

**Grant analysis
and impact review
Q1
FY 20-21**

The *elle*
Community
Foundation

Connecting people who care
with causes that matter

Community Foundation for Northern Ireland Our 5 Year Strategy ~ 2019-2024



In a society where everyone can prosper and live in peace; the Community Foundation encourages and supports those who want to give and empower the local community to effect change.

Over the next 5 years we aim to achieve: -

- £30m raised to support local charities
- A stronger, more sustainable, more innovative community sector
- Local communities who have been helped to find their voice and use it
- Safer, stronger, confident individuals and communities who can move forward leaving the past behind them
- A safer NI for people living on the edge

Our Grantmaking Q1 FY 20-21

Between **April 2020 and June 2020** we received
781 grant applications (536 more than FY 19-20)
240 of which were from new applicants



Total amount requested
£1,805,702

497 grants awarded
(114 in FY 19-20)

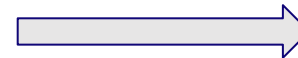


Approval Rate
55%

(48% FY19-20)

Total amount awarded
£2,114,824 (FY 19-20 £2,248,998.03*)
£417,596 of which was awarded to new applicants

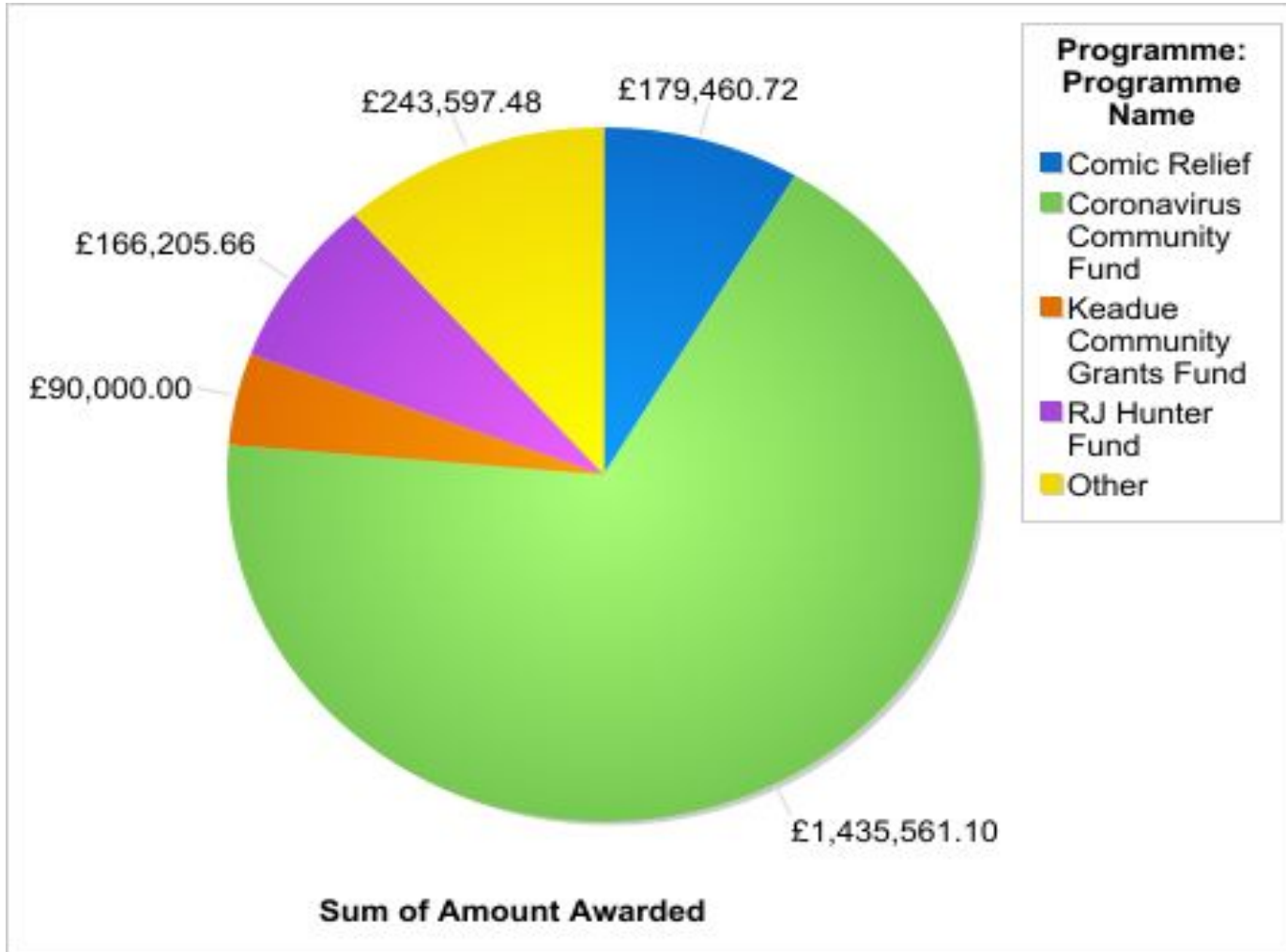
We processed 910 grant applications
(235 in FY 19-20)



510
communities
supported

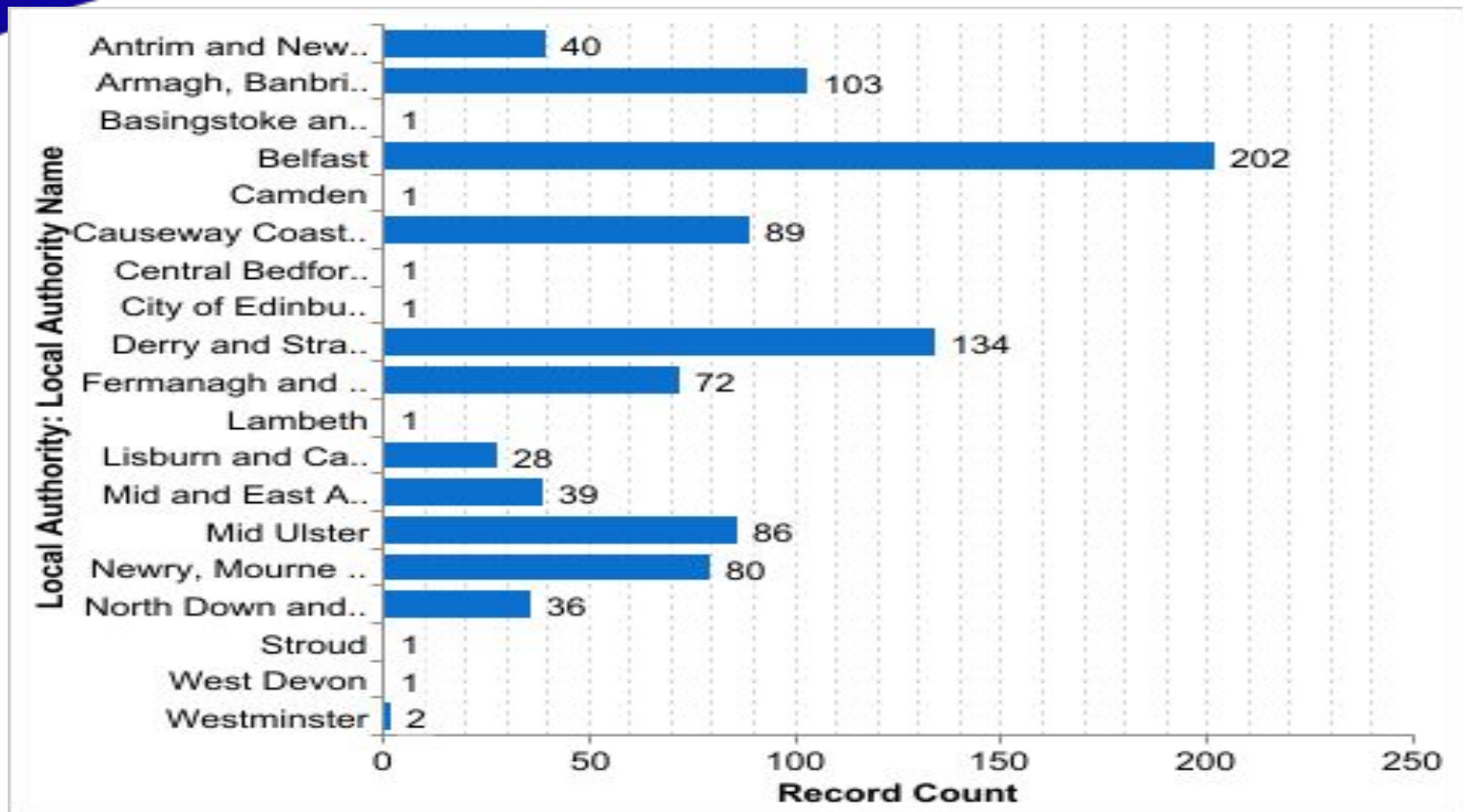
*Note: £1.7million awarded in Q1 (1FY 19-20) to CAJ, PPR, PILS,
Human Rights Consortium

Grants awarded by programme



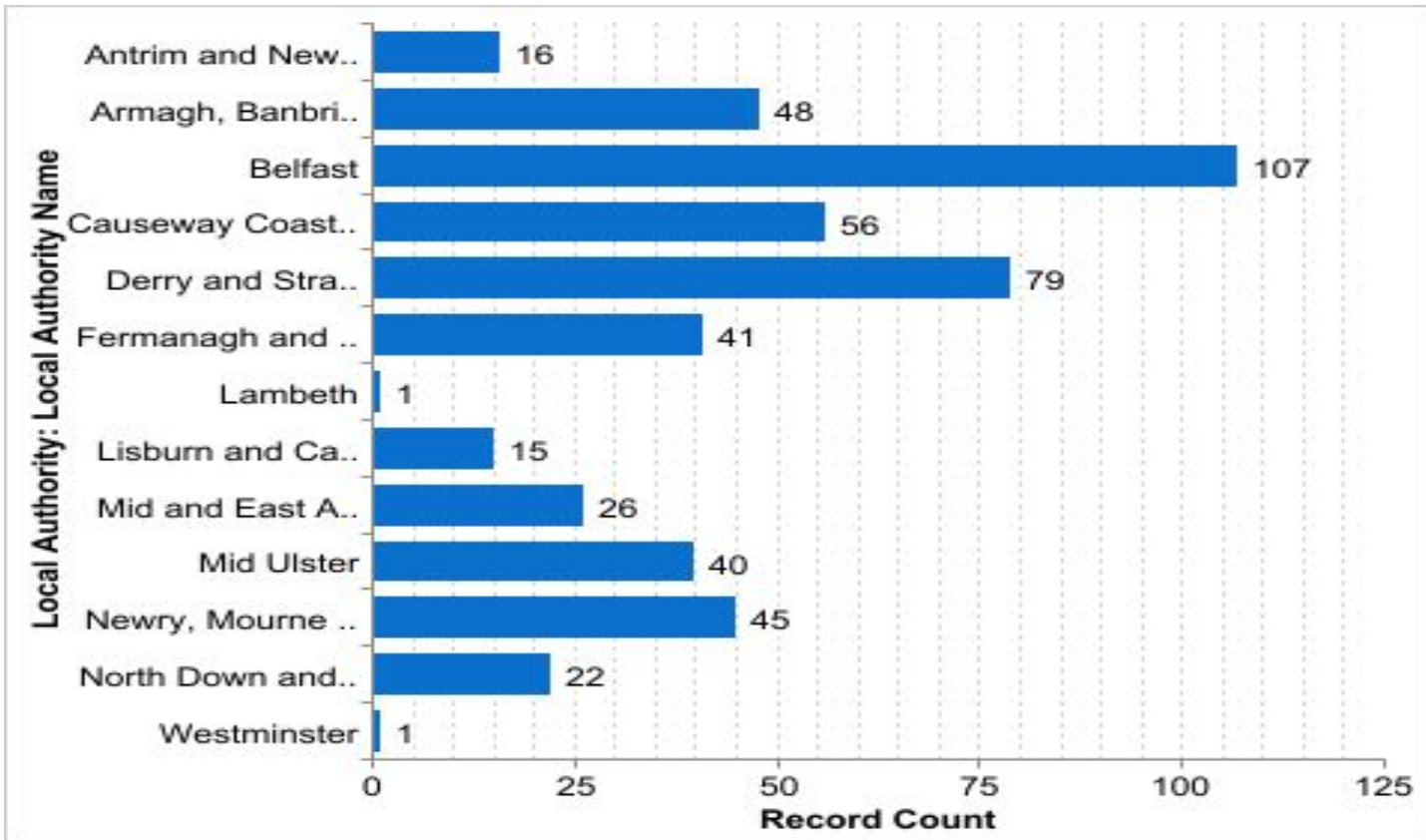
**Average
grant
£4,255**

Number of applications received per Local Authority



*Note the UK mainland Councils reflect the Local Authority the applicant organisations are based in.

Approved applications per Local Authority



Top Council for receipt of applications:
Belfast

**Bottom Council for receipt of
applications:** Lisburn and Castlereagh

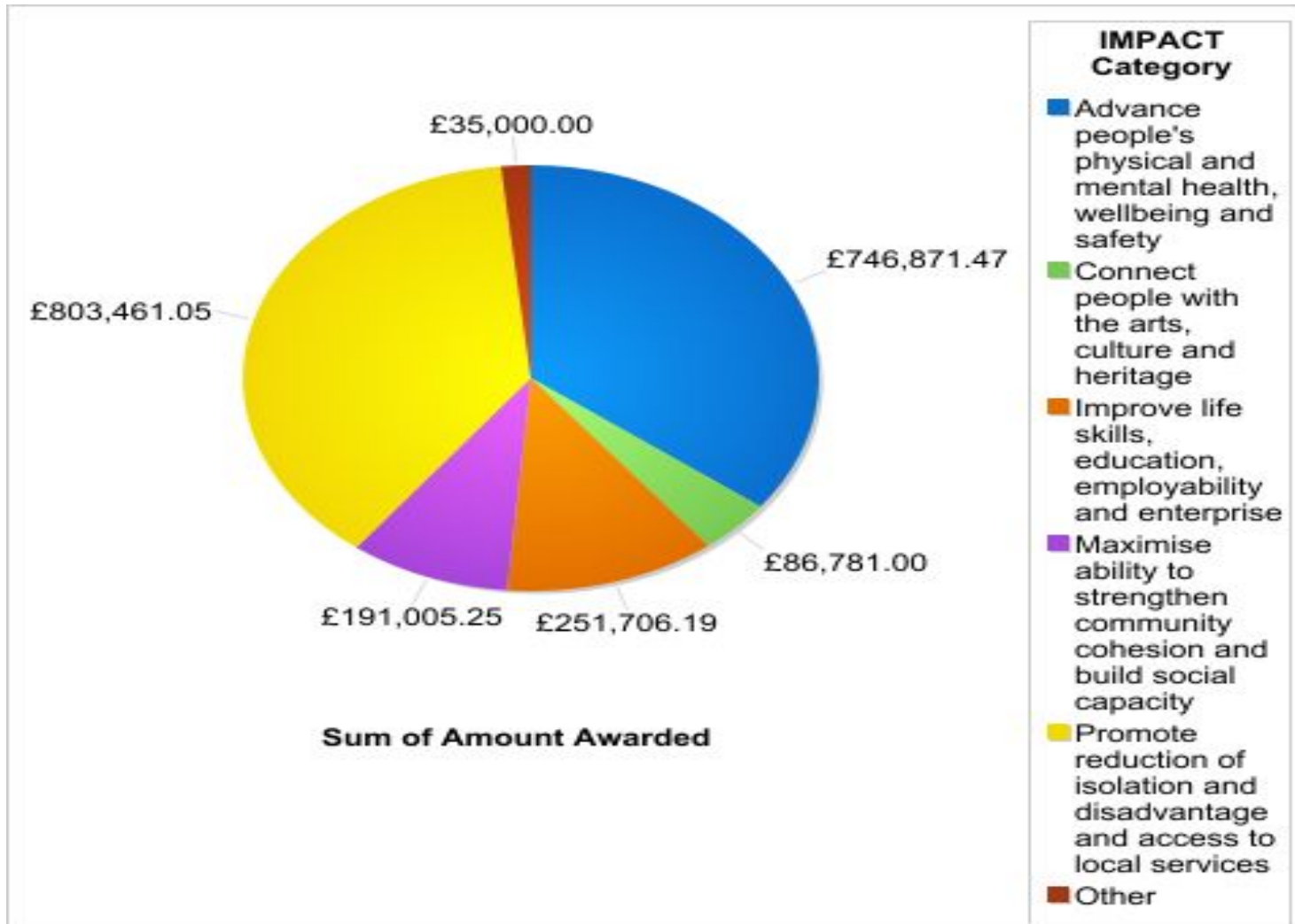
**Top Council for successful
applications:** Mid and East Antrim

**Bottom Council for successful
applications:** Antrim and
Newtownabbey

Our Impact



Amount awarded per impact category





179 projects will advance people's physical and mental wellbeing

21 projects will connect people to the arts, culture and heritage

26 projects will support life skills, education, employability, and enterprise

47 projects will strengthen community cohesion and built local capacity

219 projects will reduce isolation, disadvantage and lack of access to services and facilities

2 projects will support engagement with the environment and public spaces

We supported 279,384 beneficiaries!

Including 4,281 Black, Asian and Ethnic Minorities, 10,165 carers, 24,575 children and young people, 18,972 families and lone parents, 50 ex offenders or at risk of offending, 775 LGBTQ, 33,276 local residents, 200 long term unemployed, 205 men, 110,086 older people, 2,147 people in care or suffering from long term illness, 33,306 people living in poverty, 3,828 people with learning disabilities, 5,785 people with multiple disabilities, and 130 people with addictions, 27,177 people with poor mental health, 780 refugees and asylum seekers, 2,726 women.

Our Team



We are lucky to have a fantastic team of staff who are passionate about making a difference to local people in Northern Ireland.

We regularly see examples of our staff 'living' our values of Generous, Thriving and Together.

Generous -We encourage generosity in everything we do; we look out for each other; we deal with everyone with compassion, empathy and understanding. We are flexible in how we work with staff, donors and grantees.

Thriving - We see the potential within both our staff and the communities we work in and are committed to help both reach their full potential.

Together - We will only make the change we want to see together. We value participation, working with others and bringing people together.

Over the past year, we have continued to focus on these values and embed them in our culture. We expect a lot from our staff, so we look after them as well as we can, by offering good terms and conditions of employment, encouraging professional development and supporting staff to look after their health and wellbeing. We are very proud of the way our team has worked together, particularly during the Coronavirus Crisis, to connect people who care to causes that matter and support the most disadvantaged communities in Northern Ireland.

Encouraging generosity

- £3.9 million in New Income was generated during the period mainly in response to our coronavirus appeal
- New donor panels, engagements and consultations were progressed with our match funding scheme with DfC (Hobson, Nappin, Cross, McCall and NW Funds)
- New funds negotiated and launched included PwC, CR & New Needs.
- A series of engagements with grantees, staff, trustees and donors highlighted impact and informed future strategy e.g. Domestic Violence / Ethical Investments / Effects of Coronavirus on the community
- Strengthened engagements with local and national funders around learning, knowledge and next stages of Coronavirus response
- Facebook advert raising awareness about our grants reached over 3,500 new audiences

People on the edges

- We provided translation services to help refugees and asylum seekers affected by the crisis to access services.

Building sustainable communities

- No Child Goes Hungry Programme supported by Comic Relief which sought to support small scale community based responses addressing potential food poverty in families with children under the age of 10 who availed on free-school meals or where household income had been reduced due to the Covid-19 virus. 32 applications were received with 19 grants awarded to the value of £44,425.
- Secured £800,000 of additional support from Comic Relief. Working with Comic Relief this additional funding was allocated to provide an initial investment of £470,000 to kick start the New Needs Fund. Working with Comic Relief staff, the balance was combined with the remaining Comic Relief grants from the main contract to develop a Community Support Programme valued at £700,000. Work on the design of the Grant + Programme took place during the quarter to facilitate official launch scheduled for Monday 27th July.

Thriving after the conflict

- During Apr-Jun many of the communities and organisations we support under this thematic area were heavily engaged in coordinating and managing emergency responses to Covid 19 and phenomenal leadership was demonstrated
- The ACT Initiative repurposed an ice cream van with essential items, bringing the shops to the residents street by street.
- Creggan Enterprises hired a taxi to deliver much needed food parcels and by doing so was able to provide the taxi driver with income that he would have otherwise lost.
- We also saw some fantastic cross community efforts in North Belfast in the search for Noah Donohoe with the HUBB Resource Centre (a PIP & Social Justice grantee) being used as a base for search & rescue teams, PSNI and the Noah's family.
- We had two workshops with all the PUL groups funded under PIP to help share information and support actions and engagement in the lead up to 11th July in an effort to manage community tensions
- Through engagement with the NIO we also secured a meeting with SoS

Innovation & voice

- **Civic Innovation** - this programme moved online and continued during lockdown with 13 cross-organisational teams continuing to develop their initiatives to build community voice across Northern Ireland on themes including climate change, community relations, community planning, local resource allocation, social welfare, Irish language and victim support. In June 12 of the teams received their initial 'prototype grants' of £5,000 each to enable them to scope, research and test their ideas with communities and stakeholders, enabling them to gather lessons and adapt their projects before applying for a larger 'main grant' of up to £50,000 at the end of 2020
- **Techies in Residence** - this unique digital innovation programme for the VCSE sector relaunched for its 5th cycle in June thanks to a £200,000 grant from Comic Relief. The programme will have 6 places this year and applications open in July.
- **Pressure Group Fund** - one further £1,000 grant was made in May, to the Enda Dolan Foundation

Case Studies

Encouraging generosity



- £10,000 awarded to CRUSE Bereavement Care NI to support those bereaved during covid 19. Funded through the Lightbody Foundation.
- £3,000 awarded to Willowfield Parish to support a project in inner East Belfast that seeks to empower 16-25 year olds from the local community to overcome the many barriers they face in life and enable and encourage them to reach their potential.
- £8,945 awarded to Urban Community Chef CIC towards a cooking programme for and with carers who are shielding. Funded through the Coronavirus Community Fund.
- £16,000 awarded to the Playhouse in Derry towards delivering the Open College Network accredited Level 1 or 2 in “Crime, Justice and Citizenship” or “Young People & Youth Justice” using arts activity to attract, enthuse and retain young people’s participation. Funded through the Keadue Fund.

Building Sustainable Communities



- £2,475 awarded to Me You and Them, a community group based in Dungannon, towards a food programme, which in addition to food provision, developed skills within the families to commence their own growing programme and enabled production of a small recipe book. Funded through the No Child Goes Hungry Comic Relief Programme.
- £2,500 awarded to Short Strand Community Forum to develop a breakfast food provision programme for 100 children living in their catchment area. Funded through the No Child Goes Hungry Comic Relief Programme.
- £4,980 awarded to Sole Purpose towards the delivery of Liberation From Patriarchy for Gender Justice programme with associated on-line learning materials. Funded through the Comic Relief Fighting for Gender Justice Fund.

Innovation and Voice



- £5,000 to SoS Bus NI (in collaboration with Belfast City Council and community groups in Derry-Londonderry) through the Civic Innovation Prototyping Grant to explore the use of Participatory Budgeting as a way of giving local communities in Belfast and Derry a direct say in local resource allocation
- £1,000 awarded to the Enda Dolan Foundation through the Pressure Group Fund. Towards the costs of campaign for change in road safety laws.
- £1,990 awarded to Victim Support NI, through the Civic Innovation Prototyping Grant, to explore how to engage victims of crime in designing better support services.
- £5,000 to the Integrated Education Fund (in collaboration with Ulster University) through the Civic Innovation Prototyping Grant to develop and test a toolkit to encourage and support parents and communities to work together and act as a catalyst to build political momentum for structural change in the education system

People on the edges



- £5,000 awarded to Embrace NI towards supporting people seeking asylum and transitioning refugees in the midst of the current situation through the EMBRACE Emergency Fund.

Thriving after the conflict



- £5,000 awarded to Community Restorative Justice Newry/Armagh funded through the Social Justice Fund towards the running costs of community training programme within the community sector comprising a number of community groups, schools and organisations, including one ex prisoner group, Newry Felons.
- £4,950 awarded to Community Dialogue, funded through the Social Justice Fund, towards the running costs of 30 consensus building dialogues in targeted areas of Northern Ireland which will involve the following groups:
 - Women's groups
 - Community groups
 - Residents groups
 - Ethnic minority groups
 - Members of the LGBT community



**Vital Issues and
Thinking**

- We continue to process more applications, particularly as a result of our covid focused funds, than we have done in previous years. Our new systems and processes have really been invaluable in terms of supporting the administration of these funds, and ensuring that we can deal with the high volume of applications. We should continue to adapt and use different, and more efficient ways of working, to enable us to deliver on this increasing demand, and to build on the profile we have gained in recent months as a flexible funder.
- We are embarking on a learning journey with IVAR, where we will have an opportunity to share our success and challenges administering our emergency fund. There is an opportunity for the Foundation to lead the way in terms of grant making expertise and best practice.



**Vital Issues and
Thinking**

- We are holding more regular catch ups with other NI funders, and this has helped us all think about how we might work better together, and how we might prepare for a similar crisis situation in the future, and perhaps think more strategically around who and what we support in terms of emergency financial provision.
- We continue to encourage and inspire generosity, particularly with the Coronavirus Community Fund, which grew from a small pot of £70,000 to over £2 million, in a few weeks. In addition, both new and existing donors and fundholders, have contributed to supporting the development of our second phase of covid related support, through the New Needs Fund, and the Comic Relief Community Support Programme.



**Vital Issues and
Thinking**

The commitment and generosity of those people on the ground, who have helped deliver the emergency support, has been really quite significant. Many of those people have only become involved in voluntary activity for the first time. There is a real opportunity to build on this community activism, and support those people to continue to engage in community activity. The Foundation plans to develop a network of our grantees, and evaluate this response, with a view to building on this momentum, and to continue to encourage this generosity of spirit.

- Interestingly Mid and East Antrim had the highest success rate during this quarter, yet has been continually rated in the bottom in terms of both receipt, and success of applications. This is good news, and perhaps reflective of the organisations working in that area, many of whom have good capacity, and who were able to meet emerging needs during the covid crisis.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey remains low, and we should therefore continue to try and connect with community infrastructure there, to ensure that we raise awareness of our funds in this area.



Orla Black
Grants Director

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