

Inspiring GIVING

SUMMER 2017



Dear supporter,

2017 has got off to a flying start and last year we gave out over £1.9 million in grants to Sussex. But there is still a long way to go.

We always receive many more worthy grant applications than we have the money to fund so we will be keeping focused on encouraging our network of community philanthropists to give more in the coming year, to benefit Sussex people.

One thing we know we want to do in 2017 is to ensure that the money our donors give us reaches the people and communities that really need it. With that in mind and building on what we learned from our report *Sussex Uncovered 2*, we are planning a youth focus to some of our work this year. Being a young person in 2017 is not plain-sailing and many youngsters, particularly those from more disadvantaged backgrounds, can fall at the first hurdle without the support of the community around them. Youth services are not a statutory duty of local authorities so this means they are bearing the brunt of the reductions in funding being made by councils. We have already given out over £2.6 million in grants to groups supporting children and young people. Against this back drop of huge cuts to the funding of youth services in the last few years, we have two new funds specifically targeting young people and so it makes sense for us to tie all this activity together.

Youth services and good youth work really do change lives. We hope our needs-based and proactive grant-making will target areas of community work that are in immediate need of support, working with others to develop solutions.

Kevin Richmond,
Chief Executive,
Sussex Community Foundation



Youth leaders from Hangleton & Knoll Youth Bank

News in brief

LAST ROUND

In our last round, we received 210 applications – the highest ever in a single round. Having assessed all those applications, our grants panel and donors awarded a total of £396,816. This means that, in the financial year 2016-17, we gave over £1.9 million in grants to charities, community groups, CICs (and some individuals) across Sussex. For a charity that started off with nothing in the bank, eleven years ago, we're pretty pleased with that progress!

QUEENS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities, an MBE for volunteer groups. Any group doing volunteer work that provides a social, economic or environmental service to the local community can be nominated for the award. Each group is assessed on the benefit it brings to the local community and its standing within that community. Go to <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/> for criteria and how to make a nomination. Deadline is 15th September 2017.

HELLOS

We are saying hello to Tom Bell, our second Grants Officer and Tracy Williams, who is our new Grants Administrator. You can read all about our staff and trustees at www.sussexgiving.org.uk/people



NEW FUND

We are delighted to announce a new fund that has been set up by another donor attracted by our brand of community philanthropy.

The **Fairfield Fund** will be giving grants of up to £5,000 to charities and community groups in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove that are supporting children and young people; people with physical and/or learning disabilities; and those supporting literacy and language development and groups working to address disadvantage. Applications should be made on our standard Sussex Community Foundation application form.

The next deadline is Friday 15th September 2017, 5pm.



Sussex Ups & Downs is a parent-led group which gives weekly speech and language therapy for children with Down's syndrome.



Although not new, the **Older and Bolder Fund** supports small charities and community groups, working to reduce isolation among older people or people with mental health problems. Applications from groups whose work includes therapeutic contact with cats (or other animals) are encouraged. Fun or quirky projects are also particularly welcome. Grants of up to £5,000 are available and applications should be made on our standard Sussex Community Foundation application form.

Deadline 15th September.

FRIENDS

The difference we make.

You can help support our work by becoming a Friend of Sussex Community Foundation which enables Sussex people to support their community foundation to continue to give out grants to those who need it the most. For a donation of £40 a month, you can help keep us on track to give an astonishing £2 million to the community this year. As you will have read above, these grants help groups to address local need. They are effective and, like us, make a great difference with small amounts of money.

Please consider joining the Friends' scheme by visiting www.sussexgiving.org.uk/friends or phoning us on 01273 409440.

Sussex Community Foundation raises funds for and gives grants to smaller charities and community groups across East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. We make it easy for Sussex people to give money to local causes close to their hearts and ensure that those donations reach the people that need them. Our endowment fund enables our donors to benefit Sussex people for generations to come.

**Sussex Community Foundation, 15 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1RL
01273 409440 / info@sussexgiving.org.uk / www.sussexgiving.org.uk**



This year, we are focusing some areas of our work on young people. We will be bringing together selected donors to target their giving at this single issue. Why are we doing this?

Background

Youth services funding has been cut across the country by £387 million in six years. By youth services, we mean everything from 'open access' services, like youth and sports clubs, to more targeted intervention programmes like drug and alcohol awareness programmes and helping young people find employment.

Councillors at West Sussex County Council say that £160 million cuts already made across council services have meant the 'abolition of meaningful youth services'. SPARK (the East Sussex Council for Voluntary Youth Services) closed at the end of March when their funding ended. In Brighton & Hove, there has been a £400,000 cut (around 2/5ths) in the city's youth services budget. Our *Sussex Uncovered 2* report showed that youth unemployment in Sussex is slightly higher than the South East average. Within Sussex, Hastings has the highest rate, followed by Eastbourne and Rother.

Funds

We have two funds targeted at young people that are open for applications now (deadline for applications: Friday 15 September). They are:

The **Young People's Fund** supports charities and not-for-profit groups improving the life chances of young people in Sussex and made its first grants last November. The fund was set up by an anonymous donor but is open to donations from others.

The second fund is the Government's **Youth Social Action Fund** which will support youth social action across England and is supported by the Big Lottery Fund, boosted by Comic Relief, Pears Foundation and UK Community Foundations, and forms part of the #iwill Fund.

To better understand the current operating environment for youth work and what is happening on the ground across Sussex, we organised a mini **youth summit** at Clair Hall in Haywards Heath in mid-May.

We were keen to gather input from those working with young people to decide how best we can support them and what role our brand of community philanthropy can play. The summit was facilitated by IVAR (the

Institute for Voluntary Action Research) and attended by over 50 representatives from voluntary groups, local authorities, Sussex police, churches and infrastructure organisations.

We will report back on the results of the summit – and our other youth campaign work – at our annual meeting which will be at the Attenborough Centre in Falmer, Brighton on Friday 1st December.



EVENTS

Chiddinglye

Lord and Lady Limerick welcomed our guests to their home at Chiddinglye in May, where they enjoyed a tour of the grounds, a Mad Hatters-themed afternoon tea and gin-tasting, sponsored by Sarasin & Partners LLP. The event was decorated beautifully by wedding planners Not Your Average I Do, food was by on-site caterers

The Garden Chef, and the gin-tasting was expertly handled by Ed Perfect of Grape and Grain in Haywards Heath. Along with these Dionysian treats, guests heard more about the work of Sussex Community Foundation from our Chief Executive, Kevin Richmond.



Guests enjoyed a Mad Hatters' Tea on the terrace at Chiddinglye.

GRANTS

Here are some of the grants we have given out since our last newsletter.

MORAG (Mile Oak Rec Action Group)

One of those groups was MORAG (Mile Oak Rec Action Group) that is working to improve facilities for local people at Mile Oak Recreation Ground in Portslade. They received a joint grant of £4,356 from the Brighton & Hove Community Health Fund and the Marit and Hans Rausing Fund to install improved play equipment and to create a community garden. This will provide a local asset and help promote a healthy neighbourhood.



Fresh Start Portslade

Fresh Start Portslade was funded by the Young People's Fund earlier this year. The group renovated an old public loo in Easthill Park, Portslade that had remained unused since the 1980s and it is now a busy café where apprentices like Crystal (pictured here) can gain work experience and fulfil an accredited training course. Our grant paid for a training mentor, exam fees for City & Guilds, materials, ingredients for cooking training, broadband and other overheads.



For more information about our upcoming deadlines and the funds open for applications, visit www.sussexgiving.org.uk/apply