Monnaboy Community Benefit Fund
- Murlough Foundation
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Nationwide Fund
- Oak Foundation Transformation and Growth
- Older People's Fund
- One Small Step Fund
- Patron's Fund
- Peace Impact Programme
- Porticus
- Pressure Group Fund
- Raj Darshna Fund
- Rathsherry Community Benefit Fund
- Riverrock Coca Cola Fund
- RJ Hunter Fund
- Social Justice Fund
- Space and Place Programme
- Staff Trustee Fund
- Tampon Tax Fund
- Techies in Residence
- Telecommunity Fund
- Thomas Devlin Fund
- Thornog Community Benefit Fund
- Ulster People's College Fund
- Wesleyan Fund
- Women's Fund
- Youthbank International

“It would be difficult not to be inspired by the passion, selflessness and creativity of those leading community projects. They clearly live for it and seem to give endlessly of themselves, seeking out and making the most of opportunities. It is great to see how much can be made of a little, and how the little we can give unlocks so much potential.”

David Scholes - Chair of the Telecommunity Fund



‘Circle of Change’ brings together a diverse group of people with a shared desire for social justice

Eighteen people, including a company owner, a refugee and a recently homeless woman, came together for the first ‘Circle of Change’ programme in NI. Together they explored social justice issues in our community and raised a staggering £45k for six organisations who tackle a range of issues, including poverty, mental health and minority communities.

Love Works Co-Operative, based in North Belfast received £7,500.

“Our Cooperative is worker-owned and through the skills of our members who have experience in gardening, bike repair, and baking, we try and provide a useful service to the wider community whilst supporting ourselves.” Justin Nicholl, Love Works



246,914
beneficiaries!

(£8.19 awarded per beneficiary)

Community Foundation welcomes Mark Carney Governor, Bank of England to NI

Meeting senior leaders from the business community and the voluntary sector, Mr Carney heard first hand about the business and social issues impacting on NI and the work of the Foundation supporting local communities.



Including over...



100,000
people with poor
mental health



16,000
older people



Over
7,000
people in poverty



2,500
Disadvantaged women



1,730
NEETS
(Not in Education or Employment)

Highlight of the last year!

The completion of the Space and Place programme, supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, which invested £15m in capital development for local community projects, and has left 30 stunning facilities that are deeply rooted in the assets and needs of the local communities.



St Joseph's Centre for the Deaf

Highlight of the last year!

The completion of 'Building Change Trust', a £10 million, 10 year programme funded by The National Lottery Community Fund to support the third sector in NI. It has left an amazing legacy, not least in the work on Innovation and Voice, which the Community Foundation is carrying on in our strategic themes, through programmes such as the Community Innovators programme.

New service to promote, profile and grow philanthropy in Northern Ireland



Maeve Monaghan, Gray Mills, Siofra Healy

Supporting individuals and organisations to give strategically in NI, the Foundation launched a service to provide independent advice and good guidance around flexible ways to give in NI.

By creating a centre of expertise for the promotion and practice of giving, we expect to encourage best practice and more funding into the sector. We'll convene networks and forums for peer learning, and conduct further research into strategic giving and philanthropy in NI. Working closely with partners such as professional advisors, sister organisations and government, our donor services will encourage and advocate for a better environment and support for strategic giving.



Maeve Monaghan, Tracey Meharg, Andrew McCracken



Sue Gray, Mervyn McCall, Alan Nappin

People on the edges living on £37.75 a week

The Foundation supports organisations working with asylum seekers, who are living on £37.75 a week and are expected to pay for everything they need including their food, clothes, toiletries, phone bills and children's expenses with this amount - everything except their accommodation costs.

All those asylum seekers come with skills and the ability to contribute to our community; many come with high levels of qualifications; but none of them are allowed to work. As well as supporting the 'Lift the Ban' campaign, and providing emergency support to asylum seekers who have become destitute, the Foundation builds capacity in those communities working with organisations like NICRAS and Homeplus.

Mimi from NICRAS and Bomoko told us that **"Your support has enabled refugee and asylum seeking women to access employment and build a better future for themselves and for their children. Building self-confidence, a sense of community, and a thriving social network is so important for these communities - Thank you!"**



Of course, the Community Foundation can't achieve these impacts without our diverse network of donors, funders, grantee partners and ambassadors.

Thank you for working alongside and through us in delivering these priorities.

Crowdfunding on Giving Tuesday



Connecting people who care with causes that matter, we aim to encourage and support those who want to give and empower local communities to effect change. Our crowdfunding event was a fantastic opportunity to do just that and raised £18,522 for three local groups.

Ups and Downs, a support group for parents of children with Downs Syndrome received funding to train parents in Macathon - a sign language and communication tool for children with learning difficulties. Laura, whose four month old son Nathan has Down Syndrome said **"There are very few places for parents to turn to for support and Ups and Downs has been a lifeline for us. It is a huge relief knowing that we are amongst friends who can help us to help him and that Nathan has got this group of people to grow up with."**

8,771 people benefited from improved community cohesion

898 people increased their qualification and skills

16,473 people had improved access to community facilities

572 people participated in promoting human rights and equality

10,074 people had access to improved quality of environment and public space

6,446 people felt their isolation was reduced

2,373 people participated in training, education and accreditation

8,571 vulnerable people were directly supported

7,055 people had more opportunities to engage in culture and heritage

311 organisations strengthened their community capacity

Connecting people who care with causes that matter

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” - Coretta Scott King

To make a donation or for further information please visit communityfoundationni.org



We deliver grants and programmes across Northern Ireland

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The 
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Foundation
Northern Ireland



UK COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
GIVING FOR LOCAL GOOD

Registered charity Number: NIC105105