



ISLE OF WIGHT  
FOUNDATION

2017-18  
ANNUAL REPORT

# ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION

**2017-18  
ANNUAL REPORT**

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# HELPING

Helping everyone  
to feel part of the  
Island community

Brighstone viaduct

# Foreword

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Island Roads is part of a wider network of companies within the world's leading construction and concession company – VINCI. VINCI established the first VINCI Foundation in May 2002 as part of its determination to form lasting partnerships with the local community and support those who live and work in areas where the company operates. To date there are ten VINCI trusts/foundations all over Europe which have collectively supported over 1,200 projects and helped make social cohesion a reality in its local communities.

In August 2014, the partners in Island Roads launched the Isle of Wight Foundation, a charitable trust, committed to supporting projects on the Island that tackle social exclusion, supporting people to play an active part in their local community and helping them access employment and housing.

The Foundation is jointly funded by partners Ringway Island Roads, Meridiam, Island Roads and VINCI Concessions. Meridiam is a leading global, long-term investor specialising in public infrastructure (transport and social infrastructure eg schools, public buildings, utility networks and services eg water and waste management). The company has a long track record in corporate social responsibility, sustainability and community involvement.

Whilst Island Roads' focus as a company will always be on the work we have been tasked with – improving the Island's roads - we recognise, through the work we do and the people we employ, that as an Island company we will be a prominent part of Island life for a 25-year period. As such, we want to be able to help the community in other ways, by enabling our staff to take time to volunteer and to fund projects that benefit the Island community.

We're delighted to bring you this, our annual report for 2017-18, which outlines the achievements of those projects during the third year of our Foundation. We're proud to have played a part in their success and to have made a difference to the community in which we live and work.

**Philip Horton**

**Chairman**

Isle of Wight Foundation Board







# About the Isle of Wight Foundation

## A massive investment in the Island's infrastructure

Island Roads is undertaking the biggest highway improvement programme ever seen on the Isle of Wight. In partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, as part of the Highways PFI, Island Roads is responsible for upgrading and maintaining the Isle of Wight's infrastructure, including some 804 kilometres of roads, 756 kilometres of footways (pavements), 12,000 streetlights and a wide range of other highway assets.

The majority of the upgrade is being completed over a seven-year period from 2013, but the company will then maintain the highway network at that standard for a further 18 years – meaning that it will be part of community life on the Island for 25 years in total. As such, Island Roads and the companies behind the partnership; VINCI Concessions, Meridiam Infrastructure and Ringway, are keen to play a wider role in supporting the community.

## The formation of the Isle of Wight Foundation

In April 2014, the companies established the Isle of Wight Foundation – a charitable trust. Its aim – to help tackle social exclusion on the Isle of Wight through an annual grant giving programme.

The Isle of Wight is a beautiful place to live and work, but behind the vast expanses of stunning countryside and coastal scenery there are pockets of deprivation. Unemployment statistics are high, particularly amongst young people, and the rural nature of the Island and difficulties with transportation

links leaves some communities and individuals isolated.

Having worked with community representatives and having reviewed local data, the partners formed the Isle of Wight Foundation to help address these issues through community funding. Specifically, the Foundation seeks to help build better communities that encourage social integration and create opportunities for people to access training and development, to improve their life skills and opportunity for employment.

## Providing opportunities through funding

Each year, the Isle of Wight Foundation launches a grant call, offering up to £80,000 of funding to local community projects that meet its criteria for supporting projects that help tackle social exclusion, whether through access to training and qualifications or building stronger communities. The total sum is usually allocated in amounts of between £3,000-£16,000 to not-for-profit, community or charity organisations. So far, as we reach our third year of the IW Foundation, we have supported projects on the Island with just under a quarter of a million pounds worth of support.

In addition to the financial help on offer, Island Roads' employees are also linked up to the selected projects to provide additional support and expertise as part of the company's volunteering scheme.

The opportunity to apply for funding is promoted widely in local media and through voluntary and community networks. A selection committee, formed at the outset, chooses the final projects to receive support following an initial review of applications and potential project visits carried out by the Isle of Wight Foundation support officer. The board then meets to finalise the approvals.

Funding is awarded for use within one year of the allocation to ensure a swift and marked measurable improvement in tackling social exclusion on the Isle of Wight. In its third year, the Isle of Wight Foundation supported five projects, each of which are profiled in this report.





# Our Six Key Areas of Support

The Isle of Wight Foundation was formed to help tackle social exclusion through access to employment and building better communities. Applications were sought from charity, not for profit and community interest organisations within six key areas of support:

## Integration through work

Projects which support those currently excluded from the job market to adapt to the working world, while also receiving the training and support they need.

## Training and qualification

Projects that offer basic training and guidance to enable individuals with no qualifications to enter the working world.

## Social integration

Projects to support people who are excluded from society, to help them regain self-confidence, recover a decent standard of living, accomplish day-to-day activities and integrate with society.

## Access to housing

Projects that facilitate access to housing for the most underprivileged individuals to provide them with more stability.

## Road back to employment

Initiatives that help people to reduce the factors restricting their mobility and improve the mobility of people deprived of a means of transportation, thereby allowing them easier access to employment, health care and education.

## Youth and citizenship

Initiatives aimed at promoting citizenship and responsibility among young people.





Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall

# Our Key Criteria For Funding

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Projects applying for funding also have to meet key criteria in order to qualify for support. These are focused around the following principles:

## **Lasting commitment**

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The Isle of Wight Foundation supports projects which are sustainable and can provide permanent employment or activities that benefit the Island community.

## **Social innovation**

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It also supports projects or initiatives which seek innovative solutions to tackle social exclusion.

## **Impact**

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Projects and initiatives are sought that can make a measurable impact on the community within the specified 12-month period.

## **Employee engagement**

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The Isle of Wight Foundation also funds projects with which it can link support from its employees - whether providing advice, contacts, expertise, skills, training and practical, physical support and which can help develop those individuals involved.

## **Compliance**

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Any projects submitted are required to be compliant with relevant legislation and are able to evidence their constitution as charity, community or not-for-profit groups and their ability to manage any grant funding effectively. Certain funding criteria must also be met and restrictions apply.



# Community Projects Supported

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During 2017-18 the Isle of Wight Foundation awarded funding to five community projects. You can read more about these projects in the case studies section at the end of this report.

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## Age UK Isle of Wight

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Awarded funding for its 'Rally Round' project to help tackle exclusion, by giving computer access and training to the over 50s. See page 26.

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## Isle of Wight Beach Soccer

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Awarded funding to encourage participation in a sport that also encourages healthy, active and responsible living; working particularly closely with the police and outreach organisations to engage hard to reach young people. See page 28.

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## Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall

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Awarded funding to improve infrastructure that will make the facility more accessible to a range of groups, creating a community hub to help tackle social exclusion. See page 30.

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**PORCHFIELD  
AND NEWTOWN  
VILLAGE HALL**

## Wave Project

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An award-winning charity provided with funding for much needed equipment, to help vulnerable children and young people experience better life through surfing at Island beaches. See page 32.

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## Wight Horse CIC (Island Riding Centre)

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Awarded funding to support a new independent riding school providing riding tuition, stable management, horse-care, training and equine-assisted learning for children and adults with physical and learning difficulties. See page 34.

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Age UK IW: Rally Round







## Building Better Communities

The Island community has a population of approximately 141,500, living across an area of 146.8 square miles with just over a half living in the seven major towns across the Island. A quarter of all residents (26.1%) are aged 65 and over and this proportion is increasing. Just under 15% are aged 0-14 years old.

For young and old alike, there are challenges as well as benefits to living on the Isle of Wight. The Island has several areas that are classed among the 20% most deprived areas in England, transportation is limited and a challenge particularly for those living in the rural areas of the Island. Social exclusion is a very real issue for people of all ages living on the Island and this in turn can be detrimental to physical and mental health, day-to-day living and economic wellbeing.

We hope to help minimise social exclusion for the Island community by funding projects that can help build stronger communities, with more active citizens working together and supporting those who are most vulnerable.



## Access to Employment

Unemployment can affect so much of people's lives and wellbeing. From the obvious economic wellbeing; financial stability, access to housing, to the less obvious physical and mental wellbeing, the stigma and exclusion from society.

Through the work of the Isle of Wight Foundation we hope to improve social integration by funding projects that help support people to get into employment.

We help to fund projects that work with people who, for a variety of reasons, may have found themselves excluded from the world of work, whether they are long-term unemployed, on minimum social benefits, have physical or mental health issues, or are young people without any work experience, skills or qualifications.

Through these projects we can help provide access to develop new skills, training and qualifications as well as developing confidence, self-esteem and life skills, helping people to rebuild their personal and professional lives.

# Sponsorship: Involving Our Employees

The Isle of Wight Foundation offers Island Roads' employees the opportunity to make a personal commitment by sponsoring tangible, and often very innovative projects, which benefit the local community.

These sponsors form a crucial element in the work of the Isle of Wight Foundation. They supplement the financial support provided by contributing their skills to the non-profit organisations supported.

Sponsors are carefully selected to marry their specific skills with those that will benefit the

project and organisation involved, as well as providing the employee with an opportunity for their own personal development.

Their role can include general assistance and advice or more specialist support (eg management, communication, IT, accounting, commercial strategy, administration) or on technical aspects (eg safety, legal considerations, works, etc.) as well as getting involved directly in aspects of the projects where appropriate.







**Jason Boulter**  
*Structures Project  
Manager*  
Porchfield and  
Newtown Village Hall

"I was keen to get involved with this project so I could bring value to a local community scheme using my experience and knowledge of working on the highway.

When required I could assist in providing some guidance and understanding on the process to facilitate the successful completion of the project, one that will bring long-term economic and safety benefits for Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall."



IW Beach Soccer

**Ben Meakin**  
*Traffic Management Operative*  
IW Beach Soccer

"The work IW Beach Soccer does to encourage young people to take up sport on the Island is impressive.

I really enjoyed working with the organisation to help secure the new kit to enable them to give beach soccer opportunities to even more young people."

**Elbie Todd**  
*CIP Administrator*  
Age UK IW Rally Round

"Being a project sponsor gave me the opportunity to interact with a wide range of inspirational people from different backgrounds.

It gave me a real sense of fulfilment."

**Maddy Clewett**  
**Geotechnical Engineer**  
*The Wave Project*

"I was really proud to represent Island Roads as I worked with the team from The Wave Project to secure new kit for their activities.

The charity is making a huge difference to people on the Isle of Wight.

I found it really interesting to learn how the new equipment funded by the Foundation is being used to build young people's confidence and self-esteem through their surf therapy programmes."

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# Our Foundation Structure

The Isle of Wight Foundation is supported by a Board of Trustees and a Selection Committee representing all of the partner organisations. It is also supported by the crucial role of the Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator who oversees the day-to-day implementation of the charitable trust's activities on the Island.

## Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the general administration of the Foundation, including the approval of its annual budget and decisions on the use of funding.

The Board comprises the following members:

**Philip Horton**  
*Chairman Isle of Wight Foundation Board*

**Rob Gillespie**  
*Regional Director, Ringway Infrastructure Services*

**Clive Pitt**  
*Board Director, Island Roads Services and Meridiam Trustee*

**Arnaud Judet**  
*UK Country Manager, Vinci Concessions*

## Selection Committee

The Selection Committee is responsible for reviewing the applications for funding and making recommendations to the board for future funding requests.

**Stephen Ashman**  
*Chairman, Island Roads*

**Michael Bulpitt**  
*External Expert, Community Action Isle of Wight*

**Caron Atley**  
*Island Roads Services*

**Alan White**  
*Island Roads*

**Alan Ransom**  
*Island Roads*

**Samantha O'Rourke**  
*Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator*

## Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator

### Samantha O'Rourke

The Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator is responsible for promoting the grant funding available from the Foundation and for encouraging applications each year from community, charity and not-for-profit groups across the Island.

Samantha's role is also to oversee the initial short listing and presentation of applications to the selection committee. The coordinator is also responsible for facilitating the development of partnership projects in conjunction with their individual sponsors.

Right: Philip Horton, Samantha O'Rourke





# Looking Ahead to 2018-19

We have already allocated just over £90,000 of funding to twelve more community projects on the Isle of Wight for our 2018-19 grant year. These are:

## Brading Community Partnership

The Foundation will donate £11,000 to enable the partnership to upgrade the windows at Brading Youth Club to help retain heat, reduce running costs and prevent condensation in the sports hall.



## Care in the Garden

The project will receive £11,000 for a crew van to transport workers and equipment off site. This means they can take on more off-site contract work, enabling them to offer more training opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.



## **The Common Space**

Funding of £4,177.95 will enable the project to purchase a *MicroEye*, an accessible specialist piece microscope which will be used at free nature and science events to help people view all sorts of weird and wonderful wildlife



## **First Act 2011**

The theatre group for those with additional needs and disabilities will receive £9,304.50 to enable it to run weekly activities, workshops, and rehearsals to build towards biannual performances at Shanklin Theatre.



## **Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

Funding of £8,000 will provide the opportunity for four young people to learn new skills and gain experience in environmental conservation through a Woodland Apprenticeship Scheme.





## Isle Access

£16,000 for accessible cycling equipment for those with disabilities who are unable to use unadapted bicycles.



## The Phoenix Project

Grants of £4,787.75 for sensory room equipment to provide multi-sensory stimulation to adults with learning disabilities and £4,431.60 for “accessible” computers and laptops for those who find it difficult to access modern technology to gain knowledge and experience with computers in the project's dedicated computer suite.



## RAF 1024 Squadron Air Training Corps

A grant of £5,000 to purchase equipment to replace failing IT kit to enable the cadets to undertake online training and qualifications which are not funded by the Ministry of Defence.



## Waterside Community Trust

The Trust will use a grant of £4,500 to purchase a new poolside hoist to provide disabled swimmers with full access to the pool.



## The Way Forward Programme

A grant of £5,500 for an accessible front door that disabled users, particularly wheelchair users, can use to access the support services of the charity which helps users to live as independently as possible.

## Wight Community Access

A grant of £10,350 towards a new FYT bus for community transport services to residents in the West Wight who need help due to age, illness, disabilities, poverty or lack of safe and adequate public transport.



More information on the projects and their achievements will be available in our next annual report. For up to date information visit [www.islandroads.com](http://www.islandroads.com)

## Case studies

### Age UK Isle of Wight Project: Rally Round

**Status:** Charity  
**Area:** Islandwide

Age UK Isle of Wight is an independent charity working on the Isle of Wight to offer support and services to older people. As people age, they are particularly vulnerable to isolation and loneliness which can have an incredibly detrimental effect on health and wellbeing. The Rally Round project aims to help people become digitally included to help combat this loneliness and isolation.

The course for people aged over the age of 50 taught people computer skills, giving them the means and building their confidence to access new technology. This is becoming increasingly vital as more services and information are hosted online.

Funding from the Foundation was used to buy 15 iPads, cases and an associated data package. Memory Group staff were trained to use the new equipment so they could support group members. The kit was used one-to-one with clients at the end of Stage 2 Dementia as a calming mechanism if they were anxious, they also allowed instant access to clients' favourite music, quizzes and memory games.

The iPads were also used to find out facts and information, for example one client having served in the Navy was able to look up the ships that he remembered serving on.

## ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

### Grant

£15,113 for IT equipment to be used in a digital inclusion project for the over 50s.

### Project lead

**Nicola Attfield**  
*Head of Charitable Services*  
*Age UK IW*

"The Foundation's funding has had an incredibly positive impact, having been used to provide vital training to staff and volunteers to be able to help particularly vulnerable people have access to the web and become more digitally included. Thank you for your support and for helping us to carry out important work within the Isle of Wight community."







## Building Better Communities

Social  
Integration

## Isle of Wight Beach Soccer Project: Beach Soccer Goals

**Status: Not for Profit Organisation**

**Area: Islandwide (events take place at Ryde Beach)**

Isle of Wight Beach Soccer has been providing beach soccer events for both youth and senior players since 2001. Events are affiliated to the English Football Association and County FA of Hampshire. The association provides FA quality assured cups and leagues and works to FA approved partner delivery status with the teams, coaches, officials and events. The Isle of Wight has the longest running league and cup in the UK and today provides 50 per cent of players to the national team who compete at various FA, UEFA and FIFA international tournaments.

Beach soccer is a great sport to boost health and fitness, social skills and develop teamwork and sportsmanship – and on the Isle of Wight, all in the beautiful outdoor setting of Appley Beach at Ryde. It is also affordable as no expensive kit is required to take part, it is also fully inclusive – welcoming both male and female players.

IW Beach Soccer works particularly closely with local Police Community Support Officers, NHS teams and Network Ryde to reach young people who would benefit from the focus and direction that beach soccer can provide.

Since 2007, IW Beach Soccer has run four community events each year. The new sets of goals have allowed them to stage more events, along with increased capacity, by offering two pitches – meaning more opportunities for players to take part.

With the new sets of goals increasing the club's capacity, IW Beach Soccer is now focusing on their youth development strategy which aims to increase school engagement, coaching workshops and individual talent development over the next three years.

## ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

### Grant

£3,657 awarded for new sets of goals.

### Project lead

**Luke Kerr**  
*IW Beach Soccer*

"Beach soccer is continually growing in popularity due to its accessibility, health and social benefits. The new goals funded by the Isle of Wight Foundation have helped to secure our future and allow us to focus on our strategy to work more closely with Island schools to give even more young people the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from beach soccer."



## Access to Employment

Youth and  
Citizenship





## **Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall**

### **Project: Mains Drainage Connection**

**Status: Charity**

**Area: Porchfield, Newtown and surrounding areas**

Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall is at the heart of the community and well used by local groups. It is used for parish council meetings, as a polling station and also as an emergency centre when required. It is also the venue for a well-attended baby and toddler group, a music society and a monthly tea and chat session. This always draws a good crowd, providing local people with an opportunity to socialise and get to know one another. It also hosts various social events throughout the year, such as musical shows, beetle drives and barbecues during the summer. The hall is also hired out for art and craft displays, yoga sessions etc and private functions.

Despite Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall's proximity to Newport, Porchfield lies in a particularly isolated area of the Island, particularly following the loss of its bus route. The hall really is a lifeline to many individuals and often the only contact many of the area's elderly people have.

Although the hall was a popular venue used by local community groups, problems with the hall's ageing septic tank meant the hall was sometimes out of use. It became clear that even with regular emptying and the possibility of expensive repairs or replacement, a septic tank was not appropriate for the demands of the hall.

Funding from the Foundation enabled the hall to be connected to mains drainage, reducing the ongoing maintenance costs and improving the facilities for those using the hall.

## **ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT**

### **Grant**

£8,860 awarded to improve infrastructure that will make the facility more accessible to a range of groups creating a community hub to help tackle social exclusion.

### **Project lead**

**Prue Osborne**

***Porchfield and Newtown  
Hall Committee***

"The new drainage funded by the Foundation means we can safely run events from the hall without fear of the septic tank leaking and contaminating the local environment. The hall is enjoyed by the whole community, including toddler groups, quiz nights, band practice and tea and chat sessions for the elderly. Thanks to the Foundation the hall can continue to thrive as a much-loved asset to our villages."

**PORCHFIELD  
AND NEWTOWN  
VILLAGE HALL**



**Building Better  
Communities**

Social  
Integration

## Wave Project Project: Surf Therapy

**Status: Charity**  
**Area: Islandwide**

The Wave Project is an award-winning UK charity that helps vulnerable children and young people to experience a better life through surfing. The project works with young people aged 8 to 21 who have been identified as being at risk of or diagnosed with a mental health issue, learning difficulty and/or physical disability. With a choice of great surf spots, the Isle of Wight is the perfect place for the charity to carry out its work. It is supported by a loyal team of local volunteers who assist the charity with their weekly surf club, six-week surf therapy sessions and peer mentoring scheme.

Using a phased approach, the charity helps young people to feel more positive and emotionally strong while building resilience. Intervention starts with a six-week surf course, delivered once a week, in which participants learn to surf with the support of a 'surf mentor' – a local, trained volunteer. Working in group sessions, young surfers learn to trust each other and develop better coping skills to deal with challenging situations. Once they have completed the course, the young people are able to join the charity's Wave Project Surf Club which allows them to continue to experience the positive effects of surf-therapy, strengthen friendships and eventually go on to volunteer for the project.

Funding from the Foundation has enabled The Wave Project to purchase wetsuits, boards and boots – all of which are used at each session. In addition, a specially adapted surfboard has been purchased for young people with physical difficulties. This is the only one on the Isle of Wight, so it is giving children an opportunity to access surf therapy which they would not otherwise have had.

## ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

### Grant

£9,750 awarded for much needed equipment to help vulnerable children and young people experience a better life through surfing at Island beaches.

### Project lead

**Abbie James**  
*IW Coordinator*  
*Wave Project*

"The grant that we received from the IW Foundation has been pivotal in strengthening the project and has allowed us to reach even more young people. Throughout the whole process, the team at Island Roads were really helpful and super supportive. Thank you!"







## Building Better Communities

Social  
Integration

## **Wight Horse CIC (Island Riding Centre)**

### **Project: Assisted Learning**

**Status: Community Interest Company**

**Area: Islandwide**

The Island Riding Centre and livery yard based near Newport identified the need for a specialist riding school dedicated to the needs of those not normally able to engage in horse riding due to a physical or learning disability.

The new school, based at the Island Riding Centre, provides riding tuition, stable management, horse care, training and equine assisted learning through interaction with horses, for children and adults with physical and learning disabilities. The experience aims to improve confidence, social skills and provide both mental and physical stimulation in a healthy environment.

The funding from the Isle of Wight Foundation was used to buy specialist equipment designed to make horse riding more accessible. The money was used to source different types of reins to suit people's different needs, adapted saddles, body protectors and safety clothing, helmets, mounting blocks plus jumps and training cones.

The centre now welcomes regular groups from St Catherine's, St Georges and Medina House schools as well as individuals from across the Island with a range of physical limitations who can now enjoy riding. Examples include a young girl who was mute through trauma, who within weeks of riding and grooming saw huge advances in her speech. The centre also witnessed a severely physically and mentally disabled boy unable to hold any focus, bond so closely with a pony that before long he was able to follow him around the stable yard with his eyes.

## **ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT**

### **Grant**

£15,000 towards equipment for the new accessible riding school.

### **Project lead**

**Louise Buckner**  
***Wight Horse CIC***  
***(Island Riding Centre)***

"Without the support of the Isle of Wight Foundation some of the activities on offer would not be possible as we strive to make horse riding fully inclusive to all."







**Building Better  
Communities**

Social  
Integration





## ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION

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Age UK IW: Rally Round