



**Celebrating excellence
through adversity**

WELCOME

ORGANISED BY



OVERALL AWARDS PARTNER

Rathbones
Look forward

Contents

- 3 Today's host and the Charity Awards 2021 judges
- 5 Welcome messages
- 6 The shortlist, Hallmarks of Excellence, Rathbones Covid-19 Response Award
- 8 Arts, Culture & Heritage shortlist
- 12 Campaigning & Advocacy shortlist
- 16 Children & Youth shortlist
- 20 Disability shortlist
- 23 Education & Training shortlist
- 26 Environment & Conservation shortlist
- 28 Grantmaking & Funding shortlist
- 31 Healthcare & Medical Research shortlist
- 35 International Aid & Development shortlist
- 39 Social Care, Advice & Support shortlist

Charity Awards organiser



Programme

Syon Creative

Event management

Jenni O'Donovan, Carys Pugh, Jon Harvey
Cathy Phelan Watkins, Tania Mason

Production

Neil Smith, Stellatus

Awards platform

Evessio

Celebrity liaison

JLA

Music

Ben Goddard

Programme

15:00

Networking reception

16:00

Welcome by Matthew Nolan, chief executive of Civil Society Media and Su Sayer, chair of the Charity Awards judging panel

16:10

Charity Awards ceremony, hosted by Ayesha Hazarika

17:00

Daniel Phelan Award for Outstanding Achievement, presented by Cathy Phelan Watkins

17:10

Rathbones Covid-19 Response Award, presented by Tania Mason

17.20

Overall Award for Excellence, presented by Andy Pitt and Baroness Barran

Charity Awards Overall Partner:

Rathbones
Look forward

Charity Awards supporter:



Charity Awards 2021 Judges



Su Sayer CBE
Chair of judges



Monica Brown
Head of charity advisory and programmes
Charities Aid Foundation



Ruth Davison
Chief executive
Refuge



Martin Edwards
Chief executive
Julia's House



Richard Hawkes
Chief executive
British Asian Trust



Chris Michaels
Director of digital, communications
and technology
The National Gallery



Kris Murali
Director of finance and resources
Scouts



Cathy Phelan Watkins
Owner and director
Civil Society Media



Andy Pitt
Head of charities – London
Rathbone Investment Management



Chris Sherwood
Chief executive
RSPCA



Paul Streets OBE
Chief executive
Lloyds Bank Foundation for
England and Wales

Charity Awards 2021 Host Ayesha Hazarika MBE

Ayesha Hazarika is a political commentator, writer and comedian who regularly appears on the BBC, Sky and ITN as well as writing for national newspapers.

She was a senior Labour adviser for more than eight years in government and in opposition, serving as chief of staff to deputy Labour leader Harriet Harman, and as a senior adviser to Ed Miliband.

She also led Labour's response to the Leveson Inquiry into phone hacking and press ethics.

Before politics, Ayesha worked with the chairman of music giant EMI and was a civil service press officer at the Department of Trade and Industry, Home Office and No 10. Before that, she was an award-winning comedian and impressionist who toured the country and played the Edinburgh Fringe – a career she has now partly returned to, with a more political theme.




Photo courtesy of Steve Ullathorne


Rathbones is delighted to support the Charity Awards 2021


Rathbone Investment Management is one of the UK's largest and longest established providers of high-quality discretionary investment management services to charities of all shapes and sizes.

For further information, please contact
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Rathbones
Look forward

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The value of investments and income arising from them may fall as well as rise and you might get back less than you originally invested.

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Welcome from the host **Civil Society Media**

It's my great pleasure to welcome you to the 21st annual Charity Awards.

When coronavirus arrived in the UK in spring last year, we took the difficult decision to put the 2020 Charity Awards on ice.

Over the past year or so, we watched with dismay as the charity sector was buffeted by a triple-whammy of challenges: losing millions of pounds of fundraising income, re-engineering services to comply with lockdown restrictions, and facing big spikes in demand for those services. But 12 months on, we are so impressed with how the sector has risen to those challenges and responded to the crisis. We wanted to recognise charities and

their incredible work, so we have decided to resurrect the 2020 awards and honour the applications that were submitted – albeit in a virtual ceremony. The nominees on this year's shortlist are truly leaders in their field.

We have also launched a special new category, to celebrate the sector's achievements in responding to the pandemic. The resilience, ingenuity and commitment that shines through in these entries provide a vivid snapshot of the huge value that charities bring to society, which Daniel Phelan was determined to highlight when he launched these awards back in 2000. We do hope you enjoy the show.

Matt Nolan, CEO

Welcome from our overall partner



Rathbone Investment Management

Rathbones is delighted to be back here in 2021 – albeit in a different format to previous years – to acknowledge the excellent work that charities have achieved, both up to 2020 and during that year's immensely challenging conditions.

We are proud to support the Charity Awards in any year, and so pleased that we can take this opportunity to honour the applications submitted before the pandemic, as well as recognising the sector's huge impact during the last 12 months or so.

The Rathbone family founded the business on philanthropic principles over 250 years ago and those principles continue to steer the

business today. We are delighted to be a constituent company in the FTSE4Good Index, and we see it as our responsibility to invest for everyone's tomorrow. That means doing the right thing for our clients and for others, which is how we build enduring value, make a wider contribution to society and create a lasting legacy.

The past year has brought unprecedented challenges for charities, but it has also highlighted the importance of your contribution, without which people in the UK and around the world would be significantly weakened. It is an honour to support these awards.

Andy Pitt, head of charities - London

Introducing the Shortlist

The Charity Awards is Civil Society Media's annual awards programme designed to shine a spotlight on innovation and best practice in all areas of charitable activity.

The awards culminate in today's ceremony, but the programme lasts all year, highlighting and disseminating good practice and high standards across the sector.

The Charity Awards are organised into ten categories, based on the type of cause the charity advances. The categories allow the judges to consider the entries in manageable groups, but also mean that any type of charity can enter, with any type of project.

This year's Awards recognise charities that applied to the programme in 2020. Because of

the coronavirus, we took the decision to postpone the Awards last year until we had clearer visibility on how the judging process and ceremony could take place. With restrictions ongoing into 2021, we decided to revive the 2020 entries and conduct the ceremony online. From over 300 entries, our esteemed panel of judges have chosen 26 charities to make it onto the coveted shortlist.

The charity sector leaders on our judging panel all have personal experience of leading teams that have delivered results for organisations in the sector. They assess each entry against our six Hallmarks of Excellence – six traits or attributes that should be present in any successful project. All of the shortlisted charities scored highly against all or most of the hallmarks.

Arts, Culture & Heritage

Jerwood Arts
LOOSE
New Writing North

Campaigning & Advocacy

Asthma UK and British Lung Foundation Partnership
CARE International UK
Safe Passage

Children & Youth

Aberlour Child Care Trust
Friends Families and Travellers
Lifelites

Disability

The Children's Trust
NOW Group

Education & Training

Breaking Barriers
Samaritans
Stephens and George
Centenary Charitable Trust

Environment & Conservation

Trees for Cities

Grantmaking & Funding

Five Talents UK
The Fore

Healthcare & Medical Research

The Lewis Foundation
Maggie Keswick Jencks
Cancer Caring Centres Trust
SeeAbility

International Aid & Development

Conciliation Resources
Excellent Development
Theatre for a Change

Social Care, Advice & Support

The Bike Project
SafeLives
Suffolk Family Carers

The Rathbones Covid-19 Response Award

In addition to resurrecting the delayed 2020 entries, we also decided to open up a special new category for 2021 – the Covid-19 Response Award, supported by our Overall Awards Partner Rathbone Investment Management – to recognise the charity sector’s fantastic contribution in responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

This was an open-entry award for which we received more than 300 applications. Because this new category was a late addition to the programme and time was tight, entries were considered and judged by a team of Civil Society Media editorial staff and management.

Choosing a winner was a very difficult task, as the quality of entries was incredibly high, showcasing an outstanding array of commitment, perseverance and innovation in the face of adversity. We feel strongly that these stories deserve a wider audience and so over the coming months we will feature many of them in our publications and events, to shine a spotlight on the sector’s critical role in helping society withstand the crisis.

The Hallmarks of Excellence

1. Outcomes:

For a charity to win an award, it must be delivering outcomes of real value and proven effectiveness. These outcomes should be measured through appropriate techniques which demonstrate the lasting benefit of the work.

2. Value for money:

Award winners must be able to show that as well as delivering tangible and lasting change, they are doing so efficiently and cost-effectively.

3. Innovation:

Award-winning charities must demonstrate that their work was inventive and original, or that it applied new thinking to existing ideas and good practice.

4. Sustainability:

Award-winning charities also need longevity. To win an award, the charity and its particular intervention must be able to show they can stand the test of time.

5. Replicability and/or scalability:

An award-winning intervention is one which has the potential to grow its impact, or to be repeated elsewhere, in other locations or other environments, by the charity itself or by other organisations.

6. Best practice:

Finally, charities which win awards should be able to show that they exemplify the highest standards in all they do. This might encompass qualities such as accountability, transparency, collaboration, diversity, continual learning or service user representation. Winners should be able to show that they are ethical and principled in all their dealings.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Jerwood Arts

WESTON
JERWOOD
**CREATIVE
BURSARIES**
2020–2022



Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries: Addressing socio-economic inequities in the arts

Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries (WJCB) is a national programme dedicated to addressing what the charity calls “the class crisis” in artistic professions. The proportion of people from working-class backgrounds in the arts is half of that seen in the workforce overall.

WJCB finds and supports the arts leaders of the future who could reverse this trend, helping people from different backgrounds get a foothold in the arts and culture sector. Launched in 2010, it partners with cultural bodies to provide one-year, paid fellowships.

The programme started with government backing and is now funded through a consortia of charitable funds. Each year, around 40 fellows are chosen to work with host culture bodies who have partnered on the scheme. More than 100 organisations have taken part.

Crucially, these fellowships are paid, levelling out the long-standing advantage for those at the start of their careers who can afford to support themselves through unpaid internship and voluntary roles. According to the most recent evaluation, 90% of fellows were in work or freelancing by the time their fellowship ended.

Some WJCB fellows and alumni have reached senior positions in the arts sector, including as curator at the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester.

Charity Awards judge Cathy Phelan-Watkins said the impacts would take time to filter through, but the scheme was a great step towards real power-sharing.

“The arts sector is very white and very posh and it won’t be until we get a greater range of people curating the arts, managing arts centres, actually programming the arts, that we’ll get any real change,” she said.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

LOOSE



A low-cost arts and music space, serving local people for more than a decade

The idea behind LOOSE – known locally as The Studio – began in the 1990s.

Residents in Halton, on the banks of the Mersey, knew that there were limited facilities for young people, but saw them gather outside pubs whenever a band was playing.

This inspired the long process of creating The Studio, a space where young people, families and other charities could create and enjoy music and the arts.

By 2009, local volunteers had been given the chance to renovate a building at risk of demolition. They started work on a space which, at that time,

was full of rot and fungus with a leaking roof.

With the help of grants, including from the National Lottery, the volunteers restored the building drawing on insights into what people locally wanted and needed from a new space. By the time it opened in 2010, they had created a creative arts hub run for and by the community.

By 2015, The Studio was serving hundreds of kids and families who wanted to make music and art, and was welcoming in other small charities to use the space, reaching more families living with disabilities or facing severe deprivation.

It has now been open for the benefit of local people for a decade. It hosts a range of different activities, including an adult choir, comedy nights, drumming groups, touring theatre productions and radio broadcasts.

The charity has become, in the words of one supporter, “the beating heart of our local community”.

Awards judge Paul Streets said: “I love the kind of earthy, organic way it’s grown, and the passion that comes through in the application. This is the place I really want to go if I’m in the area.”

Arts, Culture and Heritage

New Writing North

NEW WRITING NORTH



Running creative writing groups and support for young people

The proportion of people from working-class backgrounds taking part in the arts has been declining. For a long time, participation in the arts has been dominated by the wealthiest people in any community.

In a bid to address this, New Writing North started its Young Writers programme seven years ago, based in north-east England. The aim was to engage more young people from diverse backgrounds in writing and creativity – and through this to have a longer-term positive impact on their life chances, self-esteem and wellbeing.

Young Writers works through three streams: an open access

programme which holds free weekly writing groups and runs summer schools; targeted programmes which take the scheme to more people from deprived backgrounds; and development work, which works longer-term by mentoring 15 to 25-year-olds who have engaged with the charity.

The project has also developed systems for identifying the different types of young people who may benefit most from access to the creative arts, and tailors the work to them according to their identity and their needs.

Around 12,000 people have now taken part in Young Writers, two-thirds of whom

got involved through the targeted work to help families from poorer backgrounds. It also works with around 40 freelance writers and artists, who lead the sessions. Commercial support from major publishers helps cover the costs, along with trust grants and fundraising.

Charity Awards judge Chris Michaels said the charity was highly creative, with projects that extend far beyond writing. “They are increasing access and relevance to a very diverse set of structurally unequal communities, working not just at the point of cultural diversity, but really tackling economic inequality as well. I thought it was really strong.”

“ You’re a
**shining
example.** ”

If you’ve been nominated for an award, congratulations!
You’re the stars of the night – and the whole sector.

As sponsors of the Arts, Culture and Heritage category
we’re delighted you’ve been recognised for your great
work. Whether you’re a large or small charity, we’re
here to enable you to do more of it.

From all of us at Ansvar, good luck and have
a wonderful evening.

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Campaigning and Advocacy

Asthma UK and British Lung Foundation Partnership



Creating the Taskforce for Lung Health to advocate for improvements

At some point in our lives one in five of us will be diagnosed with a lung condition, and currently more than five million people live with asthma, while one million have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). However, conditions have not been given the same priority as other diseases and death rates have not improved over the last decade.

Respiratory conditions are also a significant factor in the disparity in life expectancies between wealthier people and poorer people, with those in the 10% most deprived groups twice as likely to develop lung cancer or COPD. Covid-19

has amplified this inequality. Yet, there has never been a comprehensive national plan for lung health.

The British Lung Foundation set up the Taskforce for Lung Health, a 35-member alliance of patient groups, healthcare professionals, charities and other associations. In 2018 it issued a call for evidence, then published a five-year plan with 43 recommendations covering prevention, improving diagnosis, treatment and care.

Patient voice is at the centre of the approach, with a commitment to the notion of “no discussion or decision without me”.

In 2019 working groups were set up to take forward the recommendations in different areas. Since then, respiratory health has been made a priority in the NHS England Long-Term Plan. The initiative has cost £500,000 to date.

The next stage will be a campaign to improve public understanding of lung disease.

Charity Awards judge Ruth Davison commended the partnership’s focus on elevating patient voice and its explicit efforts to target the disproportionate impacts on poorer people.

Campaigning and Advocacy

**CARE
International UK**



Working to end violence and harassment against women in the workplace

CARE International UK spearheaded a two-year campaign that secured a new international convention on ending violence and harassment in the workplace.

CARE UK calculated that at least 235 million women globally are vulnerable to workplace abuse, without access to legal recourse. Power imbalances, social norms and vulnerable employment mean that women are disproportionately affected.

Workplace violence can wreak a huge physical and psychological toll on survivors and their families. It also prevents women from fully engaging in work and can cost

businesses and economies through lost productivity.

Yet 59 countries have no laws against workplace harassment, and many that do, don't implement them.

Therefore, in July 2017 CARE UK joined a global CARE campaign, #ThisIsNotWorking, to call for an international convention. The charity worked with trade bodies in the private sector and lobbied politicians. It adapted its approach throughout the campaign in response to global events, notably the #MeToo movement. Over 27,000 people signed a letter urging brands to end the abuse of women who make clothes.

In June 2019 the International Labour Conference voted to adopt a new Convention and Recommendation to end violence and harassment at work, the strongest possible combination of actions that creates a new internationally recognised benchmark. In addition, the increased public awareness means that CARE UK and others are in a good position to keep up the pressure on the UK government to ratify the Convention.

Charity Awards judge Richard Hawkes described it as “an excellent campaign – good strategy, very good implementation, great outcome, and very replicable”.

Campaigning and Advocacy

Safe Passage



Opening up safe, legal, routes to reunite refugee children with their families

A group of volunteers who visited the “Calais Jungle” in 2015 discovered that thousands of refugee children were taking desperate measures to get to the UK, such as crossing the Channel by boat, to reach relatives.

Safe Passage was established, as part of Citizens UK, to open and defend safe legal routes and reunite children with their families in the UK and Europe. It does this through strategic legal casework, advocacy, campaigning, practitioner training and holding governments to account.

One landmark ruling established the principle that the Home Office must allow

individuals into the UK to reunite with their families.

In 2019 Safe Passage became an independent charity.

To date, more than 1,800 children and other refugees have travelled safely through routes Safe Passage helped to open. The charity is credited with getting an amendment to Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (known as the Dubs Amendment), which wrote into law the protection guidelines for unaccompanied children in Europe.

Safe Passage works closely with local independent campaign groups to lean on local authorities and MPs to ensure

the laws are acted on. Successes include securing 1,440 foster care placements from local councils, after the government had said there was no capacity, and creating a Youth Advocacy Programme to support, inspire and empower child refugees to be involved in its campaigning.

The charity has its own in-house legal team and in 2019 its success rate, where outcomes are known, was nearly 90%. The charity also aims to train 200 legal practitioners a year.

While the Dubs Amendment has since been revoked by the government, Safe Passage continues to lobby for safe routes. Ministers have agreed to review the current situation.

Celebrating excellence through adversity



**Congratulations to all the fantastic
charities who have made this year's shortlist**

If you're looking to pioneer a new approach to finding,
recruiting and developing your leadership talent,
we'd love to talk. Call Joanna Thornton on 07384 258626
or joanna.thornton@gatenbysanderson.com

Children & Youth

Aberlour Child Care Trust



Intensive support for families to prevent children from being taken into care

Aberlour Child Care Trust developed an intensive programme to closely support families where children were at risk of being taken into care.

From speaking to families and local authorities Aberlour realised the solution needed to be an intensive, relationship-based approach, which supported the whole family in practical and emotional ways.

It created the Sustain Intensive Family Support Service and piloted it with Scottish Borders Council. To provide the intensive, bespoke help needed, support workers are available whenever families

need them – including evenings and weekends.

Unlike many other services which are under pressure to support a high volume of people, the Sustain programme was not afraid to put significant resource with one family.

Of the 35 children and young people Aberlour worked with, 28 avoided going into care.

Over 15 months, the pilot programme cost £345,000 to deliver. This compares with external placements which cost up to £250,000. The charity estimates that if the local authority continues to fund Sustain it could save £3.5m in annual care costs.

Scottish Borders Council is recommending that the Sustain programme continues for the next four years. A second service is already running in Perth and Kinross and the charity aspires to replicate Sustain across Scotland's local authorities.

Awards judge Martin Edwards praised the charity's model of intervening to prevent crises before they happen – something that statutory social care models consistently fail to do. "It's the job of charities to demonstrate better practice to the state and then to work with them on assimilating those practices into their own programmes," he said.

Children & Youth

Friends Families and Travellers



Educating young Gypsies and Travellers about health issues

Gypsy and Traveller communities face some of the most severe health inequalities and their life expectancy is 10 to 25 years shorter than the general population. Young members of the community are also more likely to drop out of education than their peers.

Lack of knowledge about healthy choices at a young age has an impact later in life. Many young Gypsies and Travellers work in trades and go on to develop musculoskeletal problems and health conditions like diabetes and heart disease.

Friends Families and Travellers (FFT) had previously run programmes addressing health

issues for the community, and brought its health and youth teams together to look at what more it could do. After speaking to families and children it found there was an appetite for a Health Champions training programme, where young people could earn a level 2 qualification.

Staff with lived experience adapted Royal Society for Public Health training so that it was accessible and culturally appropriate. Qualified trainers then used various learning techniques to engage with young people, including day trips and activities.

After the programme, young

people were observed making healthier choices, such as swapping Red Bull for water, and encouraging their peers to do the same.

Sixteen young people took part in the programme. Eight achieved qualifications and five went on to further learning.

FFT is now working with two other Gypsy and Traveller charities, to help them become accredited training centres.

Awards judge Monica Brown said the charity had demonstrated its success in working with a community that can be hard to engage with. “It’s value for money, it’s working and it’s replicable,” she said.

Children & Youth

Lifelites

Lifelites

Giving kids with limited life unlimited possibilities



Rolling out portable technology for use by children's hospice services

Lifelites has been donating technology to children's hospices around the UK since 1999. As a way to reach even more children with life-limiting conditions it launched Tech Trunks – suitcases filled with cutting-edge technology that could be used by hospice staff on home visits.

Technology can be transformative for children with life-limiting conditions. It can enable them to communicate, play, be creative and in control. It also

enables their families to make and capture memories.

The exact composition of the suitcases depends on the individual needs of each hospice. But they contain things like specialist iPads with communicative and sensory apps, large Bluetooth-enabled buttons that can be paired with other devices in the home, virtual reality headsets, and digital cameras.

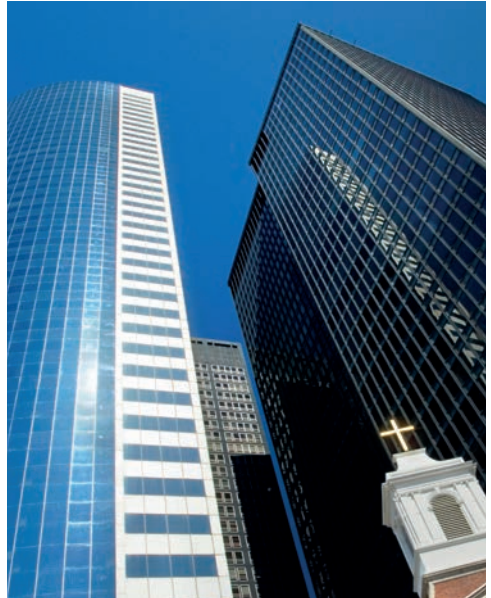
To ensure that children can get the most out of the technology, Lifelites also

provides training to the staff and ongoing support.

By 2019 nearly half the children's hospices in the British Isles were providing some form of hospice-at-home care, and Lifelites expects this number to grow.

In the first year of the programme, 17 Tech Trunks were delivered to hospice services, and the charity expects that within three years it will have offered every hospice-at-home service a Tech Trunk package.

Christian ethical investment for all charities



Congratulations to all Charity Awards 2021 Winners & Nominees

If you are interested in good investment returns that faithfully meet your ethical requirements, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact:



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CHILDREN AND YOUTH
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Disability

The Children's Trust



Improving service-user involvement through gaining ISO9001 accreditation

The Children's Trust works with children with brain injury and neurodisability. For a number of years, it had received a "good" rating from both the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Ofsted. It wanted to improve its services in order to gain "outstanding" ratings.

To reach this goal, the charity decided to gain ISO9001, an internationally recognised, independent quality assessment accredited by CHKS.

One of the key changes that it made was to better involve the children it works with in order to ensure their voices and opinions were heard. This included inviting service

users to attend trustees' meeting and take part in workshops on how they can be involved in making decisions about the charity. Children and families are also now involved in the recruitment for key posts through a young people's interview panel, and ask their own questions with support from a moderator.

The Trust also now has a youth worker, and has put more emphasis on involving the young person in meetings about their therapy, rather than just speaking with parents.

All these changes helped contribute to the charity

gaining its ISO9001 status. It has also achieved its goal of getting "outstanding" ratings from Ofsted and the CQC.

Charity Awards judge Chris Michaels said gaining ISO accreditation was "no easy process" and it was clear the charity had undertaken a hard, painful journey of structural change in order to create a platform for the highest standards of care and greater input from its beneficiaries.

Judge Andy Pitt added that the Trust deserved recognition for pursuing excellence. "I like this focus on the internal piece and getting that right, because your outcomes in theory should follow."

Good luck to all those nominated in this year's Charity Awards

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Wherever you are on your change journey, our charity experts can help - so why not get in touch and find out more?

 change@manifesto.co.uk



manifesto /



Disability

NOW Group

NOW
www.nowgroup.org



Providing support for new parents with a learning disability or autism

Belfast-based NOW Group launched its Family Service to support expectant and new parents that have a learning disability or autism after identifying that these individuals faced specific issues.

There are over 36,000 adults estimated to have a learning disability in Northern Ireland and research suggests that one in 15 women with a learning disability have children – an estimated 1,200 mothers.

A research project in 2014/15 found concerns about lack of practical support, accessible information about options and knowledge about community support. There was also a concern about involvement of

statutory agencies, fear of children being removed into care and preconceived ideas about the parenting ability of individuals with a learning disability, difficulty or autism.

The service has grown over the years since its launch. In its first year it supported 28 families. During its fourth year it worked with 67 families, providing 891 home visits and attending 39 social services meetings. Within 15 of those families, 18 children have been de-registered by social services from the Child Protection Register following intervention from the charity.

It now works with three of the five health and social care

trusts in Northern Ireland supporting families living up to 40 miles outside of Belfast. An independent analysis of its impact suggested a social return on investment of 15:1.

Charity Awards judge Martin Edwards said it was brilliant model of preventing crises before they happen, rather than waiting to intervene once everything has broken down. “I thought it was textbook stuff, and it deserves a bigger platform,” he said.

Judge Kris Murali added that NOW Group had struck up innovative funding partnerships with various funders and had very measurable outcomes.

Education & Training

Breaking Barriers



Supporting London-based refugees into employment

An estimated 7,000 new refugees settle in London every year, yet holding down regular employment can be a challenge. Even once refugees have passed through the asylum process, the unemployment rate is estimated to be as high as 70%, and many of those that have found work are either underemployed or overqualified.

Matthew Powell was inspired to set up Breaking Barriers in 2015 after his master's degree research highlighted the lack of employment support for refugees. He identified that insufficient English-language skills, a lack of UK work experience and a lack of understanding of UK employment culture are some of

the reasons why refugees struggle in the job market.

Powell was convinced that the private sector could do more to offer support. So he designed a work placement programme which would benefit both the refugee client and the corporate partner. From there, the charity grew.

Breaking Barriers now operates three delivery centres across the capital. Its services include one-to-one employment advice from specialist staff and volunteers, education and training in English, IT and customer service, and paid work placements and job opportunities through corporate partners.

In the 2018-19 financial year, the charity supported 572 people from refugee backgrounds and developed programmes with more than 20 businesses. Nearly two-fifths of its clients secured employment, volunteering or education, and 83% of those who used the charity's advice programme said it had increased their chances of finding a job.

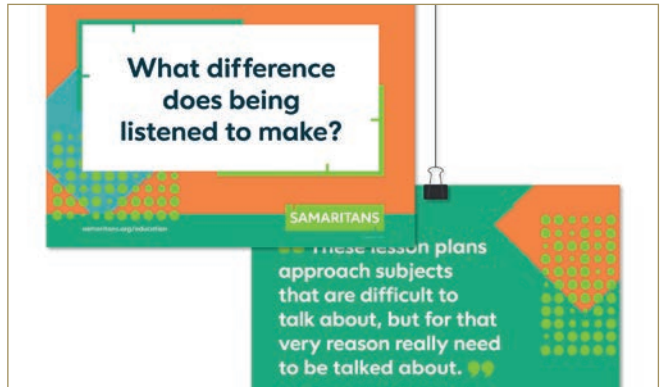
Charity Awards judge Andy Pitt described Breaking Barriers as “a really gritty project addressing a really difficult problem”.

“It's genuinely innovative as well as being replicable and scalable.”

Education & Training

Samaritans

SAMARITANS



Helping educational establishments to respond to suicides among young people

Research has shown that people bereaved by suicide are at higher risk of suicidal thoughts or attempts to take their own life, and that this can last for a number of years following the initial suicide. This contagion appears to be stronger among adolescents.

Samaritans set up the Step by Step postvention service in response to this need, supporting educational establishments such as schools and colleges to prepare for and respond to a suicide.

Work began on the project in 2007, with a pilot response service for secondary schools set up in five Samaritans regions in 2010. The next year it was expanded to be organisation-wide, and a pilot project began with universities in 2016.

The service is led and run by up to 60 volunteers. By 2019 it had received 810 requests for support from schools, colleges, universities and other youth settings. Given that there are six people who are “intensely” affected and

around 60 who are “deeply” affected by every suicide, the service can be estimated to have helped more than 48,000 people.

Samaritans is now looking to develop a national postvention service to expand on Step by Step’s work. A postvention service has already been offered in prisons since 2018.

Charity Awards judge Cathy Phelan said this was “an extraordinary project, very moving and well evidenced”.

Education & Training

Stephens and George Centenary Charitable Trust



Improving literacy among children in Merthyr Tydfil

In 2012, 40% of children in Merthyr Tydfil were found to be functionally illiterate upon leaving primary school. That same year, the Stephens and George Print Group, a firm based in Merthyr Tydfil, set up a charitable trust to help tackle the area's education and literacy challenges. Following consultation with schools, social services and others, it put together a three-year strategy incorporating a range of initiatives.

Since then, the charity has enrolled 120 reading support volunteers who go into schools and read to children with complex needs. It has put in place the infrastructure to distribute 10,000 donated

books each year from companies and the community to children who need them. And it has created 15 libraries.

It runs chess clubs, the No Phone and Computers Play Programme which allows children with the most complex needs to learn through the outdoors, and it supports Charity Baby Bookworm sessions which encourage parents to read to their children before they reach school age.

And it runs the Spread the Word Children's Literature and Arts Festival which, with 4,500 attendees, has grown into the UK's largest festival celebrating World Book Day.

The charity has obtained funding from grantmakers, but has also taken important steps to increase its earned income. Notably, it used a community asset transfer to take over the Dowlais Community Centre, which now acts as a community hub and revenue source with gym, cafe and hall hire. The charity also runs Merthyr Tydfil's only bookshop.

Charity Awards judge Paul Streets described the charity's development as "a remarkable story" and a "real reminder of what the sector is all about". He praised its user involvement, the lived experience of its CEO, and its responsiveness to community needs.

Environment & Conservation

Trees for Cities



Edible Playgrounds: Transforming urban school grounds into gardens

Around one in five children are obese by the time they leave primary school. Schools have a vital role supporting the physical and mental health of young people – and Edible Playgrounds has helped them do so for over a decade, by providing places where pupils can grow their own food and explore nature.

Schools get shrubs, trees and greenery; children get to learn about where food comes from, as well as the chance to eat some of what they grow; and teachers get horticultural training to make sure the programme is sustainable.

Since piloting the first Edible Playground in 2008 in a

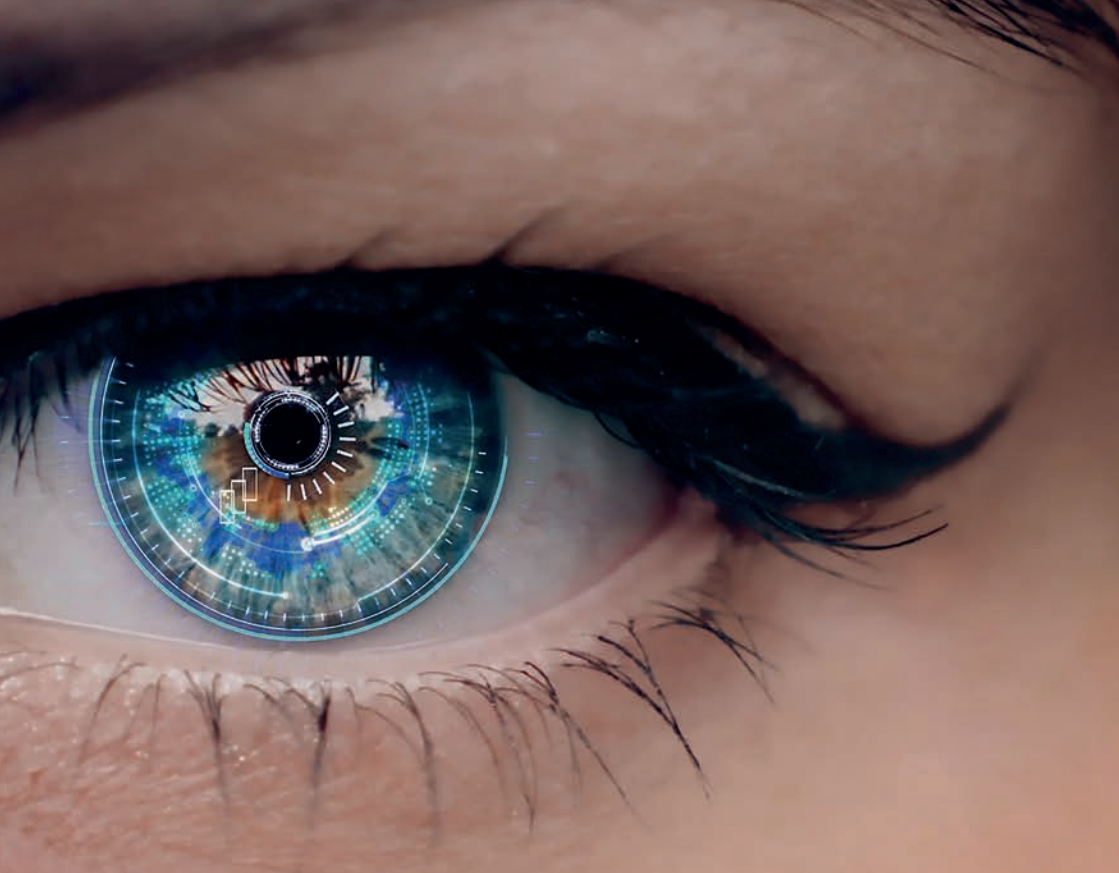
primary school in Islington, Trees for Cities expanded the scheme to other schools across London. From there the initiative moved to Sheffield and Liverpool, with the model tweaked to work with local partners in those cities.

The charity has now created 100 edible playgrounds in 12 cities across the UK, which it says has benefited 60,000 children and 5,000 teachers. The schools are all in areas of high deprivation – and the programme outcomes show a strong, positive impact on the health and education of the children involved.

Edible Playgrounds was invited to partner with the

Mayor of London's Food Growing Schools scheme, as well as the 2015-2017 London Food Flagship programme.

Charity Awards judge Andy Pitt said the project “tugs at the heartstrings”, tackling as it does themes of nature and greening as well as children's health and wellbeing. He was also impressed with the business model: “They've developed good, longer funding partnerships. The school pays a bit, they've got a diversified funding stream, it's being scaled up, and it is innovative. And they've made good use of recycling and those sorts of things to try and reduce costs. It's got lots of things going for it.”



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Grantmaking & Funding

The Fore

THE
FORE



Evaluating the impact of unrestricted income for small charities

The Fore is a project developed by the Bulldog Trust, and tests a simple hypothesis. Small charities often say how much they value unrestricted income, but how important is it really?

The Fore made unrestricted grants worth more than £2.5m to charities across the whole of the country and working in all areas of the sector. It then used Bulldog Trust data to measure not only the impact this had for its grantees, but how their outcomes compare with other charities which have not received funds.

The programme has highlighted just how valuable unrestricted funding is for charities, as well as examining the potential impact that funders can have.

The evaluation, led by an external data specialist and believed to be the first of its kind by a UK foundation, found that grantees chosen by The Fore were already growing faster than other charities before they received grants. The growth rate at those charities then doubled in the years after the grant, with income at the median Fore grantee eight times that of

comparable charities after four years.

The Fore is committed to digging deeper into this data to find exactly why this growth has occurred. However, preliminary findings suggest that the initial grant stimulates just 20% of the growth, leading the foundation to hope that their investment has “unlocked” more sources of income for small charities.

The approach offers a challenge to more conventional forms of grantmaking, and The Fore is now sharing what it has learned with other funders.



CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL THE SHORT-LISTED CHARITIES

In a year like never before, your extraordinary resilience has saved lives, communities and futures.

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Grantmaking & Funding

Five Talents UK



Improving financial literacy and building long-term savings in some of the poorest parts of the world

Five Talents works with some of the poorest communities in Africa, Asia and South America. The charity combines a microfinance model, which helps communities save and borrow money, with longer-term training in financial literacy and business skills.

Five Talents piloted its first savings-led microfinance programme in Thika, Kenya, in 2003. Its model allowed communities to save money together for at least six months, in groups of 15-20 people. The community could then lend money to one another according to their needs. Members of the Savings Group received training which developed their skills, so that

they could diversify their livelihoods away from sole reliance on agriculture.

Today, the Thika programme has supported nearly 10,000 members and made loans of £12.2m.

Scaling up this achievement, Five Talents has now developed programmes in 21 countries and supported more than 1.3 million people, including in fragile areas of the world such as South Sudan, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The aim is for groups to be sustainable without any further support from the charity within five years.

The charity has now

established a resource hub in Nairobi, which provides training and support to all the Savings Groups across Africa. It has also tapped into Anglican church networks overseas to make sure the schemes have local guidance and adequate capacity.

Charity Awards judge Paul Streets said he liked the sustainability of the project in that it continually recycles money.

Richard Hawkes described the programme as “very cost-effective, quite unique, and pretty impactful. The saving-then-microfinance approach seems to be very innovative, even within microfinance.”

The Lewis Foundation



Providing gift packages to cancer patients in hospitals

Adults receiving cancer treatment often spend long periods in hospital. Some receive few, if any visitors, and some cannot afford to buy essential items or items to distract them during the hours of treatment.

The Lewis Foundation, which is completely run by volunteers, provides gift bags of items such as puzzle books and toiletries to patients in a number of hospitals.

Since starting the initiative at Northampton General Hospital about three years ago, the charity now provides 2,500 free gifts every month

to cancer patients at seven hospitals across the Midlands.

Items for the packs come from a number of sources including corporate partners and members of the public. As demand has grown, the foundation has managed to reduce the cost of each pack from £10 to £3.60.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Lewis programme expanded to three more hospitals in Nottinghamshire and created emergency packs for cancer patients who were self-isolating in the community.

The charity is now looking to grow further and is in talks with more hospitals.

Su Sayer, chair of the Charity Awards judges, said she was deeply touched by the foundation's work, which had impacted so many people for such a low cost.

"This sort of thing will make such a huge difference to cancer patients as they prepare themselves for chemotherapy," she said.

She was also impressed by the high potential for replicability.

Healthcare & Medical Research

**Maggie Keswick
Jenck's Cancer
Caring Centres
Trust**



Building and running cancer support centres on NHS sites

Since opening its first cancer caring centre in 1996, Maggie's has now expanded to 24 centres across the UK.

Maggie's provides advice and support to people with cancer, as well as their family and friends, on areas such as claiming benefits, returning to work, and dealing with the emotional and psychological effects of a diagnosis. Each centre is created by top-flight architects, interior and landscape designers to deliver a calm, welcoming, inviting environment.

In 2019, the charity opened three new sites in Leeds, Cardiff and at the Royal Marsden in Surrey. It also has

since opened new centres in Southampton and Merseyside. And it added a new drop-in centre and group room in Edinburgh. Within Scotland, Maggie's has already met its goal of operating a centre at each major cancer hospital.

All of its purpose-built centres are on NHS grounds, with the ground being provided free or at low rent.

Maggie's partners with other cancer charities to provide specific information and sessions. It has a long-term relationship with Look Good, Feel Better which provides sessions at Maggie's centres on managing the visible effects of cancer, such as hair

loss. And it has recently launched a network of international affiliates which are set up independently but run quality-assured Maggie's programmes.

Charity Awards judge Martin Edwards described Maggie's as a "very impressive organisation" delivering "beautifully designed buildings and excellent psychological and information support for patients".

"They've created sanctuaries," he said. "If one had cancer, this is exactly where one would want to come to terms with it, within their welcoming arms. I think what they do is wonderful."

MAGAZINES



EVENTS & SEMINARS



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Healthcare & Medical Research

SeeAbility

SEE ABILITY



Persuaded the NHS to expand eye care services into special needs schools

Data shows that children with learning disabilities are 28 times more likely to have a serious sight problem and the more profound a child's learning disability, the more that risk increases. Left untreated, this can lead to sight loss and it is estimated that 50% of sight loss in individuals with special needs could have been prevented with treatment.

SeeAbility set out to demonstrate to NHS England that providing specialist eye care within special schools would benefit children with special needs. From 2013 to 2019 the charity carried out a pilot programme offering professional eye care in 11 special schools in England. It

conducted more than 3,500 eye tests and dispensed over 1,700 glasses to almost 1,500 children. In addition, it trained almost 800 teaching staff in how children see and use their vision.

Nearly half of the children tested had a problem with their vision, and a third needed glasses. Yet 44% of them had never had their eyes tested and the vast majority of the other children were being sent to hospital clinics for their examinations, with parents reporting how anxious this made them.

SeeAbility published its data in a peer-reviewed journal and provided its findings and

costings to NHS England. NHS England has now pledged to commission a model of eye care in special needs schools based on the charity's work, which in the coming years will reach 120,000 children.

The charity is also advising on similar models in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Charity Awards judge Martin Edwards said the programme was a brilliant example of transforming outcomes. "They've tested it, they based it on evidence and they built on their success with lobbying. They've interwoven it with the NHS and 50% of their staff have lived experience. I thought it was just wonderful."

International Aid & Development

Conciliation Resources



Providing expertise and training to local negotiators to end a 25-year war in Ethiopia

Since 1994, the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) had been waging an armed insurgency in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia, fighting for self-determination for Somalis.

By 2011, both sides had concluded that the conflict could only be resolved through a negotiated settlement. Peace talks reopened, and Conciliation Resources (CR) was invited in to provide technical support and consultancy. The UK and Swiss governments provided £521,000 to fund the work – a fraction of the \$250m that the Somali Regional State was spending annually on security.

CR provided skills and technical advice to the Kenyan facilitation team leading the negotiations and helped the ONLF to develop a plan to transition from an armed group to a political party. The charity also consulted with local people, including fighters in the armed group, and diaspora and refugee communities in other countries, feeding all these views into the peace process.

In September 2018, after six years of talks, the Ethiopian government and the ONLF signed a peace deal. The ONLF disarmed and is now a political party taking part in elections. Ending 25 years of war, the deal has allowed

thousands of refugees to return home and improved the lives of 10 million people. While other parts of Ethiopia saw violence in 2020, the Somali Region remains relatively stable.

CR is continuing to work with the regional government, the ONLF and local civil society to support peace initiatives.

Charity Awards judge Ruth Davison said: “Since they were founded 25 years ago, their whole principle has been based on how to help local people broker their own peace deals. It’s the opposite of white saviourism and exactly the kind of model we should be seeing more of.”

International Aid & Development

**Excellent
Development**

 **Excellent** | Pioneers of
Sand Dams



Helping dryland communities to access permanent clean water

In 2008, Excellent Development won the Overall Award at the Charity Awards for its work supporting communities in Kenya to build sand dams, harnessing cost-effective rainwater harvesting technology to provide people with clean, accessible water for life. At the time, it had been operating for six years and had helped 47 communities to build 155 sand dams in seasonal riverbeds.

Twelve years later, the charity is still supporting people to build sand dams and because of climate change the need for its provision is greater than ever. The United Nations

predicts that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in regions with absolute water scarcity.

This knowledge prompted Excellent Development to scale up its work to more countries, and since 2012 it has expanded to eight more African countries and India. To date, it has enabled the construction of 1,173 sand dams, giving more than one million people lifelong access to clean water.

The charity has also supported communities to plant more than 1.1 million trees and dig over 1,860 km of terracing above the dams,

increasing crop yields by 20%. Its work has boosted environmental resilience, empowered women, improved nutrition and increased the income of local communities.

It now aims to reach a million sand dams, serving half a billion people, by 2040.

Charity Awards judge Paul Streets described the work as “unsexy, literally down-to-earth, grassroots stuff, which to me is the bread and butter of really good development programmes. It’s cheap and effective, uses local people and local technology, and it can be scaled up.”



IDEAS | PEOPLE | TRUST

A young child with dark skin and hair is the central focus of the image. They are looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. In their right hand, they hold a bundle of several colored pencils in various colors (green, blue, yellow, red, black). The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. Two vertical red bars are present: one on the right side of the top half and another on the right side of the bottom half.

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Theatre for a Change



Using interactive radio drama to boost sexual health in Malawi

One of the world's poorest countries, Malawi also has huge challenges around sexual health and education. Around a quarter of male primary school teachers have HIV, and only 47% of girls and 56% of boys finish primary school. Nearly a third of girls drop out to get married, and another 20% because they get pregnant. Some 35% of girls in Malawi are pregnant by the age of 18.

Theatre for a Change (TFAC) had been working in Malawi since 2007, educating and changing attitudes and behaviours around sexual and reproductive health among young teachers and their pupils. After teachers finished the training, they wanted to

stay connected to each other and to the supportive environment of TFAC workshops, and the charity had been pondering how to take its messages to a wider audience. These two drivers led it to the solution of interactive radio drama (IRD).

Stories based on true-life situations are produced as radio dramas and at the end, listeners are invited to call in to play the main character and suggest what they would do differently to change the story for the better. Actors come back on and improvise with the caller.

Eventually TFAC started broadcasting live on national

radio and reach grew to an estimated 550,000 listeners each week. As well as calling in, listeners posted reactions on social media, and these were read out and discussed live on air.

The project was managed by teachers, who set up listening clubs in their schools. At the end of the three-year, £450,000 project, 3,124 teachers and 15,792 young people had taken part and their awareness of their sexual rights and health increased significantly.

The approach has since been replicated in Mozambique by TFAC and VSO to tackle toxic masculinity among teenage boys.

Social Care, Advice & Support

The Bike Project

THE  PROJECT



Refurbishing unwanted bikes and donating them to refugees

The Bike Project refurbishes unwanted bikes and donates them to refugees and asylum seekers who cannot afford public transport. These bikes enable refugees to access essential resources and to be fitter and healthier.

Claiming asylum in the UK can take several years. While applications are reviewed, asylum seekers are denied permission to work, and receive £37.75 per week for all needs except accommodation.

Public transport is costly and refugees often describe social isolation as their biggest challenge. Meanwhile, Transport for London claims that 27,500 bikes are

unwanted or abandoned in London every year. So the Bike Project reclaims bikes, refurbishes them and donates them to refugees through a network of charity partners.

Its theory of change demonstrates that donating a bike to a refugee can result in them having improved finances, greater access to resources, and better physical and mental health. It estimates that every week each refugee saves £21.20 a week in London and £17.50 in the West Midlands. Some beneficiaries go on to work in the bicycle workshops.

In its first year the charity gave away 300 bikes, and it now

donates over 1,500 annually across London and the West Midlands. In seven years, nearly 6,000 bicycles have been repurposed at a cost of £264 per beneficiary and it is now looking at expanding to nine more locations.

Charity Awards judge Kris Murali described it as a “very positive project” which made a material difference to people’s lives.

“There are tangible results and benefits: it is addressing a particular problem of a particular community; the workshop model uses the skills of the people it is supporting, and it is easily transportable to other cities.”

Social Care, Advice & Support

SafeLives

21 out of 43 police forces in England and Wales have adopted DA Matters with SafeLives.

Research shows that DA Matters training has led to a **41% increase in arrests** for controlling and coercive behaviour*

Ending domestic abuse

*Comparing trained forces to untrained forces. Reference: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10439463.2020.1862838?trw>

Improving the police response to domestic abuse

SafeLives is a UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse by conducting research, influencing policy and training professionals and organisations.

Domestic Abuse Matters is a cultural change programme designed to create sustainable improvements in the police response to domestic abuse.

Those in the police service can be called to up to five incidents of domestic abuse per duty. But their response to these calls for service in 2014 was judged by the independent inspector of police services (HMIC) to be “inadequate”.

The charity wanted to establish the standard of the service that was needed from the police, and the training that would be required to achieve this. The author of Domestic Abuse Matters, herself a former police officer and survivor of domestic abuse, researched the needs of other survivors, police officers and call takers nationally.

By the end of 2020 SafeLives had delivered the programme to 20 police forces and was about to start in several others.

The full programme consists of several components including a force health check and training of local trainers

and first responders. The charity has trained more than 15,000 frontline officers and over 2,000 officers as Domestic Abuse Matters champions.

A recent evaluation by the University of Hull found that the programme has a positive and sustained impact on forces trained and has led to a 41% increase in arrests for controlling and coercive behaviour.

As a result of the success of Domestic Abuse Matters, the charity has now developed a similar change programme for children’s social care and has plans to develop programmes for all statutory agencies.



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Social Care, Advice & Support

Suffolk Family Carers

Suffolk Family Carers
Living Fuller Lives



Linking up with schools to boost support for young carers

The charity supports family carers of all ages to feel visible, valued, supported and connected. It was among the first carers' charities to develop and implement a Young Carers School Award.

Suffolk Family Carers identified two main issues. First, there are many hidden carers. Young carers do not readily self-identify and therefore remain hidden and unknown to services. Therefore, its first objective was to encourage young carers to self-identify. Its second objective was to put in place support for young carers.

The charity decided to work in

partnership with schools to co-produce a model that would suit local need. Its Young Carers School Award was introduced in 2013.

Its reach has grown exponentially and the charity now has relationships with all further education colleges, almost all of the 45 high schools and more than 80 of the 255 primary schools across Suffolk.

In 2018/19, of the 537 referrals for young carers that the charity received, 55% were generated by schools and colleges. In a survey conducted in 2018, 83% of young carers that responded said that they

accessed support in school and 78% said that this support had helped them.

There are now 1,913 young carers aged five to 16 registered with the charity. A study by the University of Suffolk in 2020 found that parents said their children that engaged with the programme "felt proud to be a young carer and displayed increased self-esteem and confidence".

Charity Awards judge Richard Hawkes described it as a "really uplifting programme" which had attracted credible support from several organisations.

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