



Gloucestershire Community Foundation COVID-19 Report 2020-2021

Supporting the Solutions



Gloucestershire
Community Foundation
Local Giving for Local Needs

INTRODUCTION



CEO FOREWORD

Since the 16th of March 2020 our county and GCF has seen a time of seismic change in relation to a pandemic that has affected the whole world.

We have gone through every emotion seeing the impact of the pandemic close up, having learnt first hand how charities and community organisations have pivoted and responded so quickly, by being agile, purposeful and so hard working throughout this crisis. It's been extremely humbling to witness.

We have been proud to be an essential part of serving our community ensuring vital resources have got to those who need it quickly, making sure that people were supported and of course most importantly, that they didn't feel alone in such a difficult time.

In 2020 our COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants, along with our other Grant Programmes, are projected to award £1.2M million by way of grants. Between three and four times our previous yearly totals. Grants have been made to a diverse range of organisations. From supporting emergency basic human needs, to helping breast feeding mothers, bicycles for NHS workers, to men in sheds. From child counselling to support for senior citizens who are frail and/or lonely.

The end of the first lockdown allowed GCF a short period to reflect and rebuild. Crucially, we also used this time to undertake an important analysis of current local needs, which could help the local third sector recover. The results of our research presented in this report will help shape some of our work into 2021, enabling us to continue to support where we are most needed.



GOOD INVESTMENT

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, The Hitchins Family Trust and CCLA, for generously supporting this research work and publication.

- Talitha Nelson

CONTENTS

GCF & LOCAL COMMUNITY PRE COVID-19

Pages 3 - 6

- Background to GCF
- Grant making pre Covid-19

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE & CRISIS MANAGEMENTS

Pages 7 - 12

- Timeline of support
- Emergency funding distribution
- Partnership working
- Supporting charities

COVID-19 IMPACT

Pages 13 - 20

- Summary of impact
- Impact of Covid-19 on services
- Impact on finance and fundraising

LOCAL NEEDS

Pages 21 - 26

- Barriers to recovery
- Support to bounce back
- Future local need

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Pages 27 - 32

- Our commitment
- Community leadership
- Inspiring impactful philanthropy



GCF & LOCAL COMMUNITY PRE COVID-19

BACKGROUND TO GCF

Gloucestershire Community Foundation (GCF) was established in 1989 to support grassroots projects and communities in Gloucestershire.

For over 30 years we have worked across the county to distribute millions of pounds in much needed funds to groups supporting those most in need.

Through partnership working, collaboration, independent research and working directly with those delivering services on the ground, we offer unique insights into addressing some of society's most complex issues. We work with key partners who can deliver solutions locally and we act as a trusted broker between donors and the voluntary and community sector in Gloucestershire.

GCF is a member of a national and global network of Community Foundations operating in 76 countries.

Our goal is to:

- Bring communities together
- Support in a crisis
- Inspire local philanthropy

Our experience comes from:

- Over 30 years of working in the region
- Ongoing research which informs our grant making
- Collaboration and working in partnership with other key organisations and agencies
- Working directly with those delivering services on the ground

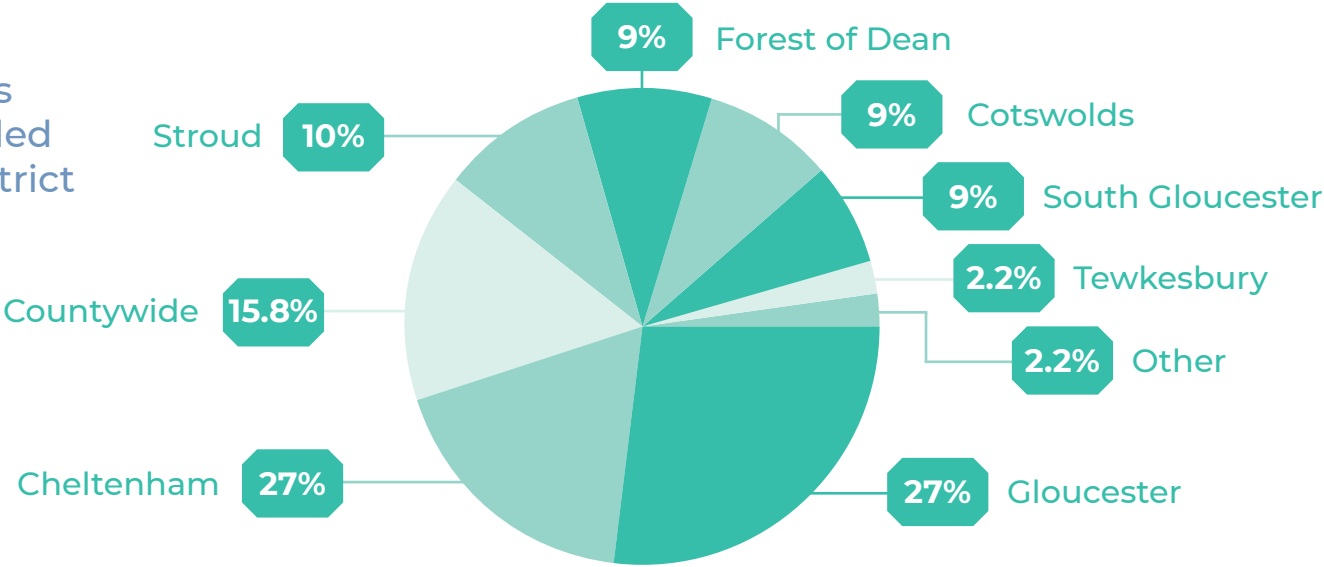
GRANT MAKING PRE COVID-19



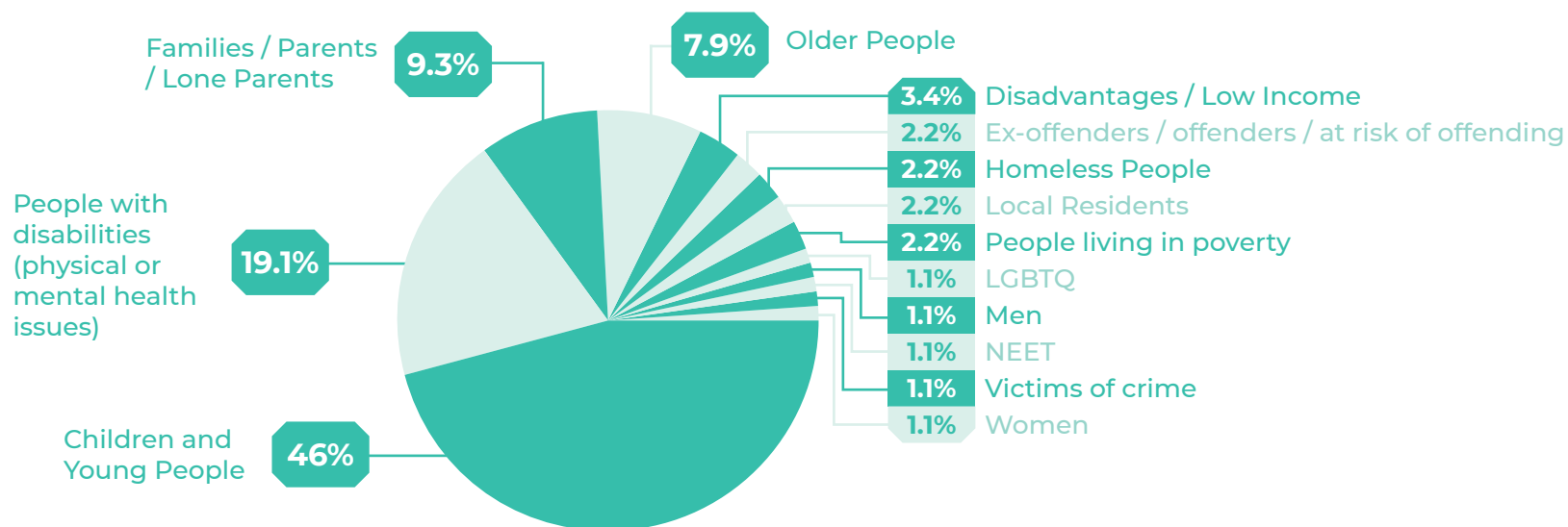
In the **12 months** leading up to the first national lockdown (April 2019 - March 2020) We awarded **£284,155** to **89** local community groups and projects.

GCF, as an independent grant maker, we are fortunate to be able to support a wide range of causes serving communities of all ages and backgrounds. This also gives us the opportunity to be responsive to community needs, which are fluid and often change rapidly. In the year pre COVID-19 our giving was awarded as follows:

Grants awarded by district



Grants awarded by beneficiary



Spotlight on: Team Multi Styles Battle CIC



In 2018, Team Multi Styles Battle CIC, a Gloucester-based youth dance community group received a grant through our Main Grants Programme towards a project to engage young people at risk of anti-social behaviour in positive activities and volunteering through a common interest in hip hop culture and activities including dance, beatboxing and DJing workshops. 132 young people from communities in Barton and central Gloucester joined the programme which helped them to feel more valued and develop confidence, new skills and friendships. Tyler Attwood, Director of Team Multi Styles Battle CIC says:

"Thanks to the support of Gloucestershire Community Foundation, we have been able to set up workshop programmes that will continue to have an impact in two communities in Gloucester for at least the next two years. We were also able to deliver a successful event which was able to reach young people across Gloucester, acting as a source of inspiration by connecting them with young people & young professionals from across the UK who have a passion for dance and the wider hip-hop arts. The work created from this grant has acted as a catalyst for the development of young artists within the city."

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE & CRISIS MANAGEMENT



GCF launched the Gloucestershire Coronavirus Emergency Response Appeal and received our first pledge of £100,000 from the Julia and Hans Rausing Foundation.

The first £50,000 allocation of National Emergencies Trust funds were received to distribute in Gloucestershire. We have since received more than £490,000 from the NET

The National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal launches with funds set to be distributed via UK Community Foundations

National lockdown begins and the Gloucestershire Coronavirus Emergency Response Grants Programme opened for applications

The Gloucestershire Coronavirus Emergency Response Grant Programme Panel was convened via Zoom and by the end of that week £55,000 worth of grants had been awarded. The panel continued to meet weekly for 16 weeks

MARCH 16

MARCH 20

MARCH 23

MARCH 30

APRIL 1

TIMELINE OF SUPPORT

The first Gloucestershire Funders meeting took place, bringing together eight funders from across the county to support Gloucestershire communities.

APRIL 6

**The 100th
Coronavirus
Emergency Grant
was awarded in
Gloucestershire**

JUNE 5

After a recordbreaking four months for GCF, the Emergency Response Grants Programme was paused for three weeks to enable the team to review its guidelines

AUGUST 1

Two new Gloucestershire Coronavirus Programmes were launched. A Quick Response programme to enable organisations to continue receiving timely grants, as well as a Recovery and Resilience Programme to enable larger grants to be awarded to support longer-term strengthening of organisations.

AUGUST 21

The Gloucestershire Community Foundation held its largest grant panel on record reviewing 75 applications and approving grants totalling £236,000 through the Quick Response and Recovery and Resilience grants programmes

OCTOBER 2

**With a donation from the
Co-op Food Fund our appeal
total for the Gloucestershire
Coronavirus Emergency
Response Appeal reached the
£1 million mark**

NOVEMBER 4

GCF awarded our 200th grant from Coronavirus Appeal funds

NOVEMBER 13

EMERGENCY FUNDING DISTRIBUTION



As the country entered lockdown, on the 16th of March 2020 we made the decision that as the local Community Foundation, supporting hundreds of charities working tirelessly on the ground, we had to create hope and put our arms around the county.

Since the pandemic, GCF has stepped up to support local communities.

Since March 2020
236 grants
were awarded,
totalling
£916,308

That's almost
£1 million worth of
funding distributed
to groups which
continue to operate
during the crisis

It is also over
3x as much
as in the
12 months
prior.

Hear from our grant recipients

“Thank you very much for this - it has made our day. This will make a huge difference to us at this really uncertain time when other funding has been lost or reduced and will enable us to offer remote support more widely when it is so needed.”

Vikki, Inclusion Gloucestershire

“Thank you so much for supporting us during this worrying time. The lead up to ‘lockdown’ felt like a tsunami was coming... and we were all trying to brace ourselves for what was to come and desperate to not let down any of the young people who we had a duty of care for. Your kindness and calm manner was helpful and reassuring - it made us realise that we were not going to be alone on this journey.”

Tic Plus, Stroud

Type of grants awarded from the Emergency Response Grants Programme

“
We awarded £5,000 towards the salaries of workers to support Emmaus Gloucester Companions.
”

Emmaus Gloucester

“
£5,000 towards the provision of desperately needed food deliveries for vulnerable people in Gloucestershire for 16 weeks during lockdown.
”

CCP - Caring for Communities People

“
£2,000 to purchase emergency supplies for families in need.
”

Gloucestershire Bundles

Spotlight on: MindSong - Music for Dementia



Mindsong approached GCF for support through the Coronavirus Response Fund in May 2020, having previously received funding from GCF towards their regular work. The charity has three main services: Music Therapy @ Home, Meaningful Music singing groups in care homes, and Music Therapy in care homes. Although care homes were closed, innovative ways of using music continued online. However, it was crucial to continue providing music therapy for people with complex dementia at home and support for their carers, 'These are high risk individuals, who cannot access their usual respite care, who are isolated, elderly, and frail.' With strict protocols in place, Mindsong was able to offer much needed therapy to 24 of their 34 clients either online or face-to-face.

Each person received a bespoke package of weekly hour-long sessions via Zoom, or with DVDs and CDs plus regular calls to support carers at a challenging time. Where they were able, therapists offered Garden Sessions, reaching clients from driveways, patios or even the pavement. They wrote to GCF, 'There is no one else working in the county in the way that we do and we have taken the decision to reopen for referrals and we are already seeing our client list grow by an average of 4 referrals a day'.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING



We are stronger together.

We continued to demonstrate our commitment to partnership working and collaboration by becoming a part of the Gloucestershire Funders Forum.

Gloucestershire Funders is a collaboration between six charitable foundations and organisations that can provide funding for charities, groups, people and activities, in Gloucestershire. We have come together to support the county during the COVID-19 pandemic.

GCF have been key to its successful operations during the early part of pandemic, being able to share our 30 years of experience in grant making and our wide sector knowledge of Gloucestershire which provided vital intelligence for quick decision making and distribution of vital funding.

We have continued to work collaboratively and successfully with Gloucestershire Funders* and as we continue to face uncertain future this collaborative approach will be vital for our local charity sector and the support they will provide to our community.

* The Gloucestershire Funders, in alphabetical order, are:



- Barnwood Trust
- Create Gloucestershire
- Gloucestershire Community Foundation
- National Benevolent Charity
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
- Thirty Percy Foundation

In early 2021, GCF will launch a new mentoring programme for Gloucestershire's charity leaders, in partnership with the Cranfield Trust and The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire. Details of which can be found on page 30.

SUPPORTING CHARITIES

Following on from our crisis emergency support and responding to immediate needs, we also need to start thinking about the future.

We asked ourselves...

How can GCF support the recovery and resilience building, help strengthen our sectors foundations, so our charities not only survive but thrive, and able to recover, rebuild and face any further challenges?

Our charity leaders and their organisations are being relied on now more than ever and in many cases they are often the only people or organisations supporting our most vulnerable when statutory services are not available. Most charity leaders have said this pandemic has been one of the toughest times of their careers.

Therefore finding out how we can support our community in the best ways possible, we need to listen to our community. GCF has taken the active approach of carrying out research, asking what our local charities feel they need in all aspects of support, for the much needed work to continue.

Using both quantitative and qualitative research, we sent out a survey entitled '*Build Back Better*' which was distributed to all the organisations we have worked with over the last 10 months as well as encouraging those charities that we have yet to work with. We have also convened a live online community meeting with 100 charities attending, to discuss all matters to do with funding. We specifically discussed all GCF funding opportunities, answering any questions, along with asking attendees to give honest feedback on how we could improve our current service. As well a continually listening, learning and recording feedback direct from our grantee relationships.



COVID-19 IMPACT

The aim of our research was to make sure that GCF is providing the most appropriate financial support where possible but also trying to think about what other types of support might be needed to make sure our community groups and charities are robust and supported enough to survive, sustain and thrive, in our current ever changing climate.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

GCF undertook this research so that the correct and up to date strategy was in place for Gloucestershire's charities over the Covid period. Similar to other local and national research, GCF found:

- Covid-19 has had a negative impact on fundraising and income
- Expenditure has increased due to the need to invest in PPE and digital
- More than 40% of charities are reaching more beneficiaries since the pandemic
- Over 85% have adapted service delivery to adhere to COVID safe guidelines
- And more than 70% of charities are expecting to survive for a year or more.

In short, Gloucestershire's third sector has been resilient, demonstrating a commitment to their beneficiaries in spite of the financial difficulties they have faced. But there is a role for GCF using its unique position, as both funder, convenor and promoter of philanthropy, to support our local charities to develop solutions that will enable them to recover and thrive.

But there has been a cost to this determination: charity finances have been hit, staff are experiencing burn-out, and previous under-investment in digital infrastructure and skills is preventing organisations from thriving.

Although charities are facing financial burdens, there are other barriers to recovery that charities are facing. There is a role for GCF as both a funder and convenor, to support the co-creation of solutions. Areas to address include:

- Support with forming partnerships and collaborations
- Advice on how to market to target audiences
- Knowledge sharing in resilience planning
- Mentoring for senior leaders and Trustees.

The following pages outline the findings of our research.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT



INCOME

80% of charities are facing loss of income.

In fact, loss of income has been named the biggest barrier to Gloucestershire charities during the pandemic.

CANCELLED **59%**

of charities report fundraising events have been cancelled

51%

grants they would normally apply for are on pause

39%

are unable to deliver services they normally charge for

57%

saw community fundraising significantly reduced

EXPENDITURE

Yet at a time when most charities are reporting a **loss of income** their expenses have **increased**:



76%

of charities have incurred extra costs for PPE, COVID-19 signs etc



50%

incurred additional costs for IT including mobile phones



37%

are spending more on necessary items for their beneficiaries

SERVICES



63%

of charities are now delivering their support and services online



58%

invested in PPE to continue service delivery



49%

are checking in with beneficiaries via the telephone



14%

were able to continue without adapting their service delivery models

Being able to cover core costs and funding for regular service delivery are the biggest financial concerns for many charities, however:



Of charities are reaching more beneficiaries



Of charities support people with no IT skills



Of charities expects to fold within the next 12 months

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SERVICES



We asked charities to consider how the pandemic has impacted on the number of beneficiaries they are reaching and their ability to reach them. Notably a majority of respondents told us they continued to deliver support - in the absence of some statutory services. Charities filled the gaps in provision by stepping up to meet local needs like never before.

Spotlight on: 1st Royal Forest Scout Group



The 1st Royal Forest Scout Group saw adapting to online sessions not only as a way of continuing meeting and conducting regular wellbeing checks on group members but also as a skills-development opportunity enabling group leaders to learn and teach new digital skills within the group. GCF funded video equipment to enable the production of higher quality filmed sessions and tasks which will be used not only during lockdown but also for Scouts to learn useful digital skills for the future.



43%

of charities are reaching more beneficiaries now, than they have done pre pandemic.

“We are receiving more referrals linked to the impact on children’s mental health of the current crisis”

This is predominantly due to the increase in demand for key services such as:- mental health support, food banks, those supporting the unemployed and family support groups, as well as being able to adapt their services to offer help to larger groups virtually.



33% are reaching fewer beneficiaries.

“ Social distancing guidelines prevents us offering the same face to face activities ”

This is mainly due to PPE requirements, lack of space to ensure adequate social distancing, reduced hours of service and inability to move provisions online.

But charities are resilient and have adapted! Most have been able to move services online.



62% of charities admit that although some beneficiaries cope well with the online provision, others do struggle.

The ability to move services online has been a life-line for many charities. However, most of them are also very aware that not all of their beneficiaries are digitally competent.



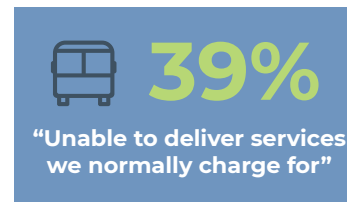
12% of charities work with groups which cannot use IT or do not have access to the internet at all.

“ We have completely changed our mode and focus much more heavily on outreach work ”

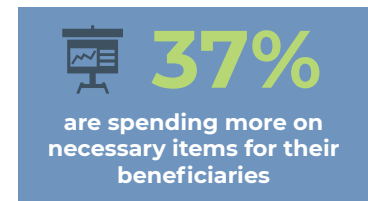
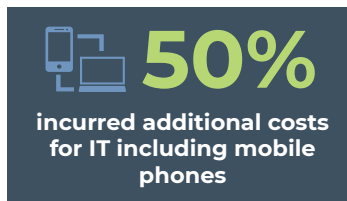
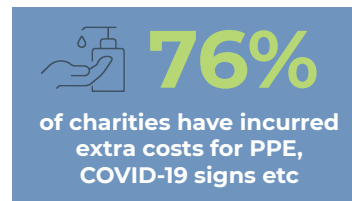
IMPACT ON FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING



All charities have experienced some income changes due to Covid-19. Most report the loss of income from at least one stream.



Yet, at a time when most charities are reporting a loss in income, their expenses have increased:



The loss of income has been named the biggest barrier to Gloucestershire charities during the pandemic – combined over 80% are facing this barrier.

“*We are delivering services we usually charge for, but we are not charging the full fees as we do not feel we can charge the full amount for workshops that are online. The delivery costs of running these workshops however are in some cases higher, we have to buy separate sets of materials for each learner and deliver them to their homes plus the costs of practitioners and admin costs are the same*”



“
Without assurance from statutory funders it's difficult to answer this question. If funding was removed/changes it would destabilise us and we would likely close [...] we are dipping into reserves – but have reserves to operate for approximately 8 months
 ”

*13% of respondents to our survey selected “other” or chose not to answer the question



LOCAL NEEDS

Our goal was to try and understand what the needs of our communities will be in the months ahead and what we can do to assist local recovery.

BARRIERS TO RECOVERY

We have asked the charities participating in our Build Back Better Survey what barriers they were facing and what concerns they had in the current climate. Their responses can be categorised into three groups: financial barriers, beneficiary related barriers and wider concerns.

Although financial barriers are understandably most common, 38 out of 100 respondents were also concerned about beneficiary numbers increasing as a result of increased demand due to Covid-19.

Wider concerns are also common; 42 out of 100 respondents recognised having fewer volunteers and keeping up with changing government guidelines as barriers they are currently facing.

Barriers relating to beneficiaries	No. of organisations facing this barrier
Concern that beneficiary numbers will increase	38
Concern that beneficiaries will not come back	32
Inability to adapt services to align with government guidelines	8

Wider concerns and barriers	No. of organisations facing this barrier
Fewer volunteers	42
It's hard to keep up with changing government guidelines	42
Our staff are close to burning out	34
Need to develop staff for new roles but don't have the resources	31

Financial barriers	No. of organisations facing this barrier
Loss of income from fundraising events	63
Loss of income from trusts and foundations	43
Reduction in reserves	34
Uncertainty about income from statutory services	31
Inability to pay staff	10
We are not used to having to fundraise, and don't know how to.	2

SUPPORT TO BOUNCE BACK



Financial Support

With **80%** of charitable organisations reporting a loss of income as a result of the pandemic, many note that they continue to be in need of financial support.

Data shows that the type of funding most needed right now is also the same for charities of all varying sizes.

Immediate funding needs of charities with a turnover of **less than £50K and £500K+ are outlined below.**

	Less than £50k	£50k - £100k	£100k - £500k	£500k - £1m	£1m+
Funding priority 1	Regular service delivery costs	Core costs	Regular service delivery costs	Regular service delivery costs	Core costs
Funding priority 2	Core costs	Regular service delivery costs	Core costs	Core costs	IT Funding
Funding priority 3	Funding to deliver emergency Covid-19 support	Funding to delivery emergency Covid-19 support	Infra-structure funding	Infra-structure funding	Regular service delivery costs

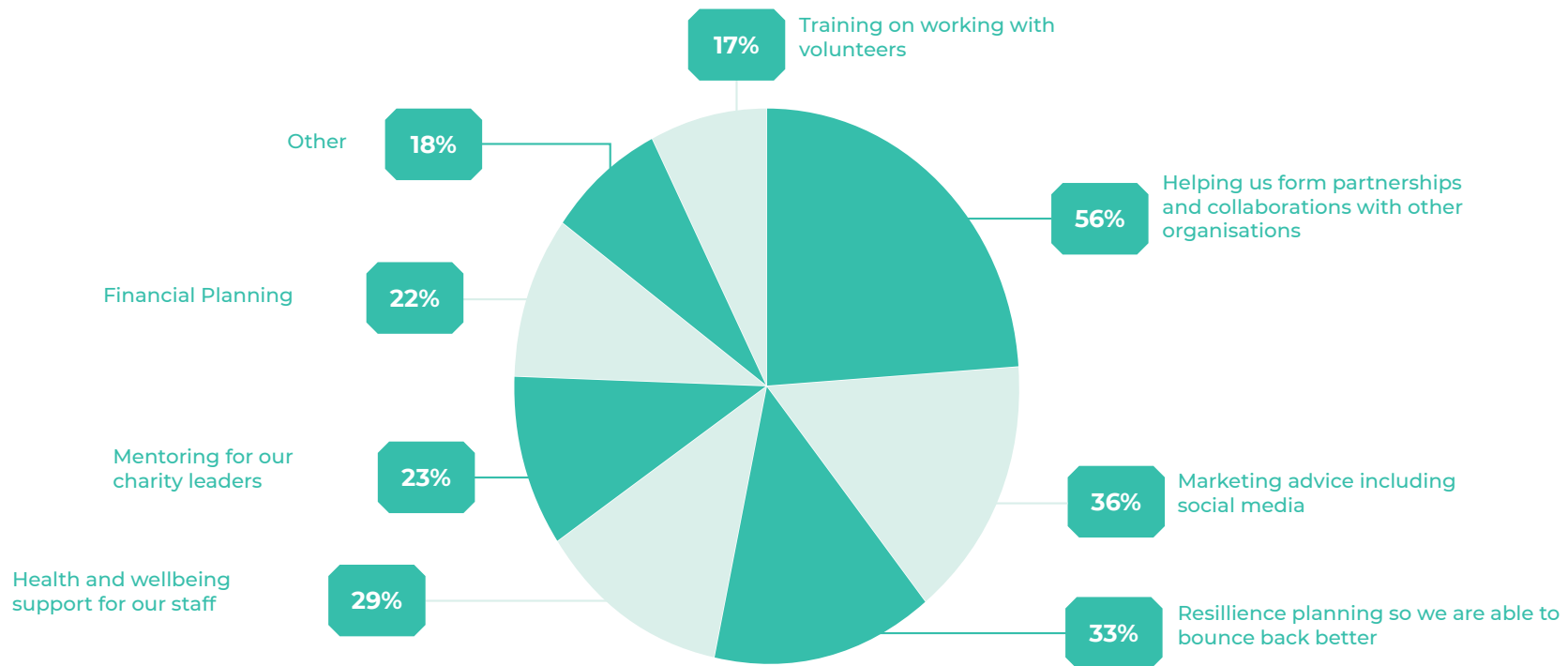
SUPPORT TO BOUNCE BACK

Non-financial Support

There are also non-funding related needs which if GCF provided could help the organisations thrive.

When asked to reflect on the support GCF could provide beyond fund distribution, almost **60%** of charities believe that GCF could support the sector by helping them to form partnerships and collaborations with other organisations. This is something that Community Foundations are ideally placed to do.

Other support could include marketing advice (including social media), resilience planning, mentoring and financial planning.





It's clear from this question in our survey that there is a role for GCF to work alongside charities to facilitate partnerships.

It was notable that it was the senior leaders of those charities that selected “mentoring and marketing advice” as key to recovery,. This may suggest that those in decision making positions in charities have identified the need to look for upskilling from other charities or businesses that are larger, more established, work differently, or are working in a different sector, to secure the skills they need to bounce back.

In addition to the information above, we also found that participants of the Get Grants Forum gave us the following feedback, which is inline with the findings of the Build Back Better Survey.

“
I am aware you're doing great work in talking to other big funders and one suggestion might be signposting to other funds? Such as Barnwood Trust, OPCC etc... The VCSA funding bulletin is great - could you share that too?
”

Jane, Participant

“
We have found that having visits from funders has been really helpful, it gave us the opportunity to engage on home turf
”

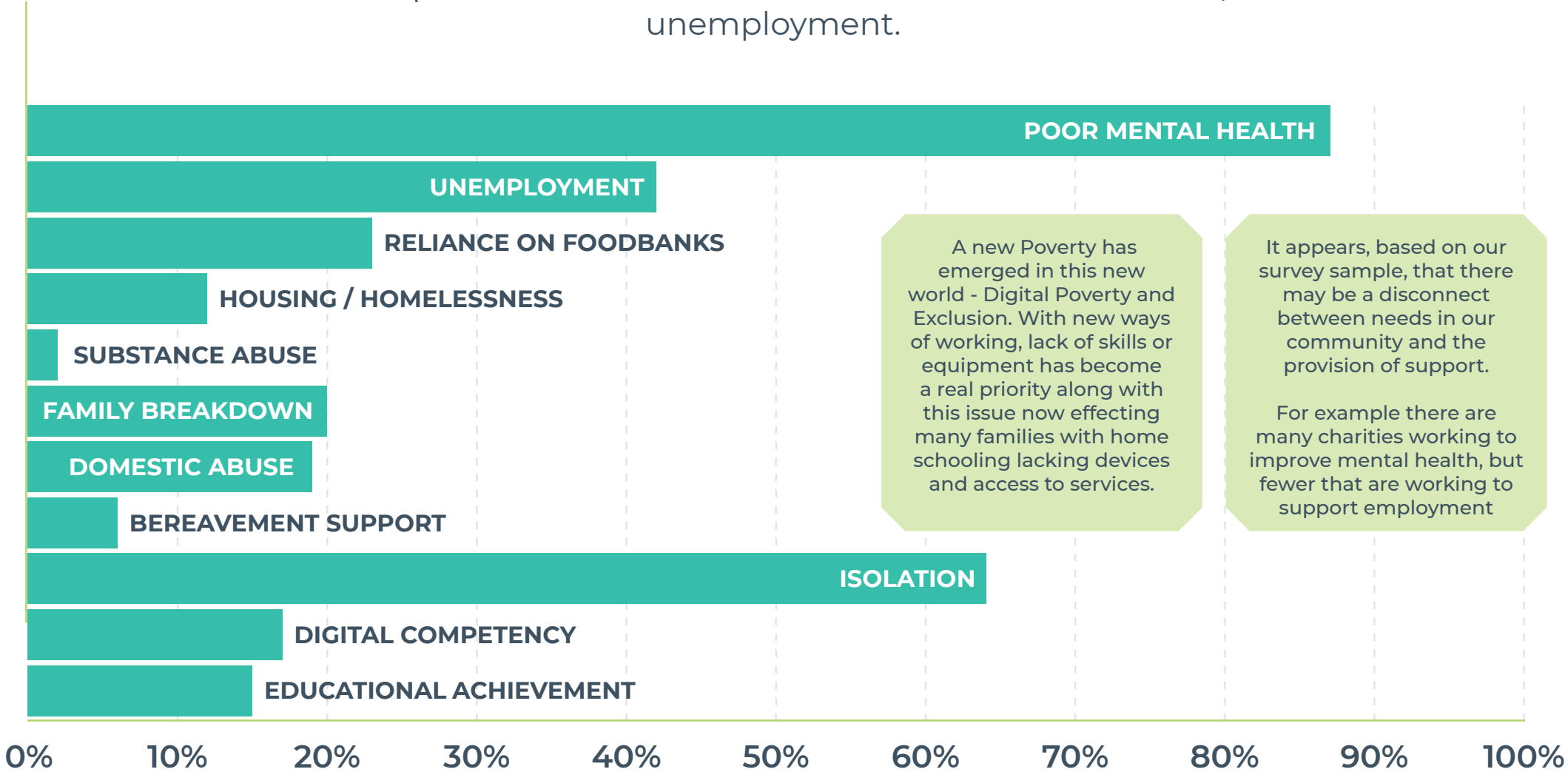
Jaqueline, Participant

“
Mentoring or training would be so useful, as I have little experience in writing bids
”

Brigette, Participant

PROJECTED FUTURE NEED

Looking ahead, those working on the ground believe that across all six districts the issues which will be most prominent in the next 12 months are mental health, isolation and unemployment.





CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

OUR COMMITMENT

Inspired by the 10 Pillars of Stronger Practice for Charitable Foundations designed by the Association of Charitable Foundations, Gloucestershire Community Foundation commits to the following:

1 Having a deep understanding of our vision, mission and values and articulating them publicly

We will regularly review whether we have sufficient breadth of information and expertise to deliver our goal of targeted and strategic grant making, and conduct research if we feel that gaps are apparent. We will share our findings in a transparent and accessible way and offer the community an opportunity to feed into our processes.

2 Making ourselves accountable to those we serve and support

We will continue to invite and seek feedback from grantees and applicants about our practices and processes and offer opportunities for challenge.

3 Recognising the importance and implications of time

We will continue to develop strategies with short, medium and long-term horizons appropriate to the current situation. We will continue to offer support that is relevant and responsive to the environment in which we find ourselves.

4 Embracing good funding practice

Especially in unprecedented times in which we find ourselves today, we will promote financial flexibility to charities affected by unforeseen circumstances by, where appropriate, adjusting our support to grantees by relaxing reporting requirements and funding core costs.

5 Recognising equality and inclusion as paramount during this pandemic

We will continue to acknowledge that the pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on marginalised individuals and communities and use our funding to support the organisations serving those groups where appropriate. We will ensure our funding distribution is informed by sound research and local expertise to ensure inclusivity and equality through funding.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



We have listened

“

The overarching goal of community leadership is to improve the local community's well-being in meaningful and measurable ways

”

D. Easterling, The Foundation Review (2011)

We will continue to use our resources to support our communities financially in a way that is reflective of most current local needs and informed by the communities we serve.

However, we will continue to offer more than funding.

Drawing on the findings of this research and our previous anecdotal evidence from conversations with charity leaders and partners, we will support the VCS sector by championing collaborations, helping to create connections, and promoting mutually beneficial partnerships.

Taking Action: Launch of a Mentor Programme for Gloucestershire Charity Leaders

After conducting the research outlined in this report, Gloucestershire organisations told us that in order to survive for the long term they would benefit from other potential support avenues, aside from funding, to help them survive and thrive.

The number one request from charities was to *“help them form partnerships and collaboration”* followed by *“marketing support,” “resilience and finance planning”* and *“Mentoring for charity leaders”* all of which we can deliver through an official mentoring programme.

Therefore, we have listened and taken action.

One of our first actions, for the start of 2021, is to launch a fully funded new mentoring programme for Gloucestershire’s charity leaders, in partnership with the [Cranfield Trust](#) and [The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire](#).

This is a programme that will help build strength into our third sector, help charity leaders navigate through current challenges, supporting them to grow, so they not only survive but thrive. This programme will help develop their skills, resilience and support networks, to face any future challenges and crisis in a rapidly changing world.

Our charity leaders and their organisations are being relied on now more than ever and in many cases these organisations are the only ones supporting our most vulnerable when statutory services are not available. Most charity leaders have said these past months have been some of the toughest times of their careers.



Developing our county leaders requires funding and this is what we are providing. GCF has recognised, there are limited opportunities in the third sector for professional development and therefore to contribute to a more sustainable future for our county leaders GCF will help fill this current gap.

Working with our partners our long-term mission is to achieve impact through identifying local needs and supporting positive action. In line with this and as part of our response to the ongoing crisis, we have identified four specific needs of charities in Gloucestershire that will form the basis of the mentoring programme:

1. Mentoring for charity leaders to support their response to the current crisis and their longer-term development.
2. Peer to peer development and support for both mentors and mentees - supporting collaborations and partnerships.
3. Group coaching of GCF Grantees in the form of workshops, webinars, and other group interventions.
4. Wider support to the third sector, open to those organisations outside of this programme. Immediate access to advice on managerial and organisational issues.

INSPIRING IMPACTFUL PHILANTHROPY

Here at GCF we are committed to making a difference to people's lives and the places we serve.

We do this by:

- **Bringing communities together:** we are local champions, committed to connecting people and organisations that want to improve their communities.
- **Funding great ideas:** we invest in local people and organisations tackling the biggest issues facing communities today and supporting some of society's most disadvantaged people.
- **Inspiring local philanthropy:** we provide help and advice to those who want to give at the heart of their communities, both now and in the long-term.
- **By investing time and resources into meaningful research and combining it with over 30 years of local knowledge,** we offer individuals, families and businesses a simple and effective way to ensure their charitable investments are having the biggest impact they possibly can.

We can help you:



To make informed decision about directing your giving to areas of **biggest need**



Connect you to causes **you are passionate about**



Be a part of a movement that's committed to supporting our communities in a **transparent and inclusive** way



Acknowledgments

This report has been informed by over 100 respondents from local charities in response to our Build Back Better survey conducted in late 2020. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all that took part and helped shape our research.

We have also drawn on the following reports to inform our research, findings and report:

1. Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), [UK Giving and COVID-19](#)
2. COVI, [Creativity, Culture and Connection: Responses from arts and culture organisations in the COVID-19 crisis.](#)
3. Danny Kruger MP report to government September 2020 [Levelling up our communities; proposals for a new social covenant](#)
4. Gloucestershire County Council, [Population Profile, 2019](#)
5. Gloucestershire VCS Alliance [State of the Sector Report June 2020](#)
6. GfirstLEP, [Gloucestershire Draft Industrial Strategy 2019](#)
7. Nottingham Trent University, Sheffield Hallam University and NCVO [Respond, recover, reset: The voluntary sector and COVID-19, November 2020](#)
8. Skills Platform & Zoe Amar Digital [Charity Digital Skills Report 2020](#)
9. UK Community Foundations, [The Community Foundation Response to Coronavirus](#)

THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. 2020 has been a year that none of us could have predicted and one where people have seen real hardship but also real commitment and passion.

Thank you to our trustees, staff and volunteers who have worked endlessly during this busy period.

A massive thank you to all the charities and community groups we have worked with, which have provided essential support to the communities of Gloucestershire, and those who took the time out of their busy schedules to take part in our research. We look forward to working with you through 2021.

Finally, thank you to our amazing financial supporters who have provided much needed funds to enable us to carry out our much-needed work, without them none of this would have been possible. As well as the CCLA and The Hitchins Family Trust mentioned in the foreword the below have all supported our emergency work.



The Hayward Waite Charitable Fund, The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire and the many other donors who have generously supported our appeal.

