

Focus Foundation 2025 impact report.

focusfoundation.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1194519.

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Our 2025 impact in numbers.

£694,068.45

Awarded in funding.



108

Projects funded.



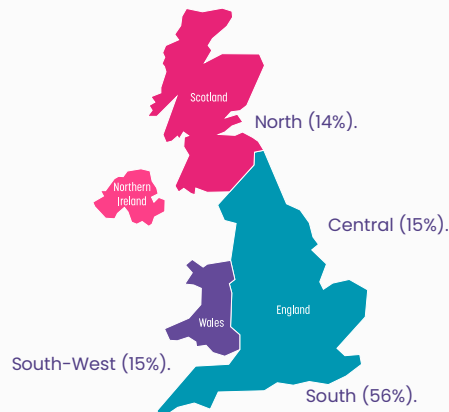
69

New charities supported.



23

Repeat grants.



9

Small grants given via our new small grants programme.

Totalling

£7,320.33



63,991.

Direct beneficiaries.

158,668.

Indirect beneficiaries.

222,659.

Total beneficiaries.



£64,654.84.

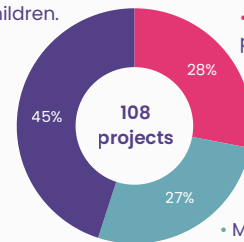
Total awarded to events beneficiaries.

(Winter Ball, North & South Golf Day)

• Underprivileged young people & children.

• Community projects.

• Mental health.



A reflection.

From Chris Goodman,
Co-Founder and Trustee.

"As we look back on 2025, we do so with immense pride and gratitude for what we have achieved together.

This year has been a powerful reminder of what's possible when business, community, compassion and commitment unite behind a shared purpose.

2025 was a year of milestones, defined by growth, resilience, and extraordinary generosity. We proudly achieved our £1m funding target, while realising that by achieving this fantastic goal, we now need to do more to support the charities we believe in.

We strengthened our network of charity partners, expanded our reach into more communities than ever before, and continued to fund vital services at a time when demand has never been greater.

From mental health support and youth outreach to food security and crisis intervention, the impact of your contributions has been both immediate and long-lasting.

Two standout moments defined the year. Our Winter Ball once again brought our community together in a powerful display of generosity, with funds already supporting vital programmes across Sussex. Meanwhile, the launch of Angels' Den saw £100,000 raised in a single evening, creating not just funding, but meaningful partnerships that will strengthen communities long into the future.

Above all, 2025 reaffirmed that our charity partners are the heartbeat of Focus Foundation. Their resilience, creativity and unwavering dedication continue to inspire us every day. We are proud to stand alongside them, championing their work and helping them thrive.

To every donor, business partner, volunteer, and supporter who stood with us this year, thank you. Your contributions, no matter their form, have helped us continue building a stronger and more connected charity sector across the UK.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to connecting communities and empowering grassroots charities to thrive. With your support, we will continue to grow our impact, deepen our relationships, and ensure that grassroots organisations have the resources and recognition they deserve.

Together, we are building something extraordinary, and we're only just getting started."

- Chris Goodman, Co-Founder and Trustee.



Why we exist.

Small grassroots charities play an essential role in strengthening communities across the UK and in many cases are the glue that holds our community together, yet they face daily challenges that threaten their stability and impact.

Financial insecurity remains one of the most significant pressures. Funding is the primary concern for charities with incomes below **£1 million**, who struggle to secure core, unrestricted, and multi-year grants.

Many also feel disadvantaged by funding systems that favour larger, well-established charities, creating persistent inequalities across the sector.

Public donations have also declined dramatically from **54%** of income to just **25%**, leaving **73%** of small charities without a reliable primary income stream, while they receive only **4%** of total government funding.

1*

At the same time, these charities are facing **growing demand** for their services. Rising living costs and economic uncertainty mean more people are turning to local charities just as their budgets are being squeezed.

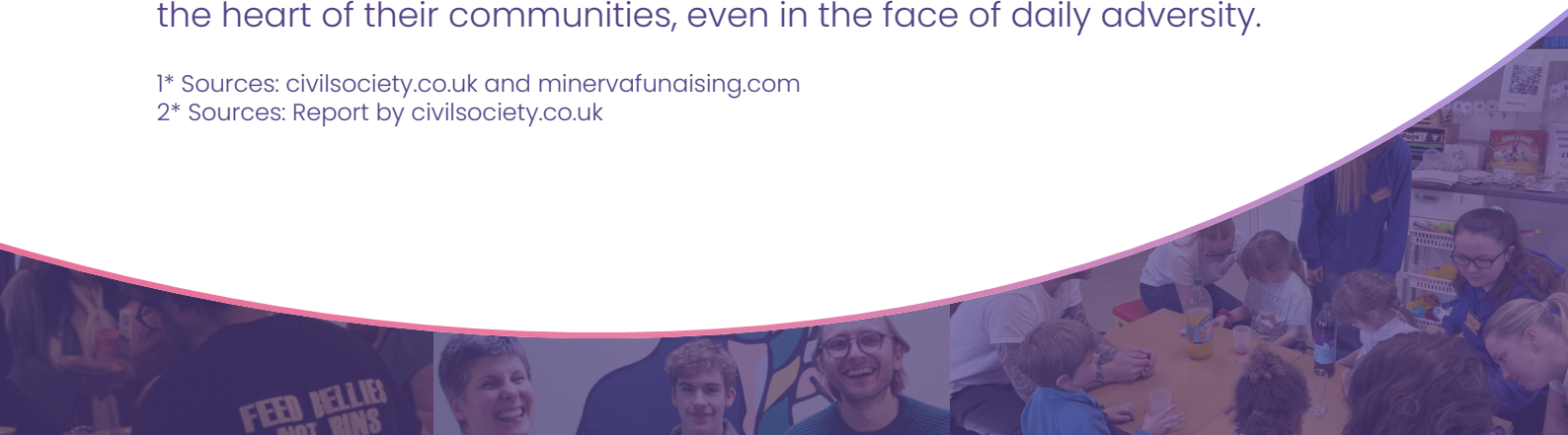
Operational challenges and lack of essential resources are also significant. Limited staffing and resources mean many organisations lack access to training, support, and development opportunities. This coupled with a lack of marketing capability, means smaller charities are fighting for any sort of voice within the local community.

Overall, there is an emotional strain for charity leaders, who report high levels of stress and burnout, mainly linked to financial instability and administrative burdens. 2*

Despite these hurdles, grassroots charities continue to deliver vital, life-changing support, often with extraordinary resilience. They remain the heart of their communities, even in the face of daily adversity.

1* Sources: civilsociety.co.uk and minervafundraising.com

2* Sources: Report by civilsociety.co.uk



Together, we are incredible.

Focus Foundation believes if organisations and individuals support the communities around them, we could grow together and watch our communities thrive once again.

Our Theory of Change demonstrates how we try to work with our communities and the grassroots charities within them, not only to provide funding, but also to support them with essential resources, a wider team of volunteers, and a stronger voice across our networks.

Together, this creates the conditions for lasting, community-led change.



Watch our Founders' video [here](#), or by clicking the image above.



DAME VERA LYNN
Children's Charity
Discover together



whoopsadaisy[®]
every step counts



**Team
Domenica**



Glasgow Care Foundation



Focus Foundation are **more** than simply a grant-making trust.

They show **genuine interest** in our charity and are keen to ascertain how best they can **support our growth and development.**

Their input to date has been **outstanding** and they have been with us every step of the way.

– Serena Crisp, Hope charity Project.

Focus Foundation's Theory of Change:

Problem:

Grassroots charities are underfunded and overlooked.

97% of charities underpin our communities.

Over 50% get no government funding.

Vision:

We inspire collaborations and funding to fulfil the dreams of creating a whole community with equal access to support and resources, through grassroot charities, so they can thrive.

A community that is incredible, together.

Outputs:

Funding through a robust grants application process.

Providing essential resources.

Volunteering programme.

Collaborations with partners for a bigger impact.

Provide CSR support to inspired businesses.

Outcomes:

Stability:

Grassroots charities secure funding, resources, and therefore, resilience.

Capacity:

More services delivered to more people.

Skilled volunteering:

Businesses and individuals share time and expertise.

Collaboration:

Everyone working together.

Corporate engagement:

Local businesses achieve CSR promises.

Wider reach:

More communities access vital support.

Impact:

Thriving grassroots charities = thriving communities.

Equal access to support and opportunities, no matter where someone lives or what challenges they face.

A reduction in charity closures, protecting vital frontline services.

Empowered local organisations that can stand independently, sustainably, and confidently.

A culture of collaboration and generosity between businesses, individuals and charities.

Mission:

Connecting communities to empower grassroots charities to thrive.

We serve:

Grassroots charities with an income of less than £1m per year, and therefore those in the community who need support most.

Partners:

Charities.
Local businesses.
Volunteers.
Donors.

Charity partner's goal:

Support grassroots charities to grow strong enough and continue their work without ongoing intervention.



How we are creating change.

Funding:

Our Grants team complete due diligence on every charity grant application.

The team ensure that each project put forward to the Grant Committee has the biggest reach and the most impact possible in the local community.

The Grant Committee meet quarterly to decide on how funds are distributed.

Volunteering:

In 2025, we developed our volunteering programme further to bring together companies and individuals on to the programme.

This scheme encourages the charities we partner with to share volunteering opportunities with us. Allowing us to introduce new volunteers to them.

We also committed in 2025 to help charities with getting more essential resources, making their processes more efficient.

Amplifying voices in the community:

Charities are invited to all our events, where they get an opportunity to showcase their causes and gain visibility.

Using our social networks, we create a community where these charities can have a bigger voice and can publicise their impact.

Philanthropic initiatives:

Our qualified team come together to support local businesses to reach their philanthropic targets, within their CSR strategy.

We take away the stress of finding volunteering opportunities, researching charities to support, being creative with fundraising and offer this as a package to others.

These businesses become our Champions of Change and donate monthly to keep the funding pot topped up.

Regular donations mean we can forecast and manage income, often meaning more projects can be funded.

Creating collaborations:

We have many examples of introductions that make a difference.

Collaborations unite small charities, to make a project bigger and the funds go further or an introduction so a business can utilise their internal skill set, to support a charity who otherwise would never be able to afford such resources.

Stories of collaboration.

Behind every collaboration is a story of lives changed, communities strengthened, and hope restored.

This collection of videos brings those stories to life, showcasing the incredible charities we've supported through funding and collaboration, and the meaningful impact they are making every day.

From grassroots initiatives to long standing community programmes, these are the voices of real people creating real change - made possible through collective generosity, shared purpose, and the power of working together.

Hope & Healing



Please click [here](#), or the image above to watch.

Burgess Hill
Pantry



Please click [here](#), or the image above to watch.

Brighton Table
Tennis Club



Please click [here](#), or the image above to watch.

Stories of extra impact.

Funding is essential, but connections, introductions and sharing knowledge means we helped make impact naturally, that made a big a big difference.

These are the stories we are proud to be part of.

Motiv8.

Motiv8 supports young people facing poverty, mental health challenges and trauma, providing safe spaces where they can feel heard, build trust and begin to heal.

After identifying a lack of tech at their hub, a collaboration with Silver Linings, Focus Group's latest acquisition at the time, resulted in the donation of three laptops, expanding access to vital tools for young people to learn, connect and move forward.

Pelican Parcels.

At Angels' Den 2025, Pelican Parcels took to the stage to share their mission and proposed project.

In a powerful moment, an audience member asked the cost of providing 10 new beds for families in need and, upon hearing £1,000, immediately committed to covering it in full.

A spontaneous act of generosity that captured the spirit of the event, raising awareness while creating real-time impact for grassroots charities.

Together for Cinema.

We connected Together for Cinema with Equally Abled, supporting their plans to create a cinema experience within their SEND youth hub, enabling young people to enjoy engaging film days during school holidays.

We also referred Together for Cinema to Worthing Hospital children's ward, enabling the introduction of audio-visual equipment in chill-out spaces to improve comfort and wellbeing for young patients.

Lastly, we introduced Together for Cinema to Motiv8, helping lay the groundwork for future access to media and audio equipment within their youth hubs.

Brighton Table Tennis x Centre for Social Justice.

Chris Goodman, Co-Founder of Focus Foundation, introduced Brighton Table Tennis Club to the Centre for Social Justice, creating a valuable new connection. This led to £10,000 in funding, as well as the start of an ongoing relationship, opening the door to wider networks, increased support and long-term opportunities for the charity to grow and continue its vital work.



THINK
<18>



MedEquip4KIDS 40
Celebrating 40 Years

SPRINGBOARD
OPPORTUNITY GROUP

Read
for Good
Motivating kids to read



“We have felt truly **valued** and **supported** throughout our experience with the Focus Foundation, which has been far more personal than we ever expected.

From the outset, it was clear that this is not a tick-box exercise, but a **genuinely thoughtful approach to grant making**. The time taken to meet with us in advance, to understand our work in depth, and to see first-hand the impact we are striving to achieve has been incredibly **meaningful**.

It is rare to encounter a foundation that shows such **authentic interest and passion** for the charities it supports. We have felt listened to, understood, and encouraged at every stage. This approach not only **strengthened** our application, but has also built a lovely relationship.

The Focus Foundation's **commitment** to making a real difference shines through in everything they do, and it is a privilege to interact with their team members.”

– *Kate Bradley, Reubens Retreat.*

Fundraising moments that made an impact.



Winter Ball 2025: A celebration of screen, stage and shared purpose.

Our flagship fundraising event returned in 2025 with an unforgettable evening that brought together businesses, charities and supporters from across Sussex.

The event raised an incredible £120,832, with £60,516 shared equally between five beneficiary charities: Esteem, Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, FareShare Sussex & Surrey, Team Domenica and Bramber Bakehouse.

Each received £12,100 to support their vital work.

Please click [here](#), or the image above to watch.



The i360 Horizon Fund: Collective giving making a local impact.

The Horizon Fund was created to meet a clear need: grassroots charities are too often underfunded and overlooked, despite being closest to the communities they serve and best placed to support those who need it most.

Built on a model of collective giving, it brings together the generosity of employees, suppliers and customers, enabling us to support a wider range of local causes and create greater impact across communities.

In its first quarter alone, the fund awarded £14,942 to 13 charities, reaching 883 beneficiaries.

Our fundraising impact.



Brighton Half Marathon.

A beautiful day in Brighton, where our incredible runners came together with energy and determination to conquer 13.1 miles, raising an amazing £3,185 in support of our work.



Jack and the Beanstalk.

E3 Events kindly supported us once again, putting on a fantastic panto performance of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Thanks to the audience's generosity, the £7,525 raised, was ringfenced for Children's charities.



Golf Day Central Region.

A wonderful day in Warwickshire that added £16,285 to the grant pot.

With thanks to Grace Enterprises, Siling Families and Happy Days Nursery for joining us.



Golf Day North Region.

At Cameron House, the generosity of participants generated £11,000 in additional funding, alongside the opportunity to hear from Stop. Breathe. Think. and Panathlon.



Golf Day South Region.

The signature Golf Day at Mannings Heath raised an additional £237,890 for the grant pot, while The Olive Tree and FareShare showcased their impactful work.



Alongside these events, we're incredibly grateful to those who helped create such special moments: **Shelter Hall** for hosting a magical Christmas evening, where families gathered to switch on the lights and meet the panto cast.

Invictus Wealth Consultants for their generous cake sale donations. **Brighton i360** for welcoming a large group of disadvantaged, SEND and disabled children onto the Pod to meet Father Christmas. Everyone involved in the Hove Lagoon **Speedee Boarding** event, golf days run by **Comms Business Magazine**, which together raised nearly £1,000 in support of our work.

Angels' Den 2025: Funding and building skills through storytelling.

In November 2025, we launched our first-ever Angels' Den, an innovative event designed to give grassroots charities a platform to share their stories and secure vital funding.

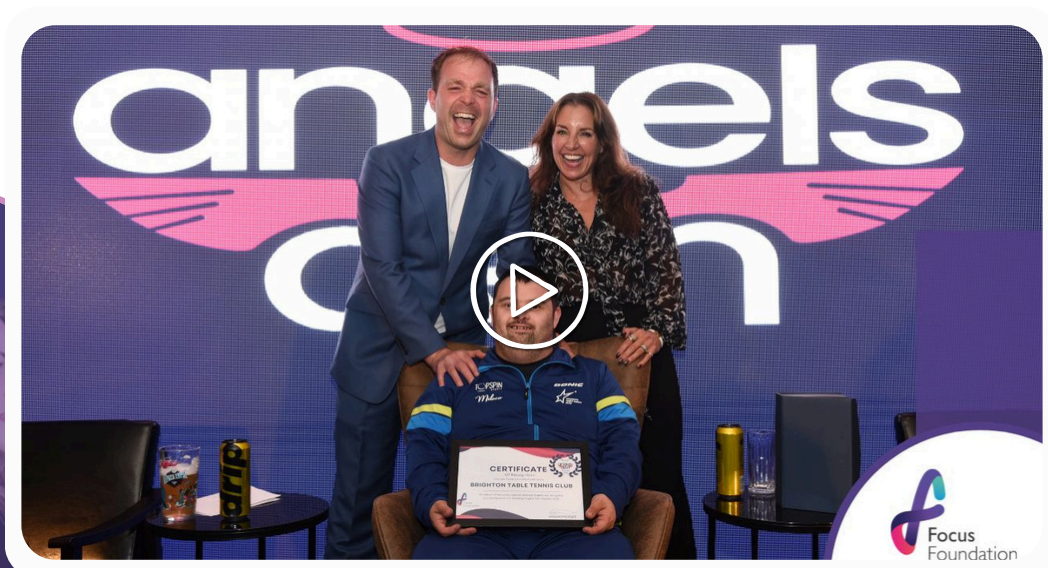
Angels' Den demonstrated that when charities are given a platform, their stories can inspire action, unlock funding, and create lasting connections.

After reviewing over 100 applications, 10 finalist charities took to the stage at Brighton i360, pitching their work to a panel of philanthropic "Angels" and a live audience.

Together, £100,000 was awarded across the charities, supporting a wide range of initiatives, from mental health and homelessness prevention to youth development and food security.

But beyond the funding, Angels' Den created something equally powerful: visibility. Each charity was given the opportunity to tell their story, connect with new supporters, and build confidence through expert coaching ahead of the event.

The evening concluded with a special Audience Choice Award, where collective generosity, matched by partners, raised an additional £13,440 for Children's Respite Trust.



Please click [here](#), or the image above to watch our Angels' Den 2025 highlights reel.



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Cognitive
Law



DIGITAL
BENCH



v/itespace its.

Extending a heartfelt
thank you to our
Champions of Change.

We would like to say a sincere thank you to our Champions of Change - a collective of businesses whose ongoing support plays a vital role in helping us create meaningful, lasting impact within communities.

Through their regular contributions, they enable us to stand alongside grassroots charities and support those who need it most.



Looking ahead to 2026.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: to deepen our impact, strengthen our partnerships, and build a more sustainable future for the communities we serve.

These strategic priorities set out how we will continue to connect businesses with meaningful opportunities to give, support charities more effectively, and grow as an organisation, ensuring that every action we take leads to lasting, measurable change.

Business development & income generation.

- Launch our philanthropic programme, enabling businesses to play a more active role in creating positive local impact.
- Expand our managed funds model in partnership with larger organisations, unlocking greater, long-term support for communities.
- Grow income through events, maximising fundraising opportunities and engagement.
- Strengthen our work within the community by building partnerships with educational institutions.

Charity engagement & impact.

- Drive excellence in grant-making by continually evolving our processes to better support and respond to the needs of our charity partners.
- Launch the Certified Charity Partners programme, strengthening relationships and recognising high-impact organisations.
- Introduce a new volunteering programme and platform, making it easier for businesses and individuals to engage with meaningful opportunities.

Leadership & organisational development.

- Enhance our systems and processes to improve data collection, reporting, and impact measurement.
- Invest in our team and cultivate a strong, values-led operational culture.
- Strengthen our marketing, communications, and storytelling to better share our impact and inspire wider engagement.



Dealing with Focus Foundation has been really a **breath of fresh air**, it's very unusual to have real contact with our funders...

It's been a very **human experience** which feels appropriate but is very rare.

- Kerry Evans, Brighton Therapy Centre.



A final thank you from our CEO.

As we close our 2025 Annual Report, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of the Focus Foundation journey this year, from our Trustees, Patrons and Ambassadors to our donors and supporters.

Your commitment, energy, and belief in our mission have enabled us to continue strengthening communities and uplifting grassroots charities across the UK.

This includes a thank you to our charity partners for your continuous work and the passion to drive in to our communities and to our sponsors, donors and supporters for believing in the work we do.

To Focus Foundation team and the wider Focus Group family: thank you for your hard work, compassion, and belief in our vision. Together, we have achieved milestones that truly matter.

Warmest wishes,



Katie Gibson, CEO, Focus Foundation.



Join us on the journey:



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