

Appendix 1

Summary of Awards:

Fund Name	Name of Organisation	Areas of benefit	Specific COMF priority wards	Project Summary	Theme	Project End	Completion Date
Social Impact Fund Capital	Warwickshire Community & Voluntary Action - Nuneaton & Bedworth Branch	Areas of benefit	Specific COMF priority wards	Towards the refurbishment of the Newton Centre	Building refurbishment	£93000	Completed
Social Impact Fund Capital	St Peter & St John's church	Areas of benefit	Specific COMF priority wards	Towards the costs of refurbishment of the Church Hall.	Building refurbishment	£80000	1/07/23
Social Impact Fund Capital	Barford Youth & Community Centre	Areas of benefit	Specific COMF priority wards	To demolish the existing Scout Hut and replace with a new building that will comprise a large hall; a smaller meeting room; a kitchen; accessible toilets, storage facilities for the community groups	New building	£65000	1/12/23
Social Impact Fund Capital	Escape Community Art in Action	Areas of benefit	Specific COMF priority wards	The Charity proposes to extend the sunroom/extension out to incorporate the building veranda, removing a central wall to provide one large open workshop/exhibition space. This would bring huge benefits to the Charity, enabling increased numbers onsite and providing greater access to the	Building extension	£65000	Completed

				building/activities.			
Social Impact Fund Capital	The Boxing Clever Academy Ltd	Areas of benefit	Specific COMF priority wards	Towards building an extension and refurbishment to their existing premises	Building extension and refurbishment	£97000	Delayed - tbc
Social Impact Fund Revenue	INSIGHT Counselling, Coaching & Support Services (previously known as Domestic A	Nuneaton and Bedworth	All Nuneaton wards	Charity is seeking support to increase staff capacity so it can respond to an increase in referrals from families with caring responsibilities for a child with a physical, sensory or developmental disability. Interventions from INSIGHT will include tailored support to equip participants with coping strategies and methods of conflict resolution, wider access to counselling, parent led support groups and other agencies to reduce isolation.	Families, carers	£36776	1/4/23
Social Impact Fund Revenue	You Can Flourish (known as "Flourish")	Warwick	Whitnash, Leamington Willes, Southam	This project will aim to support girls and young women who have found their mental and physical wellbeing negatively affected by the pandemic. It will work both by directly working alongside them and by equipping the community they live in. This will be delivered by four keys workstreams. Funding will enable 50 girls and young women to receive flexible support and the chance to explore how they are feeling and access tools to build emotional resilience. It will also enable the provision of the	Young women, girls	£30331	28/09/23

				Rebuild programme in schools, which will enable the application to reach 40 more girls and young women, and also to provide training to schools.			
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Young People First (Midlands)	Warwick	Leamington Brunswick	Application is seeking funding over 15 months to deliver holiday activities, signposting and practical support to vulnerable young people and their families on the Brunswick estate in Leamington Spa. Activities will begin in the Easter holidays of 2022 and be delivered during school holidays up until the end of Easter 2023, with the exception of Christmas. In addition to providing activities and day trips, applicant will also provide pastoral support to young people, parents and carers who may be at risk or struggling and will signpost some families to additional services such as Citizens Advice Bureau and/or foodbanks.	Young people	£41000	30/6/23
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Together for Change Coventry and Warwickshire (Saints Nuneaton)	Nuneaton and Bedworth	All Nuneaton wards	Funding will enable the extension, expansion and development of provision at Saints Nuneaton, a converted Victorian building equipped for community use and being used by the applicant. Applicant will deliver a range of activities to support disadvantaged people across a range of ages from mums with babies, to children (through an after-school club and kids breakfast programme), to families with mental health issues, to IT literacy classes for older residents.	Financial inclusion	£49793	30/06/23

Social Impact Fund Revenue	Sky Blues in the Community	Nuneaton and Bedworth, Warwick	All Nuneaton and Warwick wards	Application will enable the development of the Dementia Active programme in Warwickshire. The applicant will deliver weekly sessions in two locations to 50 men living with dementia and their carers. Activities will run along two themes – multi sports and physical activities to improve physical health, mobility and relaxation skills – and social activities such as board games, quizzes and creative and mindfulness work, to promote discussions and the building of friendships.	Dementia	£26832	30/04/23
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Brunswick Healthy Living Centre (Known as Brunswick HUB)	Warwick	Leamington Brunswick	Applicant is seeking funding over 15 months to sustain and improve the efficiency of an existing food bank and holistic advice service. Additional staff capacity will enable those accessing the food bank to receive quick and effective referrals to existing projects and services within the centre, but also to external agencies such as social services, to improve their situations for the longer term.	Financial inclusion	£36000	31/03/23
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Home-Start South Warwickshire	Warwick	Leamington Brunswick	Bump Start is a 14-month pilot project commencing March 2022 offering a support programme for 48 pregnant women and new mothers in Leamington Brunswick.	Women, new mothers	£28140	8/06/23
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Warwickshire Counselling Centre T/A Sycamore Counselling Service	North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth	All Nuneaton and North Warwickshire wards	To employ sessional children and young people's counsellors for 36 hours a week to work with children and young people referred/approaching the service for therapy during the current ongoing pandemic.	Children, young people	£46009	31/03/23

Social Impact Fund Revenue	Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service	North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth	All Nuneaton and North Warwickshire wards	Over 12 months, funding will pay for a full-time specialist benefits caseworker who will work with vulnerable individuals to maximise household and individual incomes through the take up of in-work benefits and out of work benefits including long term sickness and disability benefits.	Financial inclusion	£44444	31/03/23
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Springfield MIND	Warwick	Leamington Brunswick	Project is seeking to utilise a new relationship with the Gurdwara Sahib in Leamington Spa, to reach out to members of the local Sikh community around mental health issues. Funding for a Mental Health Practitioner will assist in improving awareness of poor mental health from within this community and deliver tailored support to improve mental well-being, reduce isolation and improve the extent to which members of the Gurdwara look beyond friends and relations for support from mental health services.	Mental health	£45000	Delayed tbc
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	Rugby	Benn, Newbold, Brownsover	Seeking funding over 12 months to deliver a wellbeing in nature programme for women with young families (fathers, grandparents and carers also welcome) who are experiencing isolation, stresses surrounding parenting and social isolation, and who may have faced mental ill health as a result of the pandemic.	Families	£29800	31/08/23

Social Impact Fund Revenue	The Parenting Project (Dads Matter)	Nuneaton and Bedworth, Stratford-on-Avon	All Nuneaton and Stratford wards	The Parenting Project (PP) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee established in 2006, to meet increasing need amongst families in Warwickshire for mental health support and guidance to improve family wellbeing.	Families	£39438	30/06/23
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Alcester Town Council	Stratford-on-Avon	Studley with Sambourne ward	Funding is sought to sustain weekly meetings of the Crafty Lunch Club, a safe and supportive meeting place for adults with learning difficulties or disabilities and/or physical disabilities. Those accessing the club can socialise, be creative and take part in group games and gentle exercise. It also provides a space for carers to meet and have respite.	Disability	£40000	10/03/23
Social Impact Fund Revenue	White Hart Community Groups	North Warwickshire	Polesworth East	To employ a new part-time worker to develop two distinct projects - a group for individuals living with dementia, and their carers, and a group, or groups to bring those who are isolated in communities together, to reduce loneliness. Over 60 weeks, this staff member would conduct outreach for the groups and be responsible for convening and delivering them, with support from three volunteers.	Dementia, carers, loneliness	£29847	30/06/23
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Hope 4 The Community CIC (H4C)	Countywide	Warwick	Social enterprise delivers a range of self-management programmes for those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (carers and people living with long-term conditions) across Coventry, Warwickshire, and Rugby, as part	Long COVID	£49590	30/06/23

				of a project funded by a grant from NHS Charities Together. Project provides co-designed self-management support to people living with long COVID – the Hope Programme for long COVID. Demand has been high and CIC is seeking funding to work with additional participants from Warwickshire, who are living with long COVID to self-manage, develop social connections and peer-support opportunities to tackle isolation.			
Social Impact Fund Revenue	Warwickshire Independent Advocacy Alliance	Nuneaton and Bedworth	Slough	to support the Bedworth Community Corner Covid Recovery Hub with a recovery worker	Mental health	£27000	31/10/23

Overview of Process

We launched the fund on 4th November 2021 and closed for applications on 30th December 2021.

Total number of applications received: 65, value of £2,995,966

Total to panel: 53, value £1,977, 904.30

Panel meetings were held on 31st January 2022 and 1st February 2022

We had a small team of 3 assessors working on the assessments with our Senior Manager Programmes coordinating the process and we shared the completed assessments with panel members in batches to ensure they were able to prepare for the panel meetings in good time.

We worked closely with the team at Warwickshire County Council and we were agile in ensuring we met the timescales set out in the Cabinet paper.

We worked with Warwickshire CAVA (Community & Voluntary Action) to run a webinar to outline the criteria and the process to potential applicants and answer any queries.

We ensured that applicants were supported by offering one-to-one drop-in sessions and also offered the opportunity for applicants to get in touch via telephone and email. The majority of the queries were in relation to the criteria and process. Some applicants particularly those organisations that were volunteer led had more queries and required additional reassurance.

We continue to monitor the successful projects and provide regular updates to the team at Warwickshire County Council.

Update on Grants Awarded

Two of the capital projects awarded have completed the work and provided end of grant monitoring, details of which are shared below.

A further three revenue projects will finish at the end of March. They have submitted strong interim monitoring showing continuation and expansion of provision, they are Alcester Town Council, Warwickshire Welfare Rights and Warwickshire Counselling Centre T/A Sycamore Counselling Service.

Projects have a full month following the completion of their project to complete end of grant monitoring.

Two projects have been delayed, one revenue, one capital. The revenue project has been delayed due to not being able to recruit staff. Staff recruitment has been an issue across all sectors post pandemic. The capital project has been delayed due to changes which meant they were not able to continue plans with their initial building. Both organisations are in regular contact, and we continue to update colleagues at Warwickshire County Council.

Feedback on process from applicants & lessons learnt:

The initial funding application timescales were a challenge for applicants, especially as it was regarded as a significant opportunity with applicants wanting to submit their strongest proposals.

As we were aware that applicants would potentially continue to have queries until the application deadline we ensured that we were able to provide support where needed including over the Christmas period.

Feedback on process from Heart of England Community Foundation:

Despite the tight timescales we were able to respond to the requirements set out in the Cabinet paper. An important part of being able to deliver the programme successfully was the close working relationship with colleagues from Warwickshire County Council. Our communication has remained strong throughout the process.

Using a pool of assessors especially those with strong experience of assessing capital applications worked really well for the Foundation. This model was so successful we worked with the assessors to deliver an additional programme later in the year.

As you can see the volume of applications was high as is expected with a fund of such value and because of the split of capital /revenue funding. It was essential to have a system and processes which can cope with such volumes. Our processes & Salesforce system were testimony to running the programme successfully.

Our system was also able to manage interim reports and split payments.

We ensured that we provided detailed feedback to unsuccessful applicants and signposted to other funds where possible. We have continued to signpost opportunities as they have arisen.

One of the successes of the programme is that we were able to reach a number of new applicants to the Foundation.

End of Grant Monitoring:

Escape Community Arts in Action – Capital Grant – £40,000 awarded to extend the sunroom/extension out to incorporate the building veranda, removing a central wall to provide one large open workshop/exhibition space. This would bring huge benefits to the Charity, enabling increased numbers onsite and providing greater access to the building/activities.

The below information is as provided by Escape Community Arts in Action.

This fund has enabled us to undertake an extension to the arts and heritage centre. This involved taking down an internal wall and moving the footprint of the building to create one big accessible space.

The budget has been managed extremely well with good communication and innovative thinking across the project, including recycling the old doors and windows.

Difference the grant has made:

This grant has enabled us to improve access to the venue and create a large open space. This will enable us to run larger group sessions and support additional community group users.

The venue will attract larger events and group work, impacting on the number of community groups using the space, independent hirers offer a greater diversity of programmes. The size and space will ensure our more vulnerable participants feel safe and can socially distance if they still require to. The grant has enabled us to:

- Respond to consultation to create an accessible, safe space for creative health, wellbeing and skills development in response to the evolving pandemic.
- Create small extension and open-up venue to create one large, accessible, open space, allowing for social distancing – future proofing and safeguarding project activities within social distancing guidelines.
- Replace heating system.
- All materials/design implementing environmental consideration.

To the external right of the building there is a large, covered space, the 'Cowshed' this will remain, supporting a range of creative, educational, health and environmental projects.

Main challenges

There were key challenges to the redevelopment. These were mainly due to the outfall after Covid-19, getting professionals on board and massive rising costs.

Initial delays due to the Architect and then the work was held up to extreme cold weather and the paint work on the new doors being the wrong colour.

Unintended or Unexpected Changes:

Only really what was outlined above, delays and increasing costs. The initial grant quote increased threefold just for the extension when it came to tender. We are still seeking funding to develop the garden so watch this space.

Plans once funding ends:

We are seeking funding to apply for the garden redevelopment, we need approx 15k and the approx 20k for solar panels and environmentally sound battery units.

During our 25th Birthday Celebrations we initiated community consultation with our partners, participants and peers around coming back into the building and its use moving forward. We are moving this into phase 2 once building control has been signed off and the public can access the venue.

Picture of work in progress:



Where we are now: Escape Arts have confirmed they are in the building again, all the work is complete. They have an Awards 4 All grant to do the garden work, and that is happening now. They have not fully reopened to the public, but community groups have started to use the space again and that has been their priority, they have crafts groups, refugee groups using the space regularly.

Warwickshire Community & Voluntary Action - Nuneaton & Bedworth Branch – Capital Grant – Awarded £93,000 towards the refurbishment of the Newton Centre.

Difference grant has made and evidence:

The Centre is a lot more welcoming for those members of the community coming for regular community activities, but also for those who might only visit irregularly for health-related appointments, they might be nervous, lacking confidence, not speaking English as a first language - but they can come to a safe, warm, welcoming environment, that does not feel clinical. The grant has put the shine back into the building.

Main challenges:

The major challenge was the state of the roof & the resultant advice that whilst they were onsite it would be more cost effective for us to ask the company to undertake the flat roof repairs at the same time rather than them becoming an issue in 6-12 months, with the potential for leaks to damage the newly installed suspended ceilings. To resolve this we asked for a grant variation, to not undertake other tasks & finding cost savings on other project elements.

Unintended or Unexpected Changes:

As above, the roof variation request has meant a broader positive impact - we have additional security & resilience as a result of the grant. We have found some excellent companies who we will work with in the future for buildings & maintenance tasks. We saved

a significant amount on the kitchenette project, meaning we re-assessed what was needed & we have a positive solution that suits the groups who use the facilities.

Short case study

'A' is a volunteer with Warwickshire Vision Support, a charity that helps people who are blind or have visual impairments. WVS have been running support sessions at the Newtown Centre for a number of years with a lot of success, welcoming over 20 attendees and 6 volunteers each week.

The constant leaks in the roof of the main hall have caused both the Centre management and many of its users concern for user safety, this was a huge issue for those with visual impairments moving around safely, navigating buckets, cardboard sheets to protect the wooden floor, being mindful of the potential for slips and trips.

Once the refurbishment work was completed the WVS group came back into the main hall and were amazed about the better acoustics and lighting from the new suspended ceiling & LED lights. They have all commented on how much that improves their experience of group sessions with 20+ people, some brings dogs, lots of chatting, cups clattering etc.

A is passionate about music and had always wanted to use his skills more within his volunteering. He asked round the group if anymore wanted to learn more basic music, and lots of the members instantly said they would love to, having never really had that opportunity, and especially not in a non-judgemental, social environment. So, A has now set up a session, that runs straight after the WVS session in the main hall, teaching people how to play the penny whistle, and they are all getting ready for a Christmas performance for the rest of the WVS group. Without the improvements in the hall A stated that this would have been impossible before as acoustically the environment was not conducive to performing music, comfortably, especially for those with sensory impairments.

A is gaining a great deal from this, being able to share his skills & passion for music, but also the attendees are loving their newfound skills.

Before & After



Conclusion:

The grant making was conducted efficiently with the regular monitoring ensuring any issues have been highlighted at the earliest opportunities. We will be able to provide more end of grant monitoring data as projects complete. The funding has and will continue to have high impact across the County.