



The Stockport Local Fund

1. Foreword

Stockport Local Fund has been supporting the tremendous work of our VCFSE sector for three years. While this report focusses on the second round of funding in early 2019, it's impossible not to also mention the enormous contribution of the sector over the last 18 months. The incredible response of people coming together to support one another during the pandemic has highlighted why we need thriving and sustainable communities.

We now have an opportunity to use the sharpened reliance on community support that has emerged through the pandemic as a force for good. I am so proud of the way we all came together during this most difficult time. We must seize the moment and build on the closer relationships that have emerged from us all working together as one big team.

There is much to celebrate in this report, and I am constantly amazed by the ideas that our communities have which make a difference in their neighbourhoods. I'm also delighted that we could play a key part in supporting this effort. I look forward to building on the momentum we have recently gained and strengthening those relationships, as together we shape a community funding programme that is truly fit for the future.



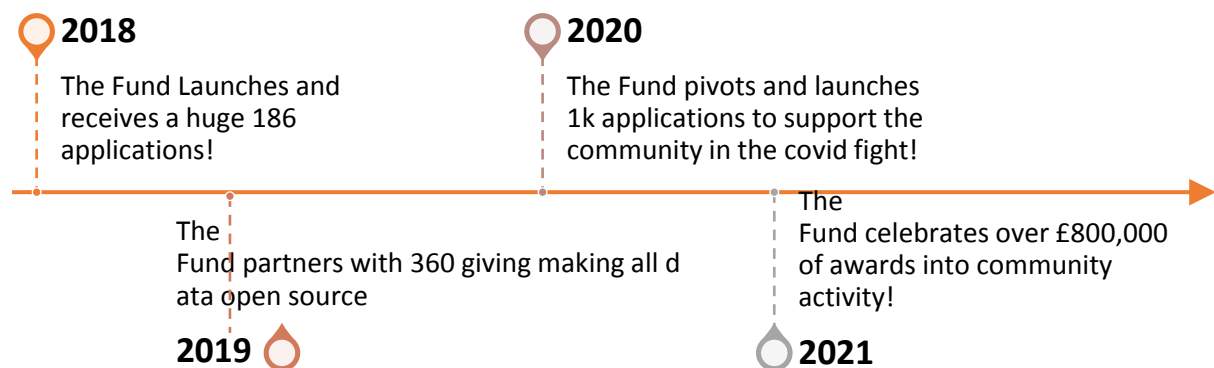
Councillor Amanda Peers, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Neighbourhoods

2. Introduction

The Stockport Local Fund addresses the critical challenges facing our communities and invests in making a real difference to people living and working in Stockport.

Since its launch in 2018 it has received over 700 applications and 3.5 million pounds worth of ideas to make Stockport even better!

Our Journey So Far....



Our shared ambition

- To set out a funding programme that would enable Stockport to build on the assets and strengths in communities.
- To create the environment for voluntary and community activity to grow and flourish, supporting services to reduce the demand.
- To tackle social isolation, so that no-one is left behind and improve the health and wellbeing of communities across Stockport.



How the fund works?



How far have we got in 3 years?



We have run 5 Rounds of Funding plus 2 smaller schemes for Covid.



We have funded over 200 different projects and activities.



We have invested over **£800,000** in community activities!!

Funding Rounds

Round	Applications	Amount Awarded	Number of groups funded
1	186	132,000	24
2	94	110913	19
3	122	150511	29
4	111	88858	28
5	86	271788	42
6	86	49635	57
7	49	22728	26

3. Direct Impact

Let's look at Round 2!

94 applications totalling £538,522

19 grants were awarded ranging from £250-£10,000

Total investment of £110,913

The 19 awards went to:

5 Community Interest Companies

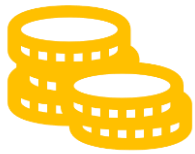
4 Charities

8 Community groups

1 Sports Association

1 individual

- **What's the Impact?**



**£83,489 Cash
Matched**



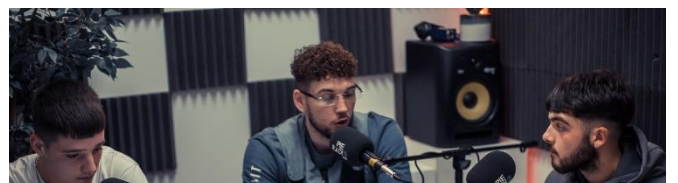
**4402 Volunteer
Hours**



**10 services
Connected**



**895 people
reached**





**116 hours of
Workshops and
Learning**



3500 work trials



2 P.T jobs created

Let's look at what 2 rounds of funding have achieved!

280 applications
totalling
£1,492,203.00

43
f
£2

261,614 cash
match

153
be

184
and



What do communities think?

Stockport communities said...

"I don't want this programme to end, it has helped me so much, in year 9 I didn't speak to anyone and spent my break times alone, this group has helped me so much with my confidence." **Heart CIC**

"I expressed anger and my parents listened to me; this was a big step for me. Normally I just keep stuff in." **Heart CIC**



"I would not have been able to do all this if EAICO did not connect with me!" **EAICO**

"It's a chance for us to dream, to be who we want to be, A chance for you to see who we are." **Pure Innovations**

"Every presenter, DJ, creative, behind the scenes, admin & management (everybody) is super supportive, good energy, lit vibes - it's unmatched." **Rising Stars NW CIC**

"Thank u everyone all of you at Pie Radio, This year was the hardest for me on so many diff levels and all of you made it so much better for me so thank you don't know where I'd be without the radio n all you fab n supportive people" **Rising Stars NW CIC**

"When I go SAZ MEDIA, everything that I have on my mind just goes, and I just have fun with my friends. I don't just go SAZ MEDIA to learn about photography. I go to see all my friends and to be able to be apart of an amazing community. I have no idea what I would have done without them." **Saz Media CIC**

What do the projects think?

Our Organisations said...

“In November 2020... we appointed a fulltime caseworker on a fixed term contract and were then successful in securing a 3-year grant from NLF, this is a direct result of receiving the Stockport Local Fund Grant in 2019.” **Stockport Womens Centre**

“We will continue to grow the footfall, encourage, mentor & support new projects. Continue to have a warm welcome, embrace the ‘One Stockport’ vision. **Stockport Advocacy**

“Thanks so much in general, the funding has really changed their lives, it’s hard to capture this improvement in quotes or even videos but I see it in them, and their parents see it. It's wonderful.” **Saz Media**

“We have ex-military personnel with a success-rate of now 75% entering

sustained careers in the construction industry.” **Project RECCE CIC**



“The best outcome was that we engaged a young person who was out of school for over 15 months and supported him back into education. He now attends a PRU in Stockport twice a week and

comes to our studio for alternative music provision.” **Rising Stars NW CIC**



“That 80% of our participants reported feeling more relaxed, enjoy life more, feel connected to other people and are better able to cope with the conditions they face, through engagement in our work.” **Pure Innovations**

“Since delivering the programmes during lockdown we have written and developed an 8-day ‘Train the trainer,’ programme which will enable us to impact many more young people.” **Heart CIC**

“THANK YOU to Stockport Local Fund for having the initial belief in this innovative course which has helped us achieve so much, positive interaction, introduction into the ARTS, business acumen, creativity, design, positive interaction and communication.” **Cera Cycloan CIC**

“One of those films won best documentary at the Heart of the Heaton film festival. You can watch it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al32EzWkD4o&t=126s> The young people held a stall at the HOH festival to sell their images and showcase their films.”

Saz Media CIC

“The project allowed us to bid for funding from The National Lottery, which has since enabled us to recruit a staff member to better support the volunteers and to increase the scale of the project.” **Stockport and District Mind**

Let's look at some of those projects in more detail....



Project RECCE CIC

Project RECCE launches in Stockport and commences courses with seeding from The Royal Foundation and Stockport Local Fund.

Chris served his country for 12 tireless years in the British Army until he was medically discharged as a result of the trauma, he had experienced. Not only had he lost the career he loved but he struggled with his confidence and felt lost and alone.



After some research, he reached out to Project RECCE, an organisation that supports veterans back into training and employment. This started his journey and he attended a comprehensive programme which supports service leavers like Chris into new careers in the construction industry.

Chris said, ' Since leaving the army 8 years ago, I've struggled to find where I fit in within society. Project RECCE helped rebuild my confidence and gave me a sense of purpose with a great future ahead of me within the construction industry.'

Project RECCE have built a robust network nationally which provides an effective pathway from the military to the construction industry. Through referral partners and other channels, they service-leavers and veterans onto the programme so that they enter the industry work ready and prepared for their new career.

Project RECCE has grown into a national charity whilst retaining its Stockport roots and is an integral part of the fabric of our town improving the lives of service men and women across the country. To find out more go to <https://projectrecce.org/>

Rising Stars NW CIC



John wasn't settling at school and was suffering with anxiety and had moved schools several times.

His social worker found out about the work of Rising Stars knowing that John had expressed an interest in music and media.



Rising Stars worked with John and got him involved in one of the many different projects available to discover more about his music and media interests.

Through the project John began to learn new skills, make new friends and gain confidence, school wasn't such a problem anymore.

John said, "Rising Stars gave me the support I needed, I really like learning about music production and listening to all the cool music, I feel happier at school now and have made more friends."

Rising Stars (Pie Radio) launched in Stockport they now work across the Northwest and are proud of their base, they have connected with radio producers from across the country appearing on BBC radio. They are Manchester's Number 1 Youth Led Radio Station passionate about their work and the difference they make to young people's lives.

To find out more about Rising Stars and Pie Radio go to

<https://www.facebook.com/risingstarsnw/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pieradiouk>

Saz Media



In 2018 we met Sinead, she found out about SAZ MEDIA through friends who were already attending our summer photography workshops. Sinead is proudly adopted by her two mums and has Autism. Sinead has been affected by low confidence and her Autism. We certainly noticed in the beginning of her attendance she stuck to the two friends she knew and was very quiet.



Overtime Sinead became familiar with seeing the same people, enjoying the experience and learning new things. We always started our workshops at the same base but we started to venture out on day trips to parks, different areas, looking at different themes and presenting new challenges in photography. We started to see the real Sinead she attended almost every workshop, became more confident and even began welcoming new people to the group.

Sinead has since been back this time on work experience with us, attending construction sites and housing associations in different areas of Manchester, taking professional photos and video footage. Sinead feels able to strike conversations and offers ideas, becoming a great team member.

Sinead now volunteers with us helping young people to learn new skills, improve their confidence and communication skills and offers new perspectives.

Sinead said 'Before SAZ MEDIA I did a bit of photography however since going and learning and now volunteering it has definitely increased my passion for photography and film. I feel really confident at SAZ MEDIA and it has also massively helped me with my confidence outside the organisation and with what I want to do in the future. From being an attendee to becoming a volunteer has been an amazing journey, I have loved both experiences but being a volunteer has opened up so many opportunities which I have loved and I can't wait to learn so much more going forward with SAZ MEDIA.'

SAZ Media are a forward-thinking social enterprise built in Stockport, with a strong community ethos that are breaking the barriers to a world of Photography and Art for Stockport communities.

To find out more about go to [SAZ MEDIA](#)

4. The Bigger Picture

The Stockport Local Fund is only part of the picture. A thriving third sector is built with people, communities and partnerships.

Volunteering in Stockport

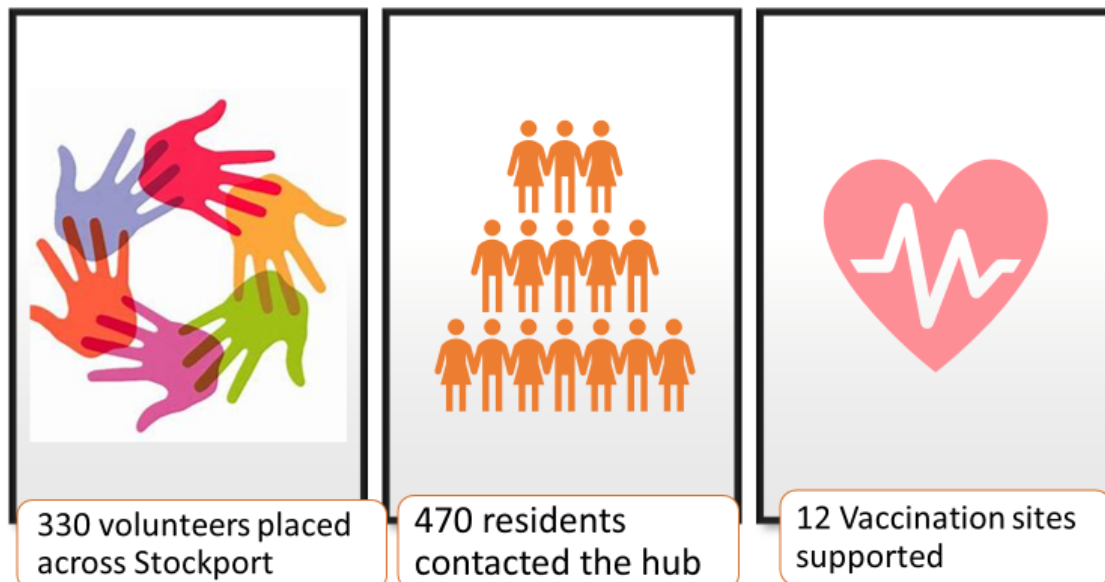
Stockport Volunteer HUB

Volunteering can improve people's health and well-being and the growth of informal volunteering and mutual aids provides a strong momentum for the One Stockport programme.

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting communities and in the early part of the pandemic interest in volunteering spiked exponentially across the Stockport.



Working with Health Watch and Sector 3 we set up the volunteer hub, a one stop shop for volunteering, celebrated volunteers week and connected volunteers to multiple vaccination centres across the borough.



Who have our volunteers worked with:



Sector Connector

Sector Connector is a cross sector network that has been creating connections across Stockport since 2019 by linking the private, voluntary and public sectors together.



Since our first online launch post Covid in October 2020 we've had 4 online events:



'GOING DIGITAL'



COLLABORATION



WELLBEING



**RESPONSIBLE
ORGANISATIONS**

In total we've had 229 signups to the digital events and over 95% new connections made.

Some of the feedback.....

01

"I think this was a fantastic event which gave us opportunities which we would not have had..."

02

"It was a great and inspiring event."

03

"I thought the event was great and really enjoyed the opportunity to develop a wider network..."

04

"It was great how the event was designed to encourage people to go and connect with new people, networking can be daunting, but you created a really friendly environment."

Working Together



The Orange Umbrella Project

The Orange Umbrella Project is a joint initiative between communities, services and the voluntary sector to collaboratively tackle domestic abuse in Stockport.

There was a need to build a strategic space where communities and partners could come together to shape programmes and policy. Creating this space allowed for collaborative problem solving, the sharing of skills, resources and to reflect on lived experience. From this Brinnington Big Local a voluntary organisation in Brinnington led the testing of a concept and the Orange Umbrella project was born.

The Orange Umbrella Project tackles domestic abuse by working holistically recognising that many survivors turn to families, friends and communities before seeking a service intervention. By empowering and working with communities we collaborated with Owls a

community organisation and services to provide training that helped communities understand, recognise and address domestic abuse.

The strength of the project is that it empowers communities to be part of a coordinated effort and actively seeks to involve them in a response that is rooted in communities. The success means that many different services, schools, charities, communities, groups have all taken part with providing safe spaces and attending the training.

Tackling Domestic Abuse requires a multifaceted approach and The Orange Umbrella project provides this platform to connect communities and services to work together and end domestic abuse.

To find out more about the project contact NeighbourhoodInclusion@stockport.gov.uk

External Funding

The Connecting Carers Card

Signpost Stockport for Carers



Signpost received a grant of £8000, for an initial proposal of introducing a 'Connecting Carers Card'. This wallet sized card provides unpaid carers with a new form of photo ID, identifying them as having a caring role and provides an additional contact in case an emergency arises, ensuring that services are aware somebody is depending on the person's care.

The Connecting Carers Card also offers carers in Stockport discounts with a number of local businesses, furthering Signpost's aim to develop Stockport as being a Carer Friendly Community. These businesses are provided with a Signpost window sticker and leaflets which increases the visibility of the organisation and the support it provides to Stockport's carers.

The idea for the card came about as a result of the difficulties in discussing contingency planning with carers. This is a challenging reality for many carers to digest, and something that many put off. Carers told the organisation that contingency planning seemed like a spurious concept. In being able to offer something concrete, with instant, visible benefits, Signpost is able to open up this conversation with unpaid carers, encouraging them to think about their role and future planning. The project also seized the opportunity to get local businesses involved to support the initiative, helping companies to work with the charity and invest in Stockport.

The Connecting Carers Card has become a big part of carers lives in Stockport, and a key offer from Signpost. Starting from humble beginnings, there are now more than 1100 card holders with 25 businesses signed up, from holiday cottages in Devon to Reiki providers in Hazel Grove. Stockport's unpaid carers are also able to use the card as 'proof' of their caring role if required; For example, enabling access to COVID vaccines earlier in the year and for free carer entry to tourist attractions.

Julia from Signpost believes it has helped take the organisation to a new level. “The funding from Stockport Council enabled our charity to kickstart this idea. The money meant that we could buy the equipment needed, employ someone to develop the necessary processes and consult with carers and businesses, and really get the ball rolling. The Connecting Carers Card is a great example of a Carers Passport and has been cited in work across Greater Manchester, the North West and nationally. None of this would have happened without the support from the Stockport Local Fund. The next step is to make it digital!”

To find out more about Signpost go to <https://www.signpostforcarers.org.uk/>

Stockport Fund Rush!!!!

The Stockport Local Fund acts as a catalyst to draw more funds into the Stockport!

- Stockport and District Mind used the fund to test the idea of engagement volunteers so that they could develop a volunteering programme that would help more people in Stockport improve their mental health. Once tested they used the evidence to apply and secure an additional **£45,000** to increase the scale and reach of their programme.
- Great Minds Together after an initial investment to provide wrap around support for children and families in Stockport applied to the National Lottery and was successful in a **£230,000** bid to help even more children and families in Stockport.
- Stockport Womens Centre received **£81,758** from the National Lottery to help domestic abuse victims in Stockport.
- Jump Space gained **£191,442** from the National Lottery so that they can provide rebound therapy to people with disabilities and their families.
- PIE **Pursuing Individual Excellence** received **£69,820** from the COOP foundation to develop the peer support programme to help children with the transition from primary to secondary school.

Since Jan 2021 the voluntary sector has secured over 1.4 million pounds in external funding to support communities in Stockport!!!

Congratulations to all Our Stockport Organisations!!!

What's next?



Collaboration is an important part of community wealth building, we will work to promote the One Stockport ethos to form strong relationships across the sectors.



To promote social cohesion and improve connections by empowering people to volunteer in their communities.



The next round to working with have next!

To continue to grow, evolve, listen to our sector and communities to provide a funding programme that works for them.



will be in Autumn 2021, we are looking forward our communities and seeing what ideas they

Appendices

Round 2 Funded Projects

Organisation	Project	Amount	More Information
New Group	Ladies Wellbeing Group	250	stockportlocal@stockport.gov.uk
Heatons' Men In Sheds	Heatons Men In Sheds Wood Workshop Tools	480	Heatons Men in Sheds - Tackling Social Isolation in Stockport (heatons-mis.co.uk)
Stockport Music In Sheds	Stockport Music In Sheds	495	Stockport Music in Sheds - Home Facebook
Cafe Unity	Cafe Life	500	https://cafeunity.com/
Positive Arts Stockport	Positive Arts	500	Positive Arts Stockport - Stockport Council
Cale Green WI	Personal Safety workshops	500	Cale Green Women's Institute - Home Facebook
Stockport Sands Football Club	Stockport Sands Football Club	3000	https://www.facebook.com/SandsUnitedStockport/
Brinnington Events Team (B.E.T)	Life's a Beach	3000	**Brinnington's** Events Team!!!! Facebook
Ebony and Ivory community organisation	Reablement to integrate positively into the community	6000	Welcome - Ebony & Ivory Community Organisation (eaico.org)
Stockport Music Project	Stockport Music Project - Second Session	8360	Stockport Music Project - Music Activities for Young People (poyzer.com)
Stockport Total Advocacy Trust Ltd	Corporate/Community Connector	8488	Stockport Advocacy
Stockport & District Mind	Food for Thought	9500	https://www.stockportmind.org.uk/
SAZ MEDIA	SAZ MEDIA CLUB	9914	SAZ MEDIA
Rising Stars NW CIC	The Stockport Podcast / SK Podcast	9941	https://risingstarsnw.com/about/
CERA Cycloan	Ceracycloan Social Enterprise Skills	9985	Cycloan Education And Restorative Approaches (ceracycloan.co.uk)

Nomad Construction Training CIC	Project RECCE - veterans into construction	10000	Home - Project RECCE
Project T20 (Mode Rehabilitation-Rising Stars and Project Inc)	Project T20	10000	Mode Rehabilitation – Affordable, confidential therapy for people in Stockport.
Made By Mortals	Change Players	10000	Shift - made by mortals
Stockport Neighbourhood Watch Association	Growing SNWA network to improve community safety	10000	Stockport Jo723 Neighbourhood Watch National network Local Watch areas Community crime prevention groups (ourwatch.org.uk)

You can find out the details of the funding each group received by visiting the [360Giving](#) website.

You can find out about the Stockport Local Fund by visiting [Stockport Local Fund - Stockport Council](#)

You can find out about volunteering in Stockport by visiting [Stockport Volunteer HUB – Volunteering in Stockport](#)

You can find out about Sector Connector by visiting [Sector Connector - Stockport Council](#)