

THE LOCAL FUND



HARROGATE
DISTRICT



19

grants awarded



£42,331

total grants awarded



£2,227

average grant



18,273

people supported



Impact Report 2024



Two Ridings
Community Foundation

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

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 2024, the panel met in June and awarded **19 grants** totaling **£42,331**, supporting projects that address the needs of local people.

Supporting small
organisations addressing

MENTAL HEALTH
& WELLBEING

INEQUALITY &
HIDDEN POVERTY

LONELINESS &
SOCIAL ISOLATION



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.

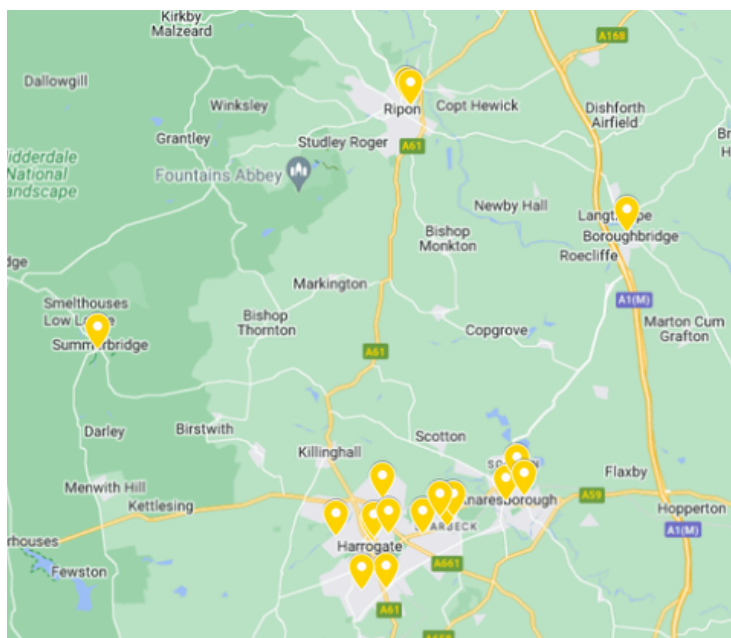
The groups and people supported

In 2024, 19 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, four part-time staff and 34 volunteers.

Over 50% of groups have an annual income of under £100,000, 21% under £250,000 and just one of the organisations supported by THE LOCAL FUND has 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:

Aphasia Support
Artizan International
Bilton Dragon Bowling Club
Boroughbridge Community Care
Chain Lane Community Centre
Dacre Banks Bowling Club
Essential Needs
Harrogate & Knaresborough District of Sanctuary
Headway Harrogate & District
Inspire Youth Yorkshire
Reflect
Resurrected Bites
Ripon Amateur Operatic Society
Rossett Local Nature Reserve Group
Samaritans of Harrogate & District
Supporting Older People CIO
The Wellness Gateway CIC
Time Together
Wellspring Therapy & Training

Funded organisations in 2024

Aphasia Support: To help people experiencing aphasia, and their carers, to socialise and feel happier, Aphasia Support uses their funding for staff and travel expenses to continue to run drop-in café events in Harrogate. **£2,929**

Artizan International: Artizan uses its funding to run weekly creative workshops combining creative skills and wellbeing for disabled people in Harrogate. This approach, connecting with the local community, inspires people to create a more inclusive society for people with disabilities. **£2,960**

Bilton Dragon Bowling Club: The Bowling Club needed a new mower, a concrete slab built and a lockable container to keep the local bowling club in good shape for their many patrons. **£1,000**

Boroughbridge Community Care: To build socially-isolated men's confidence and help them gain new skills in a safe space, they used their funding for staff, minibuses and entry to woodworking sessions at a Men's Shed in Starbeck. **£2,530**

Chain Lane Community Centre: To deter anti-social behaviour, help members feel more secure and improve the security of this popular community centre, they needed funding for a CCTV camera system for their community building in Knaresborough. **£1,000**

Dacre Banks Bowling Club: To help volunteers maintain the bowling green for the rural isolated club, they received funding for wooden edging and lawn care equipment. They hope to recruit new members too. **£998**

Essential Needs: They are purchasing pillows, duvets and bedding for a scheme to provide free beds to children living in poverty in the Harrogate area who do not have a bed of their own. **£1,515**

Harrogate District of Sanctuary: Providing group activities and support in the home for isolated refugees to help improve their English and reduce isolation. **£3,000**

Headway Harrogate & District: To ensure people in the Harrogate district with brain injury, and their families, feel connected all year round, they are using their funding for a second-hand smartphone, leaflets, printer ink and keeping everyone informed. **£1,940**

Inspire Youth Yorkshire: To give young people in Knaresborough with mental health needs, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their parents a space to socialise with a mix of activities, helping everyone to feel connected. **£3,000**

Reflect: Reflect support anyone in the Harrogate area who has experienced pregnancy loss at any stage and for any reason. This funding helps them continue this support and will create more awareness of it. **£2,265**

Resurrected Bites: The community groceries at Resurrected Bites are a lifeline to around 470 households experiencing poverty in the Harrogate district. This funding is going towards staff costs to continue this service for local people and will also prevent food wastage with a new temperature monitoring system for their warehouse. **£3,000**



Ripon Amateur Operatic Society: To improve access for disabled performers at the charitable community theatre venue, the Operatic Society used its funding to resize a doorway and create accessible toilet facilities. **£3,000**

Rossett Local Nature Reserve Group: So children from the local community and primary school can access pond dipping activities at their local nature reserve, the group is using their funding towards new pond dipping platform. **£2,000**

Samaritans of Harrogate & District: To carry on their service providing mental health crisis support and to have a physical space for volunteers in the Harrogate district to support each other, Samaritans is using their funding for volunteer expenses and overhead office costs. **£1,000**

Supporting Older People CIO: To stimulate conversation and memories at their popular friendship groups, Supporting Older People will use their funding towards venue hire. **£1,200**

The Wellness Gateway CIC: To support children and families with mental and physical health, the funding will contribute towards staff costs to expand their Community Wellness Hubs in the Ripon area. Their services also include signposting, support for mental health problems, and advice on SEN and neurodiversity. **£3,000**

Time Together: To set up a clothes upcycling scheme to upskill autistic people and people with disabilities, Time Together will put their funding towards equipment, including a sewing machine, steam cleaner, washing machine, clothing rails, and clothes dye. **£3,000**

Wellspring Therapy & Training: To expand their counselling work and reduce waiting times for people facing mental health difficulties, Wellspring will use the funding towards counselling and admin staff. **£2,994**

A total of £42,331 in funding was distributed to 19 community groups.

Shona* is a carer for her husband at home, who has dementia. She has navigated many challenges during her 10 months in the Care-Free Space group, including a month when he refused to attend daycare, as well as the ongoing emotional toll of his verbal abuse.

At the year's end, each participant was gifted a card with a personalised message. Shona chose a poignant excerpt from poet Jane Kenyon, that spoke to enduring life's unendurable moments while finding beauty and love amidst hardship. This deeply resonated with Shona, who reflected on how such struggles often make relationships and experiences more meaningful. She emphasised that the principle of living well with dementia applies to caregivers too, expressing her desire not just to survive the stress and pain but to thrive. She greatly valued the support from the group in her journey.

**Real name not used*



2023 IMPACT Dancing for Wellbeing

Dancing for Wellbeing believe passionately in the power of music and dancing to enrich our lives. They use accessible dance activities to help older people with health and mobility problems, improving their physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

They received £1,200 from THE LOCAL FUND in 2023 for both operational costs and to hire a Dance Movement Therapist for a trial series of sessions.

Their thinking behind the Care-Free Space group was that many of the people in the classes were carers for their partners. This was a monthly opportunity for the carers to understand and process their feelings, helping them cope with their situation and experiences.


Dance and other creative arts are used alongside talking to explore feelings, reflect, meet their own needs and replenish.

They completed ten sessions and when asking the attendees to reflect and provide feedback they said:

“An oasis - somewhere to aim/hold on for, to rest, be nourished and recharge”

“A safe space where we can say what we’d never say elsewhere”

“Where we can relax, versus walking on eggshells”



Stan* was referred to Claro by his GP. He had some health issues which saw him give up some of the activities he used to do, like playing golf. He had become quite isolated, and following the death of his wife, he started to struggle with depression and lack of motivation.

He was interested in woodworking and had his own shed and tools at home but he no longer used them.

He joined the Men's Shed and has attended regularly ever since. He has made lots of friends in the group and learned lots of new skills from the members.

**real name not used*

"I look forward to coming all week, it's been a lifeline to me, I don't know what I would do without it."

2023 IMPACT Claro Enterprises

Claro Enterprises in Starbeck offers support and voluntary work opportunities to adults with mental health conditions, providing a welcoming environment where people gain confidence and develop skills. Clients can participate in a variety of working activities, including woodworking and repackaging work for well-known businesses such as Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate, offering a varied and rewarding experience.

Claro Enterprise received a grant of £3,000 from THE LOCAL FUND in 2023 enabling them to extend their support and offer it in different ways. They ran a Beginners Woodworking group introducing many people to Claro who wouldn't have previously had the confidence or skills to join the Men's Shed. They were also able to support some of their longer-term clients and provide a cooked meal for people every day, which everyone loves.

Clients come from all walks of life. Claro works individually with each person, identifying their abilities and interests, to help them achieve greater independence and improved mental health. Claro Enterprises know that structured and purposeful work is beneficial to mental wellbeing. Because clients are actively involved in projects that support major businesses, they feel part of a larger effort and love the sense of belonging and achievement.



“Lifeline has made a massive difference to me. I had cut everybody off and was isolated and pretty hopeless. You cared and went above and beyond to help me pause and consider myself – really made a remarkable difference to me – not just the practical things – housing (homing) me, feeding me. You gave me hope and faith in myself and others. Good things then started to happen. The support you gave me has changed my life.”

2023 IMPACT Lifeline, Harrogate

Lifeline Harrogate work with homeless people, and those vulnerably housed who have often been victims of abuse. They provide supported accommodation to 15 men and three women within Harrogate. Without access to good quality housing and intensive levels of support, the people who are referred to Lifeline would most likely not progress and more likely would fall back, probably in a dramatic way.

They received £2,600 from THE LOCAL FUND in 2023 to hold a fortnightly lunch club for a year. Current and ex-residents get together for a proper meal and an activity, like pool or table tennis.

Everyone enjoys sharing food together, but it is also a great place to socialise and chat outside of their Lifeline home. It's also a space for informal support and learning.

Their resident survey tells Lifeline that this is a really valued part of their service.

As well as socialising and eating, by helping to set the table and wash up, people also come away with a sense of personal achievement.

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 £730,000, and together with income from THE LOCAL LOTTO, have enabled an annual distribution of grants of around £43,961* 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 four 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, West Park Hotel, and everyone who plays THE LOCAL LOTTO.

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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.



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