



South Yorkshire's  
**Community  
Foundation**

# Our Impact 2020

**Local knowledge.  
Wise investment.  
Stronger communities.**

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## Who we are

### **South Yorkshire's Community Foundation:**

- Supports and builds strong and resilient communities across the region.**
- Provides community groups with grant funding through committed donors, to help people facing hardship and disadvantage, alongside those improving the communities they live in.**
- Connects people caring about South Yorkshire and wanting to invest in supporting the Foundation to build stronger and healthier communities.**

# Introduction

2020...what a year!

It tried us all in the most extreme of ways. It is testament to the strength of South Yorkshire communities still suffering the impact of the floods of 2019, that when a global pandemic engulfed us all they responded swiftly, creatively and adeptly.

Charities and community organisations showed resilience and innovation, delivering services to communities with determination and vigour, despite a surge in demand and a severe decrease in resources. From helping a local elderly resident, befriending those shut behind closed doors, delivering food to the socially isolated, everyone pulled together showing unwavering community spirit under extremely trying circumstances.

With the Flood Appeal well underway and having already distributed thousands of pounds to victims devastated by the flooding, when Covid-19 arrived emergency funding was distributed within 24 hours of the national lockdown. The SYCF team quickly settled into remote working and continued to distribute funds, provide donor care and become a conduit for emergency government funding for both the floods and pandemic, whilst continuing with our community grants programmes.

We soon realised the foundations on which we were able to respond quickly and efficiently to the urgent needs of the communities were thanks to the strategic grant giving determined from the Vital Signs research of the past three years. We had been meeting the priority needs of South Yorkshire which soon turned out to be some of the most imperative areas of support sought by the communities devastated by the pandemic; mental health provision, homelessness prevention services and support for disadvantaged children to name a few.

This report is a reflection of the Vital Signs research of 2017 to 2019 and examines how it set the Foundation to support communities in the most challenging year in recent history. SYCF undertakes this research to ensure our grant making across Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield is as impactful as possible. This report gives an overview of the community needs prioritised over the last 3 years and how SYCF distributed grants to meet those needs.

We continue to use these publications to inform our stakeholders, partners and donors and encourage conversations about targeted local philanthropy. We aim to spark discussion, encourage connections, create partnerships and inspire action.

Thank you for all your support,



**Ruth Willis,**

**CEO, South Yorkshire's Community Foundation**



# South Yorkshire's Top Need Areas 2017-19

Over the last three years the Foundation's Vital Signs Reports have measured the needs of our communities as identified by local residents and by analysing local and national data.

From 2017 to 2019, the following were identified as the top priorities:

2017	2018	2019
Employment & Local Economy	Deprivation	Healthy Living
Stronger Communities	Housing & Homelessness	Deprivation
Education & Learning	Strong Communities	Housing & Homelessness
Housing & Homelessness	Healthy Living	Safety

**Barnsley** has suffered as a result of the decline of its traditional industries and continues to look for solutions to its challenges of a young population looking for a better future; a mid-life population experiencing great industry losses and an elderly population witnessing rapid changes over just a few years. Community Foundation grants are playing an important role to help the process of recovery. Grant distribution to Barnsley for 2019/20 was £527,534.

**Doncaster** suffered many years of decline following the closure of the coal mines and loss of railway jobs. After years of recovery, the spirit of significant economic gains and we are pleased that Community Foundation grants are helping those most in need. Grant distribution to Doncaster for 2019/20 was £992,333.

**Rotherham** is a multicultural borough, proud of its distinguished industrial heritage and keen to embrace new developments on former steelworks and coalfields lands. Community Foundation grants are helping to support community cohesion and to help young people to achieve and contribute to the economic future of the borough. Grant distribution to Rotherham for 2019/20 was £435,867.

**Sheffield's** has gone from strength to strength over the last ten years with major commercial investment. Many neighbourhoods have seen significant increase in their success in closing the gap between the highest and lowest achieving neighbourhoods. Community Foundation grants have helped to support those neighbourhoods most in need of help. Grant distribution to Sheffield for 2019/20 was £907,990.





From 2017 to 19

**£2,316,812**

was distributed in grant awards

**620  
Grants  
Awarded**



**Average Grant Size**

**£3,036**

**to Community Groups**

**366,754**

people were supported by the  
grants awarded

## The year of...

2017



South Yorkshire's  
**Community  
Foundation**

awarded

**£722,448**

worth of grants to  
**250** organisations in  
South Yorkshire.



## We awarded...

**43 grants worth £139,789 to local community groups and projects working to improve life skills, education, employability and enterprise.**

**£132,611 to 28 organisations working to strengthen community cohesion and to build social capacity.**

**In 2017, South Yorkshire's average percentage of those aged 16-64 in employment was 70%. The UK average was 75%.**

**79 grants worth £239,164 to South Yorkshire groups advancing people's physical and mental health, well being and safety.**

Top need area:  
**Employment and  
Local Economy**



## Activate Rawmarsh

**Pockets of Rawmarsh in Rotherham are in the top 5% most deprived areas in England with only 35% of people aged 16-74 in full time employment and 36% of people having no qualifications compared to 22% England-wide.**

Since 2002, Activate Rawmarsh has tackled this head-on, supporting young people and meeting the huge demand for youth service provisions in the area. Activate exist to support and encourage children and young people to take part in positive activities to improve the conditions of their lives, develop their skills and capabilities and interact with their community as responsible individuals with a sense of belonging.

In 2019 Activate Rawmarsh supported 307 individual children, 228 adults and delivered 301 community sessions including active toddler groups, noisy music classes, a hardcore rock school, engaging after school clubs, a helpful transition support service for year 6 pupils and those leaving school, and a fantastic Funzone supporting children and young people with additional needs.

SYCF Grants have contributed towards Activate Rawmarsh creating and running a successful volunteer programme providing young people with the opportunities to become highly employable by helping with the organisation's weekly activities, thereby improving their confidence, finessing their skill sets, reducing social isolation, building self-esteem and so much more. As a result of the extensive volunteer program, Rawmarsh has seen the barriers removed preventing young people having decent CVs or receiving good references, an increase in numbers attending college or gaining paid employment, an increase in intergenerational activities and Activate Rawmarsh has been able to increase the number of children benefitting from their activity clubs.

*One Project Coordinator said **“One of the girls that has joined the course and is volunteering with us. When she first came in she was very closed off. Then gradually as I’ve worked with her, she’s opened up and you can see her developing and that we are pushing her in the right direction.”***

# The year of...



## We awarded...

**We awarded £34,843 to help 991 individuals improve their access to services.**

**We awarded £187,329 to supporting vulnerable people. Over 60,000 vulnerable children and adults benefitted.**

**We awarded £75,667 for improving community cohesion which benefitted 3,630 people.**

**£179,324 was awarded to projects supporting people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.**



Top need area:  
**Strong  
Communities**



## b:friend

**Doncaster is home to some of the most socially isolated, older neighbours in England. There is a high prevalence of the biggest determinants of loneliness with a large proportion of people aged 80 and over, many living in social housing and facing income deprivation. In-person social interaction is vital for maintaining healthy mental and physical wellbeing and by running weekly social clubs and pairing 1:1 volunteer befrienders, b:friend provides a lifeline for older neighbours who may not speak to another person all week.**

Grants from SYCF have enabled b:friend to host social clubs encouraging older neighbours to get involved in Bollywood dancing, yoga, poetry slams, Bond-style mocktail making, graffiti art and so much more. Also they run, with South Yorkshire Police educational sessions on scams, fire hazards with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, history clubs with Heritage Doncaster. The list goes on. By giving older neighbours a reason to leave the house, b:friend are encouraging them to re-engage with the people and places around them as well putting a huge smile on their face week on week.

1:1 volunteer befrienders pop round to an older neighbour once\_a\_week for a cup of tea and a chat, providing essential companionship to those who may be house bound or don't yet have the confidence to attend a social club. Not only will people benefiting from the project feel more engaged with their community but they will form a new and meaningful friendship with someone that lives nearby who will look out for them. In turn, reducing an individual's social isolation will have benefits to their overall health and wellbeing including reductions in the likelihood of dementia, depression and other health concerns linked to physical activity.

b:friend and its mass of volunteers demonstrate community support in its most authentic form, people in the community are taking the lead to make real improvements for local people. Since being founded in 2017, b:friend has enabled over 32,000 hours of community connection.

# The year of...

2019



South Yorkshire's  
**Community  
Foundation**

awarded

**£869,287**

worth of grants in  
South Yorkshire.



## We awarded...

**We awarded £267,543 to projects supporting people's physical and mental health.**

**We awarded £86,821 to help 5552 individuals to improve their access to services and reduce isolation.**

**£351,335 was awarded to help strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity.**

**We awarded £267,543 to projects supporting health, safety and wellbeing.**

## Top need area: Deprivation

### Baby Basics

**Poverty can render people, particularly women, vulnerable to exploitation and severely limits their choices especially when expecting a baby or with a young child. Baby Basics has been working in Sheffield since 2009 providing essential baby and toddler equipment to vulnerable women, including teenage mums, women seeking asylum and women fleeing domestic abuse and trafficking. Baby Basics provides clothing, toiletries and other essentials needed for life with a new baby.**

SYCF has provided grants to allow Baby Basics to expand its offering by moving to bigger premises and support more mothers and babies. The service reduces the isolation of the vulnerable families, who do not have the financial means to provide the essentials for their babies. The gifting of a pushchair or a sling allows parents to be able to access their community knowing that they have a way of transporting their baby. The provision of a Moses Basket or cot with a new mattress ensures that the baby or toddler has a safe space to sleep. In 2018, Baby Basics provided over 1000 items to mums from cots and push chairs to beautiful new-born Moses basket starter packs containing clothing, bedding, and toiletries to children's toys.

The aim of Baby Basics is to not only provide some of the essentials needed but to do so in a way that restores dignity to women who feel they have lost it through domestic abuse, poverty or displacement and speaks the truth about how valued and precious these women and their children are.

A mother who received support said ***“Today Baby Basics have given me a choice. Before, in order to be able to give my baby the things it needed I had to go back to a violent man. But with this pack I have the freedom to stay in a safe place and still provide for my baby.”***





Top need area:  
**Housing &  
Homelessness**



## Barnsley Churches Drop-In Project

**Since 2002, Barnsley Churches Drop-In Project (BCDP) has been a sanctuary for those with nowhere left to turn, providing a place of safety for many vulnerable people in the community that have reached a low point in their lives.**

Each week BCDP serves around 300 meals totaling 12,114 in 2018. SYCF provided grants to support the running of the drop-in centre where homeless people, substance misusers, alcoholics, many on treatment programmes, people in poverty, asylum seekers and families, come to find a hot meal, a hot drink, a sandwich, yogurt and fruit to take away with them. It is a place where they are treated with respect, where they are listened to and not judged.

Alongside providing food and emergency supplies such as clothing, socks, hats, gloves, bedding, sleeping bags and toiletries, BCDPs objective is to encourage wellbeing and self-worth. Among the services provided at the BCDP are a hairdresser, a podiatry team and health workers; all of whom work on a voluntary basis to restore dignity in the clients. To further help disadvantaged individuals in Barnsley, the BCDP provide a signposting service. By collaborating with a variety of organisations, the BCDP gives its service users the opportunity to gain advice on matters such as applications, housing and employment guidance and support.

***“We had one service user who was homeless and wasn’t aware of the services that we provided. He came to us quite often and told us that he would like a job in the food industry in the long run. We offered him a volunteering position in our kitchen and he enjoyed it. Over time he’s built up his confidence and, after a few job changes, he’s got a home of his own, a partner and a child on the way!”***

# The floods of 2019

**On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 over a month's worth of rain fell within a 24-hour period in the South Yorkshire region. It is estimated that some 500 properties were directly affected by flooding and a further 1,200 were advised to evacuate. Sadly, two fatalities were also attributed to the floods across the Sheffield City region.**

The resulting impact of the flooding continues, with some people still unable to return to their property pending essential repairs, while many others are still suffering the continued effects of loss of possessions, in some cases, household income. This has been exacerbated by the pandemic which has left some households stranded in temporary accommodation.



Within 24 hours of the flooding, SYCF set up the South Yorkshire Flood Disaster Relief Appeal to help provide support to all the people affected by the flooding. SYCF responded quickly, providing hardship grants to affected households. By February 2021, we had awarded grants totalling over £1.2 million, supporting over 1,468 individual victims of the disaster and funding community groups to build the long-term resilience of the communities affected. We have supported a local community centre which acted as an emergency centre for flood victims, purchased equipment for community flood wardens, funded debt advice, insurance, benefits advice and credit union services to mitigate the financial impact of the floods on families.



We worked in partnership with DMBC, Keepmoat and Orchard Training and Education on a house restoration project that saw 12 homes in Bentley and Fishlake, Doncaster receive support to enable residents see their homes returned to a inhabitable condition. The project equated to £60,000 through funding and pro bono support.



# The unique 2020

## Covid-19

In the middle of distributing the Flood Disaster Relief Grants, Covid-19 was suddenly upon us. Lockdown meant many community activities and events were put on hold; charities and clubs reinvented themselves, moving services online or establishing delivery services; whilst mutual aid groups sprung up across the region.



1/3 of funding supported the distribution of food and other essentials to those in isolation

17% supported mental health services

16% granted to groups addressing problems of social isolation

12% granted to organisations providing information and advice, particularly important for getting vital public health messages out to vulnerable communities

Involving over 8,600 volunteers

And supporting an estimated 294,000 people, or around 1 in every 5 people in South Yorkshire

## Response and Recovery Grants

Thanks to our partnership with the National Emergencies Trust and the generosity of local donors, we responded quickly, providing vital funding to community organisations as they mobilised to meet the crisis. Within a week of the first national lockdown being announced, we had launched our Covid-19 Response and Recovery grants programme and awarded our first grants.

***Since then, we have awarded £1.5 million to over 300 charities, social enterprises and community groups across South Yorkshire.***

The grants supported the full range of communities within our region: urban and rural; Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. Within that diversity, we have ensured that our grants have prioritised communities which have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19, and which are too often marginalised. 9% of the funding distributed specifically targeted older people aged over 65; 11% specifically targeted people with disabilities; and 29% benefited black and minority ethnic communities (with 15% going to specifically BAME-led organisations).

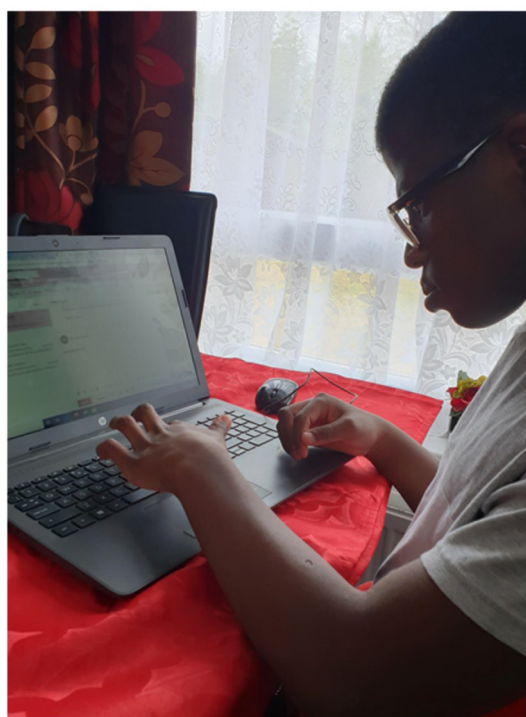
# The unique 2020

## Community Sector Resilience Survey

With the Response & Recovery grants addressing the short term crisis, we wanted to understand what impact the Covid-19 crisis was having on the community sector itself. SYCF joined with Barnsley CVS, Voluntary Action Doncaster, Voluntary Action Rotherham, Voluntary Action Sheffield, SYFAB, the Sheffield City Region, the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System and the University of Sheffield to undertake the South Yorkshire Community Sector Resilience Survey.

Responses from a wide range of charities, social enterprises and community groups, large and small, from across the county made clear that Covid-19 has had a profound impact on the community sector across South Yorkshire, but that impact varies by the type, size and location of community organisations. Whilst very small community groups and large charities were relatively resilient, small- to medium-sized community organisations were particularly hard-hit. Two thirds of organisations with a turnover of £10k-500k reported they were financially sustainable for 6 months or less; 96% of organisations with an annual turnover of £10k-100k had to put some or all of their services on hold during the crisis (despite a third of them seeing increased demand for their services at that time); and organisations with an annual turnover of £100k-500k furloughed 2/3 of all their employees.

Covid-19 has had a potentially devastating impact on the small to medium sized organisations which are at the heart of our communities, and on which our neighbourhoods will increasingly rely during the period of recovery. It was clear that SYCF needed to act quickly to ensure the resilience of our community sector.



## Community Resilience Grants

In response to the findings of the Community Sector Resilience Survey, we launched a partnership with a range of funders and donors (including the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire, the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation, NHS Barnsley CCG, NHS Sheffield CCG, Barclays Bank and others) to provide grants to small to medium charities and social enterprises, to ensure essential services are provided to vulnerable people, both in the short and long term, and to reduce closures of charities that provide essential services to vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

Whilst the grants awarded by this partnership fell outside the period covered by this report, we're pleased to say that we have awarded over £350,000 to 18 incredible organisations, mostly as two year grants for staff and operating costs, which will support them to continue delivering vital services to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.



# Community Grants 2017-2020







Alongside the response grants, we have maintained our regular grants programmes, supporting the vital if lowkey work of volunteer-led community organisations which makes such a difference to our communities.



Through our membership of the network of UK Community Foundations, we managed the local elements of national grants programmes including #iwill (supporting young people's social action), Building a Stronger Britain Together (supporting community cohesion and countering extremism), the Tampon Tax Community Fund (supporting women and girls) and the Wesleyan Foundation Fund (supporting a broad range of community activity around health, education and reducing disadvantage), bringing nearly £416,000 into our region. We awarded over £60,000 to individuals facing hardship and disadvantage.

Through our Community Grants, windfarm community benefit funds, the Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund in memory of Molly Hurst, and other local grants programmes we distributed

over £640,000 to 165 community organisations

<b>£240,000</b> to advance physical and mental health and wellbeing 	<b>£62,000</b> to connect people with the arts, culture and heritage 	<b>£106,000</b> to reduce isolation and disadvantage 
<b>£90,000</b> to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity 	<b>£19,000</b> to improve access and engagement with the environment 	<b>£125,000</b> towards skills, education and employability 

Collectively, these programmes benefited an estimated 230,000 people

# Celebrations

## Community Champion Awards

October 2019 saw our first Community Champions awards ceremony held in partnership with BBC Radio Sheffield, to shine a light on the good work being done across South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire.

Excited finalists and their loved ones were welcomed into a glittering Sheffield Cathedral, lit by candlelight and adorned with flowers, to receive awards for their work in the community.

300 guests attended the awards which were hosted by BBC Radio Sheffield presenters, Paulette Edwards and Toby Foster. With VIP guests including H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, High Sheriff of South Yorkshire and the Lord Mayor of Sheffield.



### Creative Community Champion

Sponsored by Key Fund

**Rachel Horne**

Doncaster

### Business Champion

Sponsored by Investec  
Wealth & Investment

Drone Valley Brewery

Dronfield

### Young Champion Award

Sponsored by MKB  
Solicitors

**Adil Mohammed**

Sheffield

### Neighbourhood and Environmental Champion

Sponsored by Equity  
Housing Group and  
Groundwork

**Sahira Irshad**

Sheffield

### Community Group Champion

Sponsored by Henry Boot  
plc

**Edlington Community  
Organisation**

Doncaster

### Health, Wellbeing and Fitness Champion

Sponsored by Irwin  
Mitchell

**De Hood Boxing Centre**

Sheffield

### Team Champion Award

Sponsored by Barnsley &  
Rotherham Chamber of  
Commerce

**Kickback Recovery**

Sheffield

### Outstanding Champion Award

Sponsored by Barnsley  
College

**Frazer Longford and  
Jason Cotton, Men Talk**

Chesterfield

## Seeing Is Believing

We ran a successful Seeing is Believing event to De Hood in Sheffield in partnership with the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire.

By taking a select group of senior business leaders and Philanthropists into the heart of communities, we used the power of experience to inspire and challenge. The visit was designed to encourage participants to think strategically about the implications for their own business and communities and the practical actions that can be taken in response, leading to meaningful and sustained impact for both business and communities. The visit demonstrated how a local community organisation had turned involvement in crime on its head, particularly with young people at risk of or already involved in criminal offences.

We would like to say thank you to all of our donors, charity partners, SY100 network members, sponsors and supporters for their ongoing commitment to South Yorkshire's Community Foundation.



# Looking ahead

The charity world will continue to face challenges over the next 12 months. The global and national effects of Covid-19 on the UK economy and government finances are likely to be felt for some considerable time. The Foundation's role in supporting the charity and community sector will become even more important over the next few years.

This report is vital to the work that SYCF does as it supports our mission to build stronger communities by identifying key social issues across South Yorkshire. By using the findings from the report we can ensure that our grant making reaches communities that need it the most.



South Yorkshire's Community Foundation will continue to support and build strong resilient communities across the region. We provide community groups with grant funding through our committed donors, to help people facing hardship and disadvantage along with those working to improve the communities they live in. We will connect people who care about South Yorkshire and want to invest in supporting the Foundation to build stronger and healthier communities.

South Yorkshire's Community Foundation plays a key role in ensuring the future of vital community projects and aims to improve lives in our communities. We do this through raising funds from businesses, philanthropists, trusts and statutory bodies and use them to meet the needs of local people facing economic hardship and other barriers to aspiration. Working with local community groups in South Yorkshire, sharing their journey and seeing the results achieved by the grants we make is both our reward and motivation..





# How can you help?

The future of vital community projects in South Yorkshire relies on the generosity of local people.

Without the charitable interventions of businesses, trusts, statutory bodies and philanthropic individuals we would not be able to support local voluntary and community groups to carry out their great work over the last 35 years.

## Personal Funds

A unique feature of Community Foundations is the ability to establish a personal fund that is a simple, cost effective alternative to a charitable trust with the opportunity to make a real difference to the local community. A personal fund is unique to you and can be established from £25,000 and built up over a period of time. We will work with you to fully understand how you wish to give and then recommend the most appropriate type of fund for you. You choose: – the name of your fund (or whether to stay anonymous) the area it benefits – the fund's charitable priorities – your level of involvement is up to you: direct where the funding goes yourself or let our expert team find the causes that fit your priorities.

### Endowment

The personal fund that 'keeps on giving', an endowment fund lets us invest the capital sum and use the income to make grants year after year. This means your donation creates a lasting legacy for South Yorkshire, providing sustainable funding for communities.

### Distribution

This fund has immediate impact in a community. This funding option means that your donation is used for short term grant making which reacts responsively to current needs within our communities.

## Geographical Funds

An alternative to setting up your own Personal Fund is to donate to an existing geographical fund for Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster or for South Yorkshire overall.

### SY100

A network of like-minded businesses and individuals wanting to support their local communities and build a stronger South Yorkshire. SY100 supports the core running costs of SYCF, enabling us to continue distributing vital funding to grassroots community organisations. We invest in these groups by distributing grants and sharing advice – acting as a catalyst for positive change.

### Unrestricted Gifts

SYCF is a charity too and we welcome donations of any size towards our charitable activities to promote community giving and build a lasting legacy to strengthen our communities.

## Acorn Funds

Acorn Funds offer an easy way to build an Endowment Fund over time, rather than establishing a Personal Fund in one lump sum. Donations can be made in line with donors wishes and can be a combination of annual donations, single donations, and a legacy gift. The fund enables grant giving year after year once a Personal Fund (£25,000) has been created. A final contribution with a legacy in a will can also be put in place so a final gift can be made into the fund.



**To discuss how you can make a difference, call us on 0114 242 4857 or email Michelle Dickinson, Head of Philanthropy, [mdickinson@sycf.org.uk](mailto:mdickinson@sycf.org.uk)**

For more information about South Yorkshire's Community Foundation please visit  
[www.sycf.org.uk](http://www.sycf.org.uk)



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South Yorkshire's Community Foundation



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If you have any questions relating to the content of this report please contact SYCF on  
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COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA



UK COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
GIVING FOR LOCAL GOOD

**Local knowledge.  
Wise investment.  
Stronger communities.**