

POVERTY HURTS FUND OUR IMPACT: TOGETHER



**SUPPORTED 34,400
VULNERABLE
PEOPLE**



**AWARDED
£194,984 IN
110 GRANTS TO
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
COMMUNITIES**



**FUNDED MORE
THAN 7,000 MEALS
AND FOOD
PARCELS**

**TOGETHER WE HAVE
HELPED LOCAL
COMMUNITIES TO:**

REDUCE HUNGER

**PROVIDE WARMTH
AND SHELTER**

**REDUCE ISOLATION
AND LONELINESS**

**PROVIDE DEBT
GUIDANCE AND A
LISTENING EAR**

**PROVIDE SKILLS
TRAINING**

We would like to say a huge thank you. Our events make a huge difference to the lives of people in our community struggling with the cost of living crisis and to see lives transformed in either a small or large way, it makes what we do here at the hub very worthwhile.

Dursley Tabernacle Church

I would just like to say thank you for your kind donation. It has really helped us to be able to provide what our members need, on a consistent basis. Unfortunately, finding new funds will be a continuous challenge, but I hope that you will keep us in mind for any similar funds in the future, please.

Quedgeley Foodbank

We continue to see great need in our communities as well as high levels of demand for further funding for this coming winter. Whilst there is need, we will continue to fundraise to support people living in poverty in Gloucestershire.

Please note the numbers in the report cover a two year period and, whereas previous figures were based upon estimates provided in applications, these figures are now based on numbers provided in end of grant reports.

GL11 Warm Hubs

A part-time Project Manager coordinated a smaller number of #WarmGL11 community hubs over winter 23/24, with facilitated partner meetings in January and March. Working together with the Chantry Centre in Dursley, they provided a five day a week Food Bank and Food Pantry service across Cam & Dursley as well as free weekly specialist advice services at GL11 every Wednesday for those struggling with the cost of living, both drop-in and for referrals from the #WarmGL11 partner venues.

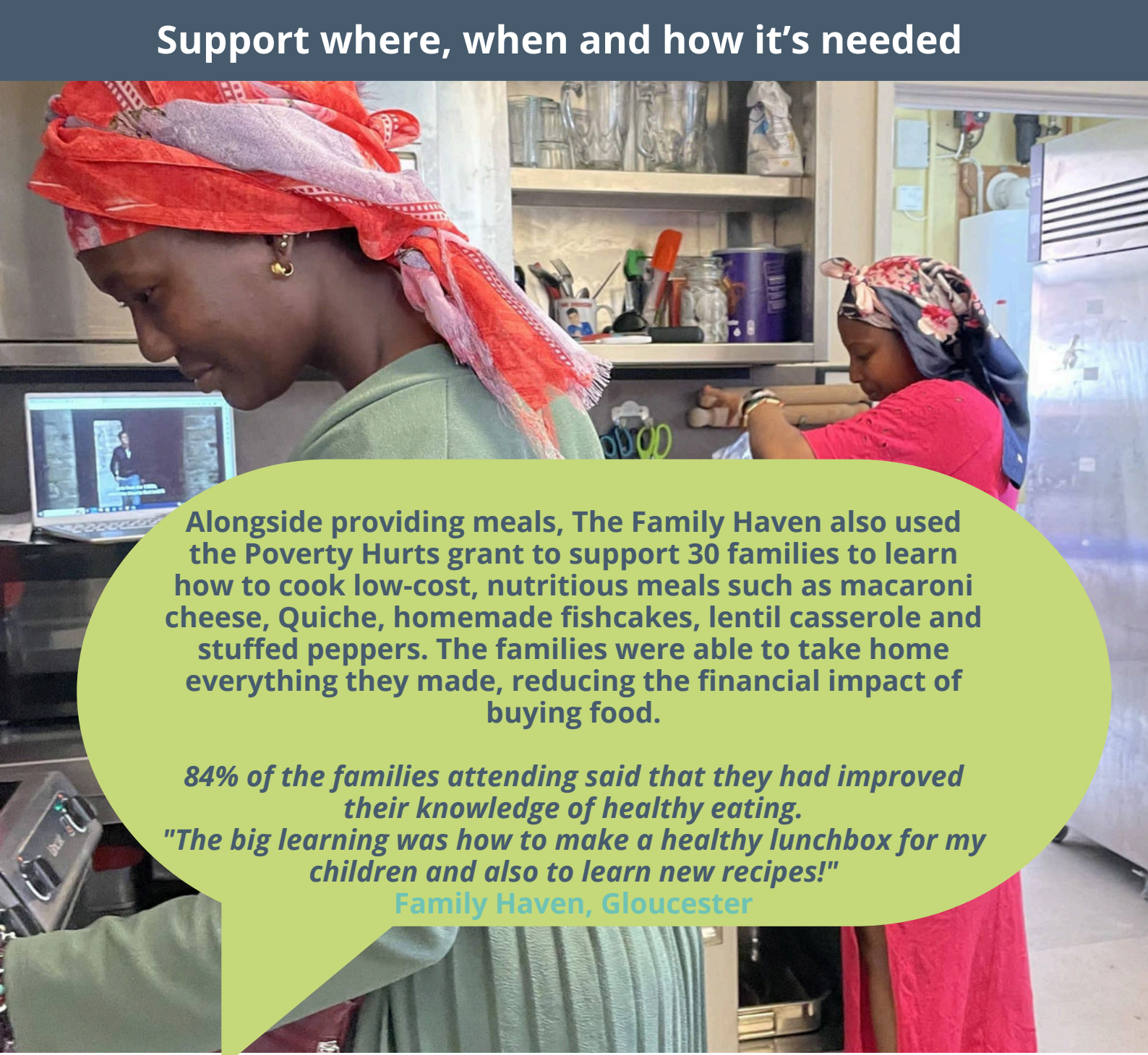
Across the funded first quarter of 2024, GL11 Warm Hubs welcomed 1,240 residents at #WarmGL11 hubs, including serving 399 hot meals in the GL11 Community Cafe. They say: *"Interestingly, this is only around half the number of people (2,639) we saw in the first quarter of 2023. While this may be due in part to both the slight fall in heating bills compared with last winter, and the fewer number of Hubs in the network this winter, crucially those now attending are accessing a higher level of support."*

- 407 people needed Food Bank & Pantry help (273 in 2023) +49%
- 69 people were referred for money advice (47 in 2023) +46%
- 46 people were referred for housing advice (33 in 2023) +39%
- 49 people sought employment support (31 in 2023) +58%
- 64 people received digital support (48 in 2023) +33%

Two additional new outreach sessions were also set up in 2024 at Champions Court and Hamfallow.

"To be honest, the Food Pantry literally saved my bacon. Universal Credit is just not enough to stretch, and apparently we're in debt with Universal Credit, so now they are taking £80 a month off me making us even worse off. So being able to come to GL11, be welcomed by you guys, and get help with our weekly bills, it's just incredible and I can't thank you enough really. I was in a total state that day when I came in, I felt like out of control, because I didn't know what to do. Everyone is so lovely and kind. I think they knew I was embarrassed, but they were just like, 'What do you need?' It felt like a big deal because we needed the help, but hopefully in the future, if we have a bit more money, we can give back, because we've all got to help each other really."

Support where, when and how it's needed



Alongside providing meals, The Family Haven also used the Poverty Hurts grant to support 30 families to learn how to cook low-cost, nutritious meals such as macaroni cheese, Quiche, homemade fishcakes, lentil casserole and stuffed peppers. The families were able to take home everything they made, reducing the financial impact of buying food.

84% of the families attending said that they had improved their knowledge of healthy eating.

"The big learning was how to make a healthy lunchbox for my children and also to learn new recipes!"

Family Haven, Gloucester

"Your grant funded places for 140 children and parents/carers from low-income families in the Cirencester area, to attend Bloodhound activities including lunch. These community events provided a safe and warm environment for vulnerable and disadvantaged families to meet and make friends, obtain advice on other local services, whilst building confidence and developing new skills. The participants were introduced to the history and engineering behind land speed record cars, the innovative technology within them and the opportunity to ask questions to a real engineer about their work. They then designed and built prototype cars which they crafted from a variety of materials and equipment, before testing the along our track. Everyone was highly engaged in the activities and enjoyed seeing how other children's cars performed and encouraged them on. The sessions were inclusive to some children with special educational needs who were able to get involved and be successful. We had colouring and crafts for younger children, and quizzes so there was something for everyone.

Lunch was served so that families could sit and eat together. The food was prepared locally and freshly made and served as a buffet so people could choose how much they wanted. The vegetable and fruit snacks were also popular, and families were able to take leftover food home on disposable plates, so nothing was wasted."

Bloodhound Education





We supported GL3 Community Hub with a grant of £1,000 where vulnerable people could meet up and enjoy a hot drink and food for Christmas.

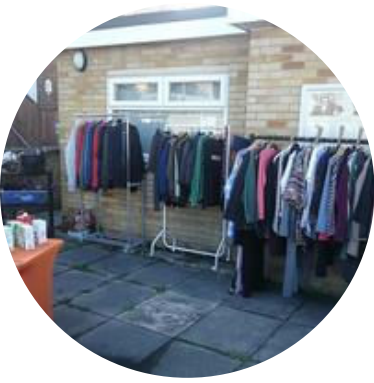
The grant has made a big difference in the lives of those affected by the cost of living crisis by offering support and a sense of community. Through the provision of a warm space once a week, individuals facing financial hardships have found respite and assistance. Thursdays, coinciding with our support day, where representatives can offer guidance on housing, debt, and job-related issues. Additionally, the grant help subsidised the cost of using storage heaters in the area, ensuring comfort during harsh weather conditions. The availability of free hot drinks and subsidised hot food further eases the burden of living costs. Beyond material aid, this project offers a supportive environment where individuals feel understood and cared for. It underscores the importance of community solidarity in navigating difficult times, ultimately making a lasting impact on the well-being of those affected by the cost of living crisis.

GL3 Community Hub

“Mike, aged 55, has grappled with alcohol addiction for many years. Living alone with only his dog for company, he has been a hard-to-reach individual who is too proud to accept any form of charity. Sadly, his dog recently passed away. While striving to overcome his drinking problem, he was encouraged to visit the food bank for sustenance. Over time, I have observed significant changes in his demeanour. He has become more animated and friendly, and has begun to form connections with others who frequent the facilities. Our breakout area provides a space for individuals to enjoy a hot drink and engage in conversation. Witnessing Mike's transformation has been truly heartening. Seeing him laugh and interact with others, and witnessing his involvement in our various wellbeing groups throughout the week, is immensely gratifying. He exemplifies the positive impact of our work and underscores the importance of grant funding in making such transformations possible. Moreover, the provision of hot food and offering a warm and safe environment has contributed significantly to improving his overall wellbeing.”

GCF has supported more than 40 warm spaces and community cafes through the Poverty Hurts and the Cost of Living Fund





"The funding we received from GCF has helped fund our Community Cafes which run twice a week, every week, providing we provide hot meals for people to eat in or take away. This grant has helped make significant differences to the lives of people who are affected by the cost of living crisis. The support that we are able to offer through our cafe's has direct, positive impacts on many lives. We have so many people that contact us because they are struggling to pay for food, housing, utilities and who haven't necessarily been in that situation before. We are partners with The Fuel Bank and The Severn Wye Energy Trust - both of which we regularly refer people to. Hundreds of families have been able to feed themselves and their children/extended families as a result of our cafes being able to run, and hundreds of households have received substantial financial support with their utility bills which has had major, positive impact on all of those who have accessed the support that we provide." Cashes Green Community Centre

Cirencester Opportunity Group used a grant of £2,484 to work directly with families facing challenges on a one to one and small group basis to specifically assess their needs based on how they were being negatively impacted by the cost of living crisis and what they needed support with. They kept their 'Sharing Shed' well stocked with essential items such as food, clothing and hygiene products, ensuring that all families had access to the shed 5 days a week. The Family Outreach team were able to provide practical help for the families including making referrals to Citizens Advice and P3 for Debt assistance as well as explaining to families which benefits they might be entitled to and we supported them to make contact with the right agencies and making applications for support. They also helped families to access things they needed but were struggling to afford. This included things like a microwave, essential school uniform items, utility top ups and some items of furniture, including essential cooking items essential cooking items which were accompanied with a cooking lesson to offer support at a deeper level.

"We are proud that we have been able to keep our Sharing Shed going, as it is our way of supporting families to have access to many of the items they need, when they need them, whilst also maintaining their dignity. They can select items each week day when they feel ready to and this has continued to work well. We also ensured that we provided menstruation products, baby food and nappies to families assessed as being in need of these types of essential items."

Cirencester Opportunity Group



A grant was awarded to support two refugee families living in Tewkesbury who lost all their possessions in the Tewkesbury floods.

"The floods came quickly without sufficient warning to enable many possessions to be saved. It swept through the house ruining furniture, carpets bedding and clothing. The council declared the property uninhabitable and the family were moved into temporary accommodation for several months. Fortunately they could use the grant money to replace essentials bedding, school clothing to enable the children to be dressed appropriately for school.

Although now just accommodated in a permanent property the grant helped to provide kitchen essentials and flooring! The grant has enabled them to get the basics they need and for family life to continue in their new home without anxiety."

Tewkesbury Baptist Church



Thank you from the families whose homes were flooded:

"I'm very pleased to have these things and thank you all for helping me, because I was really in need. My family and I are appreciated your help so much."

"Thank you so much for helping to our family! You can't imagine how much it means for us! We are so grateful for the payment that has enabled us to buy replacements for the things we had damaged in the flood. These included a washing machine, fridge-freezer, furniture, kitchen items and bedding. Without this money we would struggle a lot. Thank you very much!"



"We have delivered 46 hours of our social club, which we call the Fun, Food and Friendship club. This was originally set up as a warm hub and we have had over 40 unique participants attend on a regular basis. The service users have particularly enjoyed the social group and have made new friends, however another key benefit is that everyone who attends has been able to have lunch provided by the onsite café with a hot drink and refreshments. This was particularly important over the winter, however, even now with the cost of living crisis impacting these beneficiaries the offer of refreshments and lunch has been a significant help.

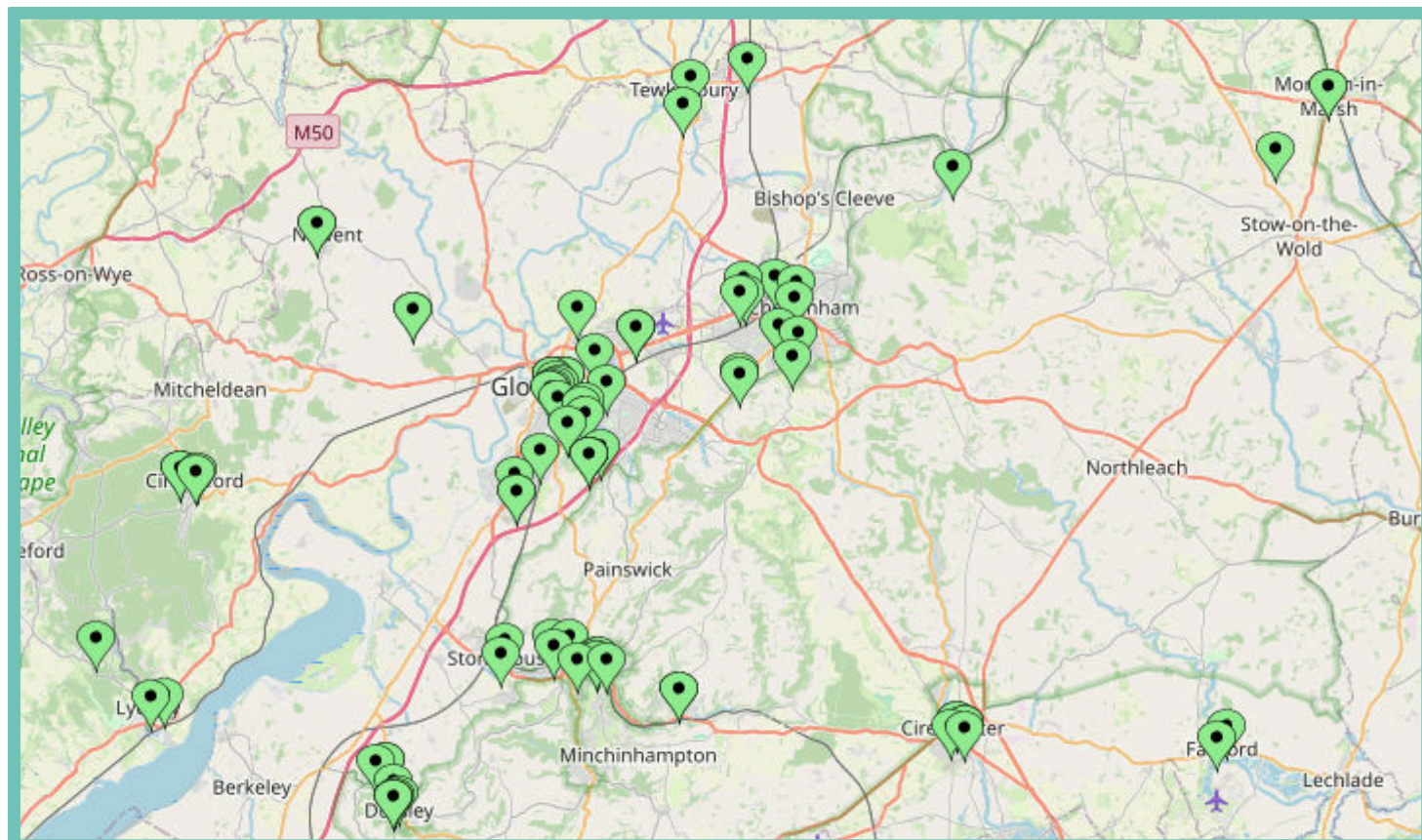
We have one participant who lives in Bromford supported living, who is deaf and blind. She is 75+ years old and can rarely have the opportunity to meet new people. We use a pen and paper to communicate as well as some basic sign language, which all of the social group users have engaged with to try and help communicate with her. She attends with some neighbours from the supported living accommodation, which is fantastic to reduce isolation, keep warm and ensure they are having some free food."

Goals Beyond Grass

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE FUND SINCE OCTOBER 2022

Allsorts, Age UK Gloucestershire, Bloodhound Education, Cashes Green Community Centre, Chalford Parish Council, Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre, Chipping Campden Support Hub, Christians Against Poverty, Churn Neighbourhood Project, Cirencester Housing for Young People, Cirencester Opportunity Group, Clean Slate Training and Employment, Cotswold Friends, Creative Sustainability, Dean Forest Kitchen, Door Youth Project, Dursley Tabernacle, Ebony Carers, Encounter Cafe, Fairford and Lechlade Working for Wellbeing, Fair Shares Gloucestershire, Family Haven, Forest Fighting Fit, Forest of Dean Baby Bank, Forest of Dean Sea Cadets, Forest Sensory Services, Fresh Hope, GL Communities, GL11 Community Hub, GL3 Community Hub, GL4 CIC, Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester City Mission, Gloucester Elim Church, Gloucester Foodbank, Gloucester Helping Hands, Gloucestershire Bundles, Gloucestershire Deaf Association, Gloucestershire Young Carers, Goals Beyond Grass, Greenway Gifts Foodbank, Heart Heroes, ITSA Digital Trust, Kingfisher Treasure Seekers, Kingshill House, Listening Post Counselling Services, Longborough and Sezincote Village Hall, Lumbs Educational Foundation, Lydney Dial A Ride, Lydney Rugby Club, Monkscroft Pastoral Care Project, Nelson Trust, Newent Initiative Trust, Northway Parish Council, North and West Gloucestershire CAB, Parent Carer Alliance, Priors Park Neighbourhood Project, Quedgeley Food Pantry, Sedbury Space, Sherborne Community Group, Shurdington Community Centre, St Georges Church, St Michaels Cornerstone Trust, Stonehouse Community Association, Stroud and District CAB, Stroud Earth Community, Stroud Subscription Rooms, Suicide Crisis, Tewkesbury Baptist Church, The Country Food Trust, The Keepers - Wotton Area Community Hub, The Recycling Shop, Tibberton and Taynton WI, Truth Boxing, University of Gloucestershire, Venture White City

LOCATIONS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE FUND



Locations are based on project postcodes - many projects support people over a much larger geographical area. There are notable gaps where we will work to build our support in the coming year

THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE STILL LIVING IN POVERTY IN OUR COUNTY

On average, across Gloucestershire local authority areas 25.1% of children are living in poverty, with an increasing number living in working households. This rises as high as 31.5% in Gloucester and 30% in the Forest of Dean.

(End Child Poverty Coalition and Loughborough University, June 2024)



The impact of poverty is not limited to children. Life expectancy for men living in the most deprived wards of Gloucestershire is on average 8.7 years lower than for those in the least deprived decile, while the disparity for women was 6.5 years. Factors contributing to this include access to a GP, hypertension, air pollution, substance misuse and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

(Scrutiny Task Group on Tackling Multiple Deprivation Final Report July 2022 – January 2023)



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR POVERTY HURTS APPEAL



www.gloucestershirecf.org.uk/donate



The differences highlighted in the report have been achieved with huge thanks to all of our supporters whose generous donations have made it possible to provide funding to our communities as well as the organisations and community groups working so hard to support the most vulnerable people in our county.



THE
JULIA AND HANS RAUSING
TRUST

RED SAVANNAH

SOVEREIGN



Gloucestershire Community Foundation
The Manor, Boddington, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire, GL51 0TJ

Registered Charity: 900239

