



Cambridgeshire
Community
Foundation



Annual Review

2022-2023

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Chair's statement

We have great pleasure in presenting Cambridgeshire Community Foundation's Annual Review for the year ended 31 March 2023.



Cambridgeshire Community Foundation is the charity for a better Cambridgeshire, working to increase the understanding of local needs and to raise funds to support charitable projects tackling issues in our local community. The projects we support contribute to a better quality of life across the county, including reducing disadvantage and inequalities.

2022-2023 was the first year of our three-year Strategic Plan. I am delighted that we have achieved most of our year one strategic aims and made significant progress against our longer-term strategies. Most importantly, our grant-making for 2022-2023 totalled £2,905,381 against our £2.9 million target and compared to £2,777,046 in the previous year. This represents year-on-year growth in grant-making of almost 5%. I am very proud of the growth, especially against the backdrop of a challenging investment environment for our endowed funds. It was made possible by a highly efficient grant-making process and the significant new donor funds that we were able to secure in the year. One of the notable new funds is the DCMS (Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport) Know Your Neighbourhood Fund which will make £1.3 million available in grants, over two years, for projects working to increase volunteering and reduce loneliness in Fenland. Also, the Healthier Futures Fund, delivered in partnership with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System, is making £2 million available from April 2023 to projects across Cambridgeshire to deliver health and wellbeing improvements for local people and communities. By securing these new funds, among others, we have been able to increase our grant-making target for 2023-2024 to £4 million.

The impact that these grants achieve is what drives us to make Cambridgeshire Community Foundation even more successful at supporting the local community. We are the only charity focused on growing local philanthropy and place-based grant-making in Cambridgeshire. We ensure that charitable giving has maximum positive impact. Our experience, research, and knowledge helps donors effectively support the most important causes. Our aim is to tackle disadvantage and empower the most vulnerable by supporting communities to build positive change from the ground up. Please join us in tackling the biggest challenges our community faces.

Stephen Catling
Chair of Trustees

CEO's introduction



The past year has seen everyone face a succession of challenges. Many local charities are facing exceptionally high demand alongside pressure on income, lower financial reserves, a challenging recruitment market and a volunteering sector that is still subject to the pandemic's lasting impact.

Alongside these challenges, we have seen war in Europe, an unprecedented cost-of-living crisis, rising inflation, and political uncertainty. Sadly, people in our communities who are already disadvantaged will feel these challenges more acutely, with thousands of people facing new levels of poverty and hardship. At times like these, local charities and community groups are an incredibly valuable resource to support the Cambridgeshire community, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

At Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, we know that these local charitable organisations are among the greatest assets in this country. I am passionate that we continue to support them today and for the long term. I am delighted that we were able to award 971 grants in the year 2022-2023, totalling £2,905,381. We have also continued our strategic focus on improving the effectiveness and responsiveness of our grant-making approach. Therefore, I am pleased that we have increased our average grant size to £8,720 for organisations and awarded more multi-year grants. Moreover, it is important for Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to be responsive to our local community and the charitable organisations within it. Therefore, I am also very happy that we were able to significantly increase our community outreach work in 2022-2023. We visited 62 funded projects throughout the year and our Grants Team attended quarterly 'Meet the Funder' sessions and provided online workshops to assist groups wishing to apply for funding. The year's highlights also included securing significant new funding streams, with £574,000 of new donations plus additions of £269,781 from current donors to our endowment. To support our ambition to grow the charity's profile, we have also updated our brand, which can be seen in this report.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who made it possible for Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to achieve this year's successes and impact. Special thanks go to all the charitable organisations who have delivered such positive change in our communities, to our donors and to the whole team at Cambridgeshire Community Foundation – staff, trustees, and volunteers.

Michael O'Toole

Chief Executive Officer

The year in numbers

85

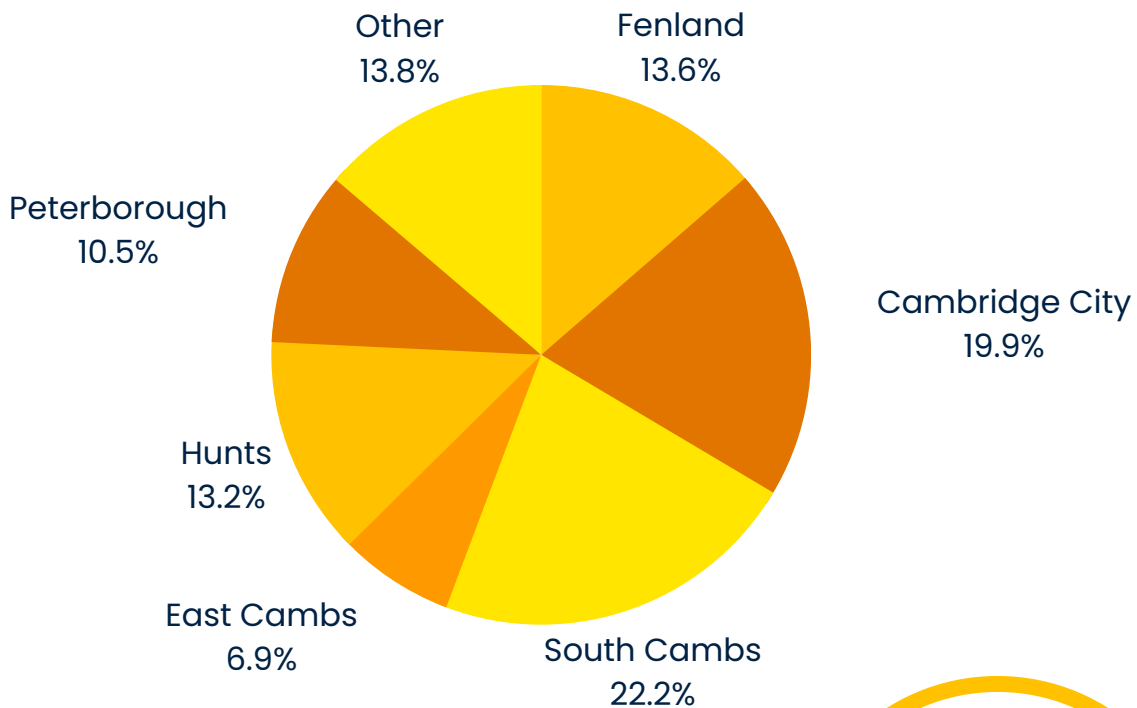
live funds

£2,905,381

awarded in grants
(2021/22: £2,777,046)

971 grants awarded

Funding by primary area of benefit



Range of grant sizes

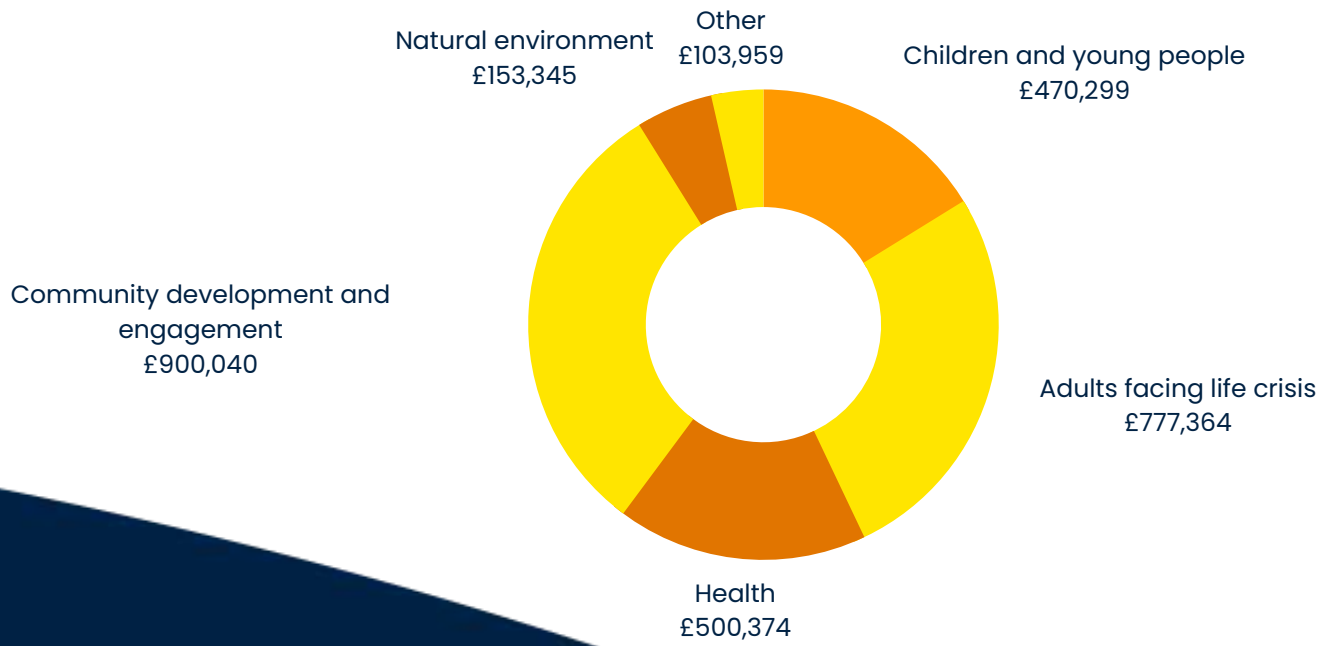
£100

£86,351



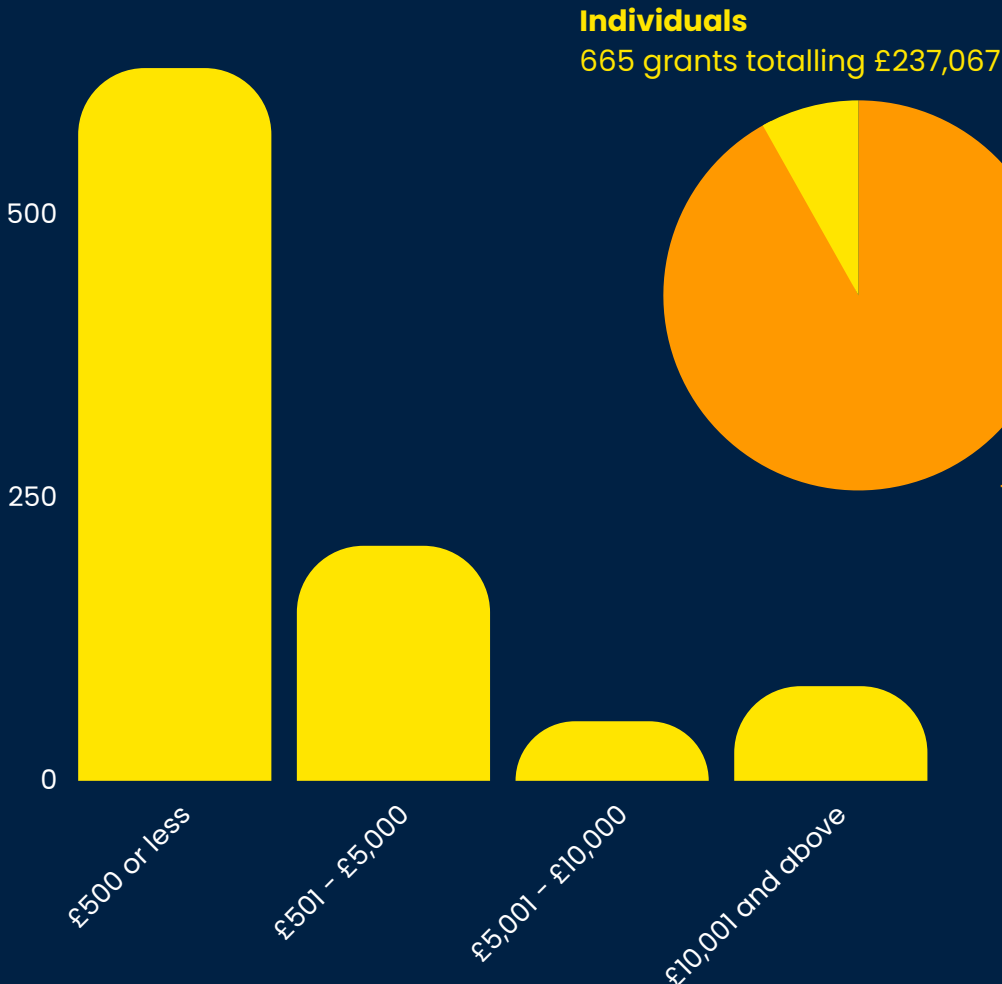
6 new funds

Funding by primary cause



No. of grants awarded by grant size

750



Organisations*
306 grants
totalling £2,668,314

*This includes partner organisations for the Surviving Winter Appeal and The Cambridge Building Society Cost of Living Crisis Fund, which then awarded grants to individuals.

Highlights of the year



The Bishop of Ely kindly hosted a dinner for some of our supporters

June



We took part in the first ever Cambridgeshire County Day

The Tees Better Future Fund launched

September



Our annual Golf Day raised a record total of over £4,000

Our CEO was on the judging panel of the BBC Make a Difference Awards



We were allocated £40,000 to support local organisations working with Ukrainian refugees

November



Access Migrant Support were announced as winners of the inaugural Health Inequalities Challenge Prize

December

The Cambridge Building Society Cost of Living Crisis Fund launched

The DCMS Know Your Neighbourhood Fund launched

We hosted a reception at Peterborough Cathedral to celebrate our work in the area

March

The Healthier Futures Fund launched

We surpassed £200k in the total value of grants awarded by the Stay Well fund

Surviving Winter Appeal raised a record total of £34,997

Projects supported in every district



Little Miracles

A weekly programme of fun, educational and recreational activities for children and young people with SEND in Peterborough.



Read Easy Fenland

Training for volunteer coaches to work on a 121 basis with adults who wish to learn to read or improve their reading skills.



Fusion Youth Projects CIO

Employing a Community Youth Worker to lead new in-school projects, transition projects in primary school and a volunteer project.



Babylon ARTS

A programme of pop-up extra-curricular events at schools as part of the East Cambs Cultural Education Partnership, to offer children aged 5-11 hands on taster activities delivered by local arts and cultural venues.



REACH Community Projects

Support for South Cambridgeshire residents with access to debt, benefits and welfare support.



Cambridge Sustainable Food (CSF) CIC

Sessions for people from disadvantaged ethnic minority groups to learn about and register for food support initiatives to help alleviate food poverty.

New funds launched in the year

Tees Better Future Fund
Health Inequalities Challenge Prize Fund
British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal
Illumina Community Fund
Know Your Neighbourhood Fund
Communities in Crisis Appeal



Spotlight on Tees Better Future Fund

We were pleased to partner with Tees on the launch of their Better Future Fund, which was established to meet two key areas of need across local communities: learning and education; and health and wellbeing.

In November 2022, Tees awarded one of its first grants to Cambridge Junction's Total Arts Group, which focuses on providing creative learning opportunities to young disabled people. Participants can explore their passions for the arts, learn new skills and make films.

As their confidence has grown, some are now ready to take on leadership roles and share their skills with the next generation of disabled young people. Total Arts 'graduates' are excellent role models, exemplifying how young people with complex needs can grow their skills and play a valuable role in sharing their expertise.

Therefore, a £5,000 grant from the Tees Better Future Fund was awarded to fund an expansion of the Total Arts programme, so that 'graduate' trainers could work alongside an art producer and a filmmaker, with young people from two local schools. The grant also enabled pupils from both schools to attend a professional arts venue and performance, experiencing the magic of live theatre.

The support from the Tees Better Future Fund will allow for intergenerational skills development for both the Total Arts 'graduates' as they become trainers, as well as supported pupils. The trainers receive paid work and experience, while the pupils are helped to imagine how they can develop their interests.

Supporting health and wellbeing

The year has seen the county continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic. The deprived districts of Fenland and Peterborough still face higher rates of preventable mortality, lower life expectancy and more deaths from respiratory illness than other areas of Cambridgeshire. All of these higher rates can be linked to deprivation, including fuel poverty and income.

£500,374
invested in health

We have seen significant investment in health and wellbeing throughout the year, with the success of the inaugural Health Inequalities Challenge Prize and the launch of a £2 million Healthier Futures Fund.

£2 million Healthier Futures Fund launched

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough partnered with us to make £2 million available to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) partners across the area to deliver health and wellbeing improvements for their local communities. The new Fund aims to support initiatives that focus on the key priorities for NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, and the wider Integrated Care System.



Sawston Community First Responder Group received £3,129 from the Microsoft Research Limited Fund to purchase medical and first aid equipment.

Success of the Health Inequalities Challenge Prize

We partnered with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System to deliver their Health Inequalities Challenge Prize in 2022. The prize was awarded towards projects that developed innovative solutions to tackle digital exclusion. Eight awards of £3,000 were available to develop the ideas, with the winning idea receiving a further £10,000.

A winning project by Access Migrant Support

Access Migrant Support were announced as the winner of the inaugural Health Inequalities Challenge Prize 2022. The organisation supports migrant communities, seasonal workers, and new arrivals from areas such as Ukraine and Afghanistan.

At the centre of the winning project was a new library of resources in communities' native languages, helping people from a range of backgrounds overcome barriers and adjust to life in England. The library was developed in collaboration with the local migrant communities, making sure that the resources created would meet the needs of the people they seek to help.

The new tools can be used to get a better understanding of the health and care services available to them, helping to ensure that all of our communities are seen at the right time by the right service. The tools will also be available to those supported by Access Migrant Support across the wider East Anglia region.

The Health Inequalities Prize relaunched for 2023

Following on from its inaugural year's success, the 2023 prize is offering up to £24,000 to fund projects supporting personalised care, giving local people more control and say in their health and care services.



The 2022 prize finalists (left) and winners (right)

Cost of living support

A record total of £34,997 raised by the Surviving Winter Appeal

This year, our annual Surviving Winter Appeal supported those facing fuel poverty in Cambridgeshire. Households who needed help to stay warm and have access to energy could apply to one of our partner organisations, including Citizens Advice, CHS Group, Cambridge Aid and others, which used the raised funds to make payments or purchases relating to energy and heating, such as topping up pre-payment meters.

With an unprecedented energy crisis this winter, fuel poverty posed a serious threat to Cambridgeshire households, with support needed more than ever for the most severely affected members of our community. One of the appeal's partners, Citizens Advice Peterborough, reported an increased demand for support of over 30% due to the cost-of-living crisis, with families struggling to buy food and heat their homes.

As always, our community showed great support in this time of crisis, raising a record total of £34,997. This year's fundraising total was boosted by a generous £15,000 donation from a small renewable energy company. They commented:

"The steep rise in energy prices has meant that we have received a windfall which we want to share with others. Surviving Winter Appeal is one of the causes we have chosen to support because it helps those who have suffered most as a result of the increased cost of energy."

We partnered with The Cambridge Building Society to offer a £100,000 Cost of Living Crisis Fund

Children, families, and vulnerable individuals are among 3,000 people to have received support from the £100,000 Cost of Living Crisis Fund, which helped local people have access to food, heating, and household essentials during the winter.

More than half of the funds have helped local people with unmanageable fuel and energy costs, with the remaining funds also supporting with food and household needs. This covered day-to-day necessities like toiletries, but also household appliances like cookers and fridges, among other things. 11% of the funding also contributed to the purchase of beds, cots, and mattresses.

£40,000 to support Ukrainian refugees in Cambridgeshire

We were allocated £40,000 by UK Community Foundations from British Red Cross, to support local organisations working with Ukrainian refugees' short-term needs in UK communities and building capacity to support refugees in the long term.

One of the supported organisations was H.E.L.P (Helping Empower Lives in Peterborough), which received over £9,000 to support 200 Ukrainian refugees in Peterborough.

Beckie MacLellan, Co-founder and Trustee at H.E.L.P shared, *"Receiving this financial help means our small charity can continue to support Ukrainian arrivals for a longer period of time, with their settling into life in the UK. We are providing social activities, bikes for getting to college or work, English lessons to help them learn the language and manage with life here a bit more easily. We also help with translation, paperwork and any other issues they are experiencing while adapting to living here."*

One of the service users was recently helped with a bike to travel to a new job. He has also been assisted with translation, filling forms and learning English, among other services provided by H.E.L.P



Supporting Fenland

Fenland is integral to the success of the county and indeed the UK, from the historic town of Wisbech and the distinctive environment, through to the whole of the Fens that contribute to over 7% of England's agricultural production.

This landscape presents its own challenges, with the local community facing challenges like poor early years opportunities, low employment rates for disabled people, as well as isolation.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation works to address the challenges that Fenland faces, to support the continual development of the quality of life in the local community. To date, we have funded projects in every ward in Fenland, spanning homing and homelessness, education, health and more.

230 grant applications for projects in Fenland

Since being founded, we have awarded £2.5 million in grants within Fenland, with over 300,000 people benefitting from the funded projects. Nevertheless, the funding requested in local grant applications totals over £6 million, which indicates the need for greater funding in Fenland.

This year, we awarded

£405,729.64

to projects in Fenland



Wisbech Lithuanian Community received a grant to help them organise cultural, sporting and educational events to integrate with the local community and share information and support.

Wisbech PHAB Club received a grant to help them continue to run weekly activities for 60 people with disabilities, providing opportunities for social interaction.

Over £1.3 million of funding launched for Fenland

The Government has offered up to £30 million, through the Know Your Neighbourhood Fund, to create volunteering opportunities and increase connections across the country.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation is delighted to be distributing grants from the Know Your Neighbourhood Fund in Fenland, to support initiatives that can help to boost volunteering and tackle loneliness, helping participants improve their mental and physical wellbeing, develop new skills and form social connections.

Over £1.3 million is available in grants for non-profit organisations working to increase volunteering and reduce loneliness in Fenland.

The first round of funding in early 2023 has already helped a variety of charitable causes making an impact in Fenland.

Rosmini Centre Wisbech received over £18,000 to provide a Lunch Club, Friendship Group and Conversational English Language Group to address food poverty, reduce social isolation and engage volunteers, particularly those from migrant communities. The project has been a success, with 27 new volunteers recruited in just 3 months and 207 members of the local community directly benefiting from the project.

Little Miracles also benefitted from the Fund. They hosted half-term sessions for Fenland families that have children with additional needs, disabilities and life-limiting conditions. The week involved workshops, activities and trips away, including screen printing and soft play.





Cambridge Community Arts received over £18,000 to expand the Creative Fenland project, which engages socially isolated people through arts and crafts activities designed for mental wellbeing. The project has involved initial outreach, development of a volunteer network and the delivery of three creative courses and a workshop. To date, the project has recruited 11 new volunteers and the course participants have reported feeling less isolated and with an improved sense of wellbeing.

Opportunities to support the community

We are the charity for a better county, working to increase the understanding of local needs and to raise funds to support charitable projects tackling issues in our local community. Supported projects contribute to a better quality of life across Cambridgeshire, including reducing disadvantage and inequalities. Our work depends on the generosity of individuals and organisations in our community.

Whichever causes you choose to support, we ensure your donation is managed responsibly and has maximum impact, with as much or as little involvement from you as you wish. Together, we can work towards a better Cambridgeshire.

Some of the ways in which you can support the local community through Cambridgeshire Community Foundation include:

Set up a fund

An effective and simple way of financially supporting local causes without setting up a foundation or charity yourself. You choose the criteria and the beneficiaries and we make sure everything runs smoothly. Whether for an individual or a business, each fund is bespoke to your aspirations and aims.

Leave a legacy

A gift in your will may be used to create a named fund to support your own charitable interests, or you can ask for your gift to be allocated to one of our existing funds.

Transfer your charity trust or assets to us

We are able to support you with your charitable trust, ensuring that it remains active and effective in fulfilling its aims. We are also able to revitalise inactive or dormant charitable trusts while maintaining their ethos.

Give an unrestricted gift

We welcome donations of any size to support our charitable activities.

Thank you to our supporters

Our work for the benefit of Cambridgeshire is only possible thanks to the support of generous organisations and individuals, including:

Anglia Ruskin University
 Anglian Water
 ARM
 Astra Zenica
 Birketts
 British Red Cross
 Cambridge City Council
 Cambridge Precision
 Cambridge Zero
 Cambridgeshire County Council
 Cambscuisine
 Catherine Stewart
 Cheffins
 DCMS
 Diana Lloyd
 Featurespace
 G's
 Harry Cureton Charitable Fund
 Highways England
 Huttie
 Illumina
 Jim Warwick & Jane Dominey
 LDH (La Doria)
 Looker Energy
 Marshall of Cambridge
 Microsoft Research
 Mills & Reeve
 MM Wealth
 NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough ICS
 Olive & Jesse Palmer
 RES

Sam Weller
 Smart
 TCE Renewables
 Tees Law
 TFI Renewables
 Thalia WB (formerly Amey)
 The Cambridge Building Society
 The High Sheriff and all the generous supporters of the High Sheriff Fund
 The Hill Group

Kingsgate Community Church received a grant to provide a Food Pantry aimed at families who are not at the point of an emergency crisis, thereby not qualifying for foodbank support, but are experiencing long-term financial pressures and food insecurity.





**Cambridgeshire
Community
Foundation**

For a better county

**Our full trustee report and accounts are
available on the Charity Commission website.**

Find out more

Website cambscf.org.uk

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Telephone 01223 410535

Follow us on social media

 **@cambridgeshirecf**

 **@cambscf**

 **Cambridgeshire Community Foundation**

**Cover image: A family who were helped by Mums4Ukraine to settle in the UK.
Mums4Ukraine was one of the organisations supported with a grant from the
British Red Cross funding.**



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