

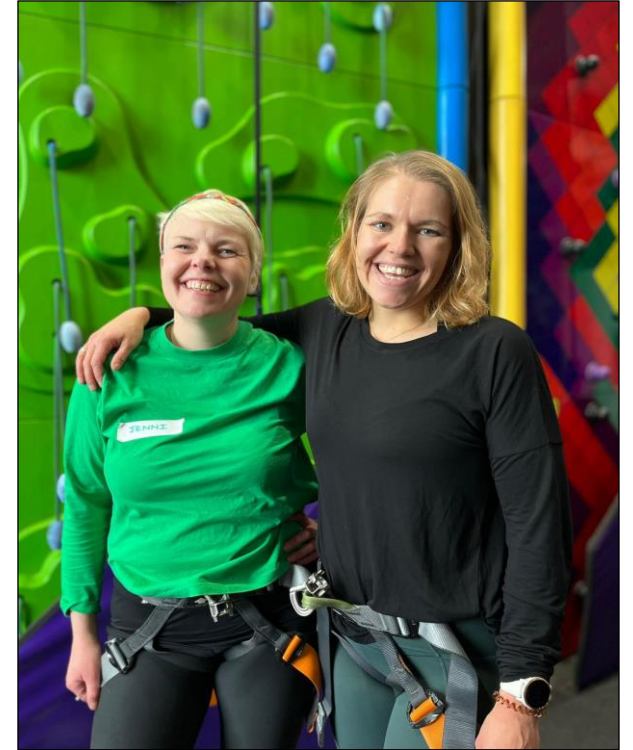
The Clare Foundation 2023 IMPACT REPORT





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Mike Clare Founder & President

Over the past few years, I've had the pleasure of meeting many of the distinguished CEOs and Charity Leaders from across Buckinghamshire, including at a recent leadership seminar with a kitchen picnic at The Clare Foundation office – an educating, fun and memorable occasion.

As CEOs/Leaders your roles are incredibly challenging, it can be quite lonely, and your resolve and determination must be comprehensive indeed. Across the board, I have been very impressed with the aptitude, energy, passion, and determination that I've encountered among charity leaders.

Like you all, we come together during difficult times. For many charities, as you will know only too well, there is evidence that the sector overall is facing immense financial, human and operational pressures.

I have met many charities from across the County. I have listened to them speak about their work, met many volunteers, and beneficiaries, as well as trustees and of course CEOs; wherever I go in Buckinghamshire, I am hearing a familiar story of a growing struggle, the need for infrastructure support and accessibility to grants.

I am both grateful and delighted that we have hosted this innovative, collaborative, and engaging event we have called the Angels Den, and thank our four philanthropic *Angels; Matt Storey, George Anson, Gary Grant and Simon Biltcliffe* for their support and generosity. To our Trustees, CEO, office team and volunteers who made it possible to release £100K and bring together over 120 like-minded personalities from the charity sector I thank you all.

See you all soon!



Robin Walker Chairman

The Clare Foundation exists to make Buckinghamshire the happiest county in the country. We do this by bringing together key stakeholders, partners, businesses and charitable organisations to facilitate and create positive change across society in Buckinghamshire. Whilst measuring happiness is an ongoing challenge it was very clear as we entered 2023 that there were many obstacles to achieving that objective.

2023 started with the ongoing challenges from the covid pandemic and the war in Ukraine and the effect on global energy and food supply that resulted adding to the difficulties families faced. The impact of these challenges, whilst affecting families, also made it harder for charities to deliver their services.

We also began 2023 with my appointment as Chair, as our Founder and now President, Mike Clare, stepped aside from the Chair role. Having been a trustee for the past 3 years I am particularly proud of the work of the TCF team over that time, especially during the pandemic, and I look forward to working with our team and trustees to develop and enhance the good work of The Clare Foundation.

Across the year we responded to these agenda items; re-establishing the Family Angels programme, creating a volunteer network of Community Advocates, who provided us with the opportunity to support those families classed as most vulnerable. We continued with our programmes to help, support and develop our partner charities to better enable them to succeed in their chosen objectives. We worked very closely with Buckinghamshire Council, leading grant-making charities and supported specialist organisations with specific insight and experience engaging with families.

As we move into 2024 many of the same challenges continue to face us and we look forward to continuing the work of The Clare Foundation for many years to come.



Martin Gallagher Chief Executive Officer

It is a privilege to lead The Clare Foundation - an organisation that can enhance, support and generate significant energy to benefit the most vulnerable members of our society working with our partners and charity sector colleagues.

Society is experiencing a series of crises that range from climate change to spiralling inflation and all the aspects in between. The current economic crisis, combined with the cost of heating, electricity, fuel for the car, and being able to put food on the table has been both shocking and deeply concerning. Families should not have to worry about who's fed and who's not. Our work with Buckinghamshire Council, the food bank charities and the grant making organisations that we work alongside has provided us with so much data and knowledge to help mitigate those that are most vulnerable. It is a credit to our small team that we have continued to deliver a highly valued calendar of events, leadership opportunities, development workshops, learning activities, workshops and seminars to provide new ideas and intelligence combined with practical outcomes.

I am very grateful to Mike, Robin, Karen, and the Trustees for all their support not just in 2023 but over the last few years, especially during the pandemic when we took on a new strategic direction.

Our Board Of Trustees is one of intelligent governance, experience, and agility that compliments and benefits my skill-set as the Chief Executive Officer. I look forward to continuing this strong relationship, and ensuring together we make a difference in Buckinghamshire.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to enable charities to make a bigger difference in Buckinghamshire society. We exist to make both Bucks the 'happiest county in England' and charity life easier so that charity leaders, trustees and volunteers can thrive and focus on making a difference to the lives of people across Buckinghamshire.

We provide practical support on things that organisations greatly rely upon such as grant funding, leadership, strategy and operational development and pro-bono support and access to specialist skills, knowledge and experience (via our CHAT Programme).

We also aim to harness the collective knowledge and influence of the charity leaders providing an environment for charities to engage and succeed and a place to connect and collaborate.

Through our various seminars, workshops, leadership forums and development sessions, we create safe spaces to explore, discuss and action complex challenges that arise in an ever-changing landscape.

Working with charity leaders, statutory bodies and leading organisations, we provide amplification by speaking up and demonstrating the strengths and breadth of work across the charity sector. We work tirelessly to ensure that both the public and decision-makers recognise and celebrate the essential role that the charity sector provides across Buckinghamshire. We continue to influence various conversations, building strong relationships with leaders, decision makers, stakeholder bodies and leading charities to build a strong evidence base to ensure that the stories of the sector are heard and not just by the louder voices.



Karen Irons (Vice-Chair) Mike Clare (Founder) & Robin Walker (Chair)



Clare Periton - Chair of Charity Services & Conrad Mepham-Stone - Guest Speaker



Founder & President Mike Clare



Trustees, Gavin Henshaw & Arif Hussain

Mike Clare Receives, The Buckinghamshire Council – Chairman's, Award 2023



Mike Clare



Mike Clare. Chairman - Patricia Birchley,
Arif Hussain - Councillor



Trustees: Gavin Henshaw, Karen Irons, Julie & Mike Clare,
Robin Walker & Arif Hussain

Accepting his award, Mike Clare said:

"I'm proud and honoured to receive the Chairman's Award. However, it is very much about The Clare Foundation. I've seen just how hard our staff, CEO, Martin Gallagher, and our fellow Trustees have worked over the years to support charities and businesses to help increase the happiness of residents of Buckinghamshire and the surrounding areas. Thank you to everyone who has played their part."

Participating Charities

1. Chiltern Rangers
2. One Eighty Charity
3. Calibre Audio
4. Chiltern Music Therapy
5. Connection Support
6. Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity
7. Inspire Bucks
8. Missenden Walled Garden
9. Restore Hope
10. Tall Ships Youth Trust

The above charities all shared in £100K of grants provided by The Clare Foundation and the generous donations of the five Angels

Angels Den - 2023



Mike Clare, with winner Susie Besant, CEO One Eighty

The ANGELS discussing the charity presentations



Missenden Walled Garden Charity at Angels Den 2023



Trustees Clare Periton & Gavin Henshaw with CEO, Martin Gallagher



Connection Support Charity at Angels Den 2023



Angels Den 2023



The Angels: Gary Grant, Matt Storey, Mike Clare, Simon Bitcliffe & George Anson



Proud Of Bucks Awards

We worked closely with Buckinghamshire Council and the 16 Community Boards across the County to facilitate the following outstanding people and groups -

- ▶ Best Adult Contribution
- ▶ Best Young Person
- ▶ Best Community Group

In all more than 200 Applications, Projects and Programmes were reviewed.

Everyone, even those who didn't make the shortlist, has made such a huge difference across all walks of life, society and the environment.

We are especially grateful to the 16 Community Board Managers and their tireless and hard-working Councillors for making this all possible. Thank You.



2023 Recipients



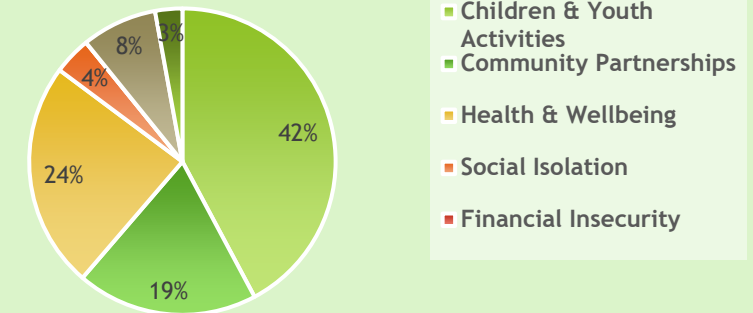
Our Angels Den, Family Angels, Founders Fund and TCF Grant Programmes have made a significant contribution to people and charities working and delivering in Buckinghamshire society.

Total grants of £371,000 were made from the following funds:

Angels Den - £100K shared amongst 10 Charities
Founders Fund - £63K provided to 10 Charities
TCF Grants - £138K provided to 49 Charities
Family Angels - £70K to more than 115 Families

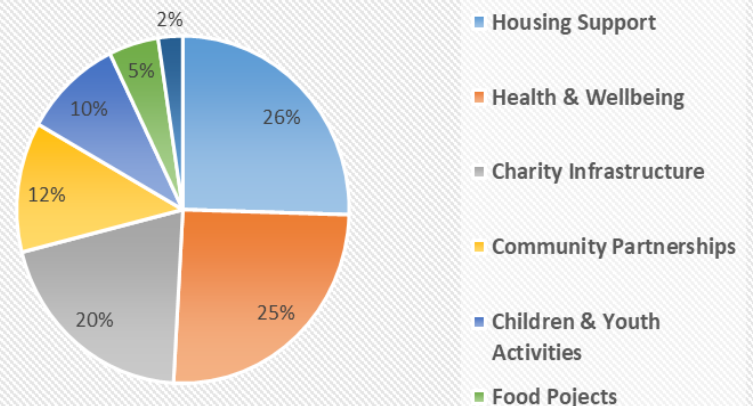
Founders Fund

2023 Founders Fund Grants



Grant Programme

2023 Grants Programme



Chris Sutcliffe & Paul Irwin from the Inspire Bucks Charity with TCF Trustees



SV2G Charity, CEO, Jacqueline, with guest at their Windrush Celebrations

Family Angels was re-established in the Autumn of 2022, by **The Clare Foundation and The Clare Family Trust.**

With the willingness, insight and experience of

44 Community Advocates we have

worked to provide financial help to more

than **115** good honest hardworking families across Buckinghamshire.

This would not have been possible without those volunteers who are ever vigilant and mindful of those who are vulnerable and most at risk.

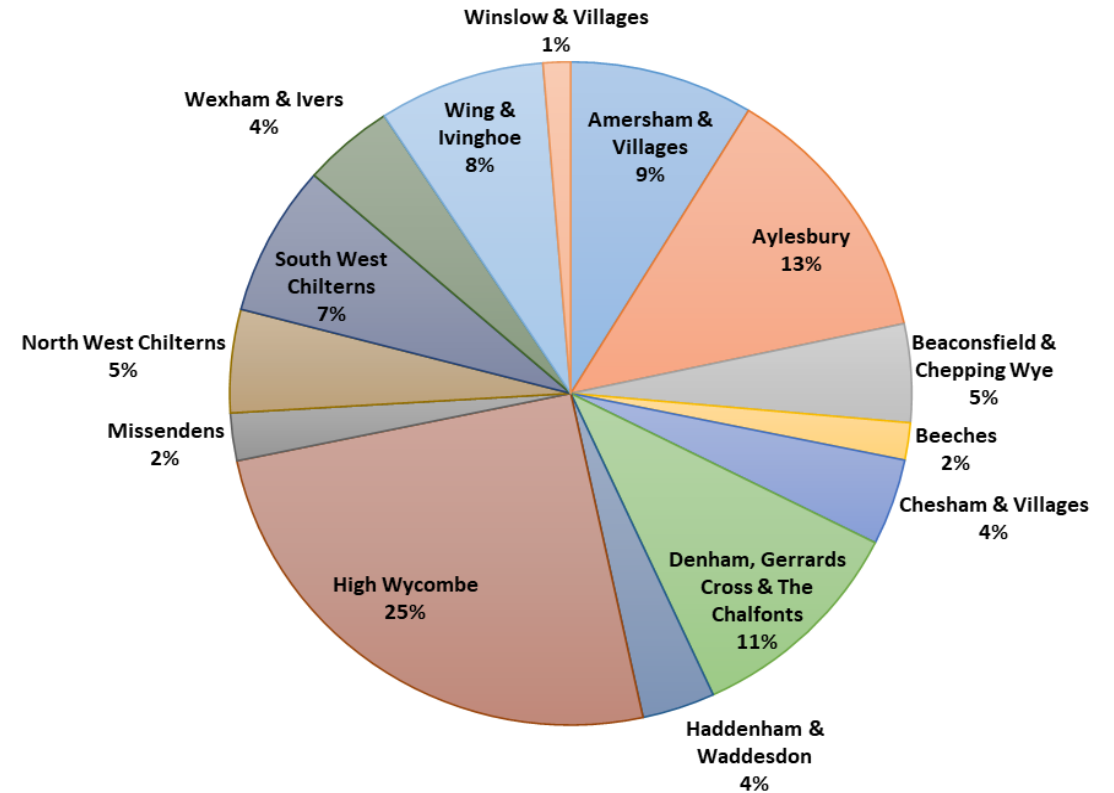


FAMILY ANGELS
Community Advocates



Family Angels Programme

Family Angels - 2023 Grants Location



Grant Case Study 1.

Wycombe Homeless Connection & Aylesbury Homeless Action Group

Thanks to a grant from **The Clare Foundation for £63,000** **Wycombe Homeless Connection (WHC)** and **Aylesbury Homeless Action Group (AHAG)** collaborated on a homelessness prevention project to provide crisis intervention support to households in Buckinghamshire.

What has this project achieved in its first year?:

The two charities prevented **65 households** from becoming homeless due to unfair and illegal evictions.

They prevented 35% of evictions which would have occurred in the county, beating their target of 25%.

They estimate the project saved the local economy between approx. **£1,105,000**, and **£2,322,000** that would have been spent on people who had lost their homes had they not prevented their evictions.

They increased the number of staff working on the project from three to six, meaning they have the capacity to assist the growing number of Bucks residents facing eviction.





FoodCycle - Grant Case Study 2.

The Clare Foundation played a key role in the development of FoodCycle's first project in Buckinghamshire. The Clare Foundation team provided invaluable local advice and support from scoping suitable venues, making introductions to local contacts, especially those who could donate surplus food, and helped with the recruitment of volunteers. The Clare Foundation also contributed £5,000 to the project's running costs in the first year.

FoodCycle provide a free three-course meal for vulnerable people ('guests') across England and Wales every week. The guests come from a variety of situations including low income, homeless or having housing problems, living with long-term physical or mental health conditions, and many live in isolation.

In its first year, FoodCycle Aylesbury supported circa 130 people. Volunteers have delivered 67 meal sessions, served over 2,000 meals and provided a further 759 meals as takeaways at the end of a session for guests to enjoy at home. Nearly 1,000kgs of surplus food was saved to make these meals.

To understand the impact of FoodCycle projects, the charity runs an annual guest survey to understand the impact and need. Aylesbury guests told us FoodCycle helped them in November 2022 by:

- Eating better – 89% tried new foods at FoodCycle, 67% said they ate more fruit and vegetables, 38% said they cooked more healthily at home, and everyone said they went home well fed after their meal. 88% said FoodCycle gave them an extra meal in the week they wouldn't otherwise have had and they could save money for other important costs, like bills
- Many said they became less lonely, 78% had made new friends, 89% said they felt more confident with other people

FoodCycle Aylesbury was delighted to receive the **Community Group Contribution Award at the Proud of Bucks Awards 2023**, this was presented at an awards ceremony in June 2023. A special thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers in Aylesbury, and for the support we have had from local stakeholders: **Bucks Council, Heart of Bucks Community Network and The Clare Foundation.**



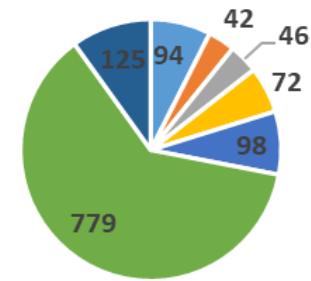
Seminars, Workshops, CEO & Charity Leader Forums & Networking

Our practice since 2015 has been to bring Charity Leaders from Buckinghamshire together to enhance their opportunities to network, learn and collaborate.

As an infrastructure and grant making charity The Clare Foundation team was delighted to host 47 events hosting 1,256 people.

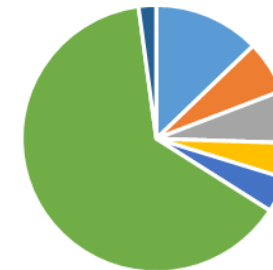


Number of delegates, by event type



- CEO Forum
- Leadership in person (part of series)
- Challenge event
- Angels Den
- In person training
- Networking event
- Online training

TCF has delivered 47 events in total in 2023



- CEO Forum
- Leadership in person (part of series)
- Challenge event
- Angels Den
- In person training
- Networking event
- Online training

Testimonials 2023

Working with The Clare Foundation brings so much value to our work at the Chilterns Neuro Centre. This value is not just through financial support for our charity, but also through the advice and guidance that Martin and his team give to our senior leadership team. They have helped us with training courses to help our fundraising team to grow and learn, helped me develop my own knowledge and confidence through their mentoring programme and they have made introductions to other charities and businesses to really help bring the best results for our work. They are often my first port of call if I have a query on who to approach for support and I am personally very grateful for the time and dedication they give to me and the charity sector. They are an asset to Buckinghamshire!

Stella Kubale - Head of Fundraising – Chilterns Neuro Centre
Below – Chilterns Art Exhibition 2023



The Clare Foundation has supported me enormously to be effective in my role as joint CEO of both Wycombe Homeless Connection and Aylesbury Homeless Action Group.

I attended a workshop delivered by **Mike Clare** where he said that the key to being a successful leader was to work 'on the business' rather than just 'in the business', that helped me formulate some of the key objectives I wanted to achieve this year in terms of developing my team and getting my head out of the day to day running of the two organisations! Not only this The Clare Foundation has continued to fund our joint **Homelessness Prevention Project** which has seen us prevent 65 households from becoming homeless due to unfair and illegal evictions which we estimate saved the local economy well over £1 million which it would have cost for them all to go through the homelessness system. In addition to this we have received help from Isabel White who has helped us to develop our grant bid writing enormously which has already helped us to secure further funding to help this project carry on at a time when so many local households need it.

James Boulton - CEO

The Clare Foundation remains a cornerstone in supporting the VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector) across Buckinghamshire. The knowledge, awareness and empathy from Martin and team is superb. The welcome is always warm, the expertise excellent and the opportunity to network amongst the best for charity leaders. Thanks to all involved.

Mark Ormerod – Chairman
Buckinghamshire VCSE Partnership Board



I write to express my appreciation for the support we have received for our charity. As well as offering general invaluable advice, your CEO, Martin Gallagher, has helped me by providing guidance on how to source funding. In particular, he wrote a letter of support to the Rothschild's Foundation urging them to support Women's Aid. We have now received a grant of 30k towards our costs of core funding. Martin has also helped me to find additional board members for AWA and recently arranged for our CEO to attend specific training tailored to her needs as a relatively new appointee.

As you will be aware, running a charity today can be especially challenging and to have the support and advice provided by The Clare Foundation is immensely valuable and very much appreciated.

Suzanne Bell - Secretary and Trustee of Aylesbury Women's Aid

Acknowledgements & Thank You



CHAT Members
Austen Hall & Simon Cope

We are most grateful for our marvellous volunteers who deliver our CHAT Programme and Family Angels - Community Advocates, without whose skills, experience and dedication, we would not be able to fulfil our work in supporting the people of Buckinghamshire. Also, to all the terrific guest speakers, presenters and coaches whom we work with to deliver our workshops and seminars!

Thank You All.

Martin Gallagher
Chief Executive Officer



Guest Speakers
HHJ: Karen Venables & Esther Maclachlan



Charity CEOs & Leaders Attending a Leadership Seminar



Kerry De Gee & Elisha Jobbins