

**Grant analysis  
and impact review  
Q1- Q2  
FY 20-21**

The   
**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-Q2  
FY 20-21**

Between **April 2020 and September 2020** we received  
**1455 grant applications (841 more than FY 19-20)**  
**416 of which were from new applicants**



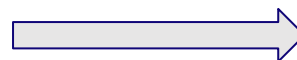
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Total amount requested  
**£2,129,600**

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**839 grants awarded**  
**(206 in FY 19-20)**

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**Approval Rate**  
**60%**

**(44% FY19-20)**

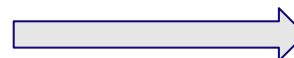
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Total amount awarded  
**£4,289,265 (FY 19-20 £3,049,200)**  
**£778,305 of which was awarded to new applicants**

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We processed 1429 grant applications  
**(472 in FY 19-20)**

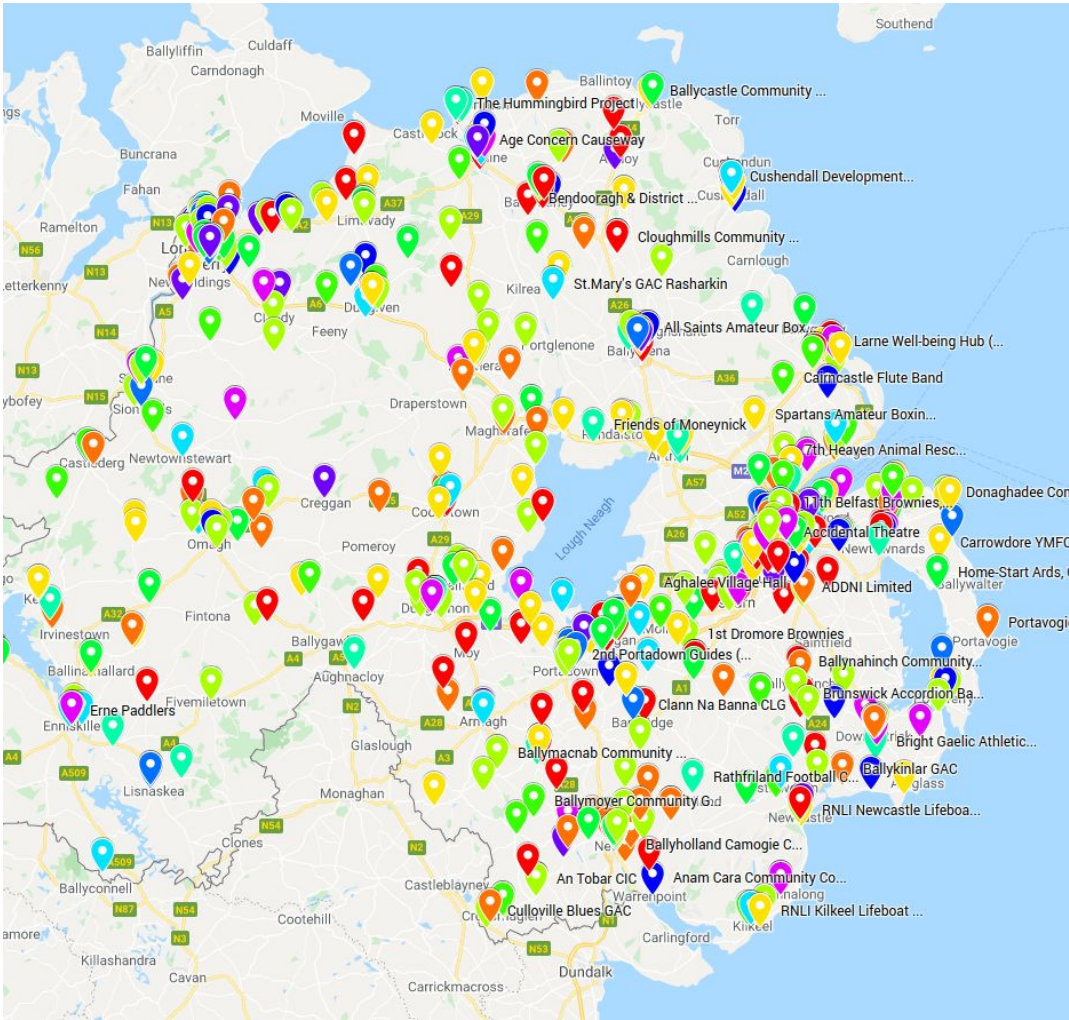
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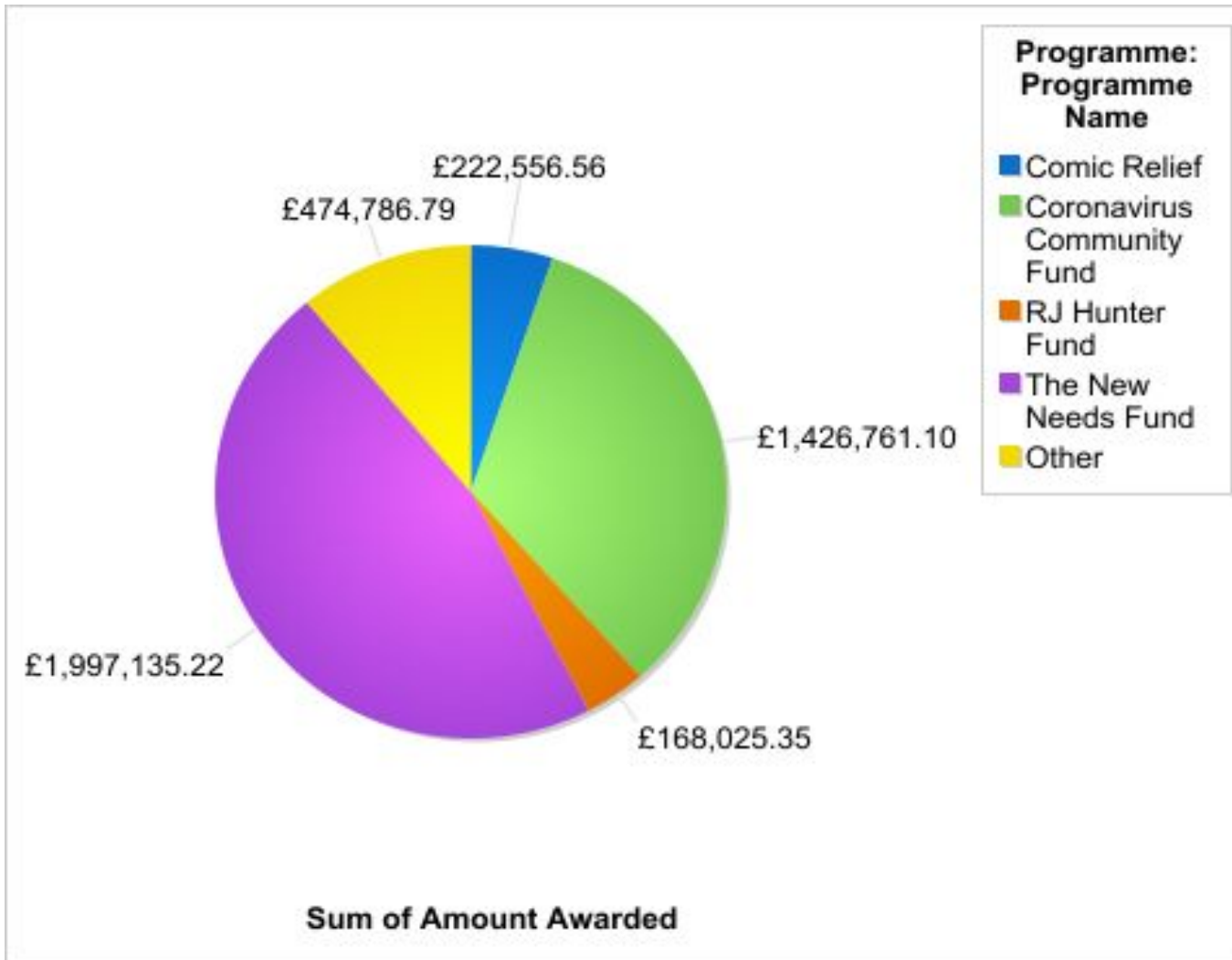
**1500**  
**communities**  
**supported**

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

# Grants awarded by postcode

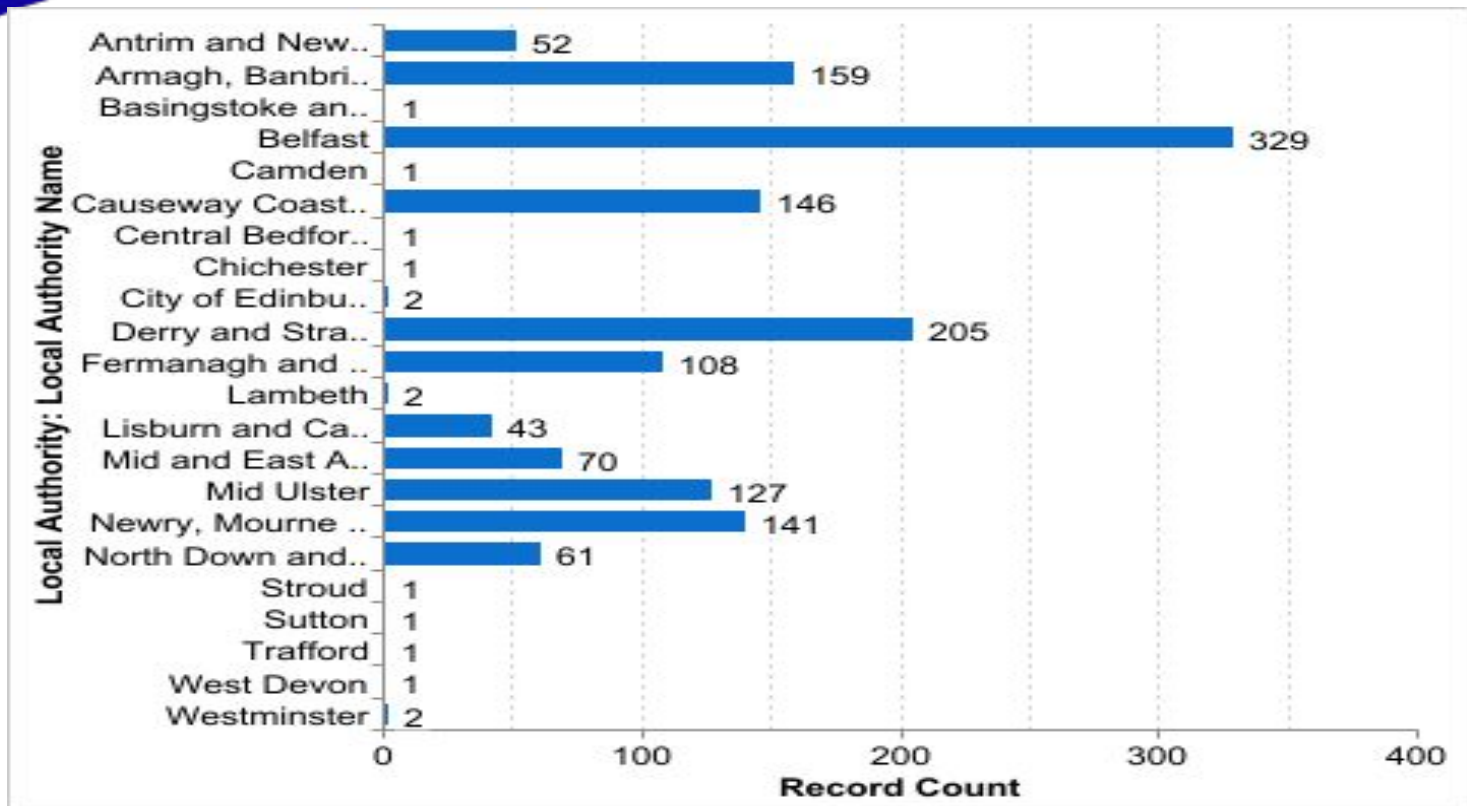


# Grants awarded by programme



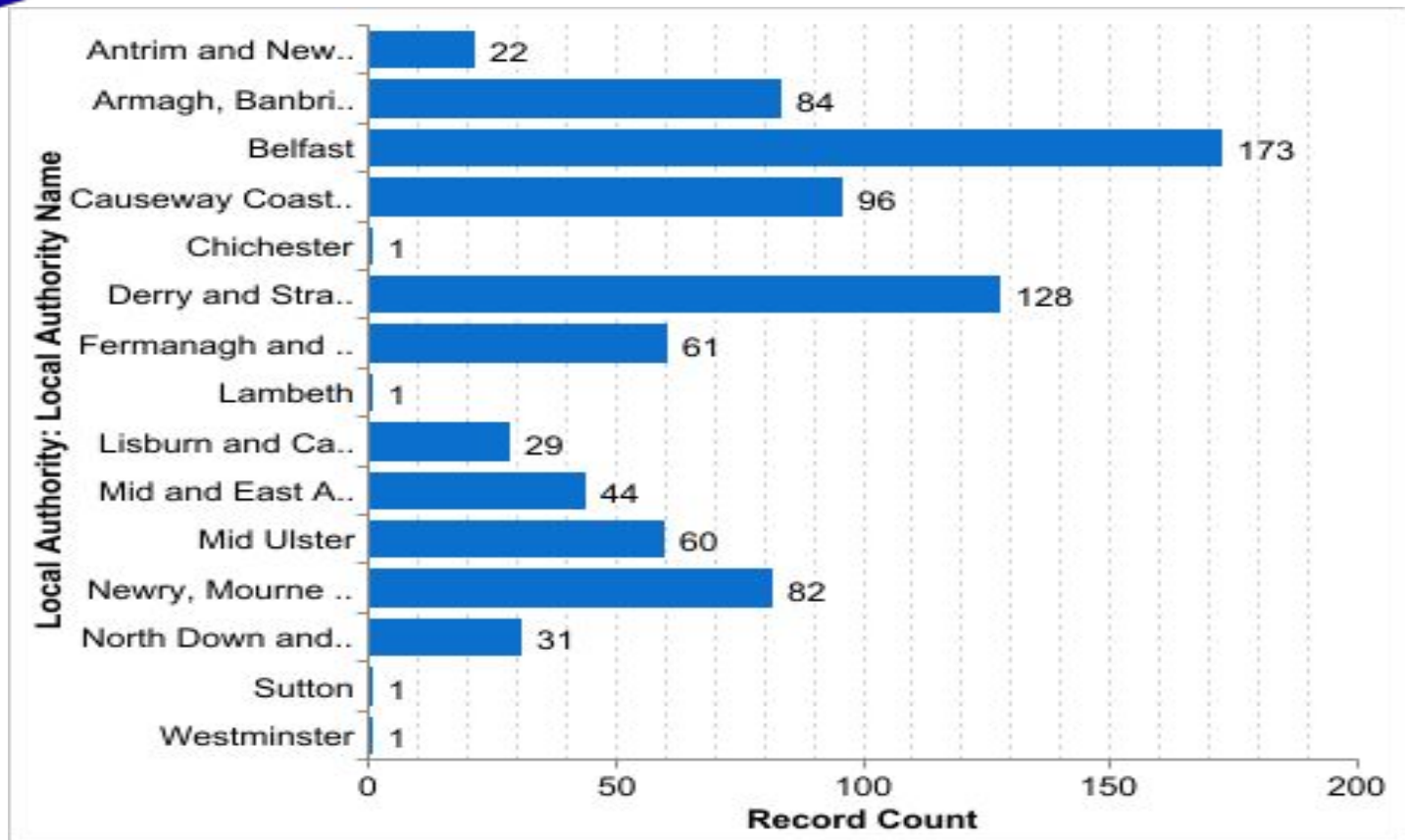
**Average  
grant  
£5,269**

## 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:** Antrim and  
Newtownabbey

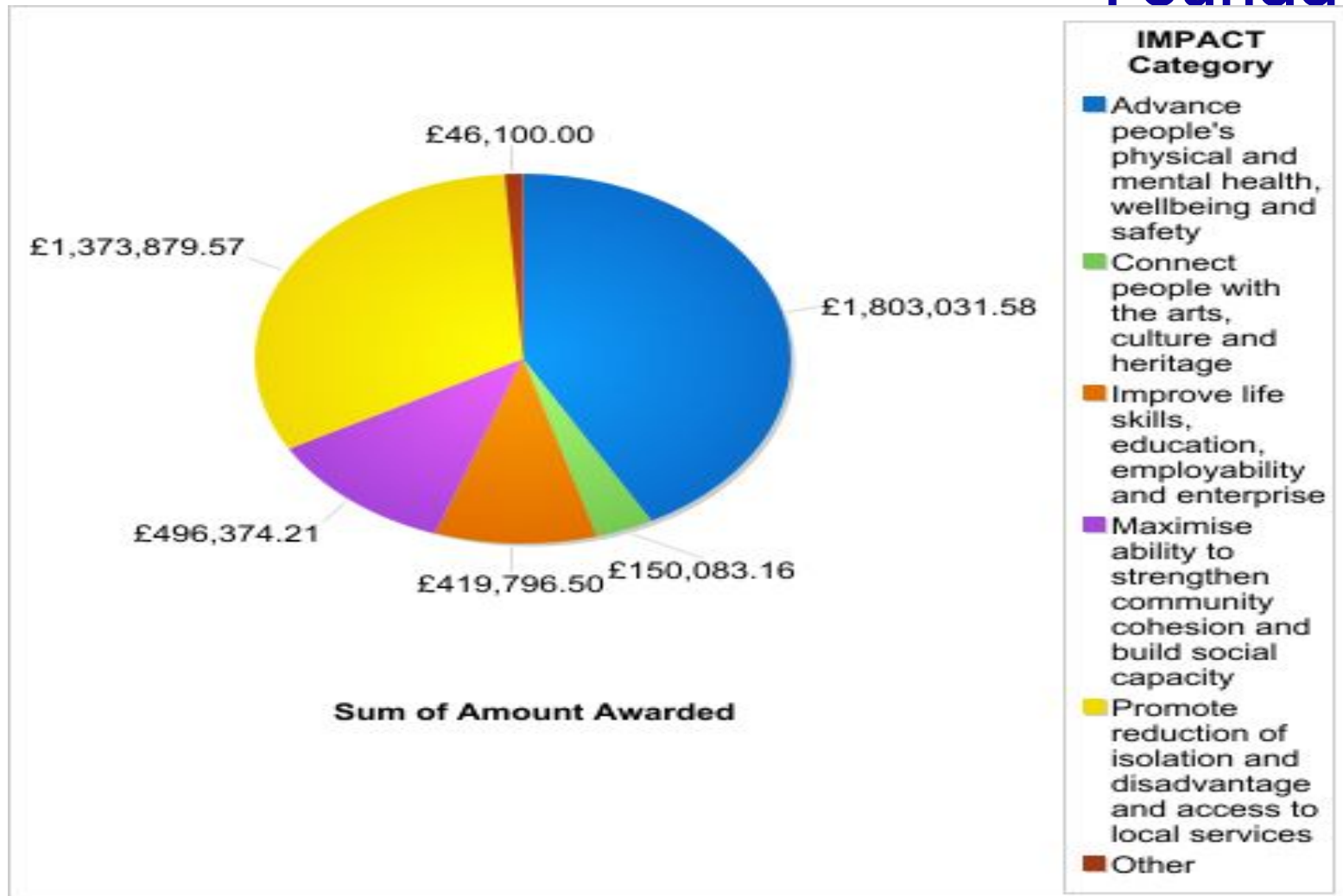
**Top Council for successful applications:** Derry and Strabane

**Bottom Council for successful applications:** Mid Ulster

# Our Impact



# Amount awarded per impact category





**333 projects will advance people's physical and mental wellbeing**

**33 projects will connect people to the arts, culture and heritage**

**56 projects will support life skills, education, employability, and enterprise**

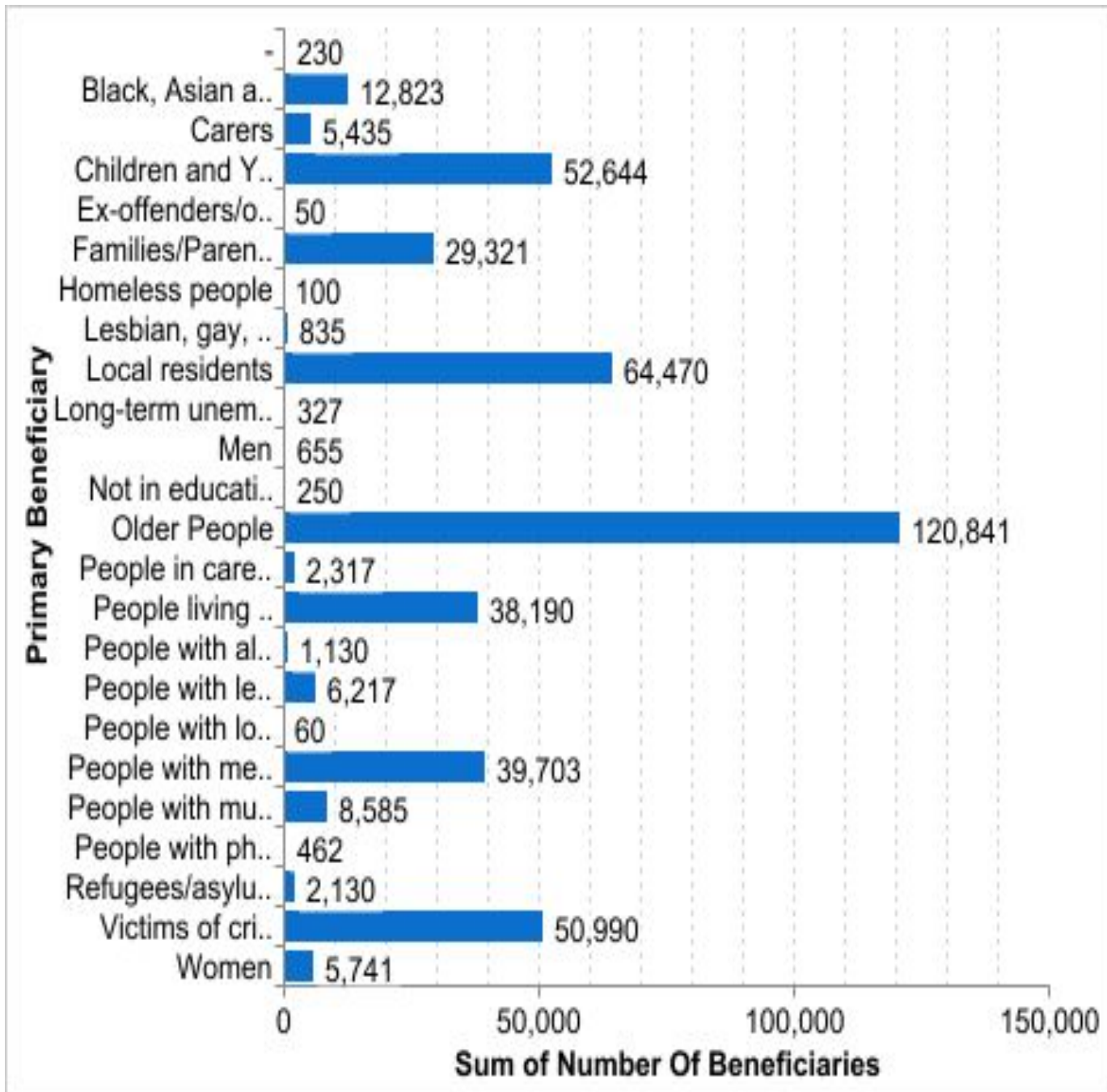
**86 projects will strengthen community cohesion and built local capacity**

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

**4 projects will support engagement with the environment and public spaces**

The   
Community  
Foundation

**We supported 443,506  
beneficiaries!**



# 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

- Our promotion of Philanthropy amongst our key target market is developing well. The giving network has progressed the first Philanthropist of the Year award and will continue to meet/zoom over in coming months. Stewardship of this group is helping develop further leads and opportunities. Our profile and positioning amongst other funders is also greatly enhanced through our Covid response.
- Work has been ongoing in relation to our communications strategy, building on our response to covid and our aim to shout louder and deliver a public affairs campaign. We also continue to use facebook advertising to push emergency funding and build brand awareness. Next step is to commission film and storytelling.
- All funds under our DfC match will be launched by October. We had an opportunity to launch the partnership with the Minister this month and highlighting the success of this model and our interest in doing more. The accelerator and mentoring capacity building programme has also launched and will be delivered online.

## People on the edges

- During the crisis we did some grant making and support to particularly help refugees and asylum seekers. Like many we are challenged by systemic issues of race and have been thinking about how the Foundation could challenge itself to do more on this.
- Garfield Weston project paused because of Covid but restarting in September. New work plan has been agreed with the funder. Workshops will be rearranged as online meetings or phone conversations until Government advice / public confidence returns to hold larger face-to-face meetings.
- Fund continues to support emergency accommodation support. Medium term uncertainty about housing association partners commitment to this work
- Cara-Friend established the Staying Connected Project in April 2020, using different digital mediums to connect young people in a way that is safer than social media. This model of engagement/support is being adopted across the UK as an example of best practice in digital work.

## Building sustainable communities

- Initial Comic Relief Programme invested some £315k across all Strategic Areas. In last phase important uptake in Gender Based Justice which was encouraging and valuable assistance given to locally based responses to special No Child Goes Hungry Programme.
- New application to Comic Relief for additional support via their Big Night In fundraiser with focus areas based on Y1 reflection and information from other areas of CFNI's work. Additional 800k secured with Comic Relief Community Support Programme designed and launched using Grant + model.

## Thriving after the conflict

- Many of the communities & organisations we support were heavily engaged in coordinating and managing emergency responses to Covid 19 and phenomenal leadership was demonstrated, new relationships were developed, volunteers recruited. It was however a difficult 11th July in some areas but once again the groups we are supporting made every effort to manage, coordinate and at times diffuse tensions.
- Excellent progress continues to be made through our leadership programme and the group was delighted to have its first socially distant meeting in a park at the end of July. Great progress and connections are being made with participants working on their leadership in action projects.
- We were also delighted to also have secured a meeting with the Secretary of State of Northern Ireland to talk about our work and that of some of the groups we support.

## Innovation & voice

- Expressions of interest process completed - 55 received, shortlisted to 30 ideas, coalescing into 14 collaborations at Democracy Day; 12 teams completed codesign phase and received prototype grant; next stage will be main grants in Jan 2021.
- £200k Funding secured for new cycle from Comic Relief - currently open for applications, closing 10th September with final pitching panel due on 15th October; 6 places available on programme.
- Latest cycle completed in March 2020 with allocation of £140k Seed Fund from DfC, HSF and CFNI to 15 projects. Fund development for a new cycle is proving a challenge due to COVID - an expected application to HSF has been postponed until November. Discussions underway with WorkWest to adapt the programme for digital delivery.

# Case Studies

# Encouraging generosity



- £9793.66 awarded to Parenting NI to be used towards an extended free telephone support line, monthly, issue-based, online seminars & social media support for families in County Antrim. Funded through the Mc Call Social Care Fund.
- £9201 awarded to Hands That Talk to towards a programme of health & wellbeing activities / courses for deaf people. Funded through the Wesleyan Fund.
- £15,000 awarded to Crisis Cafe CIC towards a twice weekly friendship cafe in Newry providing mental health support for children and young people. Funded through the New Needs Fund.
- £12004.85 awarded to Diverse Youth NI towards online tutoring for children in North Belfast, primarily from BAME communities as they transition back to school and prepare for exams Funded through the New Needs Fund.

# Building Sustainable Communities



- £2,000 awarded to Carnagat Area Community Association, towards aid packages for families in need living in their catchment area. Funded through the No Child Goes Hungry Comic Relief Programme.
- £2,000 awarded to Black Mountain Shared Space Project towards a child food provision programme in the the local area. Funded through the No Child Goes Hungry Comic Relief Programme.
- £2,000 awarded to Fountain Street Community Development Association to purchase nutritious food from a local source and deliver to the local community. Funded through the No Child Goes Hungry Comic Relief Programme



# Innovation and Voice



- £5,000 to Compass Advocacy Network (in collaboration with Big Telly Theatre Company and Dee Harvey,) through the Civic Innovation Prototyping Grant to explore the use of online participatory theatre to stimulate public deliberation about the social welfare system
- £1,000 awarded to the Glencolin Residents Association through the Pressure Group Fund. Towards training and development courses for the Youth Beyond Conflict programme, for the development of skills and knowledge relating to civic activism and community voice.
- £1,000 awarded to Larne House Visitor Group through the Pressure Group Fund. Towards the recruitment of volunteers and raising public awareness of the role of the Larne House Visitor Group; through improved digital communications and marketing materials

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# 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 involves 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.
- Our map shows that we have an excellent geographical spread of our funding throughout the whole of Northern Ireland, with only a few small areas where our reach is not as high as other areas, for example the Fermanagh border.
- We are working more with the Rural Support Networks, and other Networks, to ensure access to all of our funding across Northern Ireland. We will continue to promote our funds to all of their members, and work with the Support Networks to provide advice and guidance on funding priorities.



**Vital Issues and  
Thinking**

- Our average grant remains quite low, which is perhaps indicative of the need for the sector, in particular for low level funding to meet immediate needs.
- We made some more strategic awards through our Comic Relief programme, focused on emerging areas of need as a result of the pandemic. This funding was particularly useful in helping us think more strategically about the needs communities and communities of interest are facing, and was a significant contribution to our covid response.
- Our New Needs funding was particularly successful, with the priorities pitched at the right level, to enable community organisations to adapt and work in different ways, and to continue to support those most in need at this time. The fund was well subscribed, awarding £2 million, at pace, to enable groups to reopen community facilities safely.



**Vital Issues and  
Thinking**

- 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. Our expertise and ability to administer funding efficiently and effectively has been showcased as a best practice example.
- 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.



Orla Black  
Grants Director

The *elle*  
Community  
Foundation

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with causes that matter