

COVID-19: One Year On MARCH 2021



County Durham
Community Foundation

1. Introduction

The Foundation's Covid-19 Community Response appeal launched at the beginning of March 2020, and thanks to overwhelming local support we were able to start getting funds out to charities and community projects immediately. With established charities under pressure, a surge of volunteer-led effort ensured that vulnerable people across the county were able to access help with supplies of food, medicine, and other essentials to help them stay safe and well during lockdown. A significant number of our existing fundholders contributed to our Covid-19 Sustainability Fund, alongside donations from national and government funding as well donations from individuals from our local communities. This report covers the statistical data from grants made up until the end of March 2021.

2. Summary

More than **£ 1,888,936 of Covid-19 funding has been awarded to 411 projects with almost 310,000 beneficiaries**. This comprised small grants of up to £5,000 to provide essential services and activities, and larger grants up to £30,000 to help hub organisations transition or diversify to support a broader demographic or provide alternative means of support.

- Small grants of up to £5,000 to 361 community projects ensured that this urgent grassroots action could get underway without delay, providing vital breathing space while systems were put in place to identify and support the most vulnerable.
- Larger grants of between £6,000 and £30,000 to 50 community projects were awarded to help them to transition, develop or sustain their services.

3. Where did the Covid-19 funding reach?

3.1 Geographical reach

67% of funding was allocated to wards that are the most deprived 30% nationally

<i>Area</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>% of Fund</i>
<i>Tees Valley</i>	£ 1,062,928	56
<i>Durham</i>	£ 780,158	41
<i>Tyne & Wear</i>	£ 27,750	2
<i>Yorkshire</i>	£ 12,500	1
<i>South Scotland</i>	£ 5,600	<1

“Left behind areas”: 7 of the top 10 ‘left behind’^[1] neighbourhoods with the highest mortality rates from Covid-19 are located in North East England: in Sunderland, Middlesbrough and County Durham

- There are 34 wards in County Durham and Tees Valley classified as ‘left behind’; 24 of those wards received over £250,000 in Covid-19 relief funding
- Of the 309,900 beneficiaries, more than 250,000 people were from left behind areas
- Unemployment has risen sharply, with ‘left behind’ neighbourhoods experiencing a faster rise in unemployment than elsewhere in the country. More than 31,000 people without work received advice from Covid-19-funded organisations

<https://localtrust.org.uk/policy/left-behind-neighbourhoods/>

3.2 Diversity

20% of overall funding (£383,850) was diversity-specific and provided grants to deliver services to particular communities who faced exclusion or isolation caused by inequality, for example services to people of colour who might be isolated or more at risk from Covid-19¹, or projects to support people put at risk because of the lockdown i.e. those at risk of domestic violence².

Diversity issue	Amount Awarded	% of Fund awarded
<i>Projects and services supporting disability</i>	£ 193,505	50
<i>Projects and services supporting women</i>	£ 83,057	22
<i>Projects and services supporting BAME</i>	£104,675	27
<i>Projects and services supporting LGBTQ+</i>	£ 2,613	1

During lockdown, the number of women killed by their partners in the UK rose from 2 a week to 5 a week. Through our Covid-19 funding, almost £68,000 has been directed at helping more than 2300 victims of domestic abuse in County Durham and Tees Valley.

3.3 Themes

All awards were made under a Covid-19 theme, based on the activity involved and the proposed issue.

- **17% of funding was used to bridge the digital divide and keep people well and connected**, which covered the provision of hardware and infrastructure to improve accessibility, as well online services and training and maintaining personal connectivity with potentially isolated people.
- **£ 553,514 provided practical support** for isolated, vulnerable people such as the provision of food, health, care, and activity packs, or picking up of prescriptions and other delivery support services.

¹ <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/emerging-findings-on-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-black-and-min>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseduringthecoronaviruscovid19pandemicenglandandwales/november2020>

Covid-19 Theme	Amount	Beneficiaries
<i>Practical support for isolated, vulnerable people</i>	£804,139	157278
<i>Supporting groups to adapt their service</i>	£474,454	76992
<i>Loneliness, mental health & wellbeing</i>	£294,086	45748
<i>Keeping well and connected</i>	£201,198	14600
<i>Bridging the digital divide</i>	£115,059	15284

- £127,000 helped keep the lights on and the doors open for 22 centres, which provided services and support to almost 26,000 people
- Almost one third of organisations that received funding was managed by 1 staff member or by volunteers.
- £265,401 was awarded to 63 projects to tackle food poverty with the distribution of food, food parcels, and hot meals:
 - An estimated 17,690 food parcels (including hot meals) have been provided³ that have benefited almost 92,000 people
 - £173,600 of funding supported families and lone parents to help them through the lockdown
 - 38 organisations delivered services to 40,000 children
 - There are relatively large numbers of lone parents, and pensioners living on their own, at greater risk of social isolation, and a higher proportion of people providing unpaid care. 50,000 people who were struggling in isolation due to age, disability, serious health condition or special needs people received help from local organisations
- **100 organisations were awarded £474,454 toward changing how they operated in order to provide services to the community:**
 - Sanitisation and adaptation of buildings to meet social distancing, health & safety standards
 - Organisation adapting the delivery of activities - moving them online or outside
 - Organisations changing how they operate – luncheon clubs to delivery services

	Helping People	Awarded	Beneficiaries
<i>Advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety</i>		£ 878,236	182787
<i>Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to local services</i>		£ 728,754	76122
<i>Maximise ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity</i>		£ 146,470	28368
<i>Connect people with the arts, culture and heritage</i>		£ 65,836	19360
<i>Improve life skills, education, employability and enterprise</i>		£ 64,692	3229
<i>Transform access to, and engagement with, the environment and public spaces</i>		£ 4,948	36

4. The Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.” The SDGs were set up in

³ Based on the average cost of food parcel¹ being £15.00 per day = 137 food parcels per day (Research Gate-£17.00 & Age UK - £12.00).

2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. At the Foundation we are working to align our grant making towards the SDGs. To this end every grant awarded through the COVID-19 sustainability funding was assigned two SDGs – a primary SDG (SDG1) and a secondary SDG (SDG2). Analysis of the assigned SDGs indicates that the two main development goals met through the funding were Good Health and Wellbeing and Reduced Inequalities.

- SDG1: £971,599 towards Good Health and Wellbeing
- SDG2: £879,613 towards Reduced Inequalities

SDG1	Amount Awarded	% of Fund
Good Health & Wellbeing	£ 971,599	52
<i>Zero Hunger</i>	£ 418,466	22
<i>Reduced Inequalities</i>	£ 210,561	11
<i>No poverty</i>	£ 119,432	6
<i>Sustainable Cities & Communities</i>	£ 99,641	5
<i>Quality Education</i>	£ 30,738	2
<i>Industry Innovation & Infrastructure</i>	£ 21,000	1
<i>Peace Justice & Strong Institutions</i>	£ 15,000	1
<i>Life on Land</i>	£ 2,500	<1

SDG2	Amount Awarded	
Reduced Inequalities	£ 879,613	47
<i>Good Health & Wellbeing</i>	£ 528,032	28
<i>No poverty</i>	£ 232,304	12
<i>Sustainable Cities & Communities</i>	£ 107,621	6
<i>Zero Hunger</i>	£ 84,610	5
<i>Quality Education</i>	£ 24,280	1
<i>Responsible Consumption & Production</i>	£ 10,980	1
<i>Industry Innovation & Infrastructure</i>	£ 8,106	<1
<i>Peace Justice & Strong Institutions</i>	£ 7,000	<1
<i>Gender Equality</i>	£ 4,890	<1
<i>Life on Land</i>	£ 1,500	<1