Welcome

Northamptonshire Community Foundation is delighted to report back on the progress made in tackling urgent need on behalf of our donors through funding the targeted work of small local charities and community groups.

The Hidden Needs Report, which was commissioned by Northamptonshire Community Foundation and carried out by the University of Northampton, was launched in March 2018. Since the report was launched it has generated a lot of interest, concern, shock and debate within the county. We have promoted the findings on our website and engaged with donors, partners and stakeholders to publicise the report to encourage wider debate and raise awareness to tackle urgent priority needs.

Across many of our funding programmes awarded community groups and charities must now identify at least one hidden need they are addressing in the delivery of their project activity and measure its impact. Additionally, we are finding from feedback that community groups and charities are using the evidence within the report to support funding applications to other funders, building knowledge and understanding of the most pressing needs within Northamptonshire.

We are committed to highlighting the needs of our county so that we can build resources and funds to help improve wellbeing for local communities. We are also building an endowment so that Northamptonshire will have funds to tackle future needs for future generations to come.

Victoria Miles DL
CEO, Northamptonshire Community Foundation

About Northamptonshire Community Foundation

Northamptonshire Community Foundation is a unique charity which promotes and manages philanthropy.

We are the leading independent grant-making charity in the county and we are proud to have worked with our fund holders and donors to ensure projects make a sustainable impact on local needs, helping our donors make the most of their charitable giving.

We deliver a variety of funding for the local voluntary and community sector having awarded nearly £10 million in grants since our inception to make Northamptonshire a better place to live and have built an endowment of nearly £9 million. We aim to increase our endowment fund to at least £15 million by 2020. We are dedicated to funding community-based action which improves the lives of our county’s most disadvantaged people and communities. Child poverty, unemployment, homelessness, domestic violence and social isolation are just some of the issues we strive to tackle each year.

We are one of 46 Community Foundations across the UK and over 1800 similar foundations across the world which are playing a leading role in the development of community philanthropy and resources to sustain communities.

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Addressing Hidden Needs: Our Progress

Tackling the Education and Skills Gap

We have funded a number of projects to help people access education and training, take up volunteer placements, gain qualifications and increase their employability pathways. This has also resulted in project beneficiaries gaining employment or going onto further education.

As part of our community leadership role we partnered with Talent Match Northamptonshire. This is an organisation supporting significantly disadvantaged young people aged 18-24 to find employment. We showcased their five year person-centred programme on tackling youth unemployment and raise awareness of the Hidden Needs Report to charity professionals and volunteers working with young people.

Community Solution: Youthworks Corby and Kettering CIC

Youthworks Corby and Kettering CIC provides alternative education provision for young people at risk of exclusion from mainstream education, or those young people struggling to engage with mainstream education to improve educational attainment.

One of their currently funded projects includes the Rebike Project. Young people are trained in bike maintenance, including the importance of health and safety and safe use of tools, achieving an AQA accreditation.

With the assistance of our Bike Maintenance Tutors, these young volunteers are teaching other young people how to keep their bikes safe and roadworthy.

1126 HOURS of education and training provided

81 people attending training for the first time

11 people gained sustainable employment

60 people started on the pathway to employability

11 people went into further education

215 people gaining an accreditation or qualification

1162 people attended training

1453 people engaged in regular volunteering
Tackling Health and Wellbeing Inequalities

Projects and activities across Northamptonshire have been invested in that address emotional, mental and physical health as well as environmental health including green space activity, sports clubs, exercise classes, counselling and addiction services and leisure and social activities to reduce loneliness.

Community Solution: Buddies of Becketts

Buddies of Becketts is a community group supporting the preservation and development of Becketts Park, Midsummer Meadow and Radlands Plaza in Northampton. They are developing and expanding their wellbeing activities for local residents offering a range of health-focused activities including health walks and fitness classes, gardening activities and environmental days. They are working alongside a range of local organisations including AGE UK, Mind, Northampton General Hospital, the Police and local authorities to promote their activities to people who live and work nearby.

Community Solution: Daylight Centre

Daylight Centre is a charity based in Wellingborough that alleviates poverty and support people who live with complex mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, learning difficulties, to homelessness or just feeling fragile, isolated and alone.

They provide a number of support services which include a foodbank, providing housing advice and helping complete online applications for social housing as well as referring clients to other support services.

- 176 people achieving independent living
- 230 people supported to achieve independent living
- 9710 people accessing support services (including tackling deprivation and social isolation)

Environmental Health

- 2 environmental schemes created
- 3 local wildlife protection schemes developed
- 10 new habitats created
- 49 volunteers taking care of local public spaces
- 157 trees planted
Community Solution: Free 2 Talk CIC

Free 2 Talk CIC is a local youth agency particularly targeting young people living in deprived community areas providing a range of activities including youth work, parenting support, family support, advocacy, emotional support, counselling, mentoring, community development and group work.

Current funded project activity includes ‘Youth Hidden Harm Interventions’ working with young people who are at risk of being victims and perpetrators of crime through cyberbullying, gang activity, exploitation and abuse, homelessness, alcohol and substance misuse by providing support and wellbeing activities.

17 existing partnerships strengthened to support safer communities
1651 people taking part in a project designed to divert them away from anti-social behaviour
3603 people reported feeling safer in their communities
43 ex-offenders taking part in a project designed to divert them away from criminal behaviour

Community Solution: Kettering Community Unit

KCU (Kettering Community Unit) supports a range of residents in Kettering including rough sleepers and the homeless particularly aiming to help people with complex needs or at a time of crisis. The organisation provides a range of support services including a food bank and ‘Food with Dignity’ service, affordable clothing and household goods, education and learning centre activities and an Inclusive Volunteering Project that provides mentors/befrienders for those with more complex needs.

We have supported on behalf of donors, community groups and charities tackling food and fuel poverty, family support, debt counselling and welfare advocacy.

500 people using community transport
1 low energy community facility created
4 new community facilities created

576 people being supported as victims of anti-social behaviour or crime
1 perpetrator of domestic abuse taking part in a project designed to divert them away from abusive behaviour
6 new partnerships established as a result of the project
525 people accessing support services due to discrimination or other treatment

Northamptonshire Community Foundation raising awareness of priority local needs.

For more information, visit this website:
Putting a Spotlight on Self Harm

The Hidden Needs Report highlighted the alarming statistic that levels of self harm in Northamptonshire are significantly higher than the national average.

We have therefore campaigned to raise awareness about self harm through the local press and media and are engaging with donors and community groups to invest in fund projects and activities tackling self harm including counselling services and mental health support agencies.

Community Solution: Northamptonshire Rape Crisis

Northamptonshire Rape Crisis is a specialist charity that aims to relieve the distress and trauma of women, men and children who have suffered sexual abuse, rape, incest, and domestic abuse by providing free access to confidential advice and support.

Services include telephone and face to face support, group work and advocacy providing practical and emotional support. Example projects also include a ‘Wellbeing for Women’ programme recovering from sexual violence accessing free specialist counselling.

Tackling Child Poverty

As part of our community leadership role we facilitate Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network which has led a campaign across the last year to highlight and raise awareness of poverty including child poverty and was prominently featured in the local media. Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network is also a member of the National End Hunger UK campaign which includes the Child Poverty Action Group.

Northamptonshire Community Foundation in partnership with Northampton Chronicle and Echo has re-launched the Fair Deal for Kids campaign to raise awareness of child poverty and raise funds to address this priority need in Northampton.

Community Solution: Growing Together Northampton

Growing Together Northampton is a community development organisation working with local people to address the impact of disadvantage, improve lives and create a better place to live. It develops opportunities and runs services that will have a positive impact on people’s lives, and will contribute to making their communities better places to live. The group are currently doing targeted work to address and tackle child poverty in Northampton East including nursery schooling, food hub support and family support providing educational and recreational activities.

For more information, visit this website: http://www.ncf.uk.com/give/donate/fairdealforkids

Thank You!

We also wish to say thank you to the Friends of the Foundation who have chosen child poverty as their funding theme for 2018/19.

For more information, visit this website: http://www.ncf.uk.com/give/donate/fairdealforkids
Northamptonshire / Hidden Needs

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