



The Community Foundation
for Wiltshire & Swindon

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Picture Wiltshire and rolling hills, postcard villages, the beauty of Salisbury plain and national treasures such as Avebury and Stonehenge spring to mind. But within our beautiful county there are regions of severe deprivation and not just in urban areas. In fact, some of the most rural parts of Wiltshire have 40% of people classified as living in deprivation¹ as well as cities and towns that have seen their industrial heritage decline.

In this article, Wiltshire Life looks at the work of the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon and how they support charity projects that are vital to the welfare of our communities. (www.wscf.org.uk)

Age Concern Wiltshire – Gardening Services

Age Concern provides support for Wiltshire's high proportion of older people – over a third of the population is aged 50 and 72,000 are 65+. Since 2002, The Community Foundation has provided over £97,000 in grants to Age Concern in Wiltshire & Swindon.

In its research project 'Beyond the Immediate', Age Concern Wiltshire partnered with other bodies to find out about the needs and aspirations of older people. Gardening help was identified as a top priority, allowing older people to remain in their own home and maintain independence. In 2006, Age Concern Wiltshire launched Gardening Services, a paid service that provides gardening help to older people.

Alan Truscott, Social Enterprise Manager of Age Concern Wiltshire, says: "Client comments illustrate how we've helped take the worry away and how grateful they are for the extra pair of hands in the garden. It's difficult for an older person to see their garden falling into a terrible state and they often worry what the neighbours might think. We don't want to take over, but we help with the heavy work - we're the muscle!"

Gardening Services is three years into their 5-year business plan. They hope the service will fully fund itself and they are actively looking for new clients to use their services. This year, The Community Foundation provided a £5,000 grant to help with their administration.

¹ Source: AFD, 2005, National Statistics - comparison to all inhabitants of England



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The Clivey

Penhill and Pinehurst in Swindon are in the top 10% of most-deprived areas in England. The Community Foundation is running a Fair Share project in this area, including funding a Community Development worker who works with the residents to improve the facilities for young people and to improve the environment for the whole community.

Many of the problems in the area are not unique. Anti-social behaviour among the young is a significant concern. Health, jobs, education and housing are all poor which has led to increased drug abuse and a rising number of teenage pregnancies.

The Clivey was opened in 2001 to provide young people with somewhere they could spend time, receive advice, information and support. Satnam Bains says: "We are the only youth provision with a building. We're in a prominent position on the high street and opposite a local secondary school. To run the building and provide the service costs us about £140,000 per year. We totally rely on the goodwill of people and support from Swindon Borough Council, HEART FM and from donors through The Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon."

The Community Foundation gave The Clivey £10,000 over two years to support running costs. Part of this funding is to train for young people be involved in the decision-making process. Their involvement ensures the service continues to reflect the needs of young people in their community.

Phoenix Enterprises

Phoenix Enterprises is a Social Enterprise offering a quality mailing and assembly service to other organisations. Its prime objective is to provide volunteering and work opportunities in a supportive environment for people who are recovering from mental health illnesses.

Manager Brian Tyler says: "We operate as a business fulfilling customer orders and satisfying their contracts. This means that we have to be quite strict in the way that we operate - people who work or volunteer for us are expected to be responsible and arrive on time as per their agreements and contracts. Since I've been at Phoenix I've seen a number of people move onto either employment or voluntary opportunities. This can be a long process as we are here to help people recovering from mental health illnesses and to help them make the best of their lives."



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Phoenix considers itself to be very competitive being a not-for-profit organisation and a charity. This gives them the advantage in the market to both retain and gain new business.

Mr Tyler explains: “We also receive a financial grant from the Primary Care Trust which supports our activities as some of our staff and volunteers will not work as quickly at the beginning or during periods with us as normal market forces would expect. Even though we work in a structured environment, we are aware that some of our people will at times have a lower threshold to stress and so funding is needed to help support them during these periods. If we tried to compete commercially without this extra support we might find on occasions our costs were higher than the competition. For example, we might put more people on the job than is actually required for both training and mentoring purposes”.

A 2009 grant of £5,200 from The Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon will pay for five additional supported work placements.

Stepping Stones Opportunity Group

Established in 1974, Stepping Stones Opportunity Group provides specialist learning and therapy for disabled pre-school children from West Wiltshire. It currently has 60 pre-school children with learning disabilities. After an initial grant of £3,000 in 1997, the Community Foundation has provided £25,300 in grants since 2005.

The centre offers assessment sessions with occupational, physio, and speech and language therapists who advise on the best groups for the children and the support that they need. Each child then receives two 2-hour sessions per week provided free of charge.

Wiltshire County Council funds 7 sessions per week not including two baby sessions. Mrs Jackie Chisling of Stepping Stones says: “We need about £40,000 annually a year to stand still. Our biggest costs are staffing as we have a large staff to child ratio. The difficulty is finding funding to support our core running costs. The Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon has most recently provided funding for two play assistants to work in the baby sessions for two years.”

About The Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon



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The Community Foundation is funded by donations from families, individuals and companies in the county. They also look after a number of charitable trusts. Most of this funding is invested into their endowment fund providing a permanent source of funding for voluntary groups within the county.

In addition, The Community Foundation tenders for sources of revenue funding. In April this year, they will begin distributing Sport Relief funding and making Red Nose Day Grants.

Last July, the Community Foundation brought £1.4m into the county through Grassroots Grants, another government fund. £635,000 of that funding is available to build a new community of donors by providing a 1:1 match for any new donations to the Community Foundation Endowment Fund until March 2011.

A £10,000 donation to the Community Foundation plus gift aid equals £12,800 plus 1:1 Grassroots Grants match funding means the Community Foundation receives £25,600 from a £10,000 donation to their endowment fund. High rate taxpayers can reclaim the difference between high rate and the basic rate tax paid on this donation further reducing the cost of donating.

Whatever your charitable interests may be, CFWS can help you ensure your donations will reach out to where they are most needed.

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Notes for editors:

Community Foundations are experts in revitalising local communities through effective charitable giving. Over the last 16 years well over 12,000 private sector donors have used the services of a Community Foundation to make sure that their giving has been invested to make the lasting difference that they wanted to see. Community Foundations now manage close to

www.wscf.org.uk



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£200m of committed endowed giving and it is estimated that most people in the UK will live or work within 20 miles of a charitable project that a community foundation has supported.