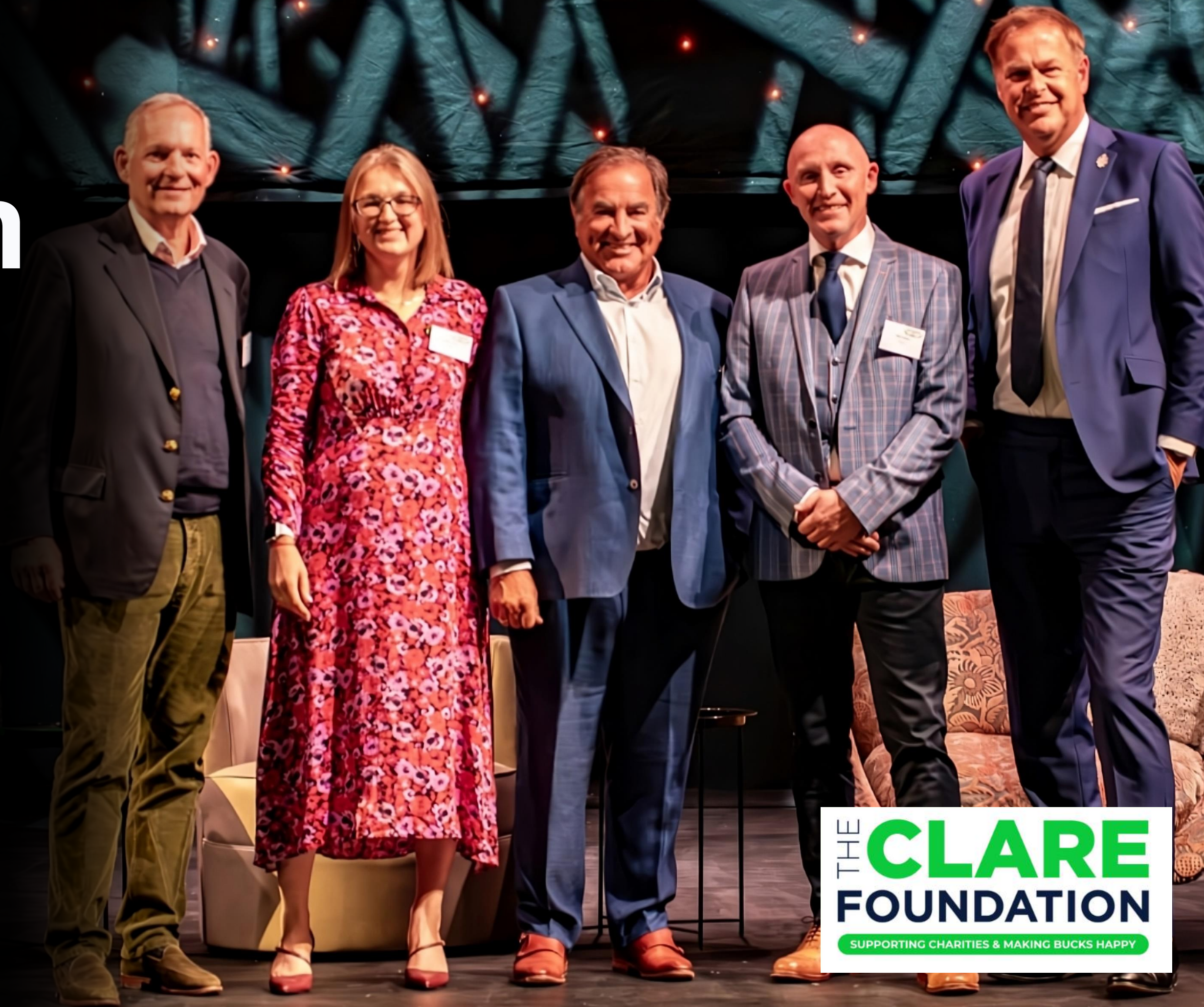


# The Clare Foundation 2024

Impact Report



THE **CLARE**  
FOUNDATION  
SUPPORTING CHARITIES & MAKING BUCKS HAPPY

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# Mike Clare

## Founder and President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am immensely grateful for the fantastic support at our second Angels Den, which brought together over 200 like-minded individuals from the charity, local authority and business sectors across Buckinghamshire. Again, my most heartfelt thanks to our generous and philanthropic Angels - especially the returning Angels, our president Mike Clare, Matt Storey and George Anson, new Angel Sarah Leslie and my friend Peter Jones (of Dragons Den fame) for their enthusiasm, commitment and their money. Your generosity, humour and expertise helped shape a marvellous evening with 10 charities sharing in the £100k prize pot. It goes without saying that the event was made possible due to the lead-in work that commences as far back as January when we had 66 Buckinghamshire charities apply for the event. Our Trustee Board, CEO and Office Team got to work with the selection process and made everything possible on the evening. We are already planning a bigger and better Angels Den in 2025 (place it in your diary – Wednesday 10th September).

As charity sector leaders, I am very much aware your roles can sometimes be challenging, and not without pressure and whilst success comes with the hard work you put in - it is just that – relentless perseverance. I know that The Clare Foundation team provides significant support through CHAT, bespoke support, events and grants. I am dedicated to TCF making a difference in Buckinghamshire, to how the sector works, and I have been consistently impressed by your perseverance, endurance and determination to help those who need it most. You are an inspiration to many, whether you know it or not.

Julie and I were delighted that many of you could join us for our 15th anniversary celebration of TCF, at Hinton House. Thank you to all who made it.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon. Warm regards,

*Mike*



# Robin Walker

## Chairman

I believe the TCF team has done some great work in 2024. It has been a challenging year for many charities and organisations, but we have done our best to support Charity Leaders in every way possible, be this via our Angels Den, CHAT, the numerous workshops and seminars we delivered or the circa £340K we released in grant funding to charities during the year.

Our CHAT volunteers responded to over 55 requests for direct support, and I am grateful to our CEO and CHAT volunteers for their continued and generous support in giving both their time and expertise in helping those Charity Leaders who have requested assistance. I am also aware of some bespoke support from people and organisations outside the CHAT Programme and I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to them also.

With our re-established Family Angels Programme, we are continuing to develop the terrific network of Community Advocates (37), who have provided us with the meaningful opportunity to support those families classed as most vulnerable. We would not be able to do this work if it were not for their dedication and perseverance (Thank You) in helping those who need it most. For the record we have helped 126 families in 2024 providing £90,000 in the way of small personal grants that change lives.

We are proud to have continued with our partner Buckinghamshire Council in supporting the Proud of Bucks awards, something we jointly instigated under COVID, and have funded ever since. We have again worked with 16 Community Boards to bring the 2024 awards out to their communities. These highlighted the work delivered through various community-based organisations and was a way to jointly show that their hard work made a difference in society and that it should be recognised.

Well done to all of those who were nominated and congratulations to all of those who received an award.

2025, I fear, will face many of the same challenges, but we will be here, and we look forward to continuing the work of The Clare Foundation for many years to come, supporting charities and people across Buckinghamshire.



Robin Walker, Chairman, Marcela Heime, Trustee (2024) & Founder & President, Mike Clare



Karen Irons & Marcela Heime (Trustees)



Gavin Henshaw & Clare Periton (Trustees)



Arif Hussain (Trustee) with Community Advocate, Sarah Gibbs

## TCF Purpose

The Clare Foundation's purpose is to empower charities to make a greater impact on Buckinghamshire society. We are dedicated to making Buckinghamshire the happiest county in the United Kingdom by simplifying charity operations, so that leaders, trustees, and volunteers can focus on improving lives across the region. We provide vital support to organisations by addressing key areas they depend on, including securing grant funding, leadership development, and strategic and operational growth. Through our CHAT Programme, we also provide pro-bono assistance and give access to specialised skills, knowledge, and expertise to help organisations prosper. We strive to harness the collective insight and influence of Charity Leaders, creating a collaborative environment where charities can thrive. Through seminars, workshops, leadership forums, and development sessions, we offer safe spaces to address complex challenges and drive positive change in a dynamic landscape. In partnership with Charity Leaders, statutory bodies, and key organisations, we amplify the charity sector's voice, raising awareness and showcasing the breadth and depth of work accomplished. Our goal is to ensure that both the public and decision-makers understand and appreciate the invaluable role of charities across Buckinghamshire. We actively engage in conversations, build strong relationships, and ensure that every story from the sector is heard, beyond just the loudest voices.



# Angels Den Charities: 2024

The following charities received a share of £100k in grants provided by The Clare Foundation and the generous donations of the five Angels:

## Finalists:

- 1. Age UK Bucks
- 2. Animal Antiks
- 3. Been There
- 4. Brighter Futures Together
- 5. Chilterns Neuro Centre
- 6. Lindengate
- 7. Marlow Opportunity Playgroup
- 8. Plunkett UK
- 9. The Theatre Shed
- 10. Youth Concern

# Angels Den Grants by Organisation 2024



George Anson, Mike Clare, Martin Gallagher & Peter Jones



Tessa Peters Founder & CEO and Bekki Peters, Been There Charity



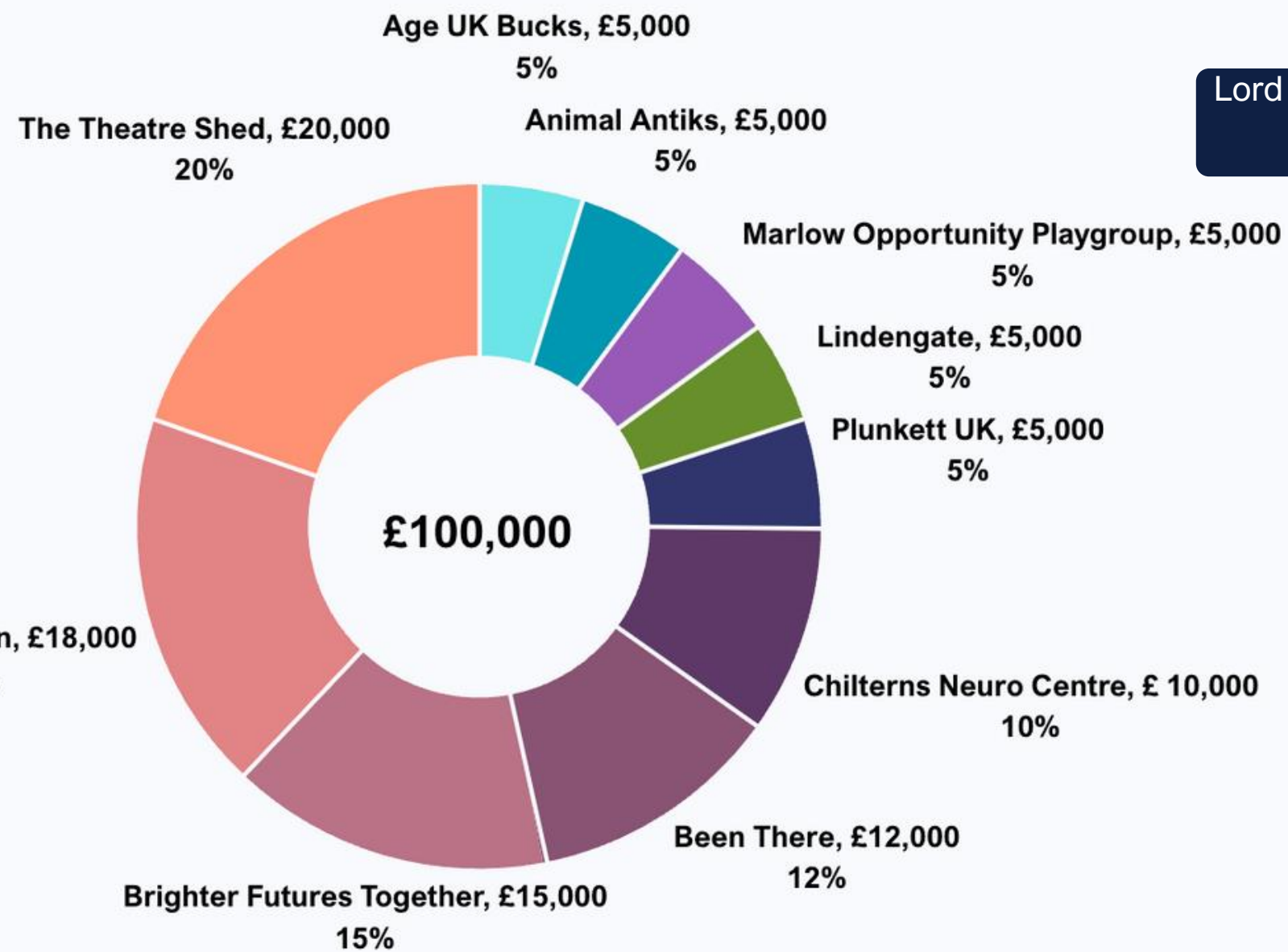
Lord Lieutenant, The Countess Elizabeth Howe and Martin Gallagher



Hannah Asquith, Mark Russell & Sarah Leslie



Kuldeep Bahia, Marlow Opportunity Playgroup



# Proud of Bucks Awards

## 2024

We are incredibly grateful to have brought our idea to life through close collaboration with Buckinghamshire Council and the 16 Community Boards across the County to recognise and celebrate these outstanding

individuals and groups:

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

With over 231 applications, projects, and programs reviewed, every single effort — even from those who weren't shortlisted — has made an invaluable impact across various sectors, benefiting society, the environment, and lives across the County.

We extend our deepest thanks to the 16 Community Board Managers and their dedicated, hard-working Councillors. Your tireless efforts have made this all possible. Thank you!





# Total Grants Given in 2024

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

The total amount of £427,500 was given via the following funds:



Jo Turner, Lily Caswell, FNCH & Martin Gallagher



Colin McGregor-Paterson, Oasis & Mark Russell, Age UK Bucks



Martin Gallagher, Paula Watts & Heather Wilde, BOPAG



John Shaw, Chiltern Rangers & Martin Gallagher



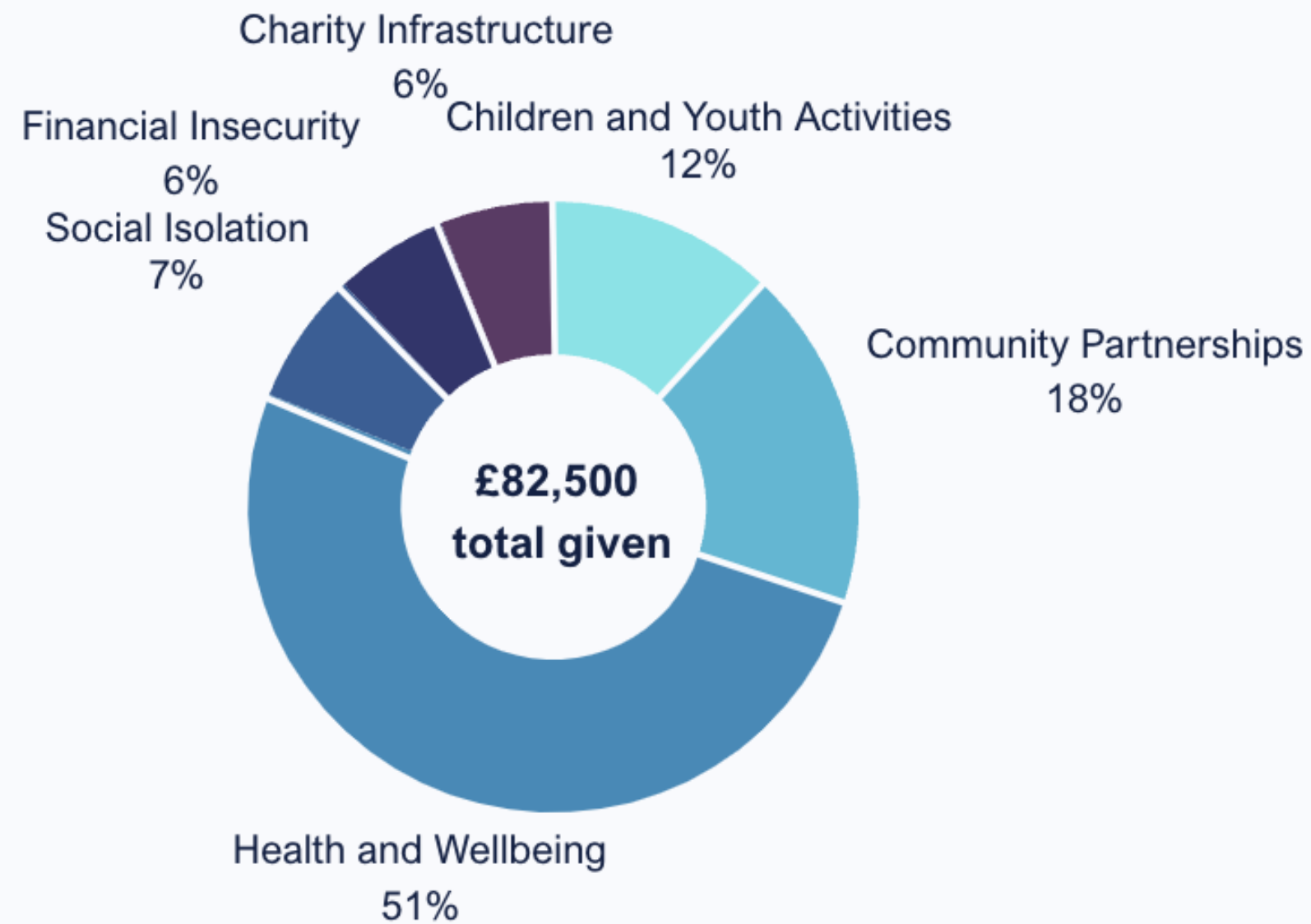
Dove Cafe



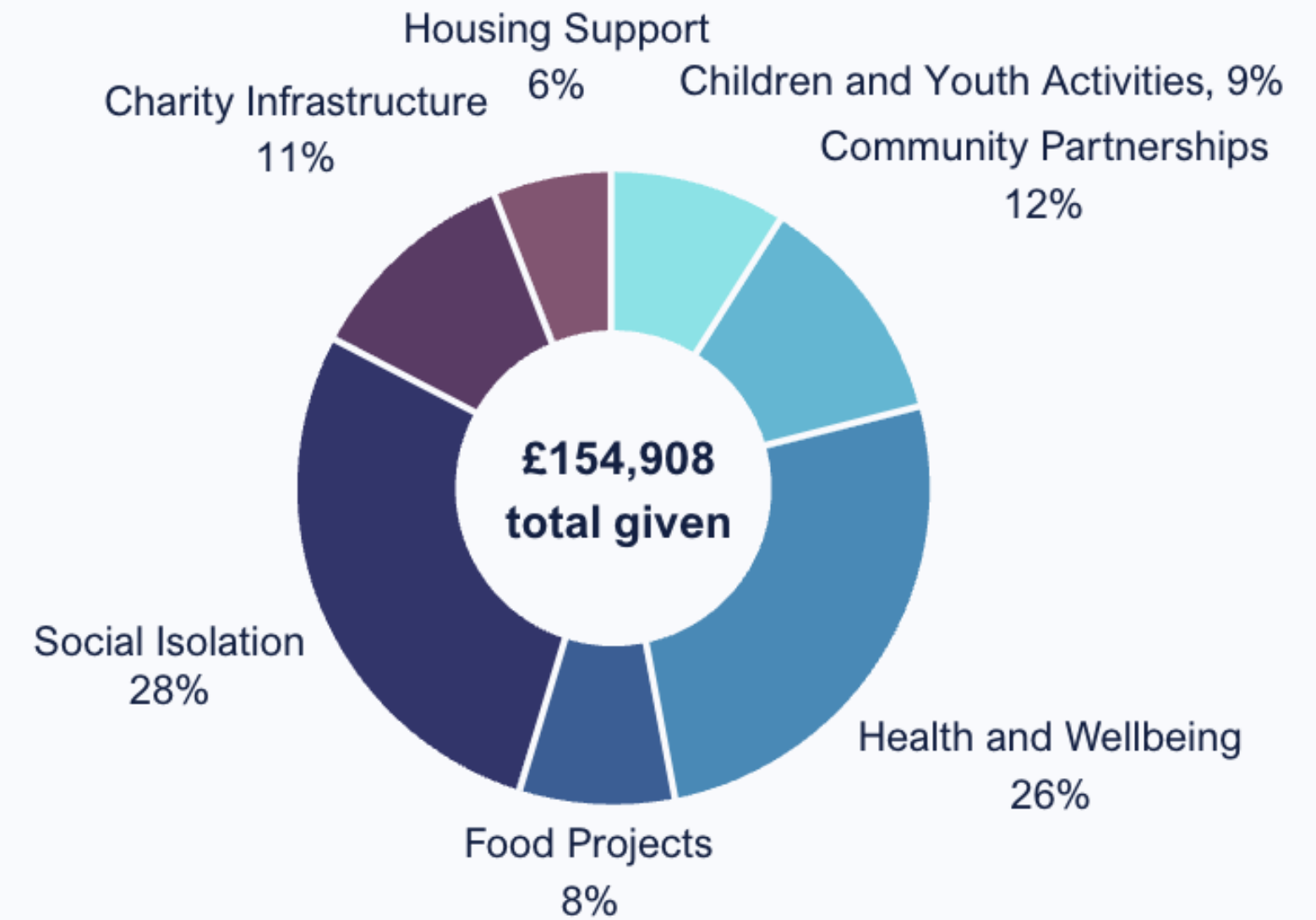
Chiltern Music Therapy

# Grants to Charities by Need

## Founders Fund 2024

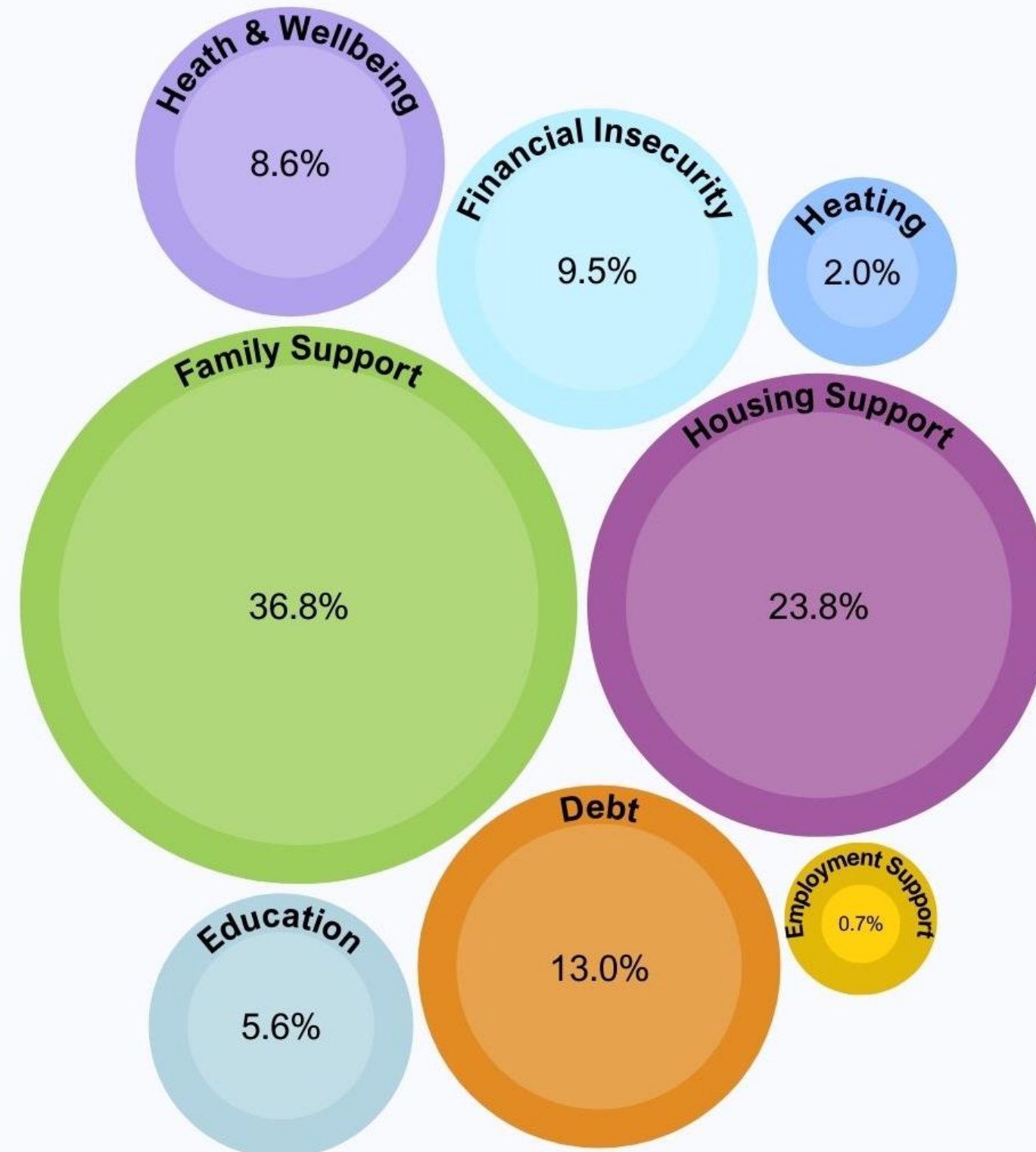


## TCF Grants 2024





# Family Angels Programme



**Family Angels** was re-established in autumn 2022 by The Clare Foundation and The Clare Family Trust. Through the dedication and expertise of 37 Community Advocates, in 2024 we have provided **financial support (£90k) to 126 families** across Buckinghamshire. This impact wouldn't have been possible without our vigilant advocates, who remain deeply aware of the needs of vulnerable and at-risk individuals in our community.

Winner of Angels Den 2023  
Total Grant Amount: £20,000

## One Year Progress Update: One-Eighty: Schools Partnership Programme



Matt Storey (Angel), with Susie Besant (One-Eighty CEO) & Martin Gallagher (TCF CEO), at Angels Den 2023



Children partaking in the One-Eighty Schools Partnership Programme

One-Eighty: Schools Partnership Programme, worked closely with a primary school in Buckinghamshire to provide much needed support, with aims to improve learning and mental wellbeing.

**Impact:**

One-Eighty has supported over 60 people in the past year, ranging from young people and families to professionals as a direct result of their Angels Den funding.

**Services:**

One-Eighty has delivered a suite of services including one-to-one intervention and transitional summer projects.

**Outcomes:**

- Enabled One-Eighty to offer immediate support to a local school.
- A strong social return on investment (£11.48 for every £1 invested).
- Allowed One-Eighty to double their impact from 2022/23 to 2023/24.
- Have since worked with over 1,000 young people in remedial and preventative capacities.

Angels Den news article taken from London Daily News' Website. Showing Mike Clare (Founder of TCF) and Susie Besant (One-Eighty CEO)



## The Oasis Partnership's Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Buckinghamshire New University

Total Grant Amount: £30K over two years awarded through TCF Grants

- Buckinghamshire New University (BNU) Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) aims to support Oasis to develop income generation models that can sustainably support the charity long term.
- Through both formal training and active learning, the KTP will support Oasis's Senior Leadership Team to implement a commercially minded strategic plan.
  - One example of this in action is the utilisation of the café space and workshop, along with innovative partnership models with local business, to generate long-term income for Oasis.
- Another key development within this partnership was the first 'Drug and Alcohol' related conference at BNU, boasting over 120 attendees.
- The outcomes of this collaboration have been so successful that it has prompted the planning of future conferences in 2025!



Colin McGregor-Paterson, Francesca Martin & Martin Gallagher



## CEO & Charity Leader Forums, Seminars, Workshops, & Networking Events 2024

### The Clare Foundation's Impact on Buckinghamshire's Charity Sector (Since 2015)

Since 2015, The Clare Foundation has been dedicated to strengthening the charity sector in Buckinghamshire by bringing together Charity Leaders to network, learn, and collaborate.

Our work seeks to drive positive change through supporting leaders, enabling innovation and encouraging partnership. We achieve this through seminars and workshops for charity personnel, improving their skills and knowledge through education.

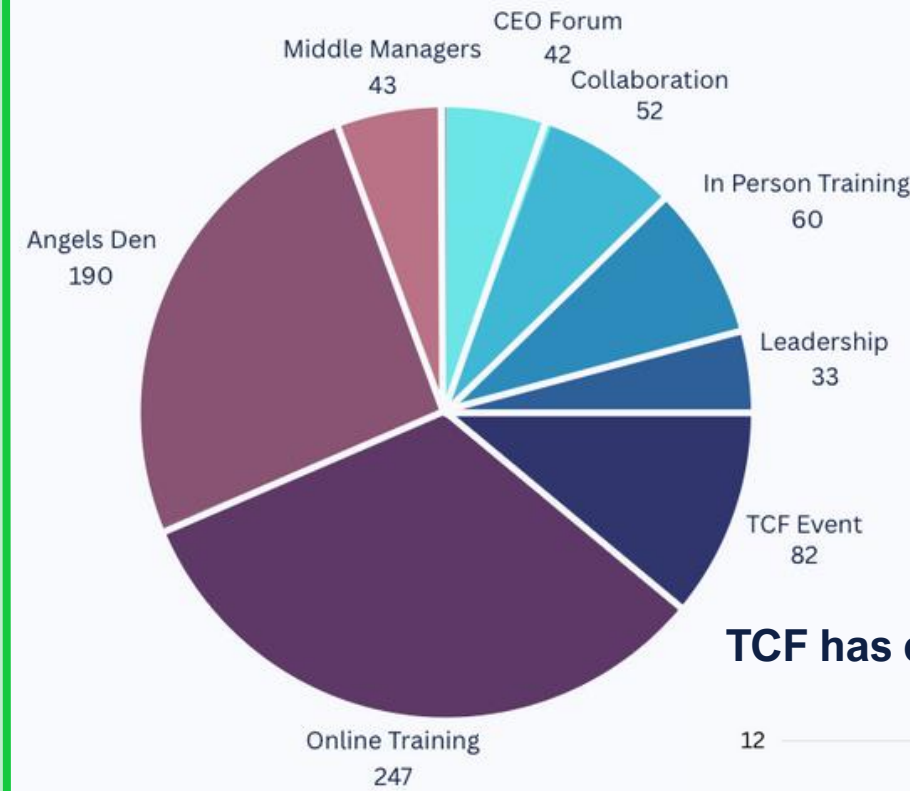
#### 2024 Highlights:

- **33 Events Hosted:** All tailored to meet the needs of Charity Leaders, offering valuable insights, resources, and networking opportunities.
- **749 Participants Engaged:** Through these events, we have directly connected with over 749 individuals, fostering a stronger and more collaborative charity network in Buckinghamshire.

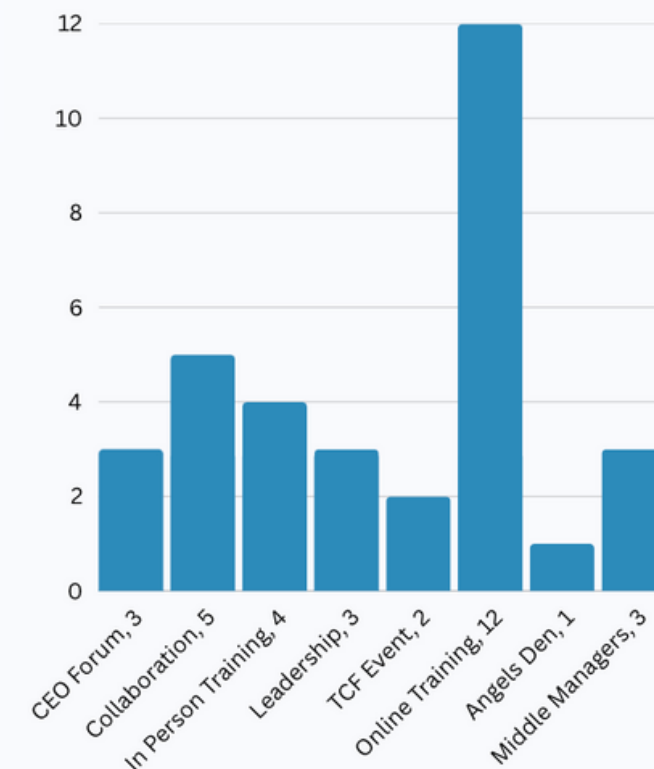


# CEO & Charity Leader Forums, Seminars, Workshops, & Networking Events 2024

Number of Delegates, by Event Type



TCF has delivered 33 Events in 2024



Dave Jones – Leading from the Heart, Thinking with the Hands



CHAT Team Member - Jenny Winch 'Empower, Inspire, Lead - Skills to Thrive when Facing Tomorrow's Challenges'



# CEO & Charity Leader Forums, Seminars, Workshops, & Networking Events 2024

CEOs & Charity Leaders Attending Loneliness Roundtable @ TCF



Disrupt your Volunteering Programme and Increase your Participation Attendees



'Middle Managers - Aspiring Leaders' Attendees



Interpersonal Communication Skills with Conrad Mephram-Stone



Disrupt your Volunteering Programme and Increase your Participation



Ira McDonald (presenter) & Mary Mobbs-Beal



# Testimonials 2024

“As Age UK Bucks extends its reach and impact for older Bucks residents, The Clare Foundation has been by our side supporting, advocating, facilitating and convening for our cause and our organisation. This has included: networking and introductions, helping us recruit a pivotal trustee position; facilitation and partnership, especially this year supporting a loneliness and isolation round-table event and discussion with key delivery partners; awareness and impact, through the Angels Den event and programme, which honed our pitch skills and gave us a platform for our cause; training opportunities and leadership guidance through workshops and CHAT advisor coaching; funding too – through Angels Den, and a generous grant to support our critical work tackling loneliness.

Above all, Martin and the team are warm and welcoming, bringing funding, philanthropy, business expertise and VCSE colleagues together for mutual support, and also some fun and friendship.

Thanks for all of this and we hope to continue working with The Clare Foundation closely in the future.

Mark Russell CEO of Age UK Bucks



Trustee & CHAT Member  
Clare Periton with  
Mark Russell, CEO Age UK Bucks

“Since taking on the role of Director of Youth Volunteering at Aylesbury Youth Action, Martin and the Team at TCF have been invaluable in supporting my professional development. The training and courses offered by TCF have not only equipped me with essential leadership skills but have also provided a valuable platform for networking with other professionals in the charity sector. These connections have proven instrumental in advancing the projects I am working on for my own charity. One course, Mindset Mastery, Alignment, and Spiral Dynamics with Conrad, was particularly impactful. I left the session with a renewed sense of confidence, new tools to develop my leadership skills, and fresh ideas that have directly influenced the direction and growth of Aylesbury Youth Action's initiatives. TCF's CEO has always been welcoming, with an open-door policy that fosters a supportive environment. Their willingness to engage in meaningful conversations about the charity sector and share insights is something I greatly appreciate. It's a space where I feel encouraged to ask questions, build relationships, and continuously grow, knowing I will receive the guidance and support I need.

Paige Fox-Rendle, Director of Youth Volunteering Aylesbury Youth Action



Rebecca Chandler-Wilde, Bucks Safestep Foundation, Jo Turner, CEO of Florence Nightingale Hospice & Paige Fox-Rendle, Director of Youth Volunteering, Aylesbury Youth Action

“The charity seminars that I attended at The Clare Foundation's headquarters in Aylesbury this past year (on the topics of: Interpersonal Communication Skills and Creating a Sense of Purpose) have significantly enhanced my own effectiveness and impact. By providing the space to hone my communication abilities, I am now confident in fostering stronger relationships with stakeholders, staff, and donors, ensuring alignment and shared understanding across the organisation. Developing a deeper sense of purpose has equipped me to inspire and motivate my team, reinforcing our mission and vision.

These sessions have also given me the skills required to navigate challenges with clarity and empathy, strengthening the charity's credibility and organisational resilience. Ultimately, The Clare Foundation's seminars have empowered me to lead with confidence, embedding an environment of collaboration and innovation that will drive sustainable success for Restore Hope.

Nate Sence, CEO of Restore Hope



Ira MacDonald, Hilltops Ukrainian Support Community, Nate Sence, CEO of Restore Hope & Thalia Jervis, CEO of Hope after Harm



# Acknowledgements and Thank You

## Martin Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer

It is a profound privilege to lead The Clare Foundation, an organisation with the power to uplift, support, and drive meaningful change for the most vulnerable in our society. Working alongside our partners and colleagues in the charity sector, we harness collective energy and resources to make a difference where it matters most. Our society is currently facing a series of disheartening challenges, from the effects of climate change to escalating inflation and rising costs of necessities.

The continued economic crisis, combined with the soaring costs of heating, electricity, fuel, and food, has created a harsh reality for many families. No one should have to decide who gets fed and who goes without. Through our collaborations with Buckinghamshire Council, food banks, and grant-making organisations, we have gathered invaluable data and insights to help identify and support those most at risk.

I am immensely proud of our small but dedicated team, who have continued to deliver a valued calendar of events, leadership opportunities, development workshops, and learning activities. Their commitment to providing fresh ideas, practical solutions, and actionable insights has been unwavering, even in the face of significant challenges. We are deeply grateful for our wonderful volunteers who make the CHAT Programme possible, as well as our dedicated Community Advocates who are integral to the Family Angels Programme. Their skills, experience, and unwavering dedication are the backbone of our efforts, enabling us to support the people of Buckinghamshire in meaningful ways. Without them, our work simply would not be possible.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the incredible guest speakers, presenters, and coaches who bring expertise and inspiration to our workshops and seminars. Their contributions enrich our programmes and empower our community, adding immeasurable value to our mission. Thank you all for being such an essential part of our journey!

I am deeply grateful to Mike, Robin, Karen, Clare, Marcela, Gavin and Arif for their steadfast support. Our Board of Trustees exemplifies governance, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge, complementing my role as CEO and strengthening our work.

Together, I look forward to building on this strong partnership and making a lasting, positive impact in Buckinghamshire.

*Martin Gallagher*

Chief Executive Officer at  
The Clare Foundation