



**Oxfordshire**  
Community Foundation  
Local people helping local people

**OUR IMPACT**  
**2018**



# ABOUT OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF) is an independent charity that connects people who care with causes that matter. We inspire local philanthropy, and develop community-based solutions to key social problems across Oxfordshire.

We are one of 46 community foundations in the UK, and over 1,800 similar foundations around the world. Community foundations collaborate with private philanthropists, family trusts, businesses and the public sector to provide a permanent, flexible and growing source of local charitable funding.

We believe in lasting, strategic and proactive solutions to complex social problems. To achieve these, we are committed to developing our knowledge and understanding of Oxfordshire's needs and all available resources. We work in partnership with others so that we can have a greater impact.





# INTRODUCTION

Working together with the whole community – including the public, business and social sectors – is the key to solving unacceptable problems in Oxfordshire.

During the past year, OCF's Board of Trustees has accelerated the pursuit of our strategy, deploying our convening power to bring people and organisations together to tackle problems. We previously committed to finding long-term, preventative solutions to the issues revealed in our research report *Oxfordshire Uncovered* – and we realise that the only way to do this is to encourage everyone with an interest in their community to combine their strengths and work towards the same aims.

We were inspired and galvanised to strike out on this path by the UK Community Foundations Conference in September 2017. There we heard from Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker, CEO of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo in the United States. She described how her organisation had set four clear ambitions to improve local society, and invested all of its efforts 'linking arms' with partners from all sectors to shift the trends in these areas. They were able to make an impressive long-term difference to the issues they had prioritised – for example, over five years they saw graduation rates at schools in the most deprived areas improve from 49% to 64%. Impact evidence like this is just impossible to ignore!

In Oxfordshire, we have begun similar work on three strategic programmes, centred on three priority issues coming from our needs research: **loneliness**, **homelessness**, and **educational inequality**. Some of these strategic programmes are more developed than others, where we have taken the opportunity to become a key partner in a place with existing enthusiasm for a particular issue. You will find more information in the sections that follow about each of these programmes, as well as about our core grant-making activity under each cause.



For all of these solutions to work, we believe we must bring in all elements of our strategy:

- Achieve a step change in our **collaborative philanthropy**
- Develop a **knowledge hub** of Oxfordshire's voluntary sector and key social and community problems
- **Work in partnership** to develop community-based solutions
- Adopt a transparent, proactive and **strategic approach to the distribution** of OCF funds
- Enhance our **organisational capability** and infrastructure to deliver our growth ambitions.

This report will share the progress we are making in all of these areas for each of these important causes. We would really love to have your feedback and comments on our progress.

With our very best wishes,

**John Taylor**  
Chair of Trustees

**Jayne Woodley**  
Chief Executive



# EXPANDING OUR VISION

Our 2016 publication *Oxfordshire Uncovered* revealed some of the shocking problems on our doorsteps. This is how we are tackling some of them, and expanding on what we really mean by our vision of “A better life for everyone in Oxfordshire”.

## PROBLEMS

## SOLUTIONS



### LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

Older people living alone in isolated villages, with little access to transport or health services

Vulnerable minorities who are excluded from mainstream society

A national loneliness crisis affecting people of all ages



### A SENSE OF BELONGING

Support befriending, community transport and older people’s clubs and activities

Ensure community spaces and resources can fulfil their potential

Promote mental and physical wellbeing via active participation and shared events

p3



### HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Rough sleeping increasing, especially in Oxford

Many individuals and families vulnerably housed

Mental health and substance abuse create deep-seated and complex needs




### A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Help people off the streets and into supported and then independent accommodation

Address ingrained poverty, debt and family breakdown, which often lead to homelessness

Work in a specialised way with people who have hit rock bottom

p9



### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Disappointing primary school results and educational inequality

Abuse, family violence or deprivation get in the way of a good education

Huge inequality around role models and life skills that put people on the back foot throughout life



### AN OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

Work with schools to target literacy and numeracy initiatives towards the most deprived

Focus on children’s mental health and activities that inspire them

Provide mentoring and other extra-curricular activities that boost confidence and skills

p15



Photo: The Valentine Club, a seniors group in the rural area between Banbury, Oxford, Bicester and Chipping Norton, which received a £500 grant in August 2017



## A SENSE OF BELONGING

Building solutions to **loneliness and isolation**, connecting people through friendship in community spaces





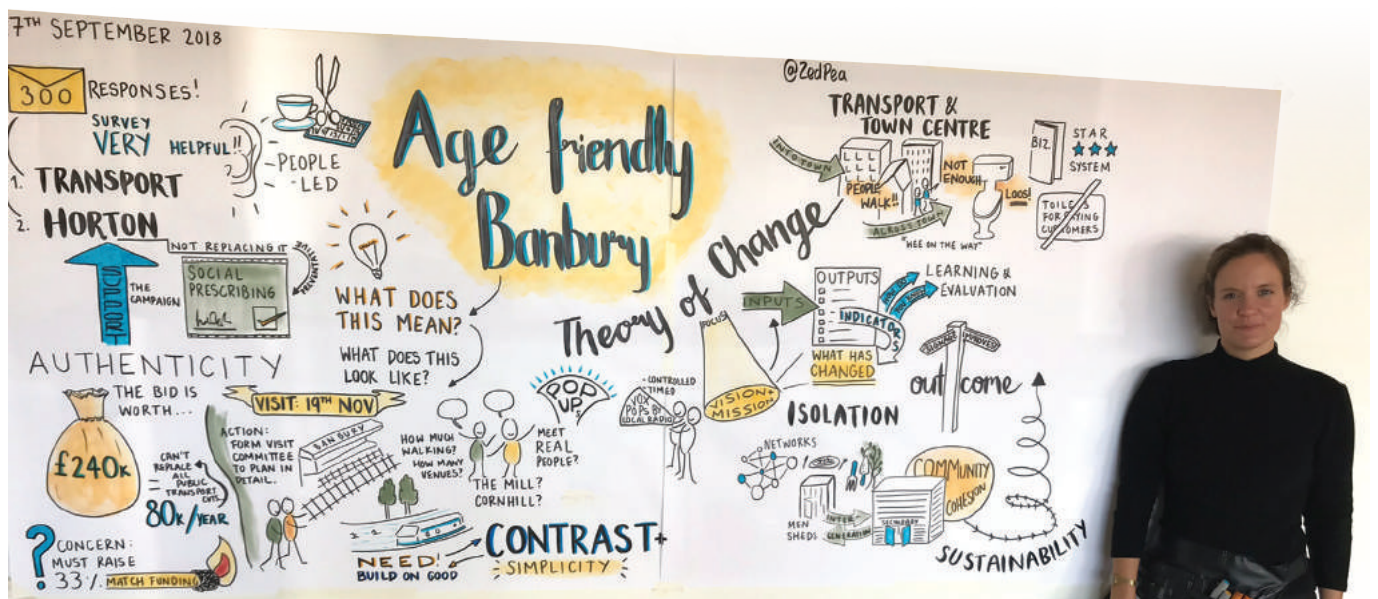
# STRATEGIC PROGRAMME: AGE FRIENDLY BANBURY

Our aim is for Banbury to be a great place to grow older – and the first ‘Age Friendly’ place in Oxfordshire.

In 2018, OCF co-founded a cross-sector partnership committed to tackling loneliness and isolation in Banbury. This partnership became one of only 20 of 176 applicants to win backing from

the Big Lottery Fund and the government to champion social action – volunteering, campaigning and other charitable activity – to improve wellbeing in a certain place.

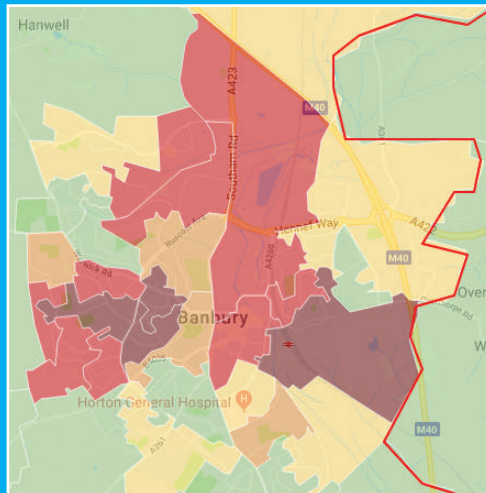
Phase 1 of the programme provided the space and time to listen to the voices of older people, and to challenge our own perceptions and thinking. It also enabled our partnership to capture a huge amount of rich data and insight, as well as establish a baseline for our work. Together, these highlight both demand and support for social action in Banbury.



## IMPROVING OUR KNOWLEDGE

Oxfordshire County Council added their support to our work in Banbury by providing in-kind resources from their research and intelligence team.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), by 2050 there will be more people over 60 than under 14 for the first time in human history, with an expectation that the majority of these will live in urban areas. One area in Banbury has the highest rate of income-deprived older people in Oxfordshire – an area that is within the worst 10% nationally. Health profiles show that this area has poorer life expectancy and higher rates of ill health than the rest of England, including early deaths (under 75) from cancer and circulatory diseases.



### Income deprivation affecting older people

Includes measures of Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance and Pension Credit received by people over 60. Red areas show higher levels of deprivation.

Source: Communities and Local Government English Indices of Deprivation 2015



# “Consider running events specifically for the older generation that are perhaps more adventurous. As people are living longer we are retired for much longer so want to be involved with activities for longer – how about a nightclub for over 50s?!”

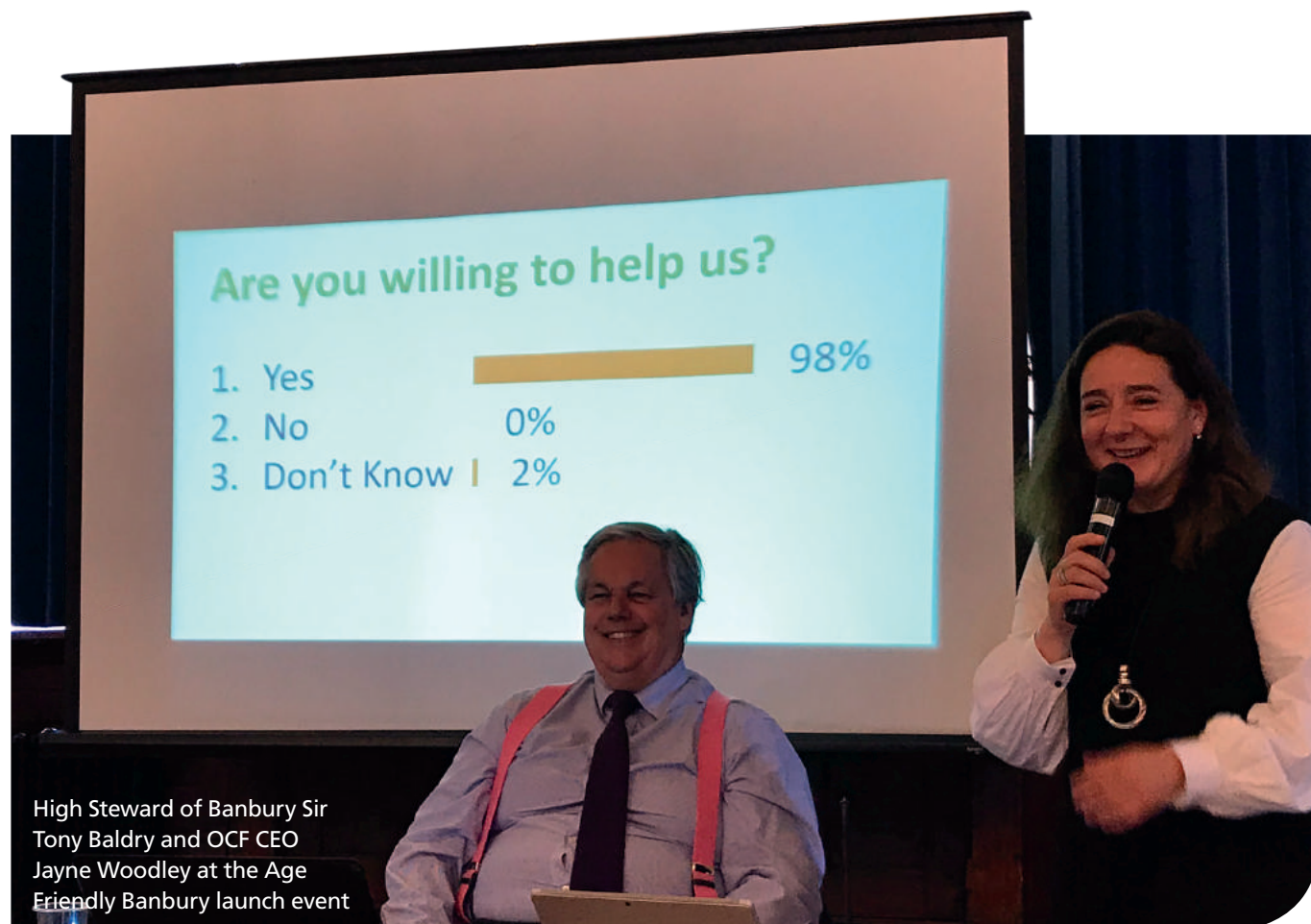
Age Friendly Banbury survey respondent

The Age Friendly Banbury partnership launched at an event at Banbury Town Hall in June 2018, which brought together over 100 people with an interest in making Banbury an age friendly place. Ideas discussed ranged from improvements to the built environment, such as housing, transport and outdoor spaces, to looking at the social environment, such as health and information services, civic participation and social activities.

The event was followed up with a survey that added the views of over 300 people. This revealed four key priorities: public and community **transport**; location of and access to **health** services; the adequacy of the **town centre**; and **activities** to learn new skills, develop new interests, and stay fit and healthy.

In early 2019, up to 10 of the 20 partnerships nationally will progress to be awarded funding from The Big Lottery of up to £240,000 for three years to put their plans into action. OCF has already secured match funding for Phase 2, Year 1 from several generous individuals, businesses and trusts with an interest in Banbury.

The partnership hopes to use this funding to encourage people-led social action, such as training for retailers and pubs in welcoming older people; an ‘Uber’ model for on-call community transport; or intergenerational cooking clubs.



High Steward of Banbury Sir  
Tony Baldry and OCF CEO  
Jayne Woodley at the Age  
Friendly Banbury launch event

# GRANT-MAKING TO COMBAT LONELINESS AND ISOLATION



**£363,706**  
in grants made



**96**  
organisations  
funded



## OTHER SELECTED GRANTS IN THIS THEME

- **Oxfordshire Bengali Cultural Society** – £1,000 to bring a concert of Bengali cultural icon Rabindranath Tagore’s music to a multi-cultural audience, empowering volunteers from different backgrounds
- **Hinksey Park Football Club** – £500 to provide bursaries for families who find it hard to afford kit and subscriptions, with a focus on Syrian refugee children
- **Action for Carers Oxfordshire** – £3,250 to help unpaid carers through an outreach programme, and provide specialist local information and advice on the support available to them
- **Museum of Oxford Development Trust** – £3,175 to take the museum’s ‘Journeys to Oxford’ exhibition into hard-to-reach communities via pop-up displays, sharing stories of how people from different ethnic groups arrived in the city (pictured)







## CASE STUDY

# DEDDINGTON DAY CENTRE

The day centre at Deddington runs a weekly “Thursday Club” for over 65s – a place to meet up with friends old and new, increase socialisation, and enjoy a freshly prepared meal.

### Combating rural isolation

Deddington has been identified as an area that has a larger elderly population than the average for Oxfordshire as a whole – 27% compared to 17.5%. Many of the over 65s in Deddington live in one-person households, and more people of working age than average commute out of the village on a daily basis, meaning there is a high risk of rural social isolation. What is more, cuts to local transport provision mean that people living in the villages surrounding Deddington have little or no means to get out and about.

The Thursday Club reduces the risk of isolation, loneliness and carer burnout by regularly bringing people together for a happy, fun day with good company and friendships. The commitment of the staff and volunteers extends to visiting the club members in hospital, as well as bereavement support and a shopping service. A full and varied programme of events, speakers and entertainment make each week a new and varied experience in a familiar setting.

### Targeted funding through OCF’s Delivering Impact programme

In summer 2017 OCF ran a dedicated round of grant funding for projects tackling isolation and loneliness, as part of our Delivering Impact programme. Charities and community groups could apply for grants of £1,500–£10,000 for work that brought people together, helped them access services, and improved their physical and mental health. Deddington Day Centre was awarded £6,494 to fund their community transport offer, so that the day centre remains accessible to all who need it – even in the context of cuts to statutory funding.

Via the day centre’s chair Christine Stanbridge, OCF received a raft of testimonials from the Thursday Club explaining how

much it means to them to be able to attend regularly. For example, Mrs E, who has been attending for the past few months, told us: “I look forward to coming every week and deciding what I am going to wear! I know that sounds strange, but I don’t get to dress up for anything else. My daughter says she has seen a difference in me since I started coming here.”

Iain says: “I live alone in a small village and am unable to drive. I feel very lonely and get depressed. I love the warm, friendly atmosphere at the centre – I played Beetle Drive for the first time at 93!”

Brenda, 88, comments: “I find the company something to look forward to as it takes my mind off myself and my ailments, and I really enjoy having a laugh with everyone. I would never normally sit at a table with other people to eat a hot meal.”

### LESSONS FOR OCF

This grant shows the benefits of investing in simple things that have worked in the community for years. Historically, many of these services have relied heavily on local government funding to keep going, which has been withdrawn recently. OCF cannot plug this gap, but we can prioritise those activities that have a positive knock-on effect, such as community transport. In addition, as each application is scrutinised by our team of independent volunteer assessors, this gives the chance to offer feedback to applicant groups for how they might access further funds, or how to remain sustainable after the life of the grant.



# KEY DONORS TO THIS THEME



Representatives from Oxford Against Cutting and Ark T at OCF's High Sheriff's Community Integration Awards in January 2018



Photo: Jam being made by a member of The Porch Steppin' Stone project, a day facility for homeless people that received a £300 donation from OCF at The Funding Network's live crowdfunding event in May 2017, to add to over £7,200 given in recent years

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue sweater and a black apron, is focused on pouring a thick, red jam from a blender into a glass jar. The background is a kitchen setting with various items on the counter. The overall scene conveys a sense of purpose and community activity.

## A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Building solutions to **rough sleeping and homelessness**, and the societal factors that cause them

# STRATEGIC PROGRAMME: CITY CONVERSATION ON ROUGH SLEEPING

Many people express surprise when visiting Oxford city centre – that amongst the dreaming spires, in this seat of learning and incredible privilege, they see so many people reduced to a life on the streets.



The problem is very visible, and visitors and residents can feel powerless in knowing how to help. This is why OCF has become involved in a new partnership in the city, taking a role as convenor in bringing together the many different people and organisations who want to see an end to rough sleeping.

OCF invited former High Sheriff Jane Cranston DL (pictured), whose Shrieval year focused on justice and opportunity and came to an end in April 2017, to chair this initiative. With the help of Oxford City Council, OCF has employed a part-

time project manager dedicated to build a partnership between local government and police, the charitable and community sector, the universities, and businesses in order to jointly tackle homelessness.

Currently known as the City Conversation on Rough Sleeping, the partnership began with an event in November 2017 that brought together over 100 stakeholders to form a shared approach to homelessness. Representatives from Oxfordshire’s homelessness organisations, health providers, faith groups, public bodies, local councillors, and people with

## IMPROVING OUR KNOWLEDGE

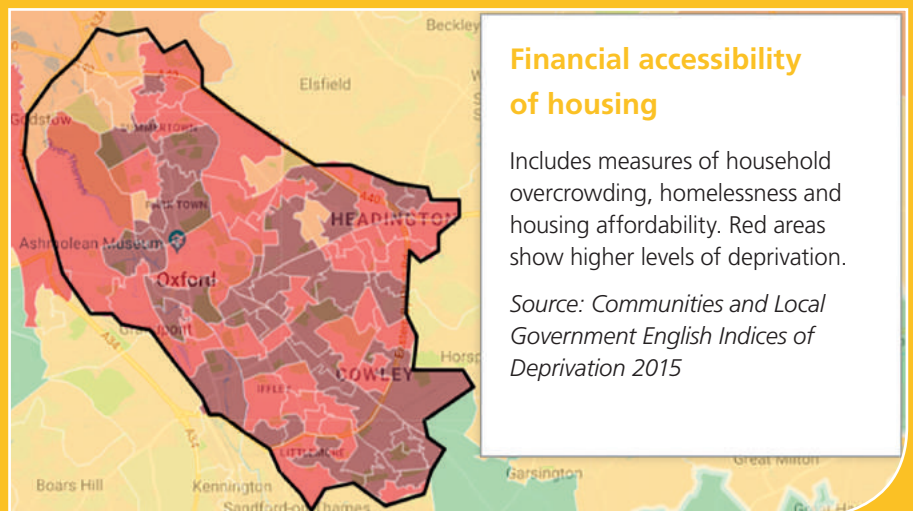
Oxford city becomes the focus for OCF’s homelessness work.

Using our new Local Insight data tool from OCSI, OCF was able to easily drill down into the facets of need within this theme. For example, the Indices of Deprivation 2015 “Wider Barriers” sub-domain measures financial accessibility of housing, including affordability. The map on the right shows that Oxford has a severe level of deprivation by this measure, and is one of the least affordable places to live in the country. We believe this drives unstable housing, homelessness and ultimately the rough sleeping that feels so unacceptable to so many.

OCF is therefore prioritising Oxford city in our convening and grant-making work, gathering more intelligence from many people and organisations working on the ground with rough sleepers and homeless people. For example, we know from street counts

that 40% of the people sleeping rough in the city either cannot or will not engage with the services available, because they have ‘no local connection’ and are not eligible to access services in

Oxford. Some have such deep-seated problems and disordered lives they find it hard to see a way out. Without addressing this issue, we will never be able to truly solve the problem.





## “By focusing concerted effort in this area, we have identified many brilliant initiatives already happening to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping”

lived experience of rough sleeping took part – it was the largest conversation of its kind to take place in Oxford. **The partnership’s vision is to ensure that nobody has to sleep rough on the streets of Oxford.**

By focusing concerted effort in this area, we have identified many brilliant initiatives already happening to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping. However, there are some gaps and sometimes duplication of effort, which risks being a waste of resources and of goodwill. Better

communication is also needed, about what the underlying problems are, who’s helping who, what’s already happening, or who’s turned down help and why. Lack of resources means that organisations are sometimes in competition for funding. We need to improve outward communication to the public, who often struggle to know how best to help people they encounter on the streets.

The partnership has therefore created four distinct work streams, and gained agreement from a wide range of public

and third sector organisations to actively collaborate on them. These are:

- To address the issue of why some people can’t engage with services that could help them
- To provide better information about what people can do to help
- To bring more funding into Oxford for services to address this issue
- To build the partnership, around a strong city charter on rough sleeping.



# GRANT-MAKING TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS AND ITS CAUSES



**£187,208**  
in grants made



**20**  
organisations  
funded



## OTHER SELECTED GRANTS IN THIS THEME

- **The Gatehouse** – £5,000 to run art, literacy and computer group activities for rough sleepers at their day facilities in central Oxford
- **Refugee Resource** – £4,880 to enable refugee women to host and cater four pop-up lunches where the invited guests are homeless or vulnerable
- **Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Support Scheme** – £10,000 to go towards the salary of a welfare benefit caseworker helping some of the most deprived families in Blackbird Leys to avoid falling into severe debt, poverty and homelessness
- **RAW Workshop** – £24,000 from Step Change to support the establishment of a social enterprise that trains homeless people and ex-offenders in crafting beautiful and functional objects from recycled wood







## CASE STUDY

# HOMELESS OXFORDSHIRE

Homeless Oxfordshire supports and guides people along a one-way journey out of homelessness, towards fulfilling futures.

### Providing support across the spectrum

Homeless Oxfordshire provides holistic services to people at all stages of homelessness, starting with the immediate needs of rough sleepers: safety, shelter and a satisfying meal at their 56-bed hostel O'Hanlon House. This is combined with frontline medical care via their Luther Street Medical Centre, and referrals to a range of other services from other charities, such as addiction support, counselling, training and work experience.

As a homeless person starts to help themselves out of their situation, Homeless Oxfordshire assists with resettlement and second-stage move-on accommodation in the community across 28 properties.

### Matching donor interest to possibility

OCF had been talking to a philanthropist who was keen to understand where their funding could have the biggest impact on homelessness. Discussions with the charity, the donor and others in the sector led to an interest in move-on accommodation. This enables those who have secured employment following a period of homelessness to move into

housing within the community.

However, due to the lack of affordable housing available, the reality is that earned income is rarely sufficient to cover the full cost of private rental accommodation. In such circumstances, Homeless Oxfordshire provides a rent subsidy to make up the difference between actual rent payable, and the amount of housing benefit received.

Homeless Oxfordshire calculated that a charitable donation of around £30,000 per year would sustain eight individuals currently living in one-bedroom flats at Edith Kempson House, covering their rent subsidies in full.

This funding has helped individuals like Ali, who became homeless following a mental health crisis and the breakdown of his relationship. He was initially housed at O'Hanlon House and experienced acute anxiety, and lacked any motivation. Homeless Oxfordshire's Community Engagement Worker encouraged Ali to visit a local animal sanctuary, and this sparked an interest resulting in him volunteering as a dog walker. As his confidence increased, Ali began participating in several in-house activities and enrolled on Construction Safety Card training, where he gained a construction qualification. He then

moved into Edith Kempson House and achieved stability. He received support to become work ready, and after six months found a job and moved out of homelessness.

### LESSONS FOR OCF

This funding was offered to Homeless Oxfordshire in a more collaborative and proactive way than via the usual grant application process. OCF was able to match an engaged donor with a leading organisation in the sector, and worked with a volunteer assessor who had extensive experience of charity management to provide regular updates to the donor on progress. This included frequent meetings between OCF and the charity's management team, who were able to reassure us about the general direction of the organisation, and were given the space to speak honestly about the difficulties they faced. OCF was willing to take a risk and offer an unrestricted contribution, with the support of a forward-thinking donor.



# KEY DONORS TO THIS THEME



OCF donors and David and Claudia Harding



Photo: A Young Achievers Dinner by Thrive Leys, organised in recognition of the progress made by disenfranchised youngsters on the Blackbird Leys and Barton estates, following a mentoring programme funded by OCF totalling £14,000

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

Building solutions to **educational inequality and joblessness**, giving people the knowledge, skills and confidence thrive in life

# STRATEGIC PROGRAMME: EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY

OCF is investing resources in a new convening initiative to explore how to improve educational attainment and life chances in Oxfordshire.

With the support of several key donors, in October 2018 OCF appointed a Project Manager dedicated to finding effective solutions to some of the educational inequalities identified in *Oxfordshire Uncovered*. We continue to find it surprising that in a county with two leading universities and a thriving knowledge economy, so many people of all ages are left behind, with minimal qualifications and lacking the workplace skills to take advantage of the burgeoning job market.

The first stage is a research and information-gathering one: which geographical areas should we focus on, and which charities and community groups are leading the way in terms of best practice? We will rely on the knowledge of the frontline experts in our network to gather this information – staff and volunteers from

leading local charities who are dealing with these issues daily. We will explore opportunities to promote a better family learning environment right from the early years of development, as well as options to improve skills, confidence and experience, teaching, mental health and other facets of the education equation.

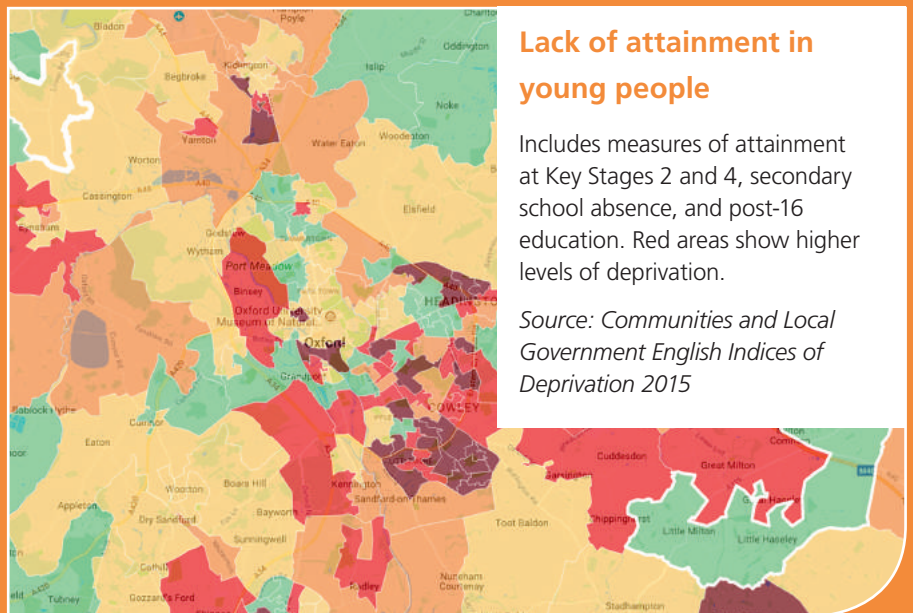
As part of this strategic programme, we intend to learn lessons from both our Age Friendly Banbury and City Conversation partnerships about how to build genuine, effective collaboration, move on from conflict or competition, and set a common direction. This will allow us to bring together interested funders to invest in both proven and innovative approaches that we believe will reduce educational inequality and tackle joblessness. Watch this space to find out what progress we make!

## IMPROVING OUR KNOWLEDGE

Geographical data enables grant-making priorities to be set.

OCF opened a call for grant applications in August 2018 dedicated to Education and Skills. To coincide with this, we published a comprehensive report produced from Local Insight, showing the most educationally deprived parts of Oxfordshire. It concluded that the greatest impact was likely to be achieved by concentrating on areas where people lack both education and employment, but where there is a high job density – in particular Abingdon, Banbury, Berinsfield, Didcot, Kidlington, Oxford City, Wantage and Witney.

Grant applicants were invited to use the data in the report to support their requests for funding. OCF's panel of independent volunteers will also use the report to objectively assess the grant applications and prioritise those that should receive funding.







## CASE STUDY

# BUSINESSES SUPPORT EMPLOYABILITY

OCF's Reciprocate responsible business group has a core focus on countering joblessness and supporting employability.

OCF has worked with companies that are members of Reciprocate to promote open and inclusive recruitment in Oxfordshire – for example, encouraging companies to consider employing people with learning disabilities, or people who have struggled with substance abuse or a history of offending. As part of this initiative, we have worked closely with employment charity Aspire, and leading recruitment firm Allen Associates. We have produced a best practice guide for employers, and supported an annual conference on the subject hosted by Unipart and convened by Aspire.

Often overlooked, men and women with lived experience of overcoming real disadvantage and tough times in their lives have so much to offer employers. They can help businesses to fill their skills shortages and boost productivity.



Kate Allen (pictured) of Reciprocate member company Allen Associates argues: "For any business to survive and thrive, it needs to learn faster than the rate of change happening around it – as any entrepreneur will tell you, every challenge presents an opportunity. There are many thousands of local people who could and want to work in Oxfordshire, who are currently out of a job.

While we're lucky that Oxfordshire has a strong and growing local economy, this remarkable growth brings its challenges for employers in the county; there is already an extremely tight labour market, with low levels of unemployment, alongside a high rate of job creation. Employers are reporting skills shortages that are preventing innovation and growth.

"What these people have in common is untapped potential; with the right level of support, engagement and opportunity, they all have the capacity to be loyal, productive employees for your organisation. They can also help you become more representative of the communities you serve, help strengthen your business, and their employment would have huge benefits to society too."

**To download the best practice guide, visit [www.reciprocateox.org/resource-bank](http://www.reciprocateox.org/resource-bank).**



Paul Roberts speaks at Aspire's inclusive recruitment conference for businesses

# GRANT-MAKING TO BOOST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND LIFE CHANCES



**£364,665**  
in grants made



**49**  
organisations  
funded



**12,708** beneficiaries  
reached

## OTHER SELECTED GRANTS IN THIS THEME

- **Digital for Good** – £2,000 to develop a volunteer-led number club focusing on numeracy for children on free school meals or Pupil Premium
- **Didcot TRAIN** – £4,000 to fund their Young Leaders Programme, focusing on young people who are at risk of educational failure, crime, child sexual exploitation or substance abuse (pictured)
- **NOMAD** – £4,660 to run an after-school programme that prevents anti-social behaviour and engages vulnerable young people in positive relationships
- **Maymessy** – £2,147 to provide a rural venue where underprivileged children can come to learn about cookery, food provenance and gardening



- **Community Albums** – £4,000 to provide music workshops to young people with disabilities or at risk of homelessness





## CASE STUDY

# ONE-EIGHTY

One-Eighty works with young people whose behaviour causes them to be at risk of exclusion from both school and mainstream society. Poor emotional or mental health is often a significant factor, arising from family breakdown, abuse, trauma or difficult experiences at school.

### Professional support for mental health issues

Nearly 30% of the children the charity works with are looked-after children or adopted; 30% have a parent or sibling with mental health needs; and 54% have experienced domestic violence or substance misuse within the family unit. One Eighty runs a mix of prevention and intensive intervention programmes that enable young people to reflect on their situations, and challenge the effects that life events have may have had on them.

### Scaling up through traineeships

Over the last six years, One-Eighty has grown significantly, and they now have an excellent reputation as a leading charity supporting young people's mental health. They have a 67–85% success rate in

improving behaviour, emotional health, attendance and helping young people to understand more about themselves and their mental wellbeing. In turn, the need and demand for their work has rapidly increased; and so in late 2017 the charity applied to OCF's Step Change Fund to help them support this expansion.

A grant of £48,840 was awarded and is being paid in stages to the charity, which is working continuously with a Step Change project manager to monitor milestones and check off Key Performance Indicators. The resulting Traineeship Programme is a cost-effective solution to recruiting and training staff to the necessary standards, whilst providing One-Eighty with a regular flow of new recruits – taken from final year university students, for example. This allows the organisation to recruit a small number of people who, after a relatively small

amount of time, are able to support with case and project work. Once fully trained, the recruits provide a regular pool of Behaviour Support Professionals who are familiar with One-Eighty, and can start case work within three to four months.

### LESSONS FOR OCF

This is a great example of the value of the Step Change methodology. The charity's leadership team is supported by a volunteer project manager, who has extensive experience of business development and strategy from their professional career. Further, the Step Change approach means charities can access innovative funding that is hard to come by elsewhere, but that has a significant impact on their sustainability and effectiveness.



# KEY DONORS TO THIS THEME



In July 2018, much-loved trustee Jane Wates OBE stepped down from OCF's Board, having supported the community foundation consistently for the large part of our history. Jane is now a patron of OCF, alongside Sir Hugo Brunner. In this role she plans to continue her significant philanthropic contribution, with a focus on preventative work with families and young people, which she believes is the most effective way to improve society.



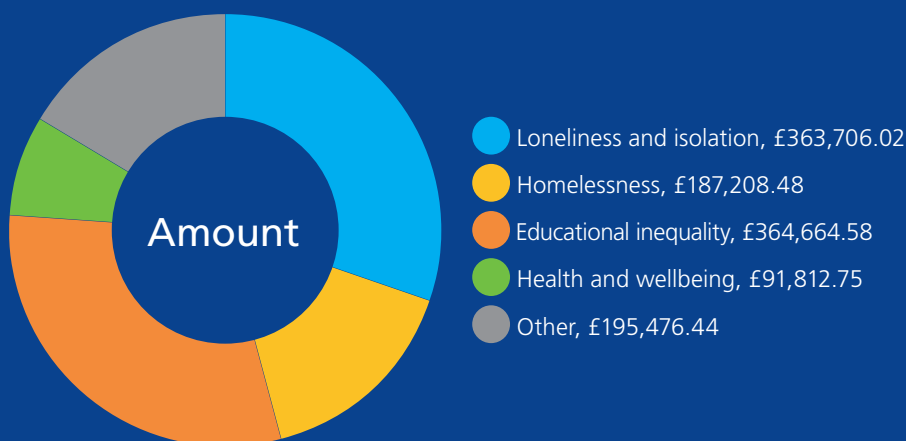
City leaders celebrate the opening of the new Oxford Westgate in October 2017



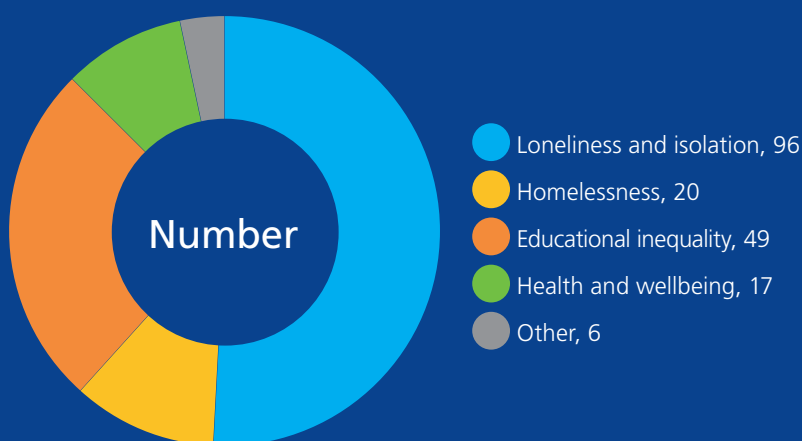
# GRANTS OVERVIEW

In 2017–18, we awarded over £1 million in grants for the first time in our history – an increase of 42% from the previous year. This meant we improved the lives of around 60,000 people.

Grant-making during this year was more strongly directed towards our three funding priorities than in previous periods, and this approach will continue in coming years. The figures below and the examples in the rest of this report encompass preventative work that stops disadvantaged people from falling into hard times, as well as interventions that help them when it might feel like it's too late.



**Total grant-making:  
£1,202,868, 188 grants**



We have also shown grants that have a strong health and wellbeing focus here as a separate category, such as hospice or cancer support work. Some grants naturally cut across categories but are reported singly in the most appropriate one.

Donor-advised funds also form part of our grant-making. These funds offer individuals and others a practical and valuable alternative to setting up their own charity or charitable trust. This means that some of the grants made meet the donor's own charitable priorities, and in some cases, funds are directed outside Oxfordshire.



## SMALLEST GRANT

£250 from our Small and Vital programme to fund a coach that took Bloxham Senior Citizens on a day trip



## MOST TYPICAL GRANT

Closest to our average grant size, £6,494 from our Delivering Impact programme to help Sandford Talking Shop in Littlemore expand their team of engaged volunteers to include and empower vulnerable and marginalised people



## LARGEST GRANT

In Oxfordshire, £49,250 from our Step Change Fund to help Transition by Design transform a semi-derelict office block into a creative community workspace



In September 2018 OCF was very sad to hear that our former trustee and one of the Step Change founders, **Colin Alexander**, passed away. Co-founder Marion Stevenson says: "Colin acted as administrator for Step Change panel meetings and as coordinator of the team of project managers, linking them with successful organisations and monitoring the outcomes. His attention to detail, his financial skills and his understanding of the levers that were relevant to the business and voluntary sectors were outstanding. Above all, Colin was someone who could be relied on. It was a real joy to work with him."

## SPOTLIGHT: STEP CHANGE FUND

This flagship grants programme is our investment in the local charity sector, enabling it to be stronger, more sustainable, and better equipped to deal with the hard-hitting social problems OCF wants to address.

The Step Change Fund awards substantial grants for charity infrastructure projects such as mergers, systems/premises upgrades, training, marketing or research. The funding enables organisational transformation that can have an impact for many years after the grant has been awarded. This creates a more solid basis for the charity to carry out its core work.

Crucially, as well as giving grants, this programme offers charities a highly skilled Step Change project manager – a volunteer mentor with professional experience of business development or strategy. Twelve project managers are working closely with the leaders of the charitable organisations funded to help them realise the full potential of the Step Change investment.

This fund was created by a group of visionary donors who could see that just like a successful business, charities need investment in order to grow. The fund's Chair Nigel Hamway describes it as "the most effective way of channelling my

money to make a real difference that I have come across".

During the year 2017–18, the Step Change Fund gave out grants totalling £252,200 to six different charities. For example:

- **Oxford Hub** received £35,000 to transform themselves from the local branch of a student volunteering charity to a wider centre for social change in Oxford City, offering programmes for all residents.
- **Oxfordshire Youth** received £25,000 to implement a new CRM system that enables them to better evaluate members' needs, target resources and increase their capacity to meet those needs.
- **South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance** received £45,500 to scale up their food redistribution centre, and to pilot a social enterprise that offers an alternative approach to education and work for disadvantaged young people.

Photo: The Orchestra of St Johns, which received Step Change funding to promote a two-year outreach programme for refugees and people with autism and dementia







# OUR ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY

As ever, we are most grateful to those donors who support OCF to grow and be successful by investing in our staff, premises and skills.

We would like to particularly thank our fundholders, whose contribution enables us to support them with cost-effective donor support and grant-making, and have an impact through our funding; and those who make direct contributions to our costs, in particular the PF Charitable Trust, Paul Donovan and The Indigo Trust. This gives us the freedom and people we need to innovate and remain absolutely professional in all we do.

Thanks are also due to our wonderful volunteers, who give inordinate amounts of time and generously share

their skills, opinions and thoughtfulness to support our staff – and in many cases our grant applicants. Our exceptional Board of Trustees is led by John Taylor and peopled by Glyn Benson, Nick Case, Laura Chapman, Anne Davies, Kate Fyson, Amanda Phillips, Neil Preddy, David Rossington and Olivia Tomlin.

Finally, we could not succeed without adopting a partnership approach to have a greater impact, and the organisations below deserve their own mention amongst our many other friends.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP US

### CONTRIBUTE YOUR FUNDS



#### Direct impact

Whilst we have been able to give away an unprecedented amount this year, our grants rounds are still typically oversubscribed by three times. Matching your funds with those of other donors in support of one or more of our grants programmes is a great way to make a difference.



#### Lasting gift

Having a permanently available endowment fund provides a continuous source of charitable funding well into the future, whatever the needs of Oxfordshire. Joining with others to make a contribution to our invested funds ensures stability and longevity for OCF.



#### OCF empowerment

Having a professional, committed team to carry out our grant-making, governance and donor care is key to achieving consistently great results. Some donors choose to support our running costs, investing in our infrastructure and convening work.

### CONTRIBUTE YOUR TIME AND SKILLS

Volunteers are crucial to OCF's success. Might you have something to share as a grants panellist or assessor, a Step Change project manager, a sub-committee member, or on a special research project?



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[@OxfordshireCF](https://twitter.com/OxfordshireCF)

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit our website for more case studies, video interviews with the beneficiaries of the work we have funded, and the latest news about our strategic programmes and grant-making.



[www.oxfordshire.org](http://www.oxfordshire.org)



## OUR EVENTS IN 2019

### Philanthropy Forums

Expanding on our Funders' Forums for trusts and foundations, we will host a series of knowledge-based workshops for individual donors and grant funders alike, sharing the latest information about Oxfordshire's needs and the leading charitable work going on to address them. We will publish the dates on our website in early 2019.

### Reciprocate business events

We are running several business engagement events in 2019, including a 'speed dating' session for employers to meet school pupils, and a Reciprocate Encounters Conference, where businesses can share their professional skills with charity staff and volunteers in workshop format. See [www.reciprocateox.org](http://www.reciprocateox.org) for details when they are published.

### High Sheriff's events

In April 2019, Richard Venables will reach the end of his Shrieval year, and OCF will support his successor Lady Sylvia Jay with her charitable endeavours. Her theme for the year will focus on the justice system and potential for reform, and she will be holding an event at Ditchley Park on **20th September 2019**, along with a series of lectures.

### #GivingTuesday 2019

Save the date now for our annual celebration of giving: **3rd December 2019**. This is the chance to hear directly from some of those who OCF has helped, thanks to your support; experience a unique local venue; and talk to like-minded people from OCF's network of generous individuals and businesses.

## THANK YOU

We are enormously grateful to our donors, as well as to our friends and advocates in the charity sector, business world and beyond.

Please do visit the events calendar on OCF's website to see where you can meet us – at our own events and out and about in Oxfordshire. See [www.oxfordshire.org/ocf-events](http://www.oxfordshire.org/ocf-events).



Company leaders and staff get together for the Reciprocate choir event at Blenheim Palace in September 2017



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