UK COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

UK Community Foundations
November 2026

Connecting Care: Year Two

Place-based partnering with care-experienced young people and local organisations that stand by them

2025/26 impact report



In partnership with CCLA GOOD INVESTMENT HENRY SMITH FOUNDATION

Contents

Foreword..... 03

The programme so far.....04

Learning framework..... 06

1. Wellbeing..... 07

2. Education, skills and employment.....09

3. Housing and independent living..... 10

4. Place-based insight and systems change..... 13

Care leaver voice..... 15

Local learning and evaluation..... 16

Recommendations for funders..... 17

Recommendations for policy..... 18

Conclusion..... 19

Appendix: participating community foundations.....20

Foreword

Aaliyah Fozol

Aaliyah is a trustee at Settle, a charity that supports care-experienced young people as they move into their first home. Settle has been funded as part of Connected Care by The London Community Foundation.

"When we talk about young people leaving care, we often talk about independence, preparing for adulthood and learning to stand on their own two feet. But I think we sometimes forget to ask a more important question: what are we actually asking young people to stand on and who is standing alongside them?

Leaving care doesn't mean leaving behind the challenges that come with it. For many young people, it means navigating adulthood without the family support, financial security or safety nets that others might take for granted.

That's why I welcome this report. More than 3,300 care leavers supported in the second year alone is something worth recognising. But behind every one of those numbers is a young person with their own story, challenges and hopes. What matters isn't simply how many are supported, but how that support genuinely changed their lives.

That's why I connect with the report's emphasis on relationships. There are things no amount of funding can put a price on: the feeling of being seen, of feeling like you matter, and of knowing that somebody genuinely cares about you. Practical support can help change someone's circumstances, but having someone in your corner can change how you feel about yourself and the world around you.

I know this personally. I knew what I wanted my life to hold. I just couldn't see myself being there to hold it.

When Settle came into my life, they restored my hope in people and helped me recognise that my circumstances did not define my worth or determine what my life could become. Most importantly, they helped me believe that I had a place in a future I once couldn't imagine myself being part of. Sometimes, we are so focused on helping young people build a future that we forget that some have reached a point where they struggle to believe they will get to experience one.

We must also pay closer attention to those who are too often overlooked. Care-experienced young parents, unaccompanied young people seeking asylum, and those in or leaving custody can face additional barriers, yet their needs are not always reflected in the support available. Our responsibility extends beyond those we already reach. We must go further, listen to those whose experiences are missing and involve them in shaping the support they need.

Finally, young people must have real influence over the decisions, services and funding affecting their lives. Being invited to share a story is one thing; having the power to shape what happens next is another. I don't want us to look back and celebrate how many young people we helped survive leaving care. I want us to be able to say that we helped them discover just how beautiful life could be beyond it. How different could someone's story be because you chose to be part of it? "

The programme so far

3,300+
care leavers supported in Year 2

31 places
in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, including 14 added in Year 2

£2.4m
awarded in total since 2024

£1.2m
awarded in Year 2

695+
grants/bursaries to individuals in Year 2

76%
community foundations reporting improved local authority relationships in Year 2

Connecting Care is a national collaboration co-ordinated by UK Community Foundations (UKCF) and delivered by 31 locally rooted community foundations.

It began in April 2024 with funding from the Local Authorities Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT), a shareholder of CCLA. In its second year, £1.2 million was awarded by 17 community foundations, and more than 3,300 care leavers were supported. The Henry Smith Foundation extended the programme to 2029, adding 14 more places and bringing the total programme value to more than £7 million.

Funding the gaps

Through grants to individuals and organisations, community foundations consistently found and funded gaps in provision and support for care leavers – and at UKCF we mapped them across the country. In this report we highlight solutions that could be shared and scaled.

Collaborating, connecting and amplifying

We brought 80 people together in January 2026 for a half-day conference hosted by CCLA. Every panel included care-experienced speakers, and the keynote was delivered by

Aaliyah Fozol, Trustee at Settle Support, and Josh MacAlister, Minister for Children and Families. Community foundations also held or attended local conferences and events, including in Wiltshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Surrey and Somerset.



Across the country, we have found examples of community foundations connecting employers, local authorities and funders with organisations that support care leavers. 76% of community foundations have found their relationship with the local authority has improved, and none have found it has declined.

Learning

We co-designed and piloted a learning framework organised around four domains we identified in Year 1: wellbeing; education, skills and employment; housing and independent living; and local ecosystems.

Across all four domains, we heard that care leavers and the organisations that support them are building resilience and finding solutions to barriers.

We found that one-to-one relationships are paramount: community foundations and the organisations they fund consistently link solving practical problems, especially travel and housing, to better engagement with education and better wellbeing.

We found that filling the 'travel gap' (travel is not supported consistently in the statutory offer) is vital and one of the most consistently funded practical needs across the cohort.

Caring

Care leavers (such as ambassador Lawrence Lloyd, pictured left) tell us how important support is from someone who knows them and sticks around. Enduring, loving relationships were the key theme of our 2026 Connecting Care conference.

Community foundations have observed the same, often pointing to a mentor or support worker, rather than any particular activity, as the fundamental component of good support.

Learning framework

In year two we trialled a new co-designed learning approach to understand what is happening across places.

It is proportionate, with open questions, narrative answers, opt outs, reporting only what is reasonably known, with no additional reporting burden passed to grantees.

The framework includes a small set of quantitative indicators. It spans three levels:

- care leavers: wellbeing, education, skills and employment, housing and independent living
- community foundations and voluntary organisations: capacity, relationships, local roles
- the wider system: local authorities, local ecosystems, convening and bridge building

Learning hypothesis

If funders provide flexible, place-based funding, community foundations deploy it using local knowledge and relationships – and UKCF provides support, convening, learning spaces and advocacy – over time we expect:

- care leavers to receive more timely, flexible and relevant support
- community foundations to hold stronger relationships with local authorities and voluntary sector partners
- voluntary organisations to build capacity, stability and connectedness
- local care leaver ecosystems to become more mature and more collaborative, stronger evidence to inform policy and shared learning

Four domains for learning

1. Wellbeing

This domain asks how care leavers describe changes in emotional wellbeing, confidence, belonging and connection.

2. Education, skills and employment

This domain asks how participation influences engagement, how grants remove practical barriers and how young people progress where that is known.

3. Housing and independent living

This domain asks about housing stability and the skills of running a home.

4. Place-based insight and systems change

The fourth domain asks how each community foundation collaborates with its local authority, how mature the local ecosystem is, and whether the foundation bridges statutory and voluntary services.

1. Wellbeing

In our findings, most community foundations (88%) have reported improved emotional wellbeing outcomes in their programmes and have evidenced it through narrative and case studies. Where projects used structured measures, the results are striking.

Alabaré, funded by Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation, has recorded average self-rated wellbeing rising from 4 to 9.5 out of 10. The Big House, funded by The London Community Foundation, has recorded a 90% and 80% increase in mental wellbeing and skills and communication respectively. Early intervention is described as pivotal for addressing issues before they become crises.

Relationships

Both Somerset Community Foundation and Cumbria Community Foundation have explicitly linked wellbeing outcomes with the development of consistent, trusting relationships. Cambridgeshire Community Foundation has pointed to longer funding enabling support workers to build relationships gradually, which, in turn, means young people are more willing to engage with their personal adviser. South Yorkshire's Community Foundation has described the importance of young people feeling known, valued and safe.

Whatever the route, when community foundations or funded organisations have explained what produces changes in confidence or belonging, they often name the person/role, not the activity.

> "For the first time, I felt like people actually believed in me."
> Young person supported through work funded by the Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire, in partnership with Staffordshire County Council

Practical stability and emotional wellbeing

The Community Foundations for Lancashire and Merseyside have found that the greatest reported impact of housing grants is on mental health. Norfolk Community Foundation described a young woman with epilepsy whose new carpet removed worry about injury during a seizure.

Young people describe reduced anxiety when a concrete problem is solved, and community foundations describe engagement with wellbeing support becoming possible once the practical problem is out of the way. The link between wellbeing and practical support is a recurring pattern across the year two learning. Cumbria Community Foundation put it directly:

> "Addressing practical barriers alongside emotional wellbeing creates more sustainable outcomes across education, employment and independent living."



Belonging

In Year 2 reporting, isolation has been named as a barrier by more than two thirds of the community foundations.

The Department for Education's (DfE) review of early deaths of care leavers, published in August 2026*, reaches the same conclusion. It examined the 112 deaths of care leavers aged 18 to 24 in 2025, a rate about three to four times that of the general population, with 36% likely dying by suicide.

The first of the authors' three learning themes is 'being alone and readiness for adulthood'.

> "More death notifications were made to DfE for care leavers at age 18 compared to all other ages in the 18 to 24-year-old range, with one fifth occurring at age 18."
>
> Department for Education 2026 report

*Gov.uk: Review of early deaths of care leavers

2. Education, skills and employment

All community foundations have reported funded activity supporting care leavers' engagement with education, training, employment or apprenticeships, and most (88%) describe young people moving closer to or into them.

Bursaries and individual grants

In seven places, grants are made directly to individuals, at least with some of the funding from that place's community foundation. Other community foundations have reported spending entirely through funded organisations – some of which make bursaries themselves.

Where foundations make individual grants, the barriers they remove fall into three categories: transport (bikes, driving lessons, travelcards, etc.), digital (usually hardware, and increasingly met through partnership rather than a grant, such as an in-kind donation or referral), educational (tuition fees, exam fees, retakes, vocational courses). Smaller participation costs were also funded like interview clothing, a DBS check, a haircut.

Progression to education and employment

Hard progression figures are rare in this programme, by design: we do not track young people beyond the period of support. However, some Connecting Care participants have structured their funded work to include this type of tracking. Staffordshire County Council has reported that all participants in its Pathways to Success programme, funded by the Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire, have progressed into their next identified opportunity. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation has funded a group, working with a cohort of 30, which saw 11 young people achieve employment, and a further 11 complete a structured employability programme and begin looking for work.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation has reported that five out of 24 young people in one funded project moved into paid work, volunteering, a university course or completed qualifications. Affinity, funded by South Yorkshire's Community Foundation, has supported eight care leavers, three of whom progressed into full-time post-16 education.

Working with employers

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation co-hosted an event with Swindon Borough Council through which three care leavers found work, supported by Young Swindon and Wiltshire mentors. Partners across Swindon pledged work experience, apprenticeships, mentoring, skills and volunteering.

Somerset Community Foundation has brokered introductions between the council and companies it works with. Work funded by the Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire shows corporate parent acting as an employer itself: Stoke-on-Trent City Council secured guaranteed interviews for care leavers, and four were successful. Cumbria Community Foundation funds employer engagement through Inspira, the employability partner in its Brighter Futures programme.

3. Housing and independent living

As of 30th September 2026, the intentional homelessness test is disapplied for care leavers. Each council's local offer must set out its arrangements for early intervention to prevent care-experienced young people under 25 from becoming homeless.

Settle's approach, outlined in this section, is the kind of preventative model the new local offer requirement invites. Community foundations already hold relationships locally and can share them with councils.

Keeping young people housed

Most community foundations are supporting housing or independent living in some form. Bolstering independence through help with budgeting, cooking or navigating systems has been common practice.

For example, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and Heart of England Community Foundation have both funded cookery sessions, and a Berkshire Community Foundation-funded support worker is helping young people with cooking, bills and budgeting.

Housing stability was supported in two main ways:

Direct material help

Furniture, white goods, flooring and help with rent or utility arrears have been provided, including in kind partnerships, e.g., with local retailers.

Specialist tenancy support

Settle, funded by The London Community Foundation, has supported 36 care-experienced young people in Lambeth. 100% of care leavers have sustained their tenancies 12 months later, 75% of the young people with arrears were able to reduce them, and 93% expressed more confidence in maintaining their tenancy.

In Cambridgeshire, Cornwall and Berkshire, community foundation grants supported care leavers onto the housing register with temporary accommodation, moving them out of eviction risk and from emergency to stable housing, with floating support provided after moving.



Funding the gaps

Across the country, community foundations are filling funding gaps. For example, where the setting-up-home allowance couldn't be claimed, household items that fell outside existing criteria, skills and training where age or accommodations limited eligibility, out of county support, transport and travel.

Two places are working on guarantor models in response to the gap in tenancy support. The Community Foundation for Surrey's partner Rentstart acts as guarantor with private landlords. Another community foundation is in discussion with a local charity about a grant to support rent guarantor insurance.

Young parents and young people who arrived as unaccompanied children

We asked community foundations to tell us about three groups which emerged in Year 1 and are included in local statutory guidance from September 2026. Six of the community foundations described work with young parents and seven with unaccompanied young people, but few had funded work supporting those leaving custody.

Community foundations now have two years of practice with the first two groups, including an independently evaluated model in Herefordshire. Councils could use these models as they consider new approaches, and there's a case for funders to commission for these groups specifically.

Care-experienced young parents

In Swindon, the leaving care team has asked Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation to fund a group for care-experienced parents; the foundation is encouraging a voluntary sector route so the support lasts. Several community foundations have reported young parents' needs crossing every domain at once.

Herefordshire's Baby Steps (pictured below) has supported 24 families since April 2025, 35 parents and 28 children, from 36 referrals. Herefordshire Community Foundation's evaluation cautions that education and employment 'might not reflect their priority at this critical time' for mothers with very young babies, so progression measures need to be read with care for this group. In South Yorkshire, young parents are allowed to bring their children to selected sessions run by Affinity.





Young people who arrive unaccompanied

Community Foundation for Surrey highlights the high level of isolation experienced by young people transitioning out of care, particularly for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, and support that addresses trauma, uncertainty and isolation.

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation was able to fund a wellbeing worker at Alabaré to tailor specialised support for 11 unaccompanied young people.

All care leavers face additional barriers, but unaccompanied and asylum-seeking care leavers face compounding factors.

This is illustrated by an account from Community Foundation for Surrey (CEO pictured above): it awarded emergency funding to support young people affected by a heightened security threat of direct action by far-right activists and local residents. This has been reported as an ongoing issue affecting young people in local authority care, living in houses of multiple occupancy.

Care leavers in or leaving custody

No community foundation described funded work designed specifically for care leavers in or leaving custody. Given what is known about care leavers' over-representation in the justice system, this is something we want to explore further.

4. Place-based insight and systems change

Rural counties

Transport is the barrier rural foundations return to most often, and several have built their model around it.

Somerset Community Foundation's travel bursary includes driving lessons as its largest category at 30% of spend, 'consistently justified by rural isolation and the absence of viable public transport to college or work'. Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation has described Wiltshire as 'a large mainly rural area with limitations around transport and lack of service coverage'. Norfolk's bikes and driving lessons and Cornwall's outreach model have been similarly focused.

Large counties with no specialists

There were four places which reported no (or very few) specialist care leaver organisations despite being large – either geographically or by population.

Herefordshire Community Foundation and Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation have both reported no VCSE organisations that work exclusively with care-experienced people. In both places the local programme is building specialism into general youth and family organisations, through Young Swindon and Wiltshire's mentoring framework and Home-Start Herefordshire's Baby Steps.

In Surrey and in Hampshire and Isle of Wight, both community foundations have described large areas where support for care leavers is unevenly spread, and few organisations specialise in them.

Hampshire has nearly 3,000 care leavers with personal advisers through the county council alone, yet only one specialist community group, largely focused on Portsmouth. In Surrey the voluntary sector is 'not delivering support uniformly across the geography'. 40% of care leavers are placed outside the county, and there is no voluntary sector voice on the corporate parenting board.

Local authority relationships

The community foundations and local authority dynamic is one of the strongest messages of Year 2.

76% of community foundations have reported an improved relationship and none have reported a decline. Community foundations and councils worked together in four main ways: referral routes through personal advisers, joint governance like steering groups with the voluntary sector or local government, shared events and cofounding. (Peers from Liverpool Council and Community Foundations for Lancashire and Merseyside, pictured below)



UK COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

"Getting support for care-experienced young people right is a national challenge, and we all have a role to play.

Although resources often fall short of the level of need, we are starting to see that collaboration across statutory, voluntary and corporate sectors can create opportunities that would not exist in isolation."

Care Leaver Programme Lead, Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation

Bridging and capacity building

11 community foundations have reported on their bridging role between private, public and voluntary sector, three of them significantly (Heart of England, Somerset and Cumbria). Herefordshire Community Foundation has described a critical role in bringing statutory and community organisations together. Nine have reported their ability to build the capacity of local organisations has grown in Year 2. Examples included:

- introducing a housing association – now a programme funder
- connecting Public Health to young people's organisations and council care leaver teams

Asked whether their local care leaver ecosystem was stronger than a year ago, 47% of community foundations said yes and none said it was weaker.

Asked to rate its maturity, four described a very mature or established system; most said it was developing, underdeveloped or not mapped. Community foundations can shift their own relationship with the local authority rapidly – change at the level of the wider system seems to take longer.

What is clear is that community foundations are contributing more than simply grants through their local programmes. They often play a vital connecting role by convening the system, using their connections with local business, noticing gaps across the entire patch, building capacity in place and much more. None of this is currently explicitly resourced, but it is a key component of the work. As a result, we have amended UKCF's programme design practice to explicitly resource this element.



Care leaver voice

At the UKCF Connecting Care conference in January 2026, care leavers shaped the topics, delivered the keynote response and closing remarks and sat on each panel.

Aaliyah Fozol and Lawrence Lloyd – both lived experience ambassadors and connected with organisations funded in the programme, (in London and Cornwall respectively) – co-authored an article on the three things every young person leaving care should be able to count on: stable foundations, professionals who listen and lived experience at the heart of decisions. It featured in Children and Young People Now in February 2026.

Somerset Community Foundation has developed its three priorities through consultation with care leavers. In Herefordshire, Baby Steps is co-produced with young parents. Essex Community Foundation's work at Anglia Ruskin University is being co-produced with care-experienced students. In Swindon, six care-experienced young people helped plan and present a Care Leavers Programme event in February 2026, and Randy (pictured right), a young care-experienced ambassador from Big Leaf Foundation, funded by the Community Foundation for Surrey, spoke and sat on a panel at the UKCF conference.

Elsewhere, feedback has changed what is being delivered.

St Basils, funded by Heart of England Community Foundation, ran its first residential after young people said they wanted more time with peers in similar circumstances.

Smart Works in Croydon, funded by The London Community Foundation, consulted care leavers and has since redesigned its sessions.

Young people are shaping the services, but we haven't yet asked specifically how they are being involved more broadly in making decisions on grant allocations and funding decisions. This is something we will ask in Year 3.



Local learning and evaluation

A number of community foundations undertook local evaluations and learning, including:

Liverpool

The Community Foundations for Lancashire and Merseyside Care Leavers Liverpool Fund report for 2025 to 2026 provides a complete account of its individual grants model. It includes further reporting on the ethnicities of the young people it supports.

Cumbria

Cumbria Community Foundation's Brighter Futures programme includes an independent three-year evaluation by Alterline; its delivery partner Cumbria Youth Alliance uses the ME Tool to track social and emotional progress, with Year 2 data still to come.

Herefordshire

Warwick Business School's evaluation of Baby Steps is an independent academic evaluation.

Its reflections so far are clear about mechanism: that the programme's impact is 'a result of the relational support provided to parents' by the Home-Start team, 'underpinned by the strong housing offer' available to young parents in Herefordshire.

It also identifies a gap in data on care-experienced parents (see the 'Recommendations for policy and local authorities' section).

Surrey

The Community Foundation for Surrey's June 2026 learning event, part of the Power of Us programme, was convened in partnership with Surrey Lieutenancy and the county's VCSE alliance.

The event brought together the county council, Surrey Heartlands integrated care system, housing providers, funders and voluntary organisations.

Shared learning on the day concluded that successful transitions rest on 'stable accommodation, trusted relationships and a strong sense of belonging', reflecting the programme-wide findings.

Essex

Essex Community Foundation is supporting a sector-wide longitudinal tracker, the Higher Education Access Tracker, to follow participants' progression over time with an outreach officer at Anglia Ruskin University.

Wellbeing and progress tools

Across the programme, delivery partners are using at least five different wellbeing and progress measures.

Each is appropriate locally, but none is comparable across places. A resourced cross-cohort evaluation would be a sensible next step if funding allowed.

Recommendations for funders

Keep 'funding the gaps'

Everyday ordinary things that most people take for granted can become impossible for a care leaver who cannot access them through statutory provision. Where there is a lack of specialist providers in the places care leavers already are, fund general providers to skill up.

Resource the relationships not the activity

Wherever possible, fund holistically across both practical and emotional support, and ensure funding covers capacity for mentors, support workers, etc. Young people describe anxiety falling and engagement increasing when a concrete problem is solved, and when they connect with someone who sticks around.

Support key groups explicitly

Care leavers who are parents, who arrived as unaccompanied children seeking asylum or who intersect with the criminal justice system, face compounding barriers and need specific services and approaches.

Invest in infrastructure

Where they exist, fund the specialist and infrastructure bodies.

Resource collaboration

Look at the whole local picture. Work with others to join up provision: local authorities, businesses and community organisations.

Community foundations in two places used their employer and donor links to broker employment opportunities for care leavers. Additional funding could grow this across the programme.

Convening and brokering are part of the cost of doing this well. Attending events, creating steering groups, mapping the statutory provision and gaps: earning a seat at the table costs time and money.

Community foundations are not directly resourced for this element in the programme - they do it using their own time and resources. We have now changed this in our model, and partnerships designed since have included resourcing for this.

Spot and spread local innovation

Particularly where it fills gaps in statutory duty, scaling could be transformative. The rent guarantor models outlined in this report are the kind of solution that can be tested and scaled.

Recommendations for policy and local authorites

Include transport and driving tuition in the care leaver local offer

Ten of the 17 community foundations are funding travel or driving lessons, and several describe it as a gap in statutory support, but they cannot cover the level of need.

This is an area where philanthropy and the state could work together to address a barrier that affects many care leavers, especially in rural areas.

Commission preventative tenancy support

As of 30th September 2026, councils must set out in their care leaver local offer how they will intervene early to prevent care leavers under 25 becoming homeless, and the intentional homelessness test no longer applies to care leavers.

Community foundations can point councils to approaches already running in their areas.



Include care-experienced young parents and unaccompanied young people

Statutory guidance effective from 30th September 2026 says local offers should explain how both groups of young people can access support. It is an opportunity to listen to care leavers, community foundations and specialist voluntary organisations about how to work together.

Warwick Business School's evaluation of Baby Steps in Herefordshire identifies 'the absence of readily available data in relation to the size and demographics of the population of parents and parents-to-be with experience of care', a gap it says is not limited to Herefordshire and requires a national response.

Mapping this data for both groups of care leavers across the UK would be a practical first step.

Work with community foundations and invite collaboration with the voluntary sector

Recognise community foundations as a constant, and a partner, in places where uncertainty and churn can mean that care leavers face inconsistency in local provision. Invite care leavers and the voluntary sector on to corporate parenting boards.

Conclusion

Connecting Care was established with a hypothesis: that community foundations – because they sit outside the statutory system, but are trusted within it – can fund things councils cannot, reach organisations larger funders might not, and convene people who do not otherwise meet.

Together, we can learn across places and build something that lasts.

It is hugely encouraging that relationships with local authorities have improved in most places. It suggests the model works and offers a proof of concept for other thematic approaches. 44% of community foundations have reported that the local eco-system for care leavers has also improved – this slower burn suggests that this work needs a longitudinal approach and funding that matches the pace of change. We have funding into 2029 – ideally, we would take the programme to at least 2034.

Community foundations consistently funded 'in the gaps' of state provision and two transferable models emerged.

Firstly, the provision of ordinary things that statutory duties don't cover; fast, high impact support, for relatively low cost. That is a distinctive contribution and difficult to evidence, because prevention leaves little trace. A tenancy that was maintained, or a job that was kept, does not appear in any dataset.

Secondly, community foundations have found ways to build specialist support in generalist organisations – rooted in place and able to meet care leavers where they are – where no existing specialists/infrastructure are set up. This is a scalable model. A gap remains, potentially, with care leavers in or leaving custody: we will explore this through our community of practice and partnership work in Year 3.

Finally, alongside funding, many community foundations described the positive impact and vital role of convening and brokering. Some of this has drawn in new money, some has changed how organisations work together with no money involved. It provides hope that the relationships built around grants may prove as durable as the grants themselves.

Defining this all is place.

Community foundations respond to what each area needs rather than applying one model everywhere. The report recommendations that are specifically focused on collaboration, innovation and infrastructure, are particularly reliant on deep local knowledge and trust.

Care leavers have been a core partner in this programme, being generous in sharing what they need with us. The task now is to keep funding what's working and keep listening.

Appendix: participating community foundations

Original participating community foundations (17)

- Berkshire Community Foundation
- Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
- Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire
- Community Foundation for Surrey
- Community Foundations for Lancashire and Merseyside
- Cornwall Community Foundation
- Cumbria Community Foundation
- Essex Community Foundation
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation
- Heart of England Community Foundation
- Herefordshire Community Foundation
- Kent Community Foundation
- The London Community Foundation
- Norfolk Community Foundation
- Somerset Community Foundation
- Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation
- South Yorkshire's Community Foundation

Community foundations new to the programme in 2026 (14)

- Community Foundation North East
- Devon Community Foundation
- Oxfordshire Community Foundation
- Cheshire Community Foundation
- Community Foundation Northern Ireland
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation
- Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation
- Community Foundation for Calderdale
- Community Foundation Wales
- East End Community Foundation
- Hertfordshire Community Foundation
- Lincolnshire Community Foundation
- Point North
- Suffolk Community Foundation