

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

Isle of Wight Foundation Annual Report 2019-20

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HELPING

Helping everyone to feel part of the Island community

Yarmouth Bridge

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Foreword

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 almost 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 Services 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 road network - 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. The Isle of Wight Council

has a vision for the Isle of Wight to be an inspiring place in which to grow up, work, live and visit and we believe this aim is supported by the work of the IW Foundation. We want to help people be part of the Island's strong community, reducing barriers by supporting organisations which help connect, empower and inspire people, especially those from isolated communities, or those with fewer opportunities.

We're delighted to bring you this, our annual report for 2019-20, which outlines the achievements of those projects during the sixth 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 1

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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 or 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 19 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 sixth year of the IW Foundation, we have supported projects on the Island with £469,279.13 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 sixth year, the Isle of Wight Foundation supported six 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 charities, 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 selfconfidence, 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.





Our Key Criteria For Funding

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

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

Social innovation

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

Impact

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

Employee engagement

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

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

During 2019-20 the Isle of Wight Foundation awarded funding to six community projects. You can read about them in more detail in the case studies section at the end of this report.

Ability Dogs 4 Young People

A grant of £16,000 for a wheelchair accessible lift at the charity's training centre in Sandown to make the centre fully accessible to all volunteers and staff.

See page 28.





IW Beach Soccer Association

A grant of £3,475 for new mobile goal sets to create additional pitches to cater for increased numbers of young people taking part in the sport.

See page 30.

The Phoenix Project

A grant of £16,000 for a replacement vehicle to transport service users with disabilities to and from the centre and to off-site activities.

See page 32.



THE PHOENIX **PROJECT IOW**





Ability Dogs 4 Young People



WESSEX CANCER TRUST

Wessex Cancer Trust

A grant of £5,984 to provide an outreach counselling programme in Isle of Wight schools for children who have a parent or close family member with cancer.

See page 34.

Wight DASH

A grant of £11,265.56 to create a kitchen and craft room at the charity's centre to provide cookery and home skill sessions for women affected by domestic abuse. The funding will also be used to replace some of the centre's play therapy and baby equipment.

See page 36.



wight DASH

Isle of Wight Search and Rescue (WightSAR)

A grant of £16,000 for equipment to assist in search and rescue operation and to fund First Responder and specialist search planner software training.

See page 38.





Building Better <u>Communities</u>

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. Over a quarter of all residents (27.1%) are aged over 65 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 are helping 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.

In addition, Island Roads provides each employee with the opportunity to undertake two paid volunteering days each year, and staff may continue to support their chosen charity in this way.



Being a project sponsor



Denise Scott Programme Manager IW Beach Soccer Association

"It was great to work with IW Beach Soccer Association to secure more equipment as they continue their ambitious plans to encourage more young people to get active and get involved in beach soccer on the Island."



Stephen Ambrose

Business Manager Isle of Wight Search and Rescue (WightSAR)

"It was great to be involved in this project and learn more about the work of WightSAR and the important role the new equipment plays in searches for vulnerable missing persons. WightSAR is a real asset to the local community."

Joanna Westwood

Streetworks Technician Ability Dogs 4 Young People

"It was a joy to work with Ability Dogs 4 Young People, the team and their volunteers are so dedicated and focused on their work to support disabled young people and children with physical and mental disabilities. It has been a difficult year because of Covid but when training resumes the new lift will provide more space at the charity's busy centre for wheelchair users to take part in training activities."



Mark Roberts Asset Manager The Phoenix Project

"The Phoenix Project does a fantastic job in tackling social exclusion and isolation. The new vehicle provides the project with more flexibility, helping small groups of service users to get out and about in the local community and experience a wide range of activities."

Lorna Malcolm Receptionist Wight DASH

"The pandemic was particularly tough on Wight DASH as demand for their services increased but restrictions limited the ways in which they could provide help at the centre. The new kitchen and craft area will be more important than ever when the centre returns to normal as restrictions ease."



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-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

Emma Scott Operations Manager

Arnaud Judet UK Country Manager, Vinci Concessions

election 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

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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 notfor-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 2020-21

We have already allocated just over £73,000 of funding to ten more community projects on the Isle of Wight for our 2020-21 grant year, including to the following featured organisations.

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

Ability Dogs 4 Young People

Awarded £14,000 for a new van for an ability dog trainer to assist in transporting Ability Dogs for training.





Aspire Ryde

Awarded £6,730 for new computer equipment and furniture for a new skills hub, assisting people to earn qualifications that can help them into employment.

Bembridge Friendship Circle

Awarded £10,000 towards the cost of a new community bus with disabled access to assist socially isolated members of the community.





Care in the Garden

Awarded £7,500 for a new ride-on mower, trailer and mulcher to create more opportunities for the organisation's supported workers out in the community.

Chillerton and Gatcombe Community Association

Awarded £3,505 to upgrade Chillerton village hall as a community facility and hub.



Mountbatten

Awarded £6,700 for 30 laptops to support its Neighbours Remote Support initiative, which provides support to people within their own homes who are isolated or lonely and have a chronic, life-limiting or end of life illness.





The Way Forward Programme

Awarded £4,125.25 for a new fully accessible kitchen at its Newport headquarters for its clients with mobility challenges or visual impairments. The new facilities will help the organisation in its work to encourage the independence and selfworth of its customers.

Whippingham Community Association

Awarded £5,000 to upgrade the community hall's entrance and toilet facilities, making it more accessible to all.





Isle of Wight Search and Rescue (WightSAR)

Awarded £8,000 for new search and rescue equipment and training to support its lowland search and rescue services.

4Ps Training School run by Vectis Radio

Awarded £8,000 to support work helping young people to improve life chances by building their confidence and improve their communication through radio work.



<u>COVID-19</u>

Just as many projects were getting underway, in March 2020 the global pandemic took hold in the UK plunging the country into lockdown.

The pandemic had a huge impact on charities and the voluntary sector, with many having to temporarily close their doors despite demand for services increasing due to the pandemic's negative impact on people's mental health and wellbeing as life suddenly changed.

This resulted in many of the organisations supported by the Foundation having to find new ways of operating to continue providing support to those in need. The Isle of Wight Foundation took a pragmatic and supportive approach to assist the 2019-20 grant recipients by altering the scope of their projects, or extending the timescales for delivery of their projects.

This flexibility allowed groups to provide the best support possible for their users in very challenging circumstances.

Additional funding

In 2020, the Isle of Wight Foundation joined forces with five other local charitable trusts to form a Crisis Committee to assist organisations undertaking Covid-19-related community work on the Isle of Wight. The Isle of Wight Foundation contributed £10,000 to this fund, which was used to help groups identified by WightAID as being in need of support:

- AIM (People Matters)
- Isle of Wight Food Bank
- Isorropia Foundation
- MAD Aid

- Pan Together
- RSCPA Isle of Wight Branch
- West Wight Sports & Community Centre

In addition, ten organisations were selected by the Isle of Wight Foundation to receive a share of $\pm 30,350$ donated by Vinci via their Vinci UK Foundation. Grants were awarded to groups playing a role in supporting the local community during the pandemic. They included:

- Age UK Isle of Wight
- Carers Isle of Wight
- Citizens Advice Isle of Wight
- Daisy Chains
- DIDDI (Sandown Free Food)

- Newchurch Primary School
- Pan Together
- Sight for Wight
- St Blasius Primary School
- Suicide Prevention Isle of Wight



Case studies

Ability Dogs 4 Young People Project: Accessible Lift

Status: Charity Area: Islandwide

Ability Dogs 4 Young People trains assistance dogs on the Isle of Wight for young people and children with physical and mental difficulties. Each of the charity's dogs are trained specifically to meet the particular needs of their individual, in order to enhance their independence and increase their wellbeing.

Training takes place at its centre in Sandown, which is a key hub for the charity. As well as puppy and dog training, the centre is also used for administration, meetings, hosting supporters, monthly health checks and chiropractor visits for the dogs and puppies.

To make full use of the centre's space, the charity applied for funding for a wheelchair accessible lift so the training centre's upper floor could be accessed by all volunteers and staff, not just those who are able bodied. The lift was successfully installed and commissioned in February 2020.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic meant the centre had to close its doors soon after and put its training activities on hold. The charity continued to support its vulnerable clients by putting a shortterm strategy in place to provide help over the phone, accompany them while taking their exercise and exercising their Ability Dogs, assisting with shopping and hospital visits and continuing to provide food, equipment and healthcare for their Ability Dogs.

As restrictions have eased they have been able to resume most of their activities at the centre in a Covid safe way. The lift has ensured that all spaces can be fully utilised and accessed by all volunteers and staff which has been especially necessary to meet the social distancing requirements.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

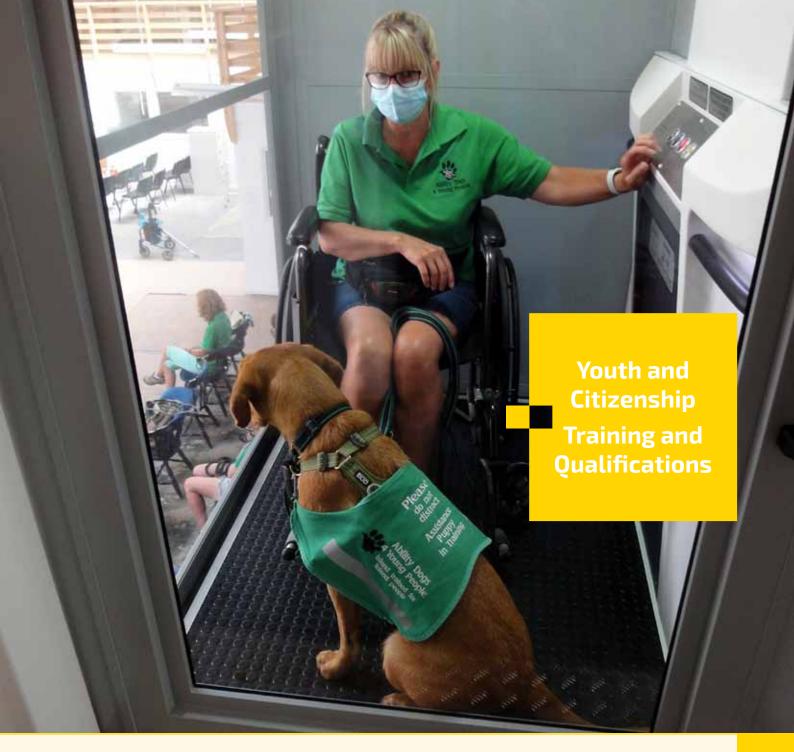
£16,000 for a wheelchair accessible lift at the charity's training centre in Sandown.

Project lead

Carol Court Founder and CEO of Ability Dogs 4 Young People

"We are very grateful to the IW Foundation for their support which has allowed us to improve accessibility at our training centre for staff and volunteers with mobility issues. It has been a hugely challenging time with the pandemic severely impacting on our activities, however we have remained positive and adapted our centre to continue training puppies using the space on both floors. The new lift has helped to make this possible."





IW Beach Soccer Project: More goals mean more active communit

Status: Not For Profit Organisation Area: Islandwide (but events at Ryde beach)

Isle of Wight Beach Soccer Association has been providing beach soccer events for youth and senior players since 2001. The not for profit organisation is affiliated to the English Football Association and County FA of Hampshire which means IW Beach Soccer Association provides FA quality assured cups and leagues and works to FA partner delivery status with their teams, coaches, officials and events.

The work of IW Beach Soccer Association focuses on six key areas: tourism, environment, health, fitness, reducing crime and supporting charities via its events. Although activities take place on Ryde's golden beaches, people from all parts of the Isle of Wight take part in the sport.

With the popularity of the sport increasing, the association applied for funding from the foundation to purchase two new sets of goals to increase the playing capacity. It had already invested in more coaches, referees and agreed an improved beach lease to provide the association with more sand space.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, some matches were able to take place in the summer of 2020, with all the relevant Covid-19 risk mitigation measures in place. Its beach soccer championships took place in Ryde on 22 and 23 August, albeit with reduced capacity and some restrictions in place, and the new goals enabled them to have four pitches rather than their original two.

Thanks to the additional equipment and investment in coaching staff, the association aims to increase the number of members from 600 to 1,200, with a greater proportion of girls taking part in the sport.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£3,475 for new beach soccer goals.

Project lead

Luke Kerr IW Beach Soccer

"We continue to grow and develop beach soccer on the Isle of Wight to provide children and young people with opportunities to develop new skill and stay fit and healthy. We are grateful to the IW Foundation for the new goals which allow us to double our match capability on the island and increase training opportunities."



Social Inclusion Youth and Citizenship

The Phoenix Project Project: Replacement Vehicle

Status: Charity Area: Islandwide

The Phoenix Project supports people whose ability to live an independent and fulfilling life is restricted by a learning disability.

The registered charity provides a highly motivated specialised environment within which people can learn new skills, maintain friendships and develop independence. People become part of a family and through this can enjoy a full and active life, improving health, happiness and wellbeing.

The charity has a centre in Ryde as well as a satellite unit in Newport where individuals can learn and develop skills in woodwork. Some activities, such as swimming and horse riding take part elsewhere in the community.

To facilitate these activities, safe and reliable transport is essential for the charity. The Island's bus service doesn't service all areas and can be infrequent, so the charity is reliant on its own vehicles.

To supplement its fleet of larger minibuses, the Phoenix Project applied for funding to purchase a smaller vehicle which can transport up to eight passengers. This provided the charity with more flexibility as it could be driven by staff who aren't covered on their regular driving licenses to drive larger minibuses.

The smaller vehicle also suits the group sizes attending activities outside the centre, especially with Covid limiting group sizes.

The vehicle is regularly used to take individuals out to take part in different experiences and widen their knowledge and skills.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£16,000 for a replacement vehicle to transport service users with disabilities to and from the centre and to offsite activities.

Project lead

Louise Smith Fundraising Coordinator, The Phoenix Project

"It had been a challenging year for the charity with Covid meaning we have had to restrict face to face activities for a time. However, as restrictions have eased we have been able to resume activities which have provided a real boost to the people we work with. Thank you to IW Foundation for your support."





Wessex Cancer Trust Project: Counselling for Children

Status: Charity Area: Islandwide

Wessex Cancer Trust provides emotional and practical support to people affected by cancer. It provides free counselling, therapies, support groups, activities and transport services to those with or in recovery from cancer, as well as helping families and friends.

Although its centre in Newport provides adult counselling, there was no provision for children. The charity applied for funding from the IW Foundation to introduce a new bespoke counselling service aimed specifically at young people aged 11 to 16.

The project launched in January 2020 in secondary schools Christ the King College and Cowes Enterprise College. Unfortunately, this was around the time the pandemic took hold and schools were closed at the end of March. Wessex Cancer Trust was able to deliver almost one full term, approximately half the project, which saw two year group presentations to approximately 457 pupils take place at Christ the King, along with six group counselling sessions with a total of 11 pupils attending.

At Cowes Enterprise College the charity gave two year-group presentations to around 200 pupils and delivered three group counselling sessions with three pupils (some sessions were cancelled by the school at late notice).

The remainder of the grant (£3978.52) was re-purposed with the IW Foundation's support to help cover the cost of remote cancer support services provided during the pandemic. This included virtual counselling and therapy sessions, check-in telephone and video calls, the creation of a closed online community for those affected by cancer on the Isle of Wight.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£5,984 to provide an outreach counselling programme in Isle of Wight schools for children who have a parent or close family member with cancer.

Project lead

Mike Sizer-Green Centre Manager, Wessex Cancer Trust's IW branch

"Students were encouraged to talk about their feelings, providing them with coping strategies, and it gave them the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation to help overcome feelings of isolation. Younger students gained wisdom and thoughtfulness from older ones, who gained openness from the younger ones. This also contributed to the wider curriculum through PHSE lessons for the whole year group."



Youth and Citizenship Social Integration THE LAST

Wight DASH Project: Wow! Cooking and Creativity

Status: Charity Area: Islandwide

Wight DASH began as a charity focused on domestic abuse but has since broadened its aims to all forms of disadvantages such as social isolation, poor mental health, adverse childhood experiences, poverty, drug and alcohol misuse and involvement with the criminal justice system, children in care system.

Most of its work is carried out at its WOW! Women's Centre in Newport which offers a full range of activities and workshops, all based on mindful actions and designed to provide connection between women.

The funding from IW Foundation has allowed the charity to introduce new resources. With the support of skilled volunteers, many women have either learned to sew or have improved their skills and confidence. The charity's sewing machines had seen better days and were continually breaking down so the new machines and sewing equipment purchased with funding from the IW Foundation have made a world of difference and means that the charity can expand the numbers for these workshops (as covid restrictions allow).

Funding was also used to buy kitchen equipment including new oven, fridge and freezer as well as computer equipment to aid activity classes.

As part of its specialist team, providing recovery-based support to those who have been subjected to trauma, the centre is fortunate to have its own play therapist who works therapeutically with children to aid their recovery and uses a wide range of toys, stories and other equipment to facilitate this. Thanks to the foundation's funding, she has been able to expand the options available to the children she supports with new musical and sensory equipment and their feedback has been really positive.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£11,265.56 to create a kitchen and craft room at the charity's centre and replace play and baby equipment.

Project lead

Fiona Gwinnett CEO, Wight DASH

"Maintaining a centre like ours is a constant challenge, we want women to come and join in with all we have on offer but the downside of that is that the equipment soon shows signs of wear and tear and needs replacing. We are enormously grateful to IW Foundation for aiding us to refresh and renew our facilities."



Social Integration Community Life Access to Employment Training and Qualifications

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Isle of Wight Search and Rescue (WightSAR Project: Essential Equipment and Training

Status: Charity Area: Islandwide

WightSAR is a voluntary organisation that assists Hampshire Constabulary and other agencies in searches for missing vulnerable persons on the Isle of Wight. Its operational members – who are all volunteers – are trained to the national search and rescue standards required by the police and other search and rescue agencies. This includes qualifications in search techniques, first aid, map reading, radio operation, search planning and management.

The Isle of Wight has an above average percentage of people that can be classified as being vulnerable. These include the elderly and those suffering from depression, Alzheimers, and children that go missing for varying reasons. In recent years the largest missing person category is 'Despondent (depressed/suicidal)', equating to roughly half of all WightSAR deployments; the second is 'Dementia', which equates to almost one quarter of deployments.

The charity is the only search and rescue unit dedicated to finding and helping vulnerable missing people on the Isle of Wight. It is totally dependent on volunteer members and relies entirely on donations and membership subscriptions for its funding.

A successful application to the Isle of Wight Foundation has enabled the charity to purchase three laptops with specialist mapping and search planning software, a high-resolution thermal imaging camera with docking station for the charity's drone and ten sets of all-weather jackets, waterproof trousers and thermal base layers to provide volunteers with protection from the elements during search operations.

Due to social distancing restrictions in place during the COVID pandemic, First Response Emergency Care training funded by the foundation was postponed to late 2021 when face to face training courses were expected to resume.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£16,000 for equipment to assist in search and rescue operation and to fund First Responder and specialist search planner software training.

Project lead

Dean Terrett Chair, Wight SAR

"We pride ourselves on providing a professional and efficient service to support the Island's emergency services and rescue agencies when assistance is needed. Funding from the IW Foundation provides us with a massive boost and allows us to continue our work supporting members of the Island's community when they need us most."





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Social Integration Training and Qualifications

Isle of Wight Foundation Annual Report 2019-20

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