

HIGH SHERIFF GRANT PROGRAMME

IMPACT REPORT 2014-2024



£500,000+
IN GRANTS
AWARDED TO
157 LOCAL
ORGANISATIONS



70,000+
YOUNG PEOPLE
SUPPORTED



100+
SESSIONS
OF THE GETTING
COURT
PROGRAMME

THE FUND HAS HELPED:

BUILD CONFIDENCE

IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH

REDUCE ISOLATION

INCREASE SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

REDUCE CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

"Thank you for keeping the application simple, and of course for your grant that has really made a difference to these young people and the others that they support through the ripple effect of their volunteering." Play Gloucestershire

"Without help and support from GCF we would find it impossible to operate our work for the vulnerable people of Gloucestershire, thank you." Centred Horseplay

"We would like to thank you for supporting our charity at a time of need. You have helped us make a difference to many young people's lives. It has been a difficult time for many (during Covid) and I have been saddened by some of the recent events some of our young people have experienced, from unexpected poverty through job loss, family bereavements, anxiety and depression brought on the pressures of a young life turned up side down. On a positive note, it has been so good to see how most of our group have coped, they have reported that Sea Cadets has helped them cope with the huge changes to their lives." Forest of Dean Sea Cadets

GETTING COURT PROGRAMME

First launched by the High Sheriff in 2012, Getting Court, is a programme of resources designed for use in secondary schools or colleges explaining the workings of the Crown Court system of England and Wales, alongside some innovative lessons to challenge pupils, e.g. to question if they would speak up for justice, no matter what the risk, as well as a host of other related learning opportunities.

The project fits into the existing PSHE & Citizenship part of the National Curriculum and has been carefully tailored for both teachers and students. As part of the programme there is also an opportunity for students to visit a working court to learn more about the judiciary system and to see and hear the sometimes harsh realities, of the criminal justice system, being played out.

Over the last twelve years, more than 2,000 students over the age of 14, from schools and colleges across the county have attended a Crown Court session. During the most recent academic year there were 11 sessions attended by 345 young people from 19 different schools and colleges as well as a teacher training session.

Schools, Colleges and Alternative Provision establishments decide on which students attend the Court. For some students it may well be an interest in law, and for some students it may be a precautionary message. Students attend court on a Friday, which is sentencing day. They see a mix of cases, which often gives them an insight into the paths taken by the defendant.

Children and young people reported that as a result of the Crown Court visit their behaviour, or the behaviour of others, will change in the future. Reasons for this reported change given by the children and young people have included:

- More awareness of punishment
- The session made them think more
- The consequences of doing wrong scared them
- Getting in to trouble would affect their future and lifestyle

'I really enjoyed my time at the court; it helped me to understand the way it works. More importantly, it made me think about society today and how we should thinking very carefully about our actions.'

'The court visit has been very helpful as it gave me a greater understanding of the different type of trials that take place in a crown court.'

Courtney and Libby - Cirencester Deer Park School





Gloucestershire
Magistrates
Association



Gloucestershire Primary Schools Mock Trials Competition

The Getting Court Fund has supported this project for many years. Primary school children participate in a Mock Trial competition under the guidance of magistrates, enhancing their knowledge of the justice system, while promoting debating ability. The programme has grown in size over the past 22 years, and continues with voluntary support by the local magistrates and the Magistrates Association. The event introduces the law and the court system in a friendly and accessible manner for this age group. The venues for the competition are spread throughout Gloucestershire. Local police forces, local solicitors, journalists and community workers all participate, and this helps develop some rapport between these 'official' figures and the children. Various local dignitaries (e.g. Lord Lieutenant of Gloucester, High Sheriff, local mayors and councillors) regularly attend the competition, adding to the sense of occasion.

Gloucester and Forest Alternative Provision School

A grant in 2022 meant vulnerable pupils at risk of exploitation were given a valuable work experience opportunity in a pop up cafe. They learned how to apply for a job; they set up bank accounts to receive salary payments and had to complete necessary forms. They also learnt skills of customer service and meet and greet visitors appropriately. All other pupils were given a safe place to be after school.

In addition, a mental health counsellor was employed to deliver regular sessions at both secondary centres - Russet House and The Raikes Centre. The councillor identified children with mental health issues and those on CAMHs waiting lists were able to access support more swiftly. Some, who had refused counselling previously, took up the offer as the counsellor took time to build relationships and just be at the school. As a result pupils recognised him as a safe person to talk to.

Play Gloucestershire

The fund supported a grant to Play Gloucestershire towards their Play Volunteer residential training weekend in Saul in 2016. 19 Young Volunteers attended the weekend which was organised by two Play Rangers (who used to be Play Volunteers themselves)

The weekend had the following impacts:

- Improved social skills through workshop participation and meeting and making new friends from different backgrounds across Gloucestershire
- Taking part in new experiences that raise aspirations and broaden horizons including new workshop topics, challenges and spending time with the Play Rangers
- Increased confidence and self esteem through participation in the residential weekend
- Young people feel more confident about volunteering in their home community using the new skills they have developed over this training weekend.
- Young people have been motivated to help others, particularly children in their home community and additionally, have signed up to run Olympic themed workshops this summer
- Young Volunteers have become positive role models for other young people in their home community, who have been very interested in hearing about this training weekend, and have asked to find out more about volunteering for Play Gloucestershire
- Increased awareness of how doing things for others makes you feel good and that volunteering is a worthwhile activity both now and in their adult lives

J's story: "J has always been a little anxious, quiet and not very confident. The Play Rangers on his local play site gave him lots of encouragement to come away with us for the weekend, but he was very unsure whether he could do it. We were thrilled when he arrived at the start, and immediately the kindness of the other young people helped him settle in. Being part of a team during the workshops and activities worked really well for him. This was especially true at a challenge that his team did because they failed a task and took a forfeit. In front of everyone his group had to sing 'Humpty Dumpty' in the style of a love song! On our play sites a situation like this would be overwhelming for him, but alongside his peers he got through the whole song. He was very nervous! However, when the task was over and they were clapped and cheered for their song, his face had the biggest smile I have ever seen! For him to get through such a challenge was amazing! It is a testament to all of our Young Volunteers that they helped him achieve this."

At play sessions post residential J is getting involved in much more active play than before. Since coming to the residential event J has been much more confident in his own abilities and willing to try something new instead of assuming he can't do it. He has recently learnt to fly a two-line kite confidently, and helped others as well. This residential experience has really supported his personal development in so many positive ways."



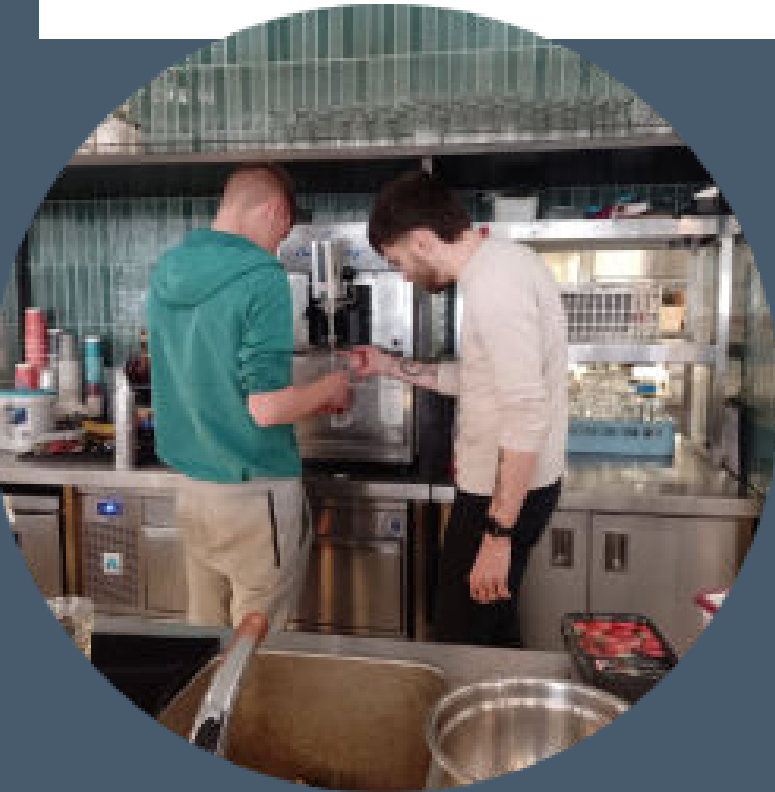
1625 Independent Living

Received a grant of £2,500 to help fund an Engagement and Learning Programme at Southwold House, Yate. Providing young homeless people and care leavers with positive, practical and therapeutic activities.

The Engagement and Learning Programme has made a considerable positive impact on the lives of vulnerable young people.

Of those surveyed, the following outcomes were seen:

- 80% said they had improved skills
- 80% said they had improved confidence
- 66% said they had improved ability to work with others
- 61% said they were feeling more positive about life



One young person helped by the programme is Georgina who says:
"I don't feel like I am a waste of people's time anymore. I have been taught that I have a strong support network and lots of people around me that care and want to help me. I don't feel alone anymore"

Georgina is now at college on a foundation course which will help her apply onto a university degree in nursing.

TIC+

Grant funding enabled 47 sessions of counselling to be provided to 7 young people across Gloucestershire.

“One young person described the conflict at home, saying that he gets angry and 'becomes another person' due to the difficult relationship with dad. The family have now referred for family counselling with TIC+ due to level of distress at home, young person described feeling emotionally neglected - and that this counselling had been a big help.”

“Another young person, very close to being excluded from school, had 4 sessions with the counsellor and is still at school and coping much better with day to day life without getting into anything like as much trouble as before.

As for the wider community, when a young person's future seems brighter the impact goes much further that just the young person - it has impact on the entire family as well as with school; (when a young person doesn't have to be excluded, and they start to re-engage with education) and these things in turn has an impact on the wider community too.”





Priors Park Neighbourhood Project

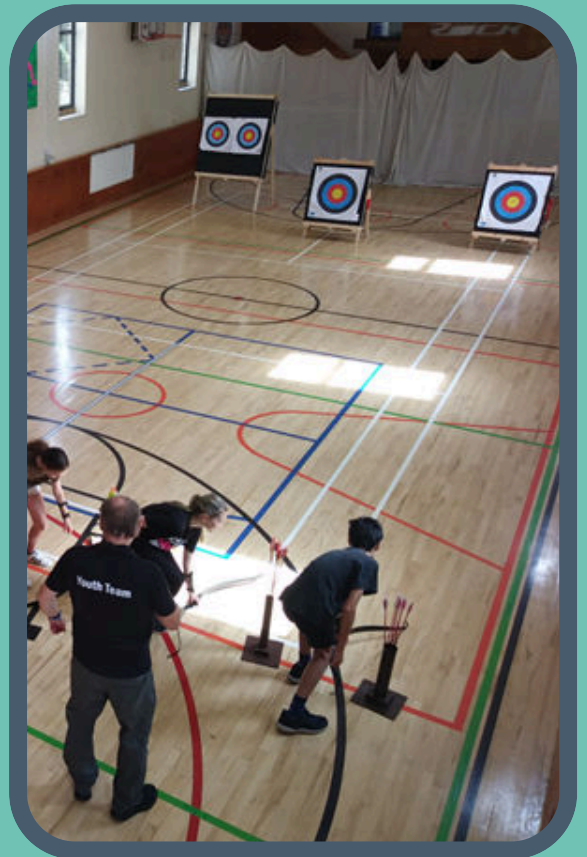
A grant of £2,500 funded after school pottery and ceramic creative workshops supporting disadvantaged local school pupils' mental health and increasing their self esteem and confidence caused by school disruptions from the recent COVID pandemic. Young people would choose a topic of their choice and make the objects with the support of a Creative Facilitator. Those objects were fired in a kiln and those pupils would keep in their portfolio. The pupils learn how the clay is made up from nutrients of the earth and can be therapeutic. As part of the workshop they were guided to express their feelings and build relationships with others in the group.

Regular questionnaire surveys were completed where pupils gave their feedback on how they felt. The group leader says: *"We successfully increased self esteem, confidence, provided new life skills and transferrable skills and to improving family lives and relationships, reduce crime prevention, keeping the pupils safe, limiting delinquent and anti social behaviour, improve their attention to their educational studies, unleashing their artistic talents which is vital therapeutic support and improves the well being of those pupils and their teachers."*

The Rock

Received a grant of £2,500 towards a programme of summer holiday activities for young people

“One of the young people on the Residential, often a very quiet person, wasn't happy with some of the activities but gave everything a go. Specifically, during the 'Crate Stacking' activity she was obviously terrified but persevered. Eventually, she achieved a level of 11 crates and was 'buzzing'.



Changing Tunes - Vinney Green Secure Children's Home

"This funding has enabled us to engage 30 participants at Vinney Green Secure Children's Home (ages 14 to 20) in one-to-one and small group music learning sessions throughout the year. Sessions have been 'learner-led': supporting participants to set and pursue goals, choose what music skills/styles they want to explore, and make their own music. Learning activities have ranged from developing skills on piano/keyboard, music production, singing, rapping, lyric and beat-making, drumming, guitar and multi-instrumental technique e.g. singing whilst guitar playing/keyboard playing. Support staff attended sessions and in many cases participated, building our partnership and nurturing healthy relationships between staff and young participants through the medium of relational music-making. Participants have been supported to work towards music examinations and accreditation. They have worked with our Musician-in-Residence and Musical Director to record their music. Recordings have been entered into the Koestler Awards (nationally recognized competition), resulting in a participant winning an award that recognises exceptional first-time entrants. Participants have performed to their peers and staff, including a highly successful festival-style event coined 'GlastonVinney'. Our Musician-in-Residence described the value of this event in his write-up, stating that: "It served as an open and safe platform for all young residents and staff to share their creativity. A hugely encouraging and nourishing event for all, sowing seeds for the next." The Head Teacher stated that this event was the most successful example of engaging young people in a shared activity he'd seen at Vinney, cultivating community and raising confidence among residents."

Outcomes data based on participant responses to evaluation forms:

100% reported increased self-esteem

100% felt more hopeful about their future

100% felt more able to achieve goals

80% stated they could work with others

80% felt part of something positive

100% stated that music was a positive force in their lives

100% stated they have musical skills and can express themselves

"I spoke to my dad and I'm defo gonna DJ when I get out, stay out of trouble and DJ, I love it! there's something so therapeutic about it."

"Thank you for accepting, acknowledging, supporting and believing in me. For so long I was doubting myself, but you taught me to believe and express myself through my music. No matter how hard I fall I will always stand up taller and stronger. Thank you so much, it truly means a lot."



THANK YOU

We are always overwhelmed by the support we get from organisations such as yourselves for putting your trust in community groups like ours. We always aim to do what is right for our youth as they are our future and we need to support and nurture them to enable them to do well and what is right in their life and hopefully show them the right path to go down. Without your support we are unable to do this. We are a building block in their journey to be great adults and we feel privileged to be a part of it. Thank you for helping us to achieve this.

Ruardean Youth Club, Forest of Dean

"We would like to give a big thanks as if it wasn't for your help then we might not be here still. The hard work is on-going but grants like this really to help a lot and take so much pressure off."

Forest Fighting Fit, boxing club

The support provided through the Gloucestershire Community Foundations is vital and makes the process of applying for some funds easier. I think because there is the local link it helps in the understanding of a project and its local impact."

Creative Sustainability

"We very much value the support received from your fund as well as the ongoing support for our work expressed in the wider community."

Door Youth Project

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE FUND



With thanks to the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire and the past and current High Sheriffs for their support.



OPCC

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
for Gloucestershire



Gloucestershire
Community Foundation

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Registered Charity: 900239