

 Dorset Community Foundation

Newsletter

Spring 2025

Welcome

Firstly I must welcome our new Patron, Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset Michael Dooley. We are excited to have him on board right at the beginning of his tenure and I am encouraged that his decision to join us is a signal of his intention to use this historic role as a platform to champion Dorset's voluntary sector. I would also like to thank outgoing Lord-Lieutenant Angus Campbell for his support over the years, including launching our Fund for Young & Talented, which has helped so many sporting careers in the nine years it has been existence. To borrow a sporting phrase, we have hit the ground running in 2025 and have already accomplished a great deal, particularly the launch of our latest Hidden Dorset report online (see below). It's going to be an exciting year I think. **Grant Robson, Chief Executive**

Hidden Dorset report goes online

We have launched the latest version of our Hidden Dorset report as a website to highlight need and disadvantage in the county. We first published Hidden Dorset as a printed document in 2015 and again in 2018 to encourage conversations and inspire philanthropy but we decided to produce it as a website so that it can be updated and therefore always remain relevant. We are extremely grateful to Bournemouth University and BCP and Dorset councils for their support in producing it. You can see snippets below but follow the link at the bottom to see the full report online. We'd welcome any feedback to admin@dorsetcf.org.

hidden.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org



Hidden Dorset

Shining a light on local needs and inspiring local giving



There are **11 areas** (out of a total of 219) in the Dorset Council area within the top **20% most deprived** nationally for multiple deprivation, up from 10 in 2015.



The **over-65 population** in the BCP Council area will have increased by **15%** between 2018 and 2028. By 2028, **24%** of the local population will be aged **65 and over**, up from 22% in 2021.



Around **8,300 children** are living in **absolute poverty** in the Dorset Council area, **11.4%** of those aged 0-19, while in the BCP Council area around **8,800** are living in absolute poverty, **9.8%** of those aged 0-19.



Reduced or inaccessible public transport also has a **disproportional impact** on people suffering greater levels of loneliness due to cost and mobility issues, exacerbating the problem.



In the county of Dorset, **165,100 households** with children **can't afford** a healthy diet.



45,200 people (**11%** of the BCP population) live in the 20% most deprived areas in England, while **83,800** (21% of the BCP population) live in the 20% least deprived areas in England.



Of the **35,500 unpaid carers** in the Dorset Council area, **32%** are **65 and over**, compared to **23%** in England & Wales.



Increased referrals and demand on community groups suggest that local people want to **connect with others**. Vulnerable people need **targeted support** to help them access local opportunities for connectivity and any barriers to participation should be removed.

[READ OUR HIDDEN DORSET REPORT HERE](#)



EDC project is gathering strength

The Ethnically Diverse Communities Project, involving us, Community Action Network, Dorset Race Equality Council, and BCP Council is gathering pace.

The project, which is using a £500,000 grant over three years from The National Lottery Community Fund, is aimed at helping voluntary groups and charities from ethnically diverse communities in Dorset to become more resilient.

EDC Project Manager Mayu Rouco-Santos and two capacity building officers, right, have identified around 50 groups and are working closely with 20 in Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole from a wide range of communities including Afro-Caribbean, Middle Eastern and African.

The groups were invited to a meeting in June to talk about the challenges they face in applying for funding and will be helped to apply for grants from the EDC Fund for Strength and Sustainability. The grants can fund training, recruitment and other activities to help with self-sufficiency.



EDC Project manager Mayu Rouco-Santos, centre with Capacity Building Officers Catia Leite, left, and Tama Merdaci

[READ MORE HERE](#)



Winter warmers thanks to donors

It feels like it has been a long, cold winter but thanks to our donors and partners we have been able to bring a little warmth.

There were some concerns that our Surviving Winter appeal, which works with Citizens Advice to distribute £200 energy grants would be affected by the withdrawal of the government's Winter Fuel Allowance, which many people donated on to us.

However, so far we have raised £55,832, similar to last year.

Our partnership with BCP Council also saw £275,000 being awarded to almost 50 groups through the BCP Food and Energy Support Fund.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



Young people can follow their dreams with DCF Bursaries

Our DCF Bursaries totalling £306,073.63 have given 565 young people the chance to follow their career dreams. The scheme awards grants to students aged 16 to 25 on vocational courses. They can apply for up to £1,000 towards travel to college, laptops, equipment, tools or clothing, study trips or meals. Caroline Gobell, Business Director of The Bourne Academy in Bournemouth, said she has seen the impact grants make on students. "They feel believed in and motivated to do well, it really does make such a difference," she said. "On receipt of a bursary these young people are inspired and enabled to redouble their efforts on their studies, to focus harder on achieving their goals, knowing that other organisations are rooting for them and spurring them on too."

Neighbourhood Fund delivers £149,000 to grass roots groups

Our Neighbourhood Fund, which offers grants of up to £5,000 to grass roots community groups delivering projects that address social issues, problems, poverty and disadvantage, has awarded £149,000 to 39 smaller groups and charities making a difference in their communities. "Thanks to our donors, these small grants are making a big impact in communities where these groups work so hard to make life better," said Chief Executive Grant Robson.



[READ MORE HERE](#)

Fashion designer and photographer get a lift from SWEF grants

Fashion designer Max Onn and photographer Morgan Reeves have told how grants from our SWEF Enterprise Fund have helped them boost their businesses.

Max, 23, of Bournemouth, had grants of £500 and £700 for equipment and stock. He is fast establishing a reputation for the edgy, distressed look of his shirts, jackets and hoodies. "The grants were great because I could get the studio organised and buy some new fabrics," he said. "It felt like a proper studio with room for me to work properly," he said.

Morgan used his £1,500 grant for a new camera when he had to launch his business faster than planned owing to redundancy. "The grant has been game changing because about 80 per cent of my work is now video and making that jump from one to two cameras just unlocks another layer of production," he said.



Fashion designer Max Onn had two SWEF grants

[MORE ON SWEF GRANTS HERE](#)



Getting out and about to meet groups is so inspirational



UKCF Chief Executive Emma de Closset and our grants manager Ellie Maguire with the Poole Waste Not Want Not team

We relish the chance to visit some of the groups we fund and it's even better when we can take guests.

We took UK Community Foundations CEO Emma de Closset to meet Poole Waste Not Want Not when she visited our offices.

We also went out with Dorset High Sheriff Anthony Woodhouse to The Shine Project, Wired Therapy and The Drop-In on a beautifully sunny day on Portland.

Youth services manager Lisa Osborn wrote: "I am just taking a moment to absorb what a thoroughly refreshing visit that was and how enjoyable it was to talk to people so interested in our work and what we do."

Thanks to all of the groups who made time to host us.



Dorset High Sheriff Anthony Woodhouse with Lisa Osborn of The Drop-In



Dorset High Sheriff Anthony Woodhouse with Anne Clarkson of The Shine Project



Dorset High Sheriff Anthony Woodhouse with Liz Edge at Wired Therapy

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