

Covid-19 support fund

Supported by the insurance
and long-term savings industry



Helping people
in their hour of need



About the Covid-19 Support Fund

The UK insurance and long-term savings industry launched the Covid-19 Support Fund in May 2020 to help support some of the people hardest hit by the Covid-19 crisis. The Fund works in partnership with the Charities Aid Foundation, and a network of partners including the National Emergencies Trust and Business in the Community.

The insurance and long-term savings industry has reached its target of raising £100m for charity through the Covid-19 Support Fund, making it the biggest sector fund in the UK. £84m has been raised through voluntary donations from firms within the sector and, from this amount, £20m has been granted to an initiative with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) which has been matched funded by DCMS.

The key aim is to provide immediate relief to charities affected by Covid-19, as well as a longer-term programme of support for people, communities, and issues where there is the greatest need, including:

- Community based charities that are under unprecedented strain
- Charities supporting the most vulnerable – in particular, families and children living in poverty and older people in isolation
- Initiatives to promote wellbeing and mental health across society

You can learn more about the work of the Fund and our supporters here: www.covid19support.org.uk

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NATIONAL BUSINESS RESPONSE NETWORK



The National Business Response Network brings the immense power of responsible businesses to the doorsteps of those in need in our communities. We are extremely excited to have the support of the Covid-19 Support Fund as a founding partner as we scale the Network.



AMANDA MACKENZIE OBE,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

£104m

Almost raised to support charities

37

donors from across the industry

£20m

to support NET's Coronavirus appeal, supporting more than 10,000 charities

Hardest hit communities to receive £40m as Covid-19 Support Fund and CAF partner with DCMS

A new partnership to support those communities that have been hardest hit by Covid-19 brings together £20m from the Covid-19 Support Fund with £20m in matched funds from DCMS, to support the Charities Aid Foundation in establishing a new Resilience Fund.

The CAF Resilience Fund will help people living in deprived areas, organisations supporting BAME communities, and people with disabilities through hundreds of unrestricted grants to charitable organisations. The first tranche of payments will be made before the end of March 2021.

Through hundreds of targeted grants, this fund will support those working with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as those living in deprived areas, those supporting Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and people with disabilities.

Our Partnership with the National Emergencies Trust

When the Covid-19 Support Fund was launched in May 2020, one of the first donations was £20m to the National Emergencies Trust to help their vital work supporting community-based charities on the frontline tackling the Coronavirus crisis.

By September, less than 6 months since the foundation of the Fund, over £9,900,000 had been distributed by the National Emergencies Trust to 47 Community Foundations, delivering much needed support to grassroots groups and meeting urgent needs in communities in every region of the UK.

This funding has supported a range of services, from providing food and essentials, delivering mental health services to enabling access to IT and tech equipment.

Community Foundations have reported that over 89.9 % of the funding available has already been distributed to grassroots beneficiary groups through large and small grants that make a real difference for the lives of many thousands of people

Small amounts can make a big difference with an award of just £150 to Broome and Ditchingham Preschool, they were able to provide bespoke book and craft boxes delivered to seven vulnerable families in need of specialist educational support

The largest grant awarded was £43,445 to The Gateway Group in Cumbria, an organisation acting as a local umbrella facilitator for smaller groups across the Lake District to run localised community response groups.



Working to support communities and charities throughout the UK

2,400+

matches made between communities and businesses through the NRBN.

£20m

match funding awarded by Government

Delivery through partnerships to meet increased demand

The donation from the Covid-19 Support Fund has also supported NET's work with a range of partners including supporting Age UK, Heads Together and Shelter to help groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, with a focus on remote services, including helplines and digital services which have seen significant increases in demand since March, in particular from those seeking support from the charity sector for the first time.

Older people have been particularly vulnerable during the pandemic, and at the beginning of lockdown calls to Age UK's Advice Line increased by up to 88%, and the demand for its telephone friendship service increased by 290%. £1.5 million funding provided to Age UK will help support the charity's national Advice Line, website and telephone friendship services, as well as the services provided by Age Scotland, Age NI, Age Cymru and Age UK's subsidiary charity The Silver Line Helpline.

Since March, three in five calls to Shelter England's helpline have been from people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. And in England alone, and estimated 322,000 private renting adults have fallen behind on their rent as a result of the pandemic. The NET's £1.47 million partnership with Shelter to 31 new advisers for the charity's emergency helplines in England and Scotland. It will also help to fund support delivered by Shelter Cymru in Wales, and online advice for Housing Rights in Northern Ireland.

The **Heads Together Coalition**, which includes mental health charity Mind, to support its remote support offering. This will include Mind's Infoline and web support – enabling those in need to access the support they need. Funding will also go towards the upcoming Heads Together Campaign, which will encourage people to seek support around their mental health.

Supporting BAME Communities

Research from ONS and Public Health England, has shown a clear and pressing need to ensure emergency funding reaches those from BAME communities disproportionately impacted by Covid-19.

Around 17% of all funds distributed by UKCF reach groups whose primary focus is supporting BAME communities. In addition, funds from the Covid-19 Support Fund have been used to provide direct additional support to these groups;

- In July £2.75m of the donation to NET was distributed to Comic Relief to be awarded to 10 BAME-led organisations that will fund small and micro BAME-led projects
- In August £750,000 provided a valuable top-up to the UKCF BAME Infrastructure Fund, originally created by the NET in May 2020.

A £1.5 million grant from the Fund has also been allocated, through the partnership with the NET to Barnardo's to launch vital national helpline and services to support vulnerable children, young people and families impacted by coronavirus. The funding includes the launch of the first UK-wide helpline and live webchat facility for Black, Asian and minority ethnic children, young people and their families to provide advice, signposting and support from trained specialist advisors and therapists – who are from a diverse set of cultural backgrounds and able to speak a range of languages.



Getting these vital funds quickly and safely into the hands of the many charities at the heart of our communities is central to CAF's mission and we are proud to be able to work alongside those in the insurance and long-term savings industries to make this happen. We know it will make a huge difference to many people in need of support at this time.



NEIL HESLOP,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION

Businesses working in partnership to support communities:

The Covid-19 Support Fund has donated £2.5m into Business in the Community's National Business Response Network (NBRN), joining insurers AXA and the London Stock Exchange Group as founding partners.

The NBRN links business resources to community needs arising from the pandemic in the right place, at the right time. To date, over 2,300 requests for help have been matched with business support by the NBRN, benefiting millions of people.

The NBRN focuses its activity on five key areas to help communities navigate their way through the coronavirus pandemic:

- Digital Divide: As access to technology is now inextricably linked to isolation and the attainment gap.
- Food Insecurity: Addressing the number of food insecure adults having quadrupled in the pandemic.
- Local Lockdowns: We are working with local resilience and emergency partners to address targeted urgent needs as they occur.
- Strong Local Economy: Working to support small businesses to recover and bounce back in our hardest hit places.
- Unemployment Crisis: Unemployment is set to rise by 10% by the end of the year, therefore our support now will soften the undoubtable blow to the communities already struggling.

Through the support of the Fund and partnerships with businesses across the UK, the NBRN has been able to match real needs with real and tangible support from the business community.



The high demand for UKCF's BAME infrastructure fund not only highlights the continuing need created by the pandemic but the opportunity to better connect BAME communities and groups with wider funding streams. Our hope is that the funding will contribute towards creating a stronger, fairer sector network for future emergencies and for non-crisis situations, so that everyone can access the support they need.



MHAIRI SHARP, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
NATIONAL EMERGENCIES TRUST



Blackpool Foodbank is just one of the charities supported by the fund

Stories from the Front Line

Since it was quickly established following the pandemic outbreak, the Covid-19 Support Fund has helped thousands of individuals, projects and communities across the UK by partnering with the National Emergencies Trust and Business in the Community's National Business Response Network.

Here are just a few of the stories from the front line. You can read more examples of how the Fund is supporting communities across the UK at www.covid19support.org.uk.

RECOVERY CYMRU

CARDIFF AND THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Recovery and rehabilitation in the time of Covid

The journey back from addiction or traumatic life events is fraught with challenges, from the day-to-day mechanics of rehabilitation and reintegration to the fear that, with social isolation, may come the real threat to the individual of returning to previous habits.

[Recovery Cymru](#) is a peer-led, mutual aid community in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan empowering people to achieve and maintain their progress while supporting others to do the same.

Using National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal funding, [Community Foundation Wales](#) is further able to help projects such as Recovery Cymru as it seeks to provide support through the process of rehabilitation and beyond as well as to raise awareness and work to counter stigma and discrimination.

MONKSTOWN BOXING CLUB

BELFAST

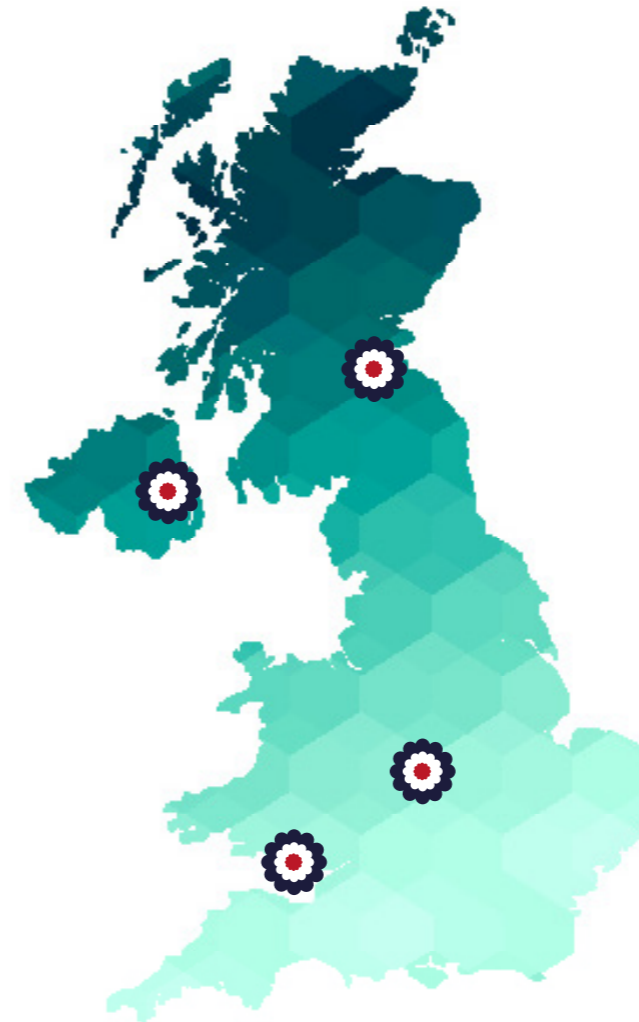
“Our fight was not in the ring. It was out there in the community”

[Monkstown Boxing Club](#) delivers a wide range of programmes to the hardest to reach young people aged 11 to 20. Its work is aimed at improving educational achievement, creating pathways to employment, building healthier lifestyles, bringing communities together, and reducing crime.

Two of its programmes are Box Clever and Positive Futures. The first is a pioneering education initiative aimed at increasing employment and training opportunities for those who have not engaged in formal education. Through sport Monkstown Boxing Club gives young people a second chance. Positive Futures, meanwhile, was set-up to counter anti-social behaviour. Designed to provide diversionary activities, it takes young people between the ages of 12 and 25 off the streets and away from dangerous behaviours.

Food provision has also played a part in the club's mission. With the usual youth support programmes on hold, the charity started a soup kitchen built on its pre-existing foodbank service. Before the pandemic, the club would support approximately 10 families with food parcels, now it supports over 65 pensioners and 40 families, delivering a total of 300 soup meals every week.

“In the face of the current crisis, more people than ever are relying on organisations like ours to help them survive. Many are facing hunger for the very first time but, with the support of the Community Foundation Northern Ireland and the National Emergencies Trust, Monkstown Boxing Club is responding to the growing need,” says Paul Johnston, project manager.



SCRAN ACADEMY

EDINBURGH

Nurturing careers, helping communities

[Scran Academy](#) is a catering social enterprise providing great value food that not only tastes good but does good. Overseen by trained chefs and cooks, its kitchen offers a range of freshly made, great value grub, for all sorts of events, companies and occasions.

It supports the most vulnerable young people to transition beyond the classroom into the workplace and wider life, offering them a unique yet critical pre-work and pre-apprenticeship development journey within the “real” life of the business.

Crucially, Scran Academy's approach is one of focusing on what these young people can do, not what they don't have. They gain first-hand experience in a dynamic hospitality social start-up, helping to work across the development of the business. They go through a subtle yet bespoke skills training journey, gaining qualifications where appropriate. In short, it helps them flourish in learning, life and work. But it's the end result that speaks for itself.

SANDWELL AFRICAN WOMEN ASSOCIATION

WEST MIDLANDS

Keeping refugee women safe and supported

Based in Smethwick, near Birmingham, [Sandwell African Women Association](#) (SAWA) is a registered charity formed to support refugee women and children affected by wars, sexual violence, exploitation and abuse.

Delivering a range of services, it works to improve safety, help those who are homeless, and support young people facing barriers to work. SAWA offers two main programmes – Community Development and The Refugees and Migrant Forum.

However, since the pandemic women from SAWA have mobilised themselves to proactively provide emergency support to socially isolated and vulnerable elderly women from the African community, delivering essential food, toiletries and basic necessities all over Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Sandwell.

A SAWA representative commented: “Throughout the crisis, we have worked to keep the elderly women who need our support safe. We've received feedback letting us know the huge difference the association's work is making in our community – help we wouldn't be able to provide without the funds given by the National Emergencies Trust.”

With thanks to our supporters



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Find out more on our website

www.covid19support.org.uk



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