

# Impact Report 2025



17

grants awarded



£37,473

total grants awarded



£2,204

average grant



2,919

people supported



THE  
LOCAL  
FUND



HARROGATE  
DISTRICT



# THE LOCAL FUND for the Harrogate District

## An introduction

THE LOCAL FUND for the Harrogate District provides a sustainable source of funding for charitable and community organisations. Local groups can apply for funding for activities and services that support people, keeping them connected to their community and with each other. Projects provide immediate and long-term benefits to local people and their communities.

THE LOCAL FUND for the Harrogate District addresses the needs of local people in the area around issues including:

- inequality and hidden poverty
- loneliness and social isolation
- health and wellbeing
- activities for children & young people

## Where the fund comes from

THE LOCAL FUND was kickstarted thanks to the generous support of the then Harrogate Borough Council. It has also been funded by the Harry Bolland Trust Fund, proceeds from THE LOCAL LOTTO and other local donors including businesses and individuals, which enables grants to be awarded each year.

The Panel that awards grants from THE LOCAL FUND is made up of community leaders, council representatives and local people with direct experience of the issues affecting communities in the district.

In 2025, the panel met in June and awarded **17 grants** totaling **£37,473**, supporting projects that address the needs of local people.

Supporting small  
organisations addressing

MENTAL HEALTH &  
WELLBEING

INEQUALITY &  
HIDDEN POVERTY

LONELINESS & SOCIAL  
ISOLATION

ACTIVITIES FOR  
CHILDREN & YOUNG  
PEOPLE



## The area the fund supports

In April 2023 local government boundaries changed in North Yorkshire. However, the area of benefit for THE LOCAL FUND remains the area that was formerly Harrogate District and includes the towns of Harrogate, Knaresborough, Boroughbridge, Ripon, Masham, Pateley Bridge and the rural areas between. This geographical area reflects the intentions of the original donors to the fund, and the places and communities they wanted to benefit.



## The reach of Two Ridings

Through working with Two Ridings, THE LOCAL FUND reaches locally trusted organisations, led and delivered by people with lived and working experiences of the issues being funded.

It has allowed support for both long-standing organisations and newly emergent community groups, confident that we understand their respective challenges and strengths. The fund has supported organisations working in both rural areas and local towns often overlooked by national funders.

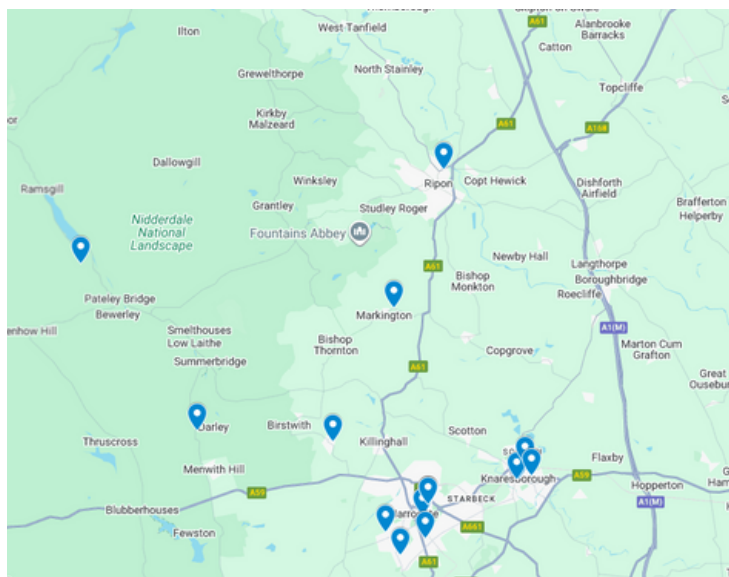
## The groups and people supported

In 2025, 17 groups received funding, including two first-time applicants and four groups that were repeat applicants. All the groups are small local charitable organisations with on average one full-time staff member, three part-time staff and 30 volunteers.

58% of groups have an annual income of under £100,000, 17% under £250,000 and three of the organisations supported by THE LOCAL FUND have an annual income of over £500,000.

A wide range of people were supported by the funding, including people living in poverty, people experiencing homelessness, children and young people, families, older people, people with disabilities, people in hospital, women who have suffered domestic abuse and those people who are rurally isolated.

## Geographical spread of the fund



## Supported organisations at a glance:

Chain Lane Community Centre

Dancing for Well Being

Darley Cricket Club

Gracious Street Methodist Church (GSMC)

Hampsthwaite Wednesday Group

Harrogate & District Community Action

Harrogate & District Over Fifties Forum

Harrogate Baptist Church

Headway Harrogate & District

Inspire Youth Yorkshire

Knaresborough Connectors

Lifeline Harrogate

Markington Memorial Institute

Ohana

Pinewoods Conservation Group

Taking Baby Steps CIC

The Village Harrogate (Part of Hope Church Harrogate)

## Funded organisations in 2025

**Chain Lane Community Centre** is launching a new Community Gardening Service. The funds were used to purchase essential equipment, including a lawn mower, hedge cutter, strimmer, safety goggles, and gloves. They aim to create a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community through high-quality green spaces, local projects, volunteering, and grassroots leadership. **£1,132**

**Dancing for Wellbeing** runs gentle exercise classes for people over 60, but it's far more than just a dance class. With a strong emphasis on pastoral care, the team takes time to get to know each attendee and offer signposting when someone needs extra support. The grant allows them to continue running two Monday sessions in Boroughbridge. **£2,826**

**Darley Cricket Club**, based in a large rural area of Nidderdale, has expanded to four cricket teams, two for 5–13-year-olds and two teams for the 13 years and over age group. The club plays a key role in the community, offering its pavilion as a shared space. The grant will help fund new windows and doors, making the building more comfortable and accessible for wider community use. **£3,000**

**Gracious Street Methodist Church** (GSMC) hosts regular activities for older residents in Knaresborough, tailored to different needs and interests. This grant supports ongoing costs for initiatives including Lunchlink (home-cooked meals and social dining), Memory Café (dementia-friendly events), Men's Club (briefings and breakfasts), CAMEO (group discussions), digital skills training, social games, and a book club. **£3,000**

**Hampsthwaite Wednesday Group** is a social group for older rural women, many of whom are widowed and live alone. A grant covered the cost of a coach for their annual summer outing, helping members enjoy a day out together and feel more connected. **£250**

**Harrogate & District Community Action** (HADCA), an independent charity supporting communities across Harrogate and North Yorkshire, received funding for their 'Power of 10' project. This grassroots initiative encourages young people to volunteer for 10 hours in their local communities, building confidence, wellbeing, skills, and employability. **£3,000**

**Harrogate & District Over Fifties Forum** is open to anyone over 50 and currently has 128 members. Their funding supports two group day trips, one to Kiplin Hall near Northallerton and another to Breezy Knees near York. Travelling in a group helps people to explore new places, make friends, and create lasting memories. **£500**

Funding for **Harrogate Baptist Church** has gone to the running of a young people's group. The space gives young people a safe place to connect, be heard, and work on their wellbeing. **£3,000**

**Headway Harrogate & District** have purchased promotional items (gazebo, flag, 6ft pull up banner, folding table and tablecloth) to improve visibility of the charity and to raise awareness for their work supporting brain injury survivors and their families. **£1,000**

**Inspire Youth Yorkshire** runs bi-weekly girls' sessions as part of a wider initiative to provide young people in Knaresborough with mental health needs, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their parents a welcoming space to socialise through a mix of inclusive activities. **£3,000**



**Knaresborough Connectors** works to reduce social isolation among over-65s. Their funding is supporting three group outings, including a trip to Kynren. Covering transport and entry fees makes these events accessible to all, regardless of income, and helps improve wellbeing through shared experiences. **£500**

**Lifeline Harrogate** provides supported housing for people experiencing homelessness. Their funding is covering the costs of an annual seaside outing, an important opportunity for residents to build relationships and informal support networks. **£3,000**

**Markington Memorial Institute** are improving its community hall to better support activities and shared interests among residents. **£2,775**

**Ohana** supports families of children with SEND in Ripon and the surrounding areas. This funding will launch two new sessions in a dedicated space: one for baby sensory activities and another for a parent/carer support group. **£3,000**

**Pinewoods Conservation Group** are creating a signed circular nature trail through local woodlands. The new path will be accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs in fair weather, helping visitors explore key points of interest in a safe and welcoming way. **£3,000**

**Taking Baby Steps CIC** provides 1:1 therapeutic support for individuals affected by birth trauma, perinatal anxiety, pregnancy and baby loss, and fertility issues. Led by Jane, an experienced NHS midwife, the project will deliver 46 sessions over 12 months thanks to this grant. **£2,990**

**The Village Harrogate** (Part of Hope Church Harrogate) is launching four 12-week wellbeing group sessions for new mums struggling with anxiety and loneliness. With no "manual" for parenthood and often overwhelming advice, these sessions create a supportive, non-judgemental space where new parents can connect and feel less alone. **£1,500**

[Click here](#) to read about groups and projects awarded funding in previous rounds by THE LOCAL FUND.



## 2024 IMPACT Essential Needs

Essential Needs is a Harrogate based charity tackling furniture poverty since 1995. Despite Harrogate's reputation for affluence, 7 percent of local children live in poverty, compared to 17 percent nationally.

The charity collects donated furniture, household items and electrical appliances, offering them affordably to those in need. People on means tested benefits or low incomes receive an additional 35 percent discount.

Working with local organisations including homeless shelters, addiction recovery centres and domestic violence charities, Essential Needs helps furnish homes for people moving into unfurnished accommodation. Their work is also environmentally sustainable, reusing 155 tonnes of furniture and appliances in 2023 to 2024.

In April 2024, they launched a free bed scheme to combat child bed poverty, following a Barnardo's report estimating 890,000 UK children lack their own beds.

So far, 75 free single beds have been provided to children previously sleeping on the floor, sofa or sharing.

To address the lack of bedding, Essential Needs secured funding from THE LOCAL FUND to supply 50 bed packs with duvets, pillows and sheets, ensuring each child receives everything needed for a comfortable night's sleep.

# Be the difference

Do your charitable giving through THE LOCAL FUND

The LOCAL FUND for the Harrogate District has been supporting people and community organisations in the area for over seven years.

Despite a reputation for being a place of prosperity, there is much hidden need in the area, with many local people facing significant social issues.

The council, local businesses and generous local people have created an endowment fund worth over £776,000, and together with income from THE LOCAL LOTTO, have enabled an annual distribution of grants of around £42,664\* each year.

## Double your donation in Harrogate

If you want to make a difference in the Harrogate District, match funding is currently available, essentially doubling your giving in the area.

*\*average across the previous five rounds*



## Thank you to all the people & organisations that support the fund

Former Harrogate Borough Council, The Harry Bolland Fund, The Shears Foundation, Full Circle Funerals, McInroy & Wood, Presence Church, Cobden Fund and everyone who plays THE LOCAL LOTTO.

[www.tworidingscf.org.uk](http://www.tworidingscf.org.uk)

Call us on: 01904 929 500

Email us: [info@tworidingscf.org.uk](mailto:info@tworidingscf.org.uk)

Pavilion 2000 | Amy Johnson Way | York | YO30 4XT

Charity Registration Number: 1166471



## Discuss your giving with us

If reading this report has made you realise you want to support THE LOCAL FUND, please contact Celia directly on **07519 485103**

Celia would be very happy to visit you and talk through your tax-efficient giving options and how you can make a difference in the Harrogate district.



**Two Ridings**  
Community Foundation