

Our response to community need.
The Community Foundation for Merseyside
**LCR Cares COVID-19 Community
Support Fund Review**

May 2021



#LCRCares

**#LCR
Cares**
METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

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Introduction

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and repeated lockdowns, many people in the Liverpool City Region have been seriously impacted, including losing their source of income, a reduction in earnings, the ability to see loved ones withdrawn, and some having access to vital services significantly reduced.

This report outlines the Liverpool City Region response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the launch of the LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund, including the coordination of corporate donors, public donations and funders such as the National Emergencies Trust. These donations have had a significant impact on addressing social issues arising from the pandemic. The report also highlights how these funds were distributed across the county and across specific theme areas that provided vital help to the local communities that have been affected.

However, the pandemic, and its effects, are not over. Although this work began in March 2020 with an emergency response, we are continuing to deal with ongoing problems that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, such as mental health concerns and digital exclusion. The LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund is now seeking to build support and address these ongoing issues.

The Liverpool City Region response

In response to the pandemic, the Community Foundation for Merseyside launched the LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund in partnership with the LCR Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram.

Through funding from the Metro Mayor, National Emergencies Trust (NET) and a public fundraising campaign and by repurposing existing charitable funds a total of £2,238,630* has been raised for Coronavirus emergency response.

In order to meet the urgent demand, funds raised were distributed within days of the government-imposed national lockdown.

Speed of response in this emergency situation has been crucial. Therefore, the application process was kept to a maximum of seven working days - including administration, assessment and distribution of funds to successful applicants.

LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund – funds raised:

£2,238,630*

This fund has helped: 405,620* beneficiaries

*as of February 2021.

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We need to raise additional funding to continue helping the most vulnerable members of our communities across the Liverpool City Region, and the organisations who support them.



Rae Brooke
CEO, Community Foundation
for Merseyside

“I’ve yet to meet anyone who hasn’t personally felt a detrimental effect of the pandemic but for many in our community it’s been a tremendous struggle. In a matter of months we have seen an increase in job losses, families entering poverty, people’s mental health heavily impacted and a rise in domestic abuse. These are just some of the everyday challenges.

In this unprecedented emergency situation, speed of response is crucial and the LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund played a significant role in helping charitable and community groups across the Liverpool City Region continue to support those who need our help.

Within days of the government implementing lockdown restrictions, working in partnership with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Metro Mayor, we distributed the first emergency grants. The support of the Metro Mayor, National Emergencies Trust, alongside businesses, individual donors and the generosity of the wider public enabled us to go on to raise and distribute £2m. It is testament to the incredible community spirit of our region.

We know that the most vulnerable in our communities are likely to continue to face significant challenges in the coming months and years. Meeting the demand and need for more resources is a real concern and should be for all of us. We can be proud of what’s been achieved so far and look to build on that moving forward.”



Steve Rotheram
Metro Mayor of the
Liverpool City Region

“As the Coronavirus spread throughout the country, community groups across our region leapt into action to do everything they could to help keep their neighbours safe and well. From mental health support and debt advice, to providing food and activities for vulnerable people, they stepped up when their communities needed them.

Many of these organisations are small in scale and often struggle to access finance. Despite the brilliant work they were doing, many risked temporarily or permanently closing without proper financial support.

I was not prepared to let that happen.

That’s why I launched LCR Cares in partnership with the Community Foundation for Merseyside – to help those who were helping their communities through these difficult times.

In less than a day, the fund was established and launched with £200,000 from the Combined Authority. Within a week it was distributing money to those on the frontline. Thanks to the support of the National Emergencies Trust, and many other generous donors, we have raised and distributed £2 million to 400 organisations across the whole city region to help support our communities through this crisis.

As a region, we have always stood together to face tough times in the past. The generosity and community spirit we have seen over the past few months shows that whatever the challenge, we always will.”

What difference did the funding make?

The COVID pandemic has highlighted the importance of the work done by grassroots community groups and local charities, such as food banks, care provision, mental health and wellbeing services, and services for the most vulnerable.

The pandemic also brought greater attention to many social problems, which already existed but were exacerbated by lockdowns and isolation, such as domestic violence and digital exclusion. The speed of response in this emergency situation has been crucial.

The Community Foundation for Merseyside are experts in fund management, strategic targeting of charitable funds and grant assessment. The CFM team have over 70 years of combined knowledge of the Merseyside community, and experience in the management, assessment, and distribution of charitable funds. During the pandemic, this has allowed us to respond quickly and to ensure the grant funding was distributed to those working on the front line, helping the most vulnerable affected by COVID-19.



What were the main issues?

In March 2020, 'LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund' was launched in direct response to the impact felt within local communities in the following areas:

Food poverty and insecurity

Mental health and wellbeing

Service provision to the most vulnerable

Unemployment and loss of income

Two other factors were quickly identified once the fund began to be distributed and the impact of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns continued:

Domestic abuse

Digital exclusion

The Community Foundation for Merseyside's response to these issues demonstrates the significant impact which has been made in addressing them from March 2020 to February 2021. This impact was made possible through CFM's coordination and management of donations from local and national funders, existing donors, and public donations.



What were the priorities for the LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund?

In an emergency situation, the ability to be agile and respond quickly to ever-changing circumstances is vital to ensure funds are distributed as, when and where they are needed. The priority was to support local voluntary and community organisations who were best placed to help vulnerable people impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, and focused on the following criteria:

Emergency food provision

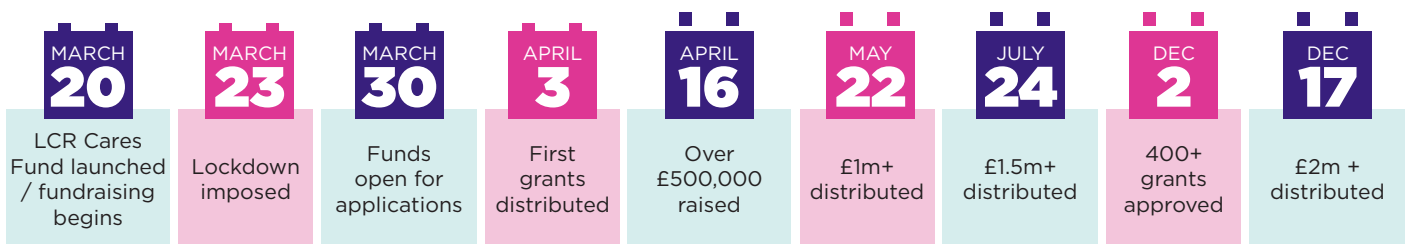
Emotional and mental health wellbeing

Digital inclusion, tackling the lack of internet access

Delivery of services supporting the most vulnerable

Financial inclusion, support to access benefits and debt advice

Speed of response



Where did the money go?

Since launching the Fund in March 2020 it has distributed over

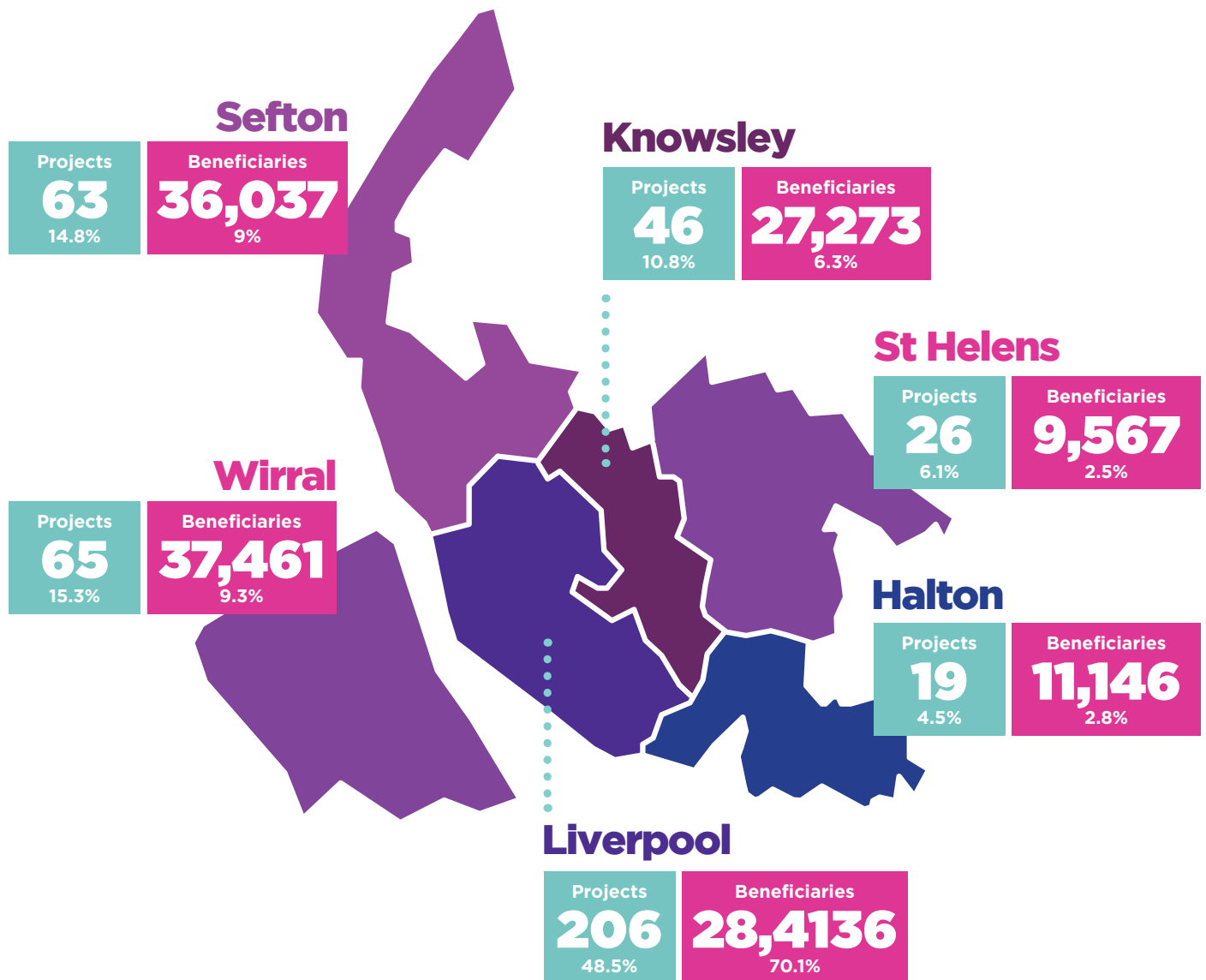
£2,094,766

(as of February 2021)

Every Liverpool City Region local authority area has received funding.

Funding is granted based on the assessment of meeting the requisite eligibility criteria and is a result of the applications being received by the Community Foundation for Merseyside.

We have worked extremely hard to ensure a fair and diverse spread of funding across the county, promoting the fund and actively seeking applications from areas that need it most.

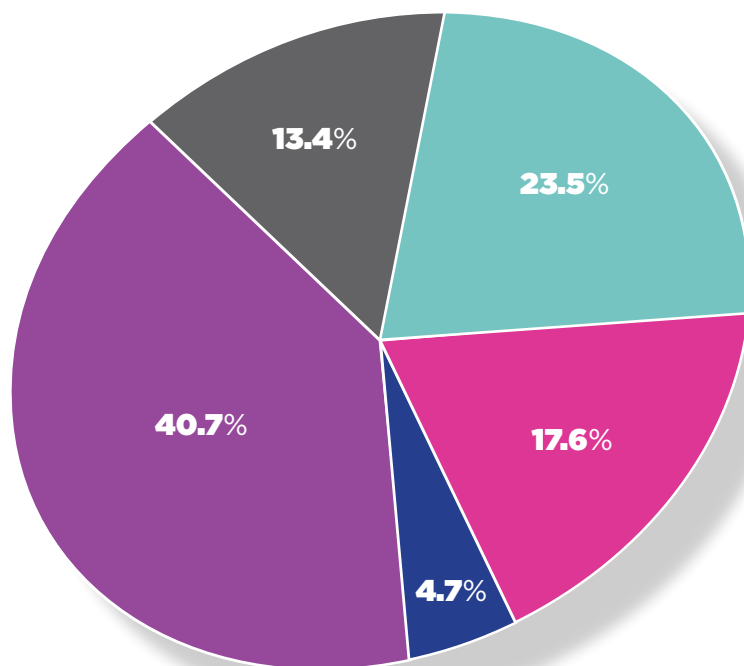


Theme	Value of grants	Number of grants	% of total grants awarded
Food & Care Package Support	£833,985	173	40.7
Mental Health	£477,812	100	23.5
Social Isolation	£371,945	75	17.6
Other*	£293,228	57	13.4
Financial Inclusion / Advice	£117,795	20	4.7

*Other includes projects relating to digital inclusion, domestic abuse and crime prevention, homelessness, physical health (including PPE) and organisational development grants

The percentage breakdown of the total grants awarded

- Mental Health
- Social isolation
- Financial Inclusion / Advice
- Food & Care Package Support
- Other



Number of beneficiaries and projects supported

Emergency funding has helped over a third of a million people (405,620 beneficiaries*)

Categories of primary and second beneficiaries	Number of Projects
	425
People living in poverty	338
People with mental health issues	334
Families & Parents	312
Older People	277
Children and young people	261
Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME)	170

*as of February 2021

**please note some community groups support more than one beneficiary type per project. Therefore projects can be listed in more than one beneficiary category.

Observations

During the pandemic we've seen:

A significant impact on people's mental health & wellbeing

What was the national picture? More than two-thirds of adults in the UK (69%) reported feeling somewhat or very worried about the effect COVID-19 is having on their life, and the Institute of Fiscal Studies found that mental health has worsened substantially by 8.1% on average. (The Health Foundation, June 2020)

More than half of adults and over two thirds of young people said that their mental health has become worse during the period of lockdown restrictions. (Mind, March 2021)

How did this translate locally? Through project applications and funding, CFM has seen a dramatic increase in need for mental health and emotional wellbeing services. During the crisis, there have been an increase in a range of issues affecting local communities mental health including grief, isolation and anxiety.

An increase in domestic abuse

What was the national picture? The National Domestic Abuse helpline has seen a 25% increase in calls and online requests for help since the lockdown (BBC News, April 2020) Refuge says it recorded an average of 13,162 calls and messages to its National Domestic Abuse helpline every month between April 2020 and February 2021. (BBC News, March 2021)

How did this translate locally? Between April and November 2020 Merseyside Police says it saw a 10% increase in reports of domestic abuse - equating to 18,782 victims.

An increase in the need for services

What was the national picture? 43% of charities reported an increase in demand for their services but a 48% decline in voluntary income (Institute of Fundraising, March 2020)

How did this translate locally? During the crisis, delivery of services has been dramatically disrupted and affected by the lockdown. This has impacted on the most vulnerable acutely. Many people during the crisis have needed to shield and isolate, unable to leave their own homes, without care networks and as a result were not able to access food, medicines, and activities that supported their physical and mental wellbeing. This has forced charities and groups to provide additional services at the same time as decreasing income.

An increase in job losses and unemployment

What was the national picture? In April, the number of unemployment claims increased by the highest monthly rise on record to nearly 2.1 million. (Telegraph, June 2020) From November - January the unemployment rate was 5% the highest figure for five years. (BBC News, March 2021)



How did this translate locally? In May 2020 it was reported that unemployment on Merseyside had reached highest level in 23 years, with an extra 24,000 people claiming unemployment benefits the previous month. (Office for National Statistics, May 2020)

An increase in families entering poverty

What was the national picture? Early in the crisis, the Independent Food Aid Network, (IFAN) which has around 350 food banks, saw a 175% increase in requests for emergency parcels, by May 2020. (Independent, June 2020) This has continued. IFAN members show an 88% increase in 2021, from the previous year, and the Trussell Trust reports a 47% increase across its network. (Human Rights Watch, February 2021)

How did this translate locally? Emergency food provision for people facing food poverty and food insecurity has intensified during the crisis. Almost 40% of all the projects funded by the LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund have been for emergency food provision provided by local groups within communities.

An increase in newly established pop-up groups

What was the national picture? Since the outbreak of COVID-19, communities have sprung into action. Groups in local areas have been organised to support people in need. There are now over 2,000 groups listed on the Mutual Aid website which have been established during the pandemic. (Public Health England, June 2020)

How did this translate locally? CFM has seen a dramatic rise in newly created groups applying for funding since the start of the pandemic. Many of these groups are in response to new areas of need in local areas such as food-banks, mask creation, care activity creation and distribution.

An increase in Digital Exclusion

What was the national picture? UK Consumer

Digital Index from Lloyds Bank shows: that 11.9m people (22% of the population) do not have the digital skills needed for everyday life in the UK. By 2030 it is predicted that 4.5m people (8% of the population) will remain digitally disengaged and people with a disability are 35% less likely to have essential digital skills for life. (NHS Digital, March 2020) A University of Cambridge study (March 2021) found that COVID-19 will “make the impacts of digital exclusion worse for the millions of people affected, and the poorest will be hit the hardest.”

How did this translate locally? The pandemic has revealed the extent of inequality regarding digital and online capabilities for many families across the county. This has had a particular impact on Education, Home-working and Social isolation. CFM has seen a significant rise in demand for funding for projects requiring digital access across the county particularly for young people having to study from home and older people who are socially isolated.

An increase in families facing financial difficulties

What was the national picture? The Office for National Statistics report (January 2021) shows the increase of financial difficulties facing families. “By December 2020, nearly 9 million people had to borrow more money because of the coronavirus pandemic; the proportion borrowing £1,000 or more also increased from 35% to 45% since June 2020. Throughout the pandemic, employed parents were almost twice as likely to report a reduction in income than the general employed population. Self-employed people were more likely to report reduced working hours and reduced income, even if they had received support from the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS).”

How did this translate locally? The economic uncertainty, hardship, and rising unemployment has created increased pressure on those facing financial difficulties in Merseyside. Funding projects for debt advice, money guidance and supports for accessing benefits reflects the national trend.

The disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on BAME communities

What was the national picture? Public Health England's report (2020) found that COVID-19 does not affect all population groups equally and shows that there is an association between belonging to some ethnic groups and the likelihood of testing positive and dying with COVID-19. "The highest age standardised diagnosis rates of COVID-19 per 100,000 population were in people of Black ethnic groups (486 in females and 649 in males) and the lowest were in people of White ethnic groups (220 in females and 224 in males). An analysis of survival among confirmed COVID-19 cases showed that, after accounting for the effect of sex, age, deprivation and

region, people of Bangladeshi ethnicity had around twice the risk of death when compared to people of White British ethnicity. People of Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Other Asian, Caribbean and Other Black ethnicity had between 10 and 50% higher risk of death when compared to White British".

How did this translate locally? The Community Foundation for Merseyside has seen a significant rise and impact in funding projects for ethnic minorities for whom COVID-19 was particularly affecting. Alongside positive testing and mortality were interlinked social issues which drastically impacted upon communities such as language barriers, access to information and increases in mental health concerns particularly anxiety and isolation.



What did the community say about the support we provided

“The Somali Women’s Group would like to say a massive thank you to the Community Foundation for Merseyside for funding our community support programme [to provide hot meals, collect pharmacy prescriptions and socially-distanced household chores for vulnerable, elderly residents]. It has been crucial in helping us to support members of the Somali and BME communities in the L8 area of Liverpool during the pandemic and beyond. The provision and continuation of this service would not have been possible without this vital funding and we can’t thank you enough for that.”

Hibaq Mohamed, Chair of The Somali Women’s Group

“Thanks to the LCR Cares Fund, we have been able to continue, during the COVID-19 pandemic, to support [the mental health of] some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. Using technology such as Zoom calls we have been able to ensure people who are already socially isolated don’t fall between the cracks and that’s been a real lifeline for lots and lots of people. On behalf of myself, my colleagues and all the people that have been supported, thank you from all of us. We really appreciate your help.”

Charlie McDonald, Programmes Manager for Transform Lives Company

“The work that the Community Foundation for Merseyside runs enables small groups like ours to provide programmes like this one [funded via LCR Cares to provide support around food poverty in vulnerable families]. That makes massive changes to people’s lives who do not always fit the criteria for generic types of support. The Community Foundation has been vital to the growth of Autism Adventures and we are sincerely grateful for all the help we have received.”

Julie Simpson, Director of Liverpool Autism Adventures

“I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thankyou so much for the funding from the LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund [to provide maternity service mental health and wellbeing support from counsellors]. The funding has made a significant difference to the lives of the people we have impacted, that it has been used and utilised with real purpose and allowed us to support people in the way they need. It has allowed us the time to identify real need and meet real needs in the community we serve and we are truly grateful.”

Carolyn Whitehead, Founder of Beautiful New Beginnings

“The funding we applied to the Community Foundation for [to fund tele-befriending, shopping service, emergency food provision and children’s lunches] came through very quickly – quicker than we thought, in fact – and the application process was straightforward. Our organisation is mainly made up of volunteers and the grant has really taken the pressure off, enabling us to accept new referrals and expand out to other areas where facilities have been forced to close due to the pandemic.”

Tom Murphy, Development Manager for Kensington Fields Community Association (KFCA)

Food & Care Package Support - types of projects funded:

In addition to people struggling with food poverty, many people during the crisis have needed to shield and isolate, unable to leave their own homes, without care networks and as a result were not able to access food, medicines, and activities which supported their physical and mental wellbeing.

Liverpool YMCA's main objective is to support single people who present as homeless in the City of Liverpool

#LCRCares provided a grant for ingredients for food packages and running costs with support focused on the homeless (estimated 230 beneficiaries)

Ellie McNeil, Chief Executive of Liverpool YMCA: "The fast response we received from the Community Foundation after applying for a grant was really impressive. When you are in the middle of a crisis, like the Coronavirus pandemic, you need things to operate quickly.

"Previous to the lockdown, we had no provisions in place to deliver food to people living in our services so we needed to set everything up very quickly. We're so grateful to have received funding to support people using our services, helping them to stay healthy and stay inside."



Sefton-based charity, the **Congolese Association of Merseyside** supports the needs of Congolese and wider African French-speaking arrivals to the Liverpool City Region

#LCRCares provided a grant for the emergency deliveries of food and other essential items to vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and non-English speaking migrants

Petronelle Moanda, Operations Manager: "The LCR Cares Fund has been hugely beneficial to us. We are working with migrants that often do not speak much English and have different cultures - this pandemic and the lockdown has really affected their day-to-day lives. We have been contacted by families who have run out of gas and electricity has gone, as well as others who have not been able to access medicine and first aid.

"The grant we received has helped us to get out and about and provide emergency food supplies and other essentials to those who feel isolated and may be in distress."



Transform Widnes is a community organisation that ordinarily runs courses and activities throughout the week for the town's community, including a full children's programme

#LCRCares provided funding to be spent on resourcing families in Widnes most in need with equipment to help their children learn at home, as well as craft supplies to give them a creative outlet and complete projects set by school

Aimee Papworth, Children's and Youth Work Coordinator said: "We are so thankful to receive a grant from the LCR Cares Fund. At Transform Widnes at St John's Church, we will now be able to reach out to 500 children in Widnes, resourcing them with packs to help them do school work as well as arts and crafts at home.

"This would not be possible without the grant, so thank you so much for the support in this challenging time, it will really make a difference to these families."

The Florence Institute, or "Florrie" as it is locally known, is a community-led social, educational and fitness hub dedicated to the people of south Liverpool

#LCRCares provided funding to enable The Florence Institute to deliver 90 care packages per week including food, cleaning products, prescriptions and other essentials. Costs covered PPE and volunteers' expenses

The Florence Institute: "Our Florrie family is grateful for the wise decisions you made early on to offer us support during the COVID-19 crisis. This has enabled us to sustain our daily operations and produce vital services to our community.

"The worst of times has brought out the best in our communities. Right now the Florrie faces new challenges and as we adapt we will continue to serve our community as best as we can.

"The COVID-19 crisis has changed all our daily lives and how we work. However, it hasn't changed who we are and as we prepare to open our doors again we want you to know that the health and wellbeing of our community will always be at the heart of everything we do.

"We could not have survived the last few months without you."

Anne London, CEO of The Florence Institute



Mental Health & Wellbeing - types of projects funded:

Mental health and emotional wellbeing have been hugely impacted during the crisis, with an increase in a range of issues including grief, isolation and anxiety.

Wirral-based **The Martin Gallier Project** is an organisation committed to preventing suicides, breaking down stigmas and supporting bereaved families

#LCRCares provided a grant to enable Gallier House to keep its centre running to conduct suicide interventions and offer immediate bereavement support where needed

Chief Executive Jessica Gallier: “Coronavirus came at a time when we were relying completely on our fundraising for support. We had a grand ball scheduled, two big music events that were being arranged for us, there were marathons and things happening and that was what was going to fund our core costs and keep our doors open until we got to apply for the next funding pot.

“Of course, all of those things had to be cancelled due to the social distancing rules and the changes around big gatherings, so we lost about £20,000 that we were expecting to help us overnight. Without that, we had enough to keep going for maybe a couple of weeks. We were facing having to fold the charity completely.

“Funds like LCR Cares are invaluable. It has enabled us to keep our staff on and keep the service running. We wouldn’t have been able to do any of this without the funding that came in and the fact that everything has moved so quickly and we haven’t had to wait a long time for the funding to arrive has meant that we could take action straight away. In our first year we have prevented 400 suicides and it’s amazing that we can continue during these challenging times.”

Knowsley-based charity **Listening Ear** provide therapeutic counselling and support services for those affected by bereavements

#LCRCares provided a grant to enable Listening Ear to provide remote counselling for vulnerable community member, including running costs to adapt the services to the pandemic

Chief Executive Richard Brown: “Coronavirus meant we had to start doing things differently and with the government advice changing so quickly, we started to plan ahead. We relocated the whole agency to work from home which meant our admin staff could still process the thousands of applications we get every year for counselling, and our counsellors could continue to carry out their work.

“It has been difficult closing our office where we do a lot of creative counselling through play therapy with children. It is hard for them to understand why they can’t go there. A lot of these children come from a domestic abuse background, if they’re over the age of 11 then we can offer them telephone counselling and if they’re younger, we’ve been trying to work with the parent or carer.

“The Fund has enabled us to buy a lot of equipment very quickly to put this set up in place and we’ve also had to replace supervised students with other staff so it’s helped us with costs there. We’re still finding unforeseen costs in this situation but the LCR Cares funding has certainly helped us move to a new way of working.”



Digital Inclusion, tackling the lack of internet access - types of projects funded:

The pandemic has revealed the extent of inequality regarding digital and online capabilities for many families across the county. This has had a particular impact on education, work and social isolation.

The **VOLA** Consortium consists of voluntary, community and social enterprise service providers operating in the Liverpool City Region. Managed by Waterloo-based VOLA, the consortium applied for LCR Cares funding to enable 10 front-line delivery partners to run a 'Get Yourself Online' project targeting vulnerable communities lacking access to digital equipment and WIFI.

#LCRCares funding has equipped nearly 600 people across 320 households with a tablet and a three-month SIM card, helping in the following ways: Access to online public services & health advice; Food shopping & pharmacy supplies; Connecting with family & friends; Virtual learning and home schooling; Online safety & financial awareness.

Stuart McGrory, Project Lead for VOLA, said: "The initiative has provided a welcome opportunity in such a time of crisis to provide a meaningful, effective and timely response to the needs of our marginalised local residents and partner agencies alike. It has proven to be a shining example of what the voluntary sector can produce and achieve through collaboration in terms of locally-devised solutions to serious social issues.

Case Study:

Helen Grimes, 57, from Kirkdale, Liverpool, has lived alone for the past five years after her daughter moved out. She has several long-term health conditions that prohibit her from leaving the house on a daily basis and from working. "I was given a brand new tablet with three months internet access and telephone support to set it up. They taught me how to use the tablet for internet, communicating with my family and social media.

This has improved my mental health as I can communicate with the outside world. It has taught me how to use the internet safely. I can book supermarket deliveries where, at the beginning of lockdown, I was relying on others to drop off shopping at my front door. I can read online with the free books so this has become another way of filling my days and I have also been taught how to find and watch sewing tutorials so that I can learn new skills. I can only say this [project] has been amazing – it has given me things to do, ways to learn new things, ways to 'see' my daughter when I have been shielding."



Delivery of services supporting the most vulnerable - types of projects funded:

During the crisis, delivery of services has been dramatically disrupted and affected by the lockdown. This has impacted on the most vulnerable acutely.

Toxteth-based **4Wings**' aim is to provide a welcoming, safe, and non-judgemental space to marginalised and vulnerable women from diverse backgrounds

#LCRCares funding was provided to support the physical and mental wellbeing of current service users by providing yoga and fitness sessions, which included Zoom licence costs, the rent of yoga mats and operational costs to adapt to the pandemic

Director Marie-Claire Uwera: "The funding we received from LCR Cares has enabled us to provide virtual yoga and fitness sessions for people who use our services – many of whom are asylum seekers and many of whom are struggling with their mental health during this pandemic.

"We have had amazing feedback with people saying they are really experiencing the benefits of being able to do regular and structured exercise whilst still at home. We're incredibly grateful for the impact the grant has had during these challenging times."



Sew Halton is a social enterprise focused on marginalised groups that trades to tackle social problems using machine-sewing, textile craft and upcycling as a platform to increase skills and improve health and wellbeing via training workshops and sewing confidence courses.

#LCRCares provided funding for Sew Halton to run online sewing courses and deliver sewing materials to provide an activity and enable social connection and reduce social isolation during the lockdown

Founder Victoria Begg: "Working with mostly long-term unemployed people, Sew Halton offers free sewing lessons to the community and a safe environment for people to engage with others while building up skills. During lockdown, the group has become involved with making much needed scrubs for medical staff and carers working on the front line. We were just going to do it with a small amount of people who liked sewing and it just went crazy! We've had to take on someone to do the admin now and it's grown to a group of 75 people.



"The LCR Cares funding is allowing us to not only get more fabric – we've had a lot donated – but also to be able to move our sewing classes online so we can continue to provide lessons and remain an emotional support for people in difficult situations during lockdown and beyond. For some people this online connection with us is their only outlet, their only contact with the outside world and breaking down social isolation is a big part of what we're doing.

"It's so important to be able to stay in contact with the women who have been involved in our sewing classes. It's not just about sewing, it's about emotional support and positive mental health during these difficult times."

Financial Inclusion, support to access benefits and debt advice - types of projects funded:

The economic uncertainty, hardship, and rising unemployment has created increased pressure on those facing financial difficulties.

Liverpool Community Advice

provide free, independent, non-judgemental and confidential advice and representation to approximately 14,000 clients per year

#LCRCares provided funding to enable Liverpool Community Advice to run an out of hours service

Manager Kristian Khan: “We are well aware of the long-term financial impact the Coronavirus is going to have on some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We know that many people are incredibly concerned about their finances.

Funding provided by the LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Support Fund significantly helps us during these challenging times, allowing us to provide financial and debt advice – including an out of hours service for key workers.”



St Helens Citizens Advice Bureau

provide free, independent, confidential and impartial advice on money, benefits, housing or employment problems

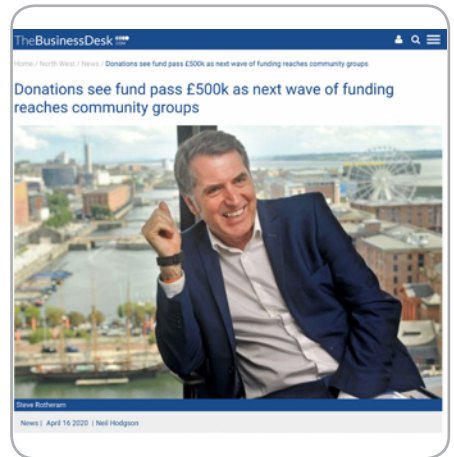
#LCRCares provided funding to support their response rate during increased levels of enquiries during the pandemic, helping the CAB secure investment for urgently needed laptops and mobile phones

Karl Pearce, CEO of St Helens CAB: “Demand for our services has gone through the roof and we have transitioned to web chat, along with our telephone service, working in partnership with St Helens Council to ensure we reach the most vulnerable. The main enquiries we are receiving are people experiencing benefits issues and facing employment concerns. We anticipate that those issues will increase as furlough schemes expire.”



“We are grateful to the LCR Cares Fund to enable us to have the necessary tools to support those who need it the most.”

Examples of social media posts demonstrating the impact of LCR Cares funding



Who we are

The Community Foundation for Merseyside (CFM) provides advice and professional support to individuals, families, and businesses looking to maximise the impact their charitable giving has at a local level. We help individuals and organisations give to causes that matter to them by managing funds. The managed funds address areas where there is the greatest need and how it will have the greatest impact, especially in local communities.

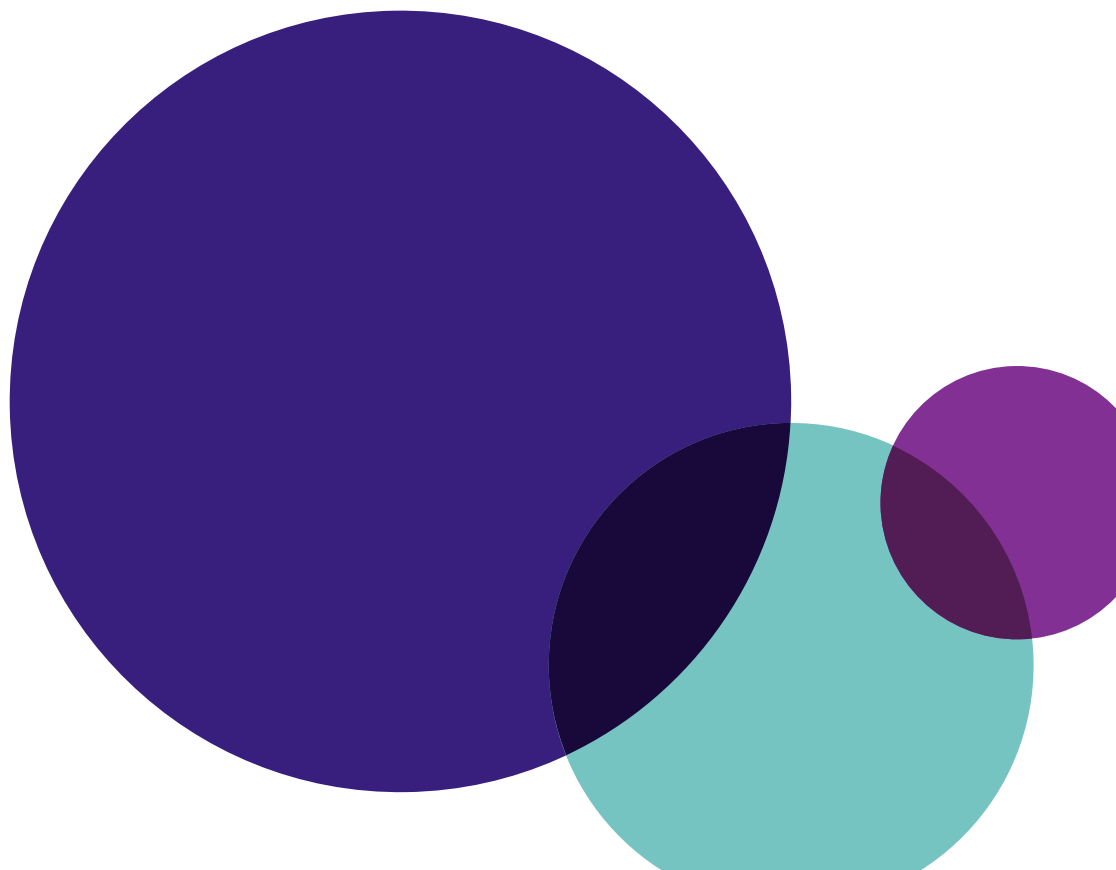
As a registered charity (1068887), established in 1999, the Community Foundation for Merseyside has distributed over £44 million to community groups, organisations, and projects across the county. CFM has a team of experienced and expert staff who offer a bespoke service to each of our donors, spending time understanding their charitable aims and then offering advice to direct their giving.

Our due diligence support and grant assessment services makes charitable giving tax-efficient, robust and easy. Reputational management and demonstrating the impact of philanthropic funds is at the core of what we do.

We specialise in supporting small, grassroots charities, and community organisations who deliver critical and specialist support to the most vulnerable in our communities. Often these groups are less publicly well-known and therefore traditionally less well-funded even though they provide an invaluable service.

CFM is part of a network of 46 Community Foundations in the UK and over 1,800 worldwide, which are creating social change and improving people's quality of life. Each Community Foundation is a charity in its own right, responding to a specific geography.

We are the Community Foundation for Merseyside.



CALL TO ACTION

We are at a point where emergency funding will cease; the sustainability of groups and charities is in question. How to meet the demand for more resource is a concern and should be for any key stakeholder in the community, including public sector organisations, businesses and any individual in a position to offer resources and support.

The purpose of this document is to give not just a snapshot of our response to the pandemic but a call to action to continue support for the medium to long-term.



The **Community Foundation for Merseyside** (CFM) helps individuals and organisations give to causes that matter to them, where there is most need and where it will have the greatest impact through bespoke research and local knowledge.

The Community Foundation for Merseyside was established 22 years ago, and since it has distributed in excess of £44 million to the local community, supporting hundreds of groups and thousands of people

If you would like to find out how you can get involved, contact:

Rae Brooke CEO - 07515 328162 | rae.brooke@cflm.email

Karen Morris Development Director - 07973 409 858 | karen.morris@cflm.email



**LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION
COMBINED AUTHORITY**

**METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION**

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

At the Combined Authority, our aim is to ensure that everyone benefits from the decisions we make. We want to create an environment which allows our economy to thrive for the good of everyone who lives and works in Liverpool City Region.

We work together to make investments in areas that have a real impact on our communities, such as transport, employment, culture, digital and housing. By using the devolved powers we have, we can make a real and meaningful difference to the lives of the people living and working in the area. The Combined Authority is led by Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram and brings together Liverpool City Region's six local authorities – Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral – to tackle the big issues that matter to us all, together.