



# Community Matters

*17<sup>th</sup> March 2025*

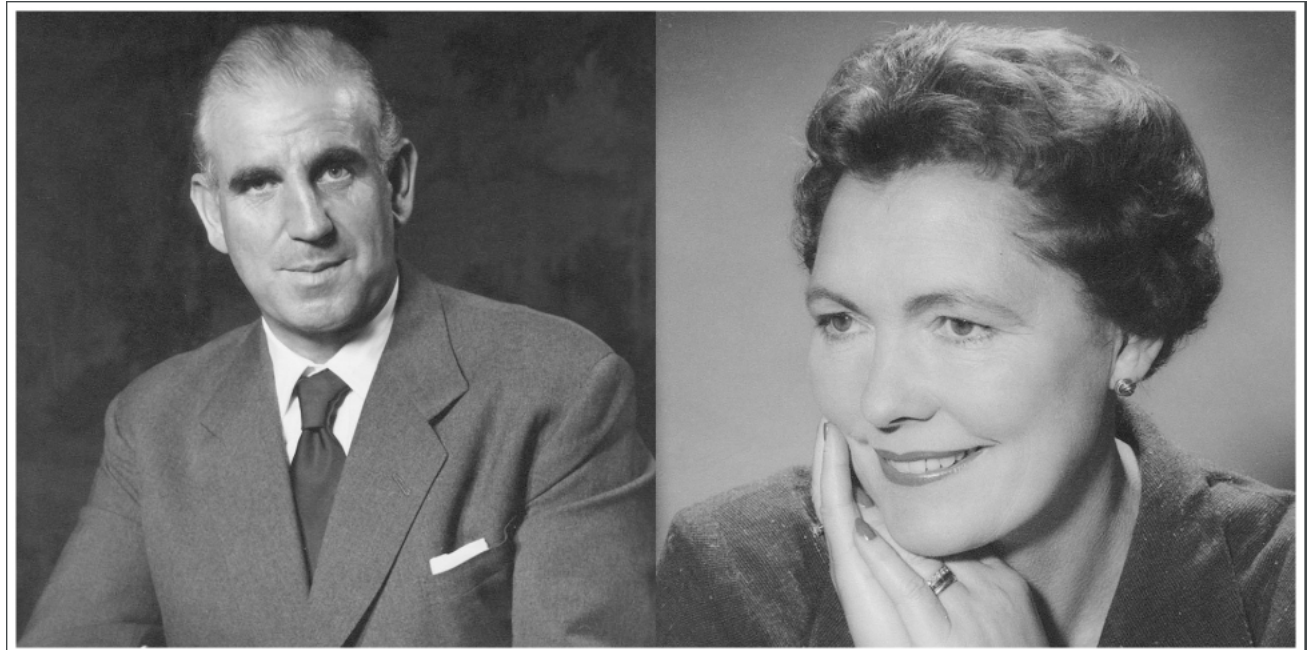
*Caleb Plant  
Grants Officer  
Bernard Sunley Foundation*

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# Who we are

- Established in 1960.
- Family grant making foundation.
- **A capital funder.** (bricks and mortar)
  
- Around **£145 million** awarded since 1960.
- Each year roughly **£5 million** is awarded.
- We receive around **1000 grant** applications every year.





# Who we are

- **A capital funder.** (bricks and mortar)
  - Support charities across **England and Wales** delivering a community focus or providing facilities that support those in need.
  - Four funding categories:
    - Community**
    - Education**
    - Health**
    - Social Welfare**
- **Partial funder** - We do not fully fund projects.
  - Three levels of grants: **Small, Medium and Large.**

# Who is eligible to apply?

1. A **charity or CIO** (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) registered with the Charity Commission for England and
2. **Community Benefit Society** registered with the Financial Conduct Authority.
3. **SEND** schools
4. Scout, Guide or another **uniformed group**
5. **Church Halls** (with heavy community focus)
6. **Capital Projects** between £10,000 and £5 million

## Eligibility Check

Our Eligibility Check is quick to complete and should take around 5 minutes.

Track progress

Step 1 of 13

1. Do you represent:

A charity or CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

A Community Benefit Society registered with the Financial Conduct Authority.

A scout, guide or other uniformed group.

A specialist school.

A church or other places of worship.

A museum, gallery or heritage centre.

A Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), Community Interest Company (CIC) or unregistered community group/club.

A town or parish council.

An NHS hospital, or a charity fundraising on their behalf.

A mainstream school, college or university, or a charity fundraising on their behalf.

Other.

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# What makes a strong application?

1. **Being eligible.**
2. Clear **community need** demonstrated with **evidence** (user numbers & regular activities)
3. **Strong local fundraising** already happening (Initiative, support, longevity)
4. Robust **project planning** (designs permissions, timelines, fundraising plans)
5. Realistic budgets
6. Sustainability

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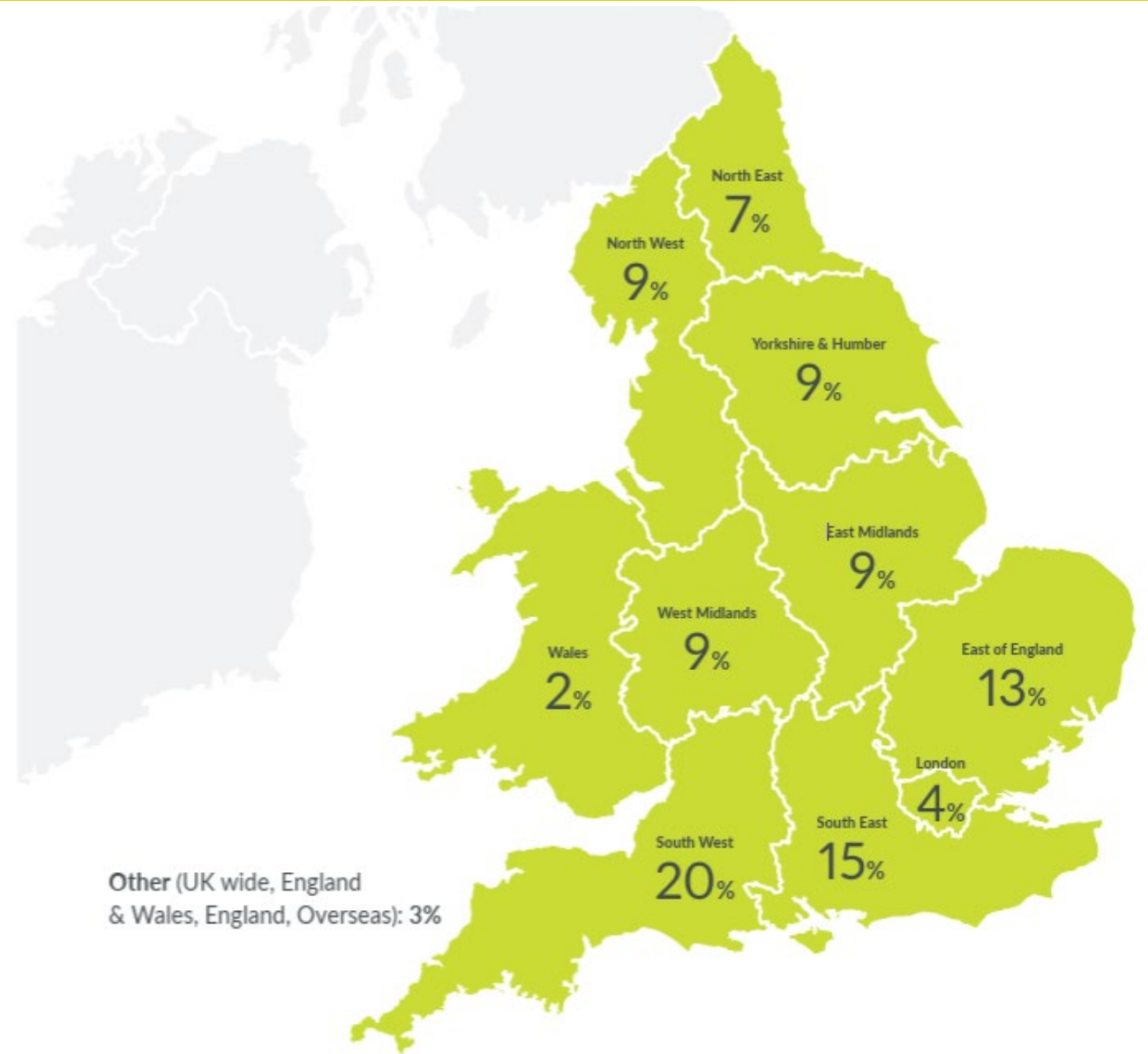
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# Our funding

## Grants approved by geographical area

More than half of the charities (52%) that received a grant this year were organisations that the Foundation was funding for the first time.





# Our funding: Small grants (£2,000 - £5,000)

- Projects costing £10,000 - £100,000.
- Annual income of under £1 million.
- Represent over 70% of number of annual grants.
- 178 of this year's 255 grants were small, monthly grants.
- Agreed by Trustees every month so results within approx. 6-8 weeks.

# Our funding: Medium & Large grants (£5,000 - £20,000 & £20,000+)

- Of this year's 255 grants, 49 were medium and 28 were large.
- Projects usually cost over £100,000 and can be up to £5 million.
- We visit all large grant projects and as many medium grant projects as we can.
- Agreed at three Trustees' Meetings held across the year (Spring, Summer, Autumn).
- Applications assessed and agreed within approx. 6 months.



# What we fund: Community

- **Project aims:**

To bring local communities together and provide greater opportunities for the young, the elderly, the disabled and the disadvantaged.

- **Types of projects:**

building or refurbishment of Scout huts, Village halls, Community centres, Youth clubs, Boxing clubs, Outdoor activity centres, Farm and outdoor learning centres, Sports centres and pavilions, playing fields and playgrounds.

- **New minibuses**



# What we fund: Education

- Special needs schools: Improvements and new facilities (e.g. playgrounds).
- New, adapted minibuses to benefit children with special needs and disabilities.
- Educational nature centres.
- New education and learning centres at museums, galleries and other arts organisations.



# What we fund: Health

- The Foundation supports health charities that provide an excellent standard of care and support within their communities.
- Outdoor recreational spaces for care homes, hospices and day centres.
- Building and refurbishment projects.
- Specialist new transport.



# What we fund: Social Welfare

- The Foundation supports projects for veterans and the elderly.
- Schemes involving ex-offenders and those in prison.
- New, affordable housing units.
- New treatments centres.
- Building improvements to assist the homeless and vulnerable.

## Small Grant: Case Study

### Thurcroft Welfare Community Hall,

Project to replace the outdated kitchen with a modern, catering-standard facility and redecorate.

- . Project cost: £35,000
- . Monthly grant: £5,000



- Bring local communities together and provide greater opportunities:  
*“The new kitchen will enable the hall to **provide cookery and life skills workshops, breakfast and lunch clubs and meals** for vulnerable local residents.”*
- Provide greater opportunities for all:  
*“**Directly impacting** hundreds of people **weekly** and creating opportunities for meaningful engagement, learning, and wellbeing.”*

## Medium: Case Study

**Bedale Scout Group,**

Project to create a dedicated activity building

- . Project cost: £126,000
- . Medium grant: £15,000



- Bring local communities together and provide greater opportunities:  
*“The facility will make it easier for Bedale Scouts to support other local charities.”*
- Provide greater opportunities for all:  
*“The existing hut is used by seven scout and guide groups, a pre-school, a yoga group and for martial arts.”*

# Large Grant: Case Study

## Wakefield Hospice

This project utilised the existing footprint of the building to replace four-bedded bays with eight new single en-suite rooms and refurbished the eight existing single rooms.

- . Project cost: £1,835,000
- . Large grant: £50,000

- Improving opportunity to support the community:  
*“In addition to increasing comfort and privacy, the project will **increase their capacity** and reduce the number of patients who could not be admitted or were declined admission.*
- Provide greater opportunities for all:  
*“Our **outreach team** work within the community to meet with underserved communities to try and **break stigma** surrounding hospice care, having regular meetings with multi faith groups, community centres*





# What we don't fund

- Charities registered outside England or Wales.
- Community amateur sports clubs community interest companies (CICs) or unregistered community groups.
- NHS hospitals or charities fundraising on their behalf.
- Mainstream schools, colleges or universities, or charities fundraising on their behalf.
- Charities with an annual income of £10 million and over.
- Newly established charities with no previous annual accounts.
- Project costs of less than £10,000.
- Capital fees – building surveys, planning applications or feasibility studies.
- Core costs – salaries, running and repair costs, websites and other IT, programmes, rent, utility bills.
- Medical or research medical equipment.
- Fittings such as electrical appliances and furniture.
- Equipment such as IT infrastructure and AV systems, work tools, sports gear, musical instruments etc.
- Second hand vehicles
- Charities with an annual income of **£1 million and over** applying for a project costing **less than £100,000**. Special Educational Needs schools are excepted.



# How to apply

- Online applications only at: [www.bernardsunley.org](http://www.bernardsunley.org).
- Payments are made when funds are raised for the capital project to begin.
- Applications accepted all year round.
- Our grant pledges last 2 years.

# Thankyou

- Online at [www.bernardsunley.org](http://www.bernardsunley.org)
- Eligibility Quiz: <https://bernardsunley.org/apply/eligibility>
- Email/call us: [office@bernardsunley.org](mailto:office@bernardsunley.org) or 0203 036 0090 with any queries.