

Annual  
Review  
2017



UK COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  

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GIVING FOR LOCAL GOOD

# Introduction

**Community Foundations play a key role in society – a bridge between those who can give and those in need. Over the past year, civil society has continued to face immense challenges with ongoing austerity and the burden on small, local charities increasing. As a result, the role of Community Foundations has never been more important.**

The referendum on the EU in June 2016 showed, amongst other things, that a significant portion of society feels left behind by globalisation, and has a strong sense of disengagement and disillusionment. There is growing recognition, both within government and amongst opinion formers, that empowering and rebuilding communities is crucial to reengage these people and to restore our civil society. Community Foundations are increasingly seen to have a vital role in this area.

Our network of community leaders and convenors is responding to this need by bringing communities together through initiating local projects to address the top issues in their areas, funded by local donors. As the national network for Community Foundations, we run national programmes to address social issues. One example is our New Beginnings Fund, which for the first time brought together several

funders to support refugees and asylum seekers to integrate into their new communities. This shows that as communities evolve, so do Community Foundations.

Over the past year, our network of Community Foundations has got stronger. The aggregate amount of grants made has exceeded £70 million for the first time and our collective endowment has seen significant growth due to new donations and positive market developments. It is now well over £500 million. But we are ambitious to further increase our endowment over the next few years in order to increase our grant making and the impact on communities.

We firmly believe that the potential for even greater levels of local philanthropy is enormous. That is why in our manifesto for the 2017 General Election we called on Government to:

- Strengthen local communities now and in the future by investing funds from dormant assets
- Commit to growing the level of local giving especially in the areas of greatest need
- Recognise that small, local charities rely on grants rather than social investment

We will continue to make these arguments over the coming year and to make the case for Community Foundations. The good news is that we are not alone in making the case. There is a growing movement, particularly in the charity sector, that sees Community Foundations as the solution and agrees with our call for more investment into communities.

Our vision is for a society where local philanthropy will be the norm and through Community Foundations, communities will be able to help all those in need. We know there is still an awful lot to do and we recognise that we are only part of the solution. But as one of the UK's largest grant makers, we believe we are a significant part of the solution. We continually adapt and change in order to stay relevant and meet current needs. And whilst the need is growing, so must we.



**David Sheepshanks** CBE DL  
Chair



**Fabian French**  
Chief Executive

**UK Community Foundations** is the national network for all 46 accredited Community Foundations.

Our vision is a society where local philanthropy is the norm and that through Community Foundations communities will be able to support all those in need.

Giving creates stronger communities. We help make places better for everyone to live, work and grow up in; and then to give back to.

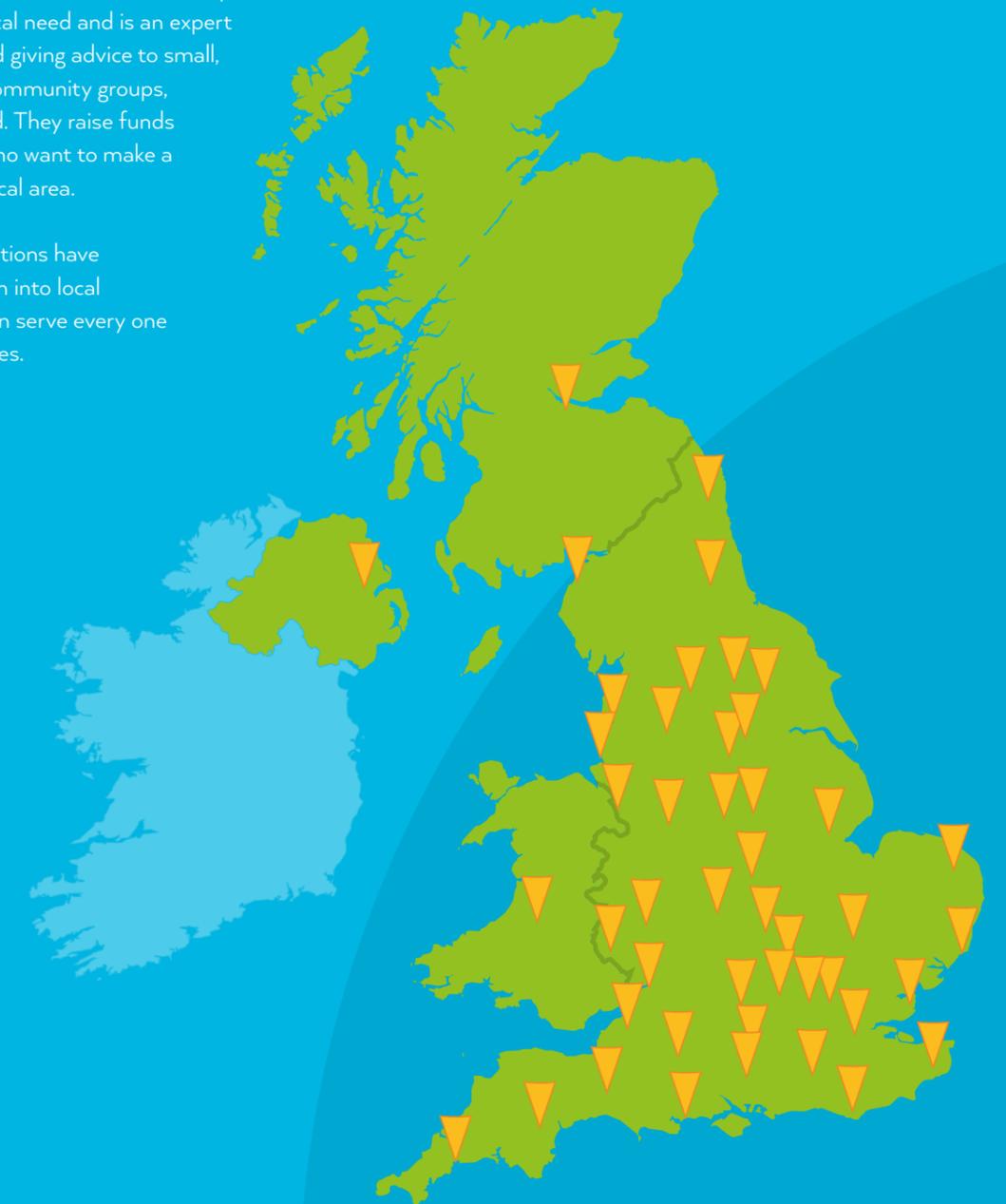
All Community Foundations must pass a rigorous quality accreditation process, based on a series of recommendations made by the Charity Commission and covers areas such as governance and financial management.

# Our Network

Community Foundations are 46 independent charities firmly rooted in local communities. They come together in a UK wide network bound by a common vision of local philanthropy and a purpose to improve local communities.

Each Community Foundation has an in-depth understanding of local need and is an expert in making grants and giving advice to small, local charities and community groups, to address that need. They raise funds from local donors who want to make a difference in their local area.

Community Foundations have an unparalleled reach into local communities and can serve every one of the UK's postcodes.



# How Community Foundations work

1. Anyone can be a donor and give a gift to a Community Foundation
2. Community Foundations work with donors to help them support a cause they are passionate about but to also advise them of the most pressing needs locally. A Community Foundation will give good advice to a donor on how their donation can have the most local impact
3. Community Foundations work with the donor to establish a new endowment fund or to give to an existing fund
4. The donor's gift is pooled with the Community Foundation's endowed assets and is invested carefully. The income from the fund is used to make grants. This way the fund exists in perpetuity, helping to support communities for generations to come. A donor can also choose to set up a flow through fund which means all their money will be used immediately to support the local community

5. Community Foundations distribute grants to all corners of the community, tackling issues such as unemployment, isolation, food poverty as well as arts, culture and the environment
6. Community Foundations support small and local charities by not only giving grants but also by building partnerships and providing knowledge, expertise and community leadership.

Small and local charities are the lifeblood of our communities. They take on the often unnoticed responsibility of looking after people in their communities, preventing loneliness and isolation and promoting community cohesion and togetherness.

Community Foundations are a large funder of these small and local organisations.

They carry out checks on these small local charities so our donors can be confident that they are credible and trusted.



## How Community Foundations work

We are a membership body for 46 accredited CFs

# 46

### We run national programmes

with partners across sectors such as the Government, Comic Relief and Nationwide to support local communities via our network



We raise the profile of the Community Foundation movement and promote local philanthropy



We support our members through sharing best practice, hosting events and conferences and training



### Key highlights

Collectively, Community Foundations are the **fifth largest grant maker** in the UK

We distributed **£77m in grants**

We have a collective endowment of **over £580 million**

Our average grant size is **£3,200**

Last year we **supported 20,000** local charities and community groups

We **manage 3,800 funds** on behalf of individuals, families and businesses

### Issues that we've worked on in 2016/2017

- Countering extremism
- Supporting refugees and asylum seekers
- Youth social action
- Empowering local communities with Comic Relief
- Volunteering and grassroots sport with Spirit of 2012
- Supporting people with chronic health conditions
- Disaster Relief
- Helping elderly people to survive winter

### Top issues that Community Foundations have funded:

1. Health and wellbeing
2. Education, learning and training
3. Poverty and disadvantage
4. Stronger Communities
5. Isolation



# Understanding the needs of our communities

**Understanding the needs in a community is the first step to addressing them.**

Community Foundations measure the social temperature of different communities across the UK to uncover the areas that need the most support through the Vital Signs initiative.

Despite the UK being a relatively affluent country, pockets of deprivation and poverty still exist. In those areas that are perceived to be wealthy, these pockets often get overlooked. Without the support of a Community Foundation these communities wouldn't get the support they need. Each Community Foundation works with local donors to fund projects in their areas to address local need.

UK Community Foundations initiates and coordinates national programmes for donors who want to make a difference across a variety of areas.

Our national donors include businesses, government and other funders.

Over the past year, we have continued to develop new and exciting programmes. These include 'Building a Stronger Britain', designed to counter extremism and '#iwill', designed to inspire young people to become more active citizens.

We have continued to work with long established partners like Comic Relief to invest in stronger communities.



# Countering Extremism

**In Britain, each one of us is free to live the life we choose thanks to shared values that underpin our society: values that include democracy, free speech, mutual respect and opportunity for all. Such freedoms rely on a shared responsibility to respect the rights of others to live as they choose.**

But in recent times we have seen extremists operating at unprecedented pace and scale, seeking to divide communities and cause great harm.

The 'Building a Stronger Britain Together' programme supports civil society and community organisations who work to create more resilient communities, stand up to extremism in all forms and offer vulnerable individuals a positive alternative.

This programme is a partnership between UKCF, the Home Office and MeC Saatchi. Local community organisations were able to bid for grants of over £3million.

Plymouth is a vibrant and thriving city, but like any other, there are also pockets of high levels of deprivation and inequality. In fact, 21% of the city's children and young people are living in poverty. Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are often more likely to become victims of discrimination, hate crime and racism. Lack of access to education, employment and inclusion in society can be a catalyst to drive violent behaviour and extremism.

Amber Initiatives, funded by Devon Community Foundation, via the Building a Stronger Britain programme, provides a range of activities to educate young people about racism and extremism while discussing issues around race, identity, prejudice and intolerance. The activities aim to build a more positive environment where all young people feel equal, empowered to deal with situations and can actively engage in community life.



*"I had problems with my classmates, and have been bullied and faced many stressful situations. This activity empowered me and my parents: we understand better the course of actions how to tackle bullying and hate crime. I feel more confident and supported."*

*A participant*

# Supporting refugees

In 2015 the refugee crisis was making headlines. There had been a dramatic increase in the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers moving across Europe with an estimated 854,000 entering Greece that year alone. In the UK there was a 10% increase in new asylum applications from January to June 2015 and a 46% increase in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children for the same period. The government had also announced the resettlement of 20,000 Syrian refugees across the UK.

The New Beginnings Fund was set up to address the strain that this was putting on UK charities in an effort to increase their capacity to welcome and integrate refugees and asylum seekers into local communities. The fund symbolises a new way of partnership working – coming together to respond jointly on a social issue.

New Beginnings funded some unique projects that would have struggled to get funding from other sources.

With the help of the New Beginnings Fund, London Community Foundation supported the Bike Project, which takes second-hand

bikes, fixes them up and donates them to refugees and asylum seekers.

Transport in London can be expensive. This is especially true for a refugee going through the asylum process. Having fled persecution and atrocity in their country of origin, they live on a very small amount in benefits, and are prevented from finding employment.

London is a city that is rich in opportunities. A bike can help these people reach the many resources that London has to offer: charities that can feed them, lawyers that can aid their application process, home office appointments, healthcare, education and much more. If they are lucky enough to receive status, a bike can help them find employment.

So far, over 20,000 refugees have been helped with a bike.

The Bike Project has given refugees the freedom to travel across London. “It’s like I have new wings,” said Maizer Ramadan, an asylum seeker from Sudan. The Bike Project gives more than just a bike – it’s a lifeline for many vulnerable people.



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# Youth Social Action - #iwill

#iwill is a UK-wide campaign aiming to get 6 out of 10 young people involved in social action by 2020.

Big Lottery Fund and the Department of Culture, Media & Sport have invested £20 million each to the #iwill fund to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities. It is match funded by Comic Relief, the Pears Foundation and UK Community Foundations.

The Youth Social Action Fund supports both traditional social action (e.g. regular youth volunteering at a care home) as well as newer ways to create positive social impact (e.g. a social media campaign by young people promoting positive body image).

Suffolk Community Foundation awarded a grant of £5,000 to help run the Street Reach Project, to encourage youth volunteering in and around Hadleigh, Suffolk.

The project was coordinated by a group of young people, and aimed to support people in need, by helping out with activities such as shopping, gardening, and street cleaning.

One team helped a 90 year old lady who was too elderly to work on her overgrown garden. The team helped weeds, trim, and mow the garden and by the end of the day, the garden was a lot clearer and she could once again see her lovely rose bushes. A seemingly small activity helped improve the lady’s quality of life



# Supporting small and local charities with Royal London

**The Royal London Foundation helps their members support local organisations that make a difference in communities, particularly supporting people with a chronic or long-term condition**

Two weeks after having her first baby Diane had a stroke – she was 28. A ‘banging headache’ turned out to be a brain haemorrhage. “It felt like the end of the world,” said Diane “I was trapped.”

Within a year her marriage ended and Diane had to leave behind the farm and shop she had built up and move into an adapted bungalow. More devastatingly she had to leave her one

year old son behind as she was unable to care for him.

Diane describes coming to Derbyshire Stroke Centre as the event that changed her life. She needed support with communication as she couldn’t read, write or speak. Positive role models from their young stroke survivors helped her be more optimistic. They helped Diane relearn skills to keep her independent. Now she gives one-armed cookery lessons to other stroke survivors.

They supported Diane to have her son stay overnight on her own, and he stays one night a week. This is a huge milestone.



“If it wasn’t here my life would be over, this place has given me a purpose. I loved it from the moment I got here. I now volunteer in the gym, I’m a trustee and I’m responsible for the garden.”

# Disaster relief

**Community Foundations are embedded in local communities and have very strong connections with local charities and community groups.**

This means that when disasters occur, Community Foundations are the ones that people can turn to and rely on for support. Crucially, that support is there not only in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, but also for the long term.

The winter floods in late 2015 to early 2016 impacted the lives of many communities across the UK. A number of Community Foundations were involved in raising money to support their local areas.

Calderdale Community Foundation distributed over £3m in grants to thousands of people affected. This was a combination of emergency assistance as well as longer term

support with replacement white goods, carpets and furniture.

London Community Foundation was heavily involved in supporting victims of the Grenfell fire disaster.

They made multiple payments in the immediate aftermath of the fire to both residents and local community groups. They provided assistance with re-location and replacement of possessions, as well as counselling and mental health support. They continue to support survivors and the wider community and longer term their support is likely to include help with insurance claims, further counselling and community support. This support will be planned in conjunction with a panel of local residents and the priority will be to ensure that the voices of the residents and communities affected by this tragedy are heard.



# Celebrating philanthropy



## Beacon awards

UK Community Foundations manages the Beacon Awards which recognise exceptional philanthropists; those that are changing our world through strategic philanthropy and can inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

The 2017 Beacon Awards were about powering philanthropy. It recognised that philanthropy is more than just giving. For those on the receiving end, philanthropy makes a real and tangible difference to their lives. Whether it's lifting people out of poverty; encouraging disadvantaged people to get back into education; or building community relations, philanthropy is powerful.

## The 2017 winners were announced at a ceremony in May

**James Thomas**

*Beacon Award for Philanthropy*

**Tom Ilube**

*Beacon Award for Innovation*

**Alexander Hoare**

*Beacon Award for City Philanthropy*

**Dame Vivienne Westwood DBE and Cool Earth**

*Beacon Award for an Outstanding Partnership Between a Philanthropy and a Charity*

**Jonathan Ruffer DL**

*Beacon Award for Philanthropy in Arts and Culture*

**Martin Lewis OBE**

*Beacon Trailblazer Award*

**Dato Dr Kim Tan**

*Beacon Award for Impact Investment*

**Dame Kelly Holmes DBE**

*Beacon Award for Philanthropy in Sport*

**Shalni Arora**

*Judges' Special Award*

**Justin Byam Shaw**

*Judges' Special Award*

“Charitable giving is still more of a private pursuit in the UK. People like to give anonymously. We want to give more publicly and show that people like us can make a difference. If someone asks us to put our name on something we are all for it.”

*Peter Wilde*



## Helen and Peter Wilde

*Beacon Award for Local Community Philanthropy*

When Helen and Peter Wilde retired they were able to set up a modest endowment fund within the South West's Quartet Community Foundation, which was bolstered by a small inheritance.

As well as money, the couple give a lot of time and energy to various causes. Helen, who has served as Bristol's High Sheriff for the past year, was a Trustee and chair of Home Start's Bristol branch for more than 10 years. In 2004 she began the first regional chapter of the Funding Network that brings givers together for greater impact. Through the network, they have raised over £250,000 for more than 40 small charities.



## Ben Handford and the Norfolk Future Fund

*Judges' Special Award*

Business owner Ben Handford is founding member of a Norfolk giving collective that is creating a pipeline of younger business-minded donors for the county, helping to make a positive difference to the community in which they live and work. There are 45 members of the Norfolk Future Fund thanks to Ben's enthusiasm and the ambassadorial role he has taken in driving this initiative. Between them, they have given £79,000 to scores of local grassroots organisations since 2014.

The Norfolk Future Fund is the brainchild of Norfolk Community Foundation's Graham Tuttle who is passionate about engaging a new generation of donors. “I believe we have established a window of influence. Thanks to people like Ben, we are shaping people's philanthropy as they go along – starting them on a journey and encouraging a more thriving culture of giving which we hope will inspire them to become the big philanthropists of the future.”

# Community Foundation contact details

**Bedfordshire and Luton  
Community Foundation**  
01234 834930

**Cambridgeshire Community  
Foundation**  
01223 410535

**Essex Community Foundation**  
01245 355947

**Hertfordshire Community  
Foundation**  
01707 251351

**Norfolk Community  
Foundation**  
01603 623958

**Suffolk Community  
Foundation**  
01473 602602

**Foundation Derbyshire**  
01773 514850

**Leicestershire and Rutland  
Community Foundation**  
0116 2624 916

**Lincolnshire  
Community Foundation**  
01529 305825

**Northamptonshire  
Community Foundation**  
01604 230033

**Nottinghamshire  
Community Foundation**  
01623 620202

**Community Foundation Tyne &  
Wear and Northumberland**  
0191 222 0945

**County Durham  
Community Foundation**  
0191 378 6340

**Cheshire Community  
Foundation**  
01606 330607

**Community Foundation for  
Lancashire**  
0151 232 2444

**Community Foundation for  
Merseyside**  
0151 232 2444

**Cumbria Community  
Foundation**  
01900 825760

**Berkshire Community  
Foundation**  
01189 303021

**Buckinghamshire Community  
Foundation**  
01296 330134

**Community Foundation for  
Surrey**  
01483 478092

**Hampshire and the Isle of  
Wight Community Foundation**  
01256 776101

**Kent Community Foundation**  
01303 814500

**Milton Keynes Community  
Foundation**  
01908 690276

**Oxfordshire Community  
Foundation**  
01865 798666

**Sussex Community  
Foundation**  
01273 409440

**Community Foundation for  
Wiltshire and Swindon**  
01380 729284

**Cornwall Community  
Foundation**  
01566 779333

**Devon Community Foundation**  
01884 235887

**Dorset Community  
Foundation**  
01202 670815

**Gloucestershire Community  
Foundation**  
01452 656385

**Quartet Community  
Foundation (Bristol, Bath  
and North East Somerset,  
North Somerset and South  
Gloucestershire)**  
0117 989 7700

**Somerset Community  
Foundation**  
01749 344 949

**Community Foundation  
for Staffordshire**  
01785 339 540

**Heart of England Community  
Foundation (covers  
Coventry, Warwickshire,  
Solihull, Birmingham &  
The Black Country)**  
024 7688 4386

**Herefordshire Community  
Foundation**  
01432 272550

**Worcestershire Community  
Foundation**  
01684 312730

**Community Foundation  
for Calderdale**  
01422 349700

**Community Foundation for  
Wakefield District**  
01924 239181

**Leeds Community Foundation  
(includes Bradford)**  
0113 242 2426

**One Community Foundation  
(the community foundation for  
the people of Kirklees)**  
01484 468397

**South Yorkshire's  
Community Foundation**  
0114 242 4857

**Two Ridings Community  
Foundation (North & East  
Yorks, York & Hull)**  
01904 435277

**East End Community  
Foundation**  
020 7345 4444

**London Community  
Foundation**  
020 7582 5117

**Community Foundation  
in Wales**  
02920 379580

**Foundation Scotland**  
0131 524 0300

**Community Foundation  
for Northern Ireland**  
028 9024 5927

# Board members



**Honorary President  
Baroness Usha Prashar  
CBE**

Baroness Prashar is a Crossbencher in the House of Lords. She is Chair of the Sub-Committee on Lords' Interests, a member of the Privileges Committee and a member of the Joint Committee on Human Rights.



**Chair  
David Sheepshanks CBE**

David was appointed Chairman of UK Community Foundations in April 2013. David has held a number of high profile Board positions in business, sport and charity.



**Vice Chair  
Rob Williamson**

Rob Williamson is currently the Chief Executive of Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, joining in July 2009.



**Vice Chair  
Tom Ward**

Tom is the Chair for Foundation Scotland, a Community Foundation which supports community groups across Scotland.



**Trevor James**

Trevor James has been a Trustee at UK Community Foundations since 2015. He also works as a consultant for the charity sector, advising on aspects of accounting and governance.



**Jane Moss**

Jane Moss joined the UKCF Board in November 2015. She is also a Trustee for Quartet Community Foundation. Her professional background is in law.



**Colin Seccombe**

Colin is a Trustee of Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland. He is also Chair of UKCF's Finance & Investment Committee. Professionally he is a Chartered Accountant.



**Alun Evans**

Alun Evans is currently a Trustee for Community Foundation in Wales. He is also a Director at Quilter Cheviot.



**Stephen Parsons MBE DL**

Stephen Parsons MBE DL has been Chair of various organisations, including Social Enterprise Sub Group of West of England LEP, and Quartet Community Foundation.



**Victoria Miles DL**

Victoria Miles DL has been involved with Community Foundations for a number of years. She is currently the Chief Executive of Northamptonshire Community Foundation.



**Laura Keen**

Laura Keen is currently the Finance Director of Milton Keynes Community Foundation. Her role includes overseeing the Foundation's investments and property portfolio.



**John Nickson**

John Nickson describes himself as a campaigner for philanthropy and charitable giving. He is an experienced fundraiser and donor, and has spent 40 years working in the charitable sector.



**Jan Garrill**

Jan Garrill is currently Chief Executive of Two Ridings Community Foundation, which supports community projects across York, North Yorkshire, Hull, and East Yorkshire.



**Stephen Singleton**

Stephen Singleton is the Chief Executive of Suffolk Community Foundation, a position he has held since 2005.



**Martha Wilkinson**

Martha Wilkinson is the Chief Executive of Devon Community Foundation, a position she has held since 2009.



**Arthur Roberts**

Arthur Roberts is the Chair of Community Foundations for Lancashire and Merseyside.



**Niamh Goggin**

Niamh Goggin is a Trustee for the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

# Our team



**Fabian French**  
Chief Executive



**Dianne Jones**  
Membership Manager



**Victoria Parkinson**  
Admin Officer



**Joseph Fadahunsi**  
Finance Manager



**Jess Luong**  
Communications Officer



**Kiran Ramchandani**  
Director of Communications



**Eleanor Gammie**  
Philanthropy and  
Development Manager



**Lily O'Flynn**  
Senior Programmes Manger

**Sara Weatherby**  
Programmes Officer



**Chris Hughes**  
Director of Finance and Operations



**Vicki Papworth**  
Director of Programmes  
and Development

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