

The story so far...

In March, almost overnight, people were told to stay home. Businesses, schools and many non-essential shops and services closed. The pandemic had arrived in Sussex.

The response from Sussex people was immediate and courageous. Charities adapted their services and ways of working, donors were quick and generous to give, and local neighbourhood groups sprang up to support vulnerable people in our communities.

We realised that quick access to funding would be really important for charities and community groups to survive and adapt to new ways of working, at the same time as springing into action to support those most immediately affected by the pandemic.

Recognising this urgency, we launched the Sussex Crisis Fund on 20 March. Within ten days, we made our first grants and our grants committee met every week until the end of July.

High priority areas we were funding in those first few months included access to food and medicines, health issues and loneliness and isolation, in particular for older people. Another area that needed immediate investment was technology to enable groups to deliver their work virtually.

Across the world, people are starting to recognise the huge impact the pandemic has had, particularly on the most disadvantaged people and places. We also know that people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities are affected more profoundly. The risk of greater inequality is all too real.

The voluntary sector has shown how hugely resourceful and enterprising it is. It has played a vital role throughout the lockdown and will play a vital role in the recovery. We want to celebrate what has been achieved so far: the incredible way that local people, volunteers and staff from



Sussex Homeless Support

hundreds of grassroots organisations, empowered by your support, have come together during this extraordinary period.

There are huge challenges ahead but there is also a real opportunity to come together to help Sussex to become a safer, successful and more inclusive place to live for everyone.

We would like to thank the hundreds of community groups and thousands of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to help the most affected, as well as the many people and organisations who have given to the Sussex Crisis Fund. Your compassion and generosity have made things bearable for so many people, so thank you. The next few pages tell some of the story of the impact you have made. It is all too clear that the crisis will not be over for many months to come, so we are asking you to continue to support Sussex, and the Sussex Crisis Fund, to help our communities to recover.

KEVIN RICHMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
August 2020



£800,000 HAS BEEN DONATED LOCALLY...THANK YOU SO MUCH!

An amazing response

“ This will help us, as a charity, to survive, as well as the people we are supporting, so that we can all thrive again soon. ”

Ollie Jeffs, The Pelham, Bexhill

OUR APPROACH

- **We listened** and consulted with Sussex charities to best understand where crisis funds should go to maximise impact.
- **We were flexible** – offering charities the chance to repurpose existing grants.
- **We partnered** with the National Emergencies Trust and others to distribute funds quickly.
- **We scaled up** – moving from making grants three times a year to every week. Since March, we’ve already given out more grants than we normally would do in a year.



“ I wanted to personally say a humongous thank you to you all! We are so unbelievably grateful and this is going to help us to continue. We thought we were going to have to fold which we won’t have to do now. ”

Gemma Kybert, Oscar’s Wish Foundation

THE FUND WAS
LAUNCHED ON
20 MARCH...
3 DAYS BEFORE
LOCKDOWN

WE AWARDED
THE FIRST
GRANT JUST
10 DAYS AFTER
LAUNCH

£1.9M IN
GRANTS HAVE
BEEN AWARDED
FROM THE
FUND...

...WITH
435 GRANTS
MADE SO FAR

August 2020

ISSUES FACING OUR CHARITIES AND COMMUNITIES

 During lockdown, many people who relied on regular face-to-face support became **isolated** and **vulnerable**.

Time to Talk Befriending's first grant helped them adjust their befriending service to vulnerable older people experiencing chronic loneliness and social isolation to mainly a telephone service. Their second grant will support their Staying Together Recovering Together phase.

“I can't tell you how much you made my morning. You've really cheered me up. You don't realise how much your call means to me. It makes all the difference.”



Victoria Dave



East Sussex Recovery Alliance

supports people in recovery from drugs and alcohol addiction. Part of a £4,394 grant has bought two new laptops, enabling staff to keep in touch with clients vulnerable to relapse.

“You have made lockdown bearable, we would have relapsed without your support.”

 People hardest hit by the pandemic were the ones already vulnerable to **food insecurity**. The resulting hunger crisis has brought with it a record level of need for emergency food.



Darren Cool

The Black and Minority Ethnic Community Partnership

in Brighton & Hove received a grant of £7,800 to establish a foodbank service, providing emergency food parcels for people in crisis as soon as lockdown arrived.



“ The food hub has provided much needed assistance to struggling families and people living on the periphery of the wider community and who have very little support to help them through these difficult times. ”

 Black men and women are nearly twice as likely to die with coronavirus as white people in England and Wales

Office for National Statistics, May 2020



Our communities and charities are facing an **unprecedented challenge** and an **uncertain future**.

UK Harvest

distributed tonnes of donated, fresh food to vulnerable, isolated people across West Sussex. Their grant helps them to welcome volunteers into a safe working environment.

“We must quickly work to recruit new volunteers too, as we have lost many of our regular volunteers as they are classed in the ‘covid-vulnerable’ bracket.”



LOSS OF INCOME BUT INCREASED DEMAND

- Sector-wide **income** is expected to **drop by £6.7billion**, at the same time as **demand** for services **rises** by the equivalent of **£3.4billion**.

Pro Bono Economics June 2020

- **12%** of charities surveyed said it was **‘likely’** they would **cease operating**.

Pro Bono Economics June 2020



No part of the country is likely to be spared a **severe recession**, but **those most dependent on hospitality and tourism will be particularly badly hit, especially rural areas.**



RSA Future Work Centre, May 2020

20% OF GRANTS WERE TO FIRST TIME APPLICANTS

GRANTS WORTH OVER £1.1M WERE DISTRIBUTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL EMERGENCIES TRUST

625,000 BENEFICIARIES HAVE BEEN HELPED

August 2020

WHAT NEXT?

The expected economic fallout from the covid-19 pandemic, which will undoubtedly impact on jobs and livelihoods, is only now beginning to unfold. Local charities have seen a drastic fall in their incomes and so our funding is never more needed.

But we have seen the passion and compassion shown by people and communities in Sussex in facing the trials of the last few months.

We desperately need your continued donations this autumn to harness that passion as we support Sussex people to face the challenges ahead, recover financially and help build towards a better future for us all.



33% of respondents to a British Chamber of Commerce survey said they **intend to make workers redundant** over the next three months. July 2020



In Crawley, around **18% of the workforce** is employed in the **aviation industry** and related sectors.

Centre for Cities report, April 2020



Across Sussex, those receiving **Universal Credit** or **Jobseeker's Allowance** increased by **134%** between March and June.

Department for Work & Pensions



37% of Crawley-based employees were **furloughed**.

Centre for Cities report, April 2020



Black, Asian and minority ethnic people have already been disproportionately affected by the crisis. Pre-existing inequalities mean that many will be **harder hit** by the economic fallout.



200,000 people have been **furloughed** across Sussex and **378,000** applied for **self-employment support**. As these schemes wind down, the picture looks bleak, **particularly for young people**.

HMRC

WILL YOU HELP?

Please help us to support these incredible people as they face a whole new set of challenges brought about by the global – and local – pandemic.

TO DONATE

By card: www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/sussexcrisisfund

By cheque: Payable to 'Sussex Community Foundation'.

Send to Sussex Community Foundation, 15 Western Road, Lewes, BN7 1RL

By bank transfer: Sussex Community Foundation, CAF Bank,

Sort code: 40-52-40, Account number: 00095624

To find out more, contact: Stephen Chamberlain, Head of Philanthropy

01273 409440 stephen.chamberlain@sussexgiving.org.uk

**PLEASE
HELP
SUPPORT
SUSSEX
AS THE
WORK
CONTINUES**

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