



Norfolk
Community
Foundation

**Annual Review
2023-24**

Together, Norfolk shines brighter



In the past year, Norfolk Community Foundation has continued to develop our support offer to local communities. We brought together partners who wanted to take action efficiently and innovatively to build a stronger Norfolk today and for tomorrow.

In 2023, we invested £5 million in Norfolk across 4 key areas to alleviate hardship and to create opportunities and connections for more

vibrant communities.

We are harnessing our county's wealth of community knowledge, insight and energy. In 2024, we are prioritising:

- Supporting young people's mental health
- Community action in green spaces
- Developing skills for better lives
- Making all neighbourhoods great places to live
- Building healthier communities through food

Join us and empower local people to take action on the things that make a difference to local lives.

Claire Cullens MBE
Chief Executive

What do we do:

1. **Funding:** Simple, impactful, and accessible, ensuring every penny counts.
2. **Good for Good:** Coordinating business support to charities for mutual benefit.
3. **Research:** Unlocking insight and data together with communities to drive local action.
4. **Strategic Partnerships:** Convening partnerships across sectors for action.
5. **Building networks:** Identifying emerging needs to develop countywide networks addressing pressing issues and making an impact.

Our full report & accounts are available on:
charitycommission.gov.uk

2023 in Numbers

£5mil
invested in
4 key areas

1 in 5
people
benefitted
from our funding

500+
community
organisations
supported

£¼mil
support
unlocked
through local
businesses

Where we focus:

Inspiring Opportunities

Building confidence and skills to thrive.

Fighting Poverty

Empowering communities to end hardship.

Building Community

Creating places and spaces to thrive.

Nurturing Health

Local action supporting healthier communities.

Inspiring opportunities

Employment is a bridge to connection, financial resilience and self-esteem. For some, it feels out of reach. We bring it closer and help keep people there.

One story...

Having the right skills and confidence is essential for success in today's job market. We funded *Harleston Information Plus's* Jobs Club, which recently helped a man who was made redundant from a production role he held for over 30 years.

He didn't have the confidence to apply for new roles, and his IT skills were too poor to search for jobs online. A volunteer at their Jobs Club helped him to create a CV. They also showed him how to create an email address

and apply for roles online.

Through weekly sessions, the Job Club helped him build his IT skills and confidence. He soon found a role for a part-time cleaner, and managed to secure an interview. A volunteer helped him to prepare, and he was offered the position.



Fighting poverty

From getting absolute essentials like food to accessing further support and finding community on their doorstep, we help communities find solutions that bring people together to improve lives where they are.

One approach...

Since 2020, we have been working with communities to establish *Nourishing Norfolk* food hubs. In 2023, with a fully operational warehouse and distribution hub provided by Norse Group, **27,000** people got access to nourishing food at a place near them at a price they could afford.

Food hubs reduce financial strain, enabling individuals and families to begin to address the root



20 food hubs open
7 new opened in 2023
27,000 people supported
10,000 registered families
All of this support for £50 per-head

causes of food insecurity. By offering additional support, fostering community, and fighting poverty through grassroots action, food hubs can take communities from surviving to thriving.

Building community

Our grassroots funding empowers communities to create spaces and gives people a reason to join in locally. We help build the foundations for stronger, more resilient communities by nurturing local connections and relationships.

One community...

Village halls are the beating heart of rural communities. *Harpley Community Events* received our Love Norfolk

funding to create a **Craft Club** in their village hall to give everyone, including the most vulnerable people, a reason to join in, connect with others and build friendships on their doorstep. One regular attendee said:

‘Without this I would have been staring at the same four walls, no interaction with others. It has really helped with my mental wellbeing and... it helps with people living on their own in a rural community.’



Nurturing health

Leading healthy lives often begins with what is available on our doorsteps. When faced with health challenges, access to activities, information, guidance and support are vital to helping communities support both physical and mental health, helping local individuals lead healthier lives.

One programme...

When diagnosed with cancer, healthy eating is often the last thing on a patient's mind. However, lifestyle changes are crucial for recovery and reducing treatment side effects. We backed *The Big C* with NHS Charities Together funding to create a supportive community where cancer patients could receive help and guidance from a

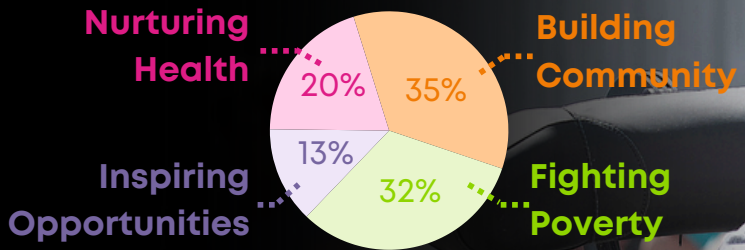
qualified nutritionist. This boosted their confidence and knowledge, enabling informed changes for better health and well-being for themselves and their families.

“The information shared gave me a solid basis to commit to the changes that needed to be made to suit my circumstances, and the confidence to know that there are people who genuinely will support you and your family if needed through a very difficult time.”

Client, The Big C

Financial Activities 2023

2023 investment in Norfolk communities across four primary focus areas:



Income & expenditure

Total income	6,843,000
Grants awarded	(4,966,000)
Expenditure on raising funds	(447,000)
Support and governance costs	(892,000)
Total expenditure	(6,350,000)

Balance of Funds

Unrestricted	790,000
Restricted	3,546,000
Investments	25,748,000
Total Funds	30,003,000

NCF oversees 260+ funds. Staff costs to manage these funds, including grant-making, totalled £639k in 2023, 23% of which were covered by external funding. Direct core cost support totalled £284k. Additionally, we have rent-free office space from Jarrolds. *This ensures that 90p of every £1 donation reaches frontline projects.*

#ShineBrighter

norfolkfoundation.com

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