

Gloucestershire Community Foundation; Our Vision & Mission

OUR VISION: Gloucestershire is a place where people and communities are empowered to become resilient and strong, creating a prosperous county for all.

OUR MISSION: Strengthen our communities so they can thrive, through inspiring giving, providing grant funding and developing partnerships

How we do this: Delivering support for over 30 years into our county, we know our communities' needs, through our annual research as well as our work on the ground supporting grassroots community groups and charities. We offer unique insights into addressing some of society's most complex issues and work with key partners who can deliver solutions locally and we act as a trusted broker between donors and the voluntary and community sector in Gloucestershire.

Our work has never been more needed, we have gone from delivering £300K per year to 80 charities, to delivering over £2.2 million in the last two years to over 300 charities, which equates to supporting 184,000 people in our county. This is with huge thanks to our generous donors, that we were able to do this. However, we still have a huge amount of unmet need, with the cost of living crisis biting, referral rates at charities are already going up over 50% as statutory provision just isn't available, so we need to pull together more so than ever before.

Therefore we address today's issues and also take a longer-term view of upstream interventions that will make a difference to future generations.

In order to deliver our vision, we also believe in strong partnerships with like-minded organisations. An example of this is the launch of the GCF - INVEST Leadership Programme, where we have delivered a funded Mentoring and Peer to Peer programme for charity leaders. These charity leaders are working tirelessly on the front line and need our support and recognition, so they can continue to deal with the most challenging of social issues and improve our county.

So can you name 10 charities in Gloucestershire? Well, there are over 2500 registered charities in our county and it's our job to shine a light and support the many organisations that don't get seen, who are delivering vital support, often a life line for people who have nowhere else to turn.

If we want a prosperous county, where everyone has the chance to thrive, which is good for business, education and elevates the burden on our NHS, this in turn is good for the health of our communities, lets embrace the mantra "Gain a bit, Give a bit".

Therefore, if reading this has inspired you to think about the future, "*I would love to give back to my community, but I'm not sure how*". There are so many ways you can get involved; we work with all sectors, individuals, families, businesses and statutory bodies, delivering impactful funded programmes. But Giving back has many forms. This may also be volunteering, such as reading with children or becoming a charity trustee, to pro-bono working using your skills to help the sector through our INVEST Programme, or your business/ family may want to leave a lasting legacy to Gloucestershire.

We so look forward to meeting more of you over 2022-23 and to changing even more lives in Gloucestershire, through our programme of grant-giving and charity leadership.

I would love to hear from you at ceo@gloucestershirecf.org.uk; Talitha Nelson- CEO