



ISLE OF WIGHT
FOUNDATION

2018-19
ANNUAL REPORT

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ANNUAL REPORT**

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Yarmouth Bridge

HELPING

Helping everyone
to feel part of the
Island community

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 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 project 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.

We're delighted to bring you this, our annual report for 2018-19, which outlines the achievements of those projects during the fifth 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 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 met 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 fifth 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 fifth year, the Isle of Wight Foundation supported eleven 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.





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 2018-19 the Isle of Wight Foundation awarded funding to eleven community projects. You can read about them in more detail in the case studies section at the end of this report.

Brading Community Partnership

Awarded £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. See page 26.



Care in the Garden

Awarded £11,000 for a crew van to transport workers and equipment off site, meaning they can take on more off-site contract work, enabling them to offer more training opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. See page 28.



First Act 2011

Awarded £9,304.50 to run weekly activities, workshops, and rehearsals to build towards biannual performances at Shanklin Theatre. See page 30.



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Awarded £8,000 to fund places for four young people on a Woodland Apprenticeship Scheme so they can learn new skills and gain experience in environmental conservation. See page 32.



Isle Access

Awarded £16,000 for accessible cycling equipment for those with disabilities who are unable to use unadapted bicycles. See page 34.



RAF 1024 Sqn Air Training Corps

Awarded £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. See page 36.



The Common Space (Discovery Bay)

Awarded £4,177.95 to purchase a MicroEye, an accessible specialist microscope to be used at free nature and science events to help people, including those with disabilities, view all sorts of weird and wonderful wildlife. See page 38.



The Phoenix Project

Awarded £4,787.75 for sensory room equipment to provide multisensory 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 – helping them gain knowledge and experience with computers in the project's dedicated computer suite. See page 40.



The Way Forward Programme

Awarded £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. See page 42.



Waterside Community Trust

Awarded £4,500 for a new poolside hoist to provide disabled swimmers with full access to the pool. See page 44.



Wight Community Access

Awarded £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. See page 46.







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. 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 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, physical or mental health issues, or 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 eg on technical aspects (eg safety, legal considerations, works, etc.) as well as getting involved directly in aspects of the projects where appropriate.



“

Steve Ambrose
Business Manager
The Phoenix Project

"Watching those amazing people being able to connect to the internet and expand their knowledge and learning was an honour and a very well-deserved project. In fact, three of us went back to help paint the new computer room before all the new IT equipment was installed."

The Phoenix Project



First Act 2011



Joanna Westwood
Streetworks Technician
First Act 2011

"It was so rewarding watching the members enjoy and benefit from the additional funding. It's amazing to watch those with disabilities being able to achieve such wonderful things, having the confidence to shine on stage and perform to their heart's content."

Dan Kitcher
IMS Coordinator
The Way Forward Programme

"I really enjoyed working with the team at The Way Forward to help deliver this project to make their building more accessible and hope to get the opportunity to work with them on another worthy project in the future."

Elbie Todd
CIP Administrator
Isle Access

"It has been an honour to work with Isle Access and see them put a smile on so many faces who otherwise would not have been able to move around freely. I thank them for letting me work with them on this project and wish them every success for the future."

”

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

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 2019-20

We have already allocated just over £80,000 of funding to seven more community projects on the Isle of Wight for our 2019-20 grant year. These include:

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 its first floor accessible to all volunteers and staff.



Cowes SailAbility Club

A grant of £16,000 for a motorboat to provide enriching boating trips to those with disabilities.

IW Beach Soccer

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.



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.

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.



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.

Wight Search and Rescue (Wight SAR)

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



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

Case studies

Brading Community Partnership Project: Replacement Windows for Community Building

Status: Charity

Area: Islandwide

Brading Community Partnership operates Brading Youth Centre. It is open five days a week, for children aged eight to 18 and up to 25 for those with special needs. Surprisingly, Brading suffers with high levels of isolation, unemployment and rural deprivation – with a higher than average number of children being admitted to hospital for mental health problems.

Brading Community Partnership has developed a community hub for all ages with the centre a base for a variety of groups including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, a young mothers' group, Age UK's Men in Sheds, blokes, bacon butties and banter group. It is also home to Brading Youth Club.

Unfortunately, the building in which all these activities are based was in need of repair, with parts of the old Victorian building not fit for purpose. In order to attract more people and help the centre become self-sustainable, the building needed to be modernised and made more comfortable for users.

Funding from the IW Foundation allowed the partnership to replace old and insecure windows, making the building more safe and secure, and also enabling it to be heated more cost effectively. Being a historic building, the repairs needed to be carried out sympathetically and the new windows were designed to restore the building to its original appearance and fitted by a local company.

The new windows have made a huge difference to the building, now it can be used comfortably all year round. More people have attended sessions at the centre in its new role as a community hub.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£11,000 for upgraded windows to help retain heat, reduce running costs and prevent condensation.

Project lead

George Godliman

*Chairman, Brading
Community Partnership*

"The replacement windows installed into the Brading Youth and Community Centre have transformed the centre through both an improved appearance and general ambience. These improvements have allowed us to extend the range of youth club activities to include cooking and hospitality events for the local community, and with the help of volunteers to open a café twice a week for local residents and visitors."





**Social
Integration**
Community
Life
Youth and
Citizenship

Care in the Garden Project: Crew Van

Status: Community Interest Company

Area: Islandwide

Care in the Garden works to bring the community together by using gardening to help change lives. As part of its work a team called *The Mower Men* provide garden maintenance and grass cutting for community projects including local town and parish councils, private nursing homes and other private business contracts.

The work provides those involved, many of whom have learning disabilities, a chance to experience the social and economic benefits of work in a supportive environment.

Care in the Garden is often people's first experience of a workplace and they quickly grow in confidence and self-esteem and improve social interaction and cognitive behaviour as they become immersed in their gardening projects.

The Isle of Wight Foundation provided a grant for a new crew van, which was sourced through a local company. It can transport crews of eight to off-site jobs and includes a basic kitchen from which staff can prepare food and take respite breaks.

The new van means Care in the Garden can undertake larger jobs and expand more training opportunities through its 'Work Buddy' scheme. This work is vital in helping the CIC to raise funds to carry out its work which provides meaningful work to people with learning disabilities.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£11,000 for a crew van to transport workers off-site for work and training.

Project lead

John Goodenough
*Founder and Managing
Director, Care in the Garden*

"The vehicle has made a tremendous difference to Care in the Garden and has helped us give new opportunities to even more people. We are really grateful to the IW Foundation for their support. Island Roads have helped us out with several projects in the past and the backing of the IW Foundation as well has been a fantastic boost. Everybody deserves the right to a full and meaningful life."





**Youth and
Citizenship**

**Access to
Employment**

First Act 2011

Project: Theatre Workshops and Shows

Status: Charity
Area: Islandwide

First Act is a charity for people with additional needs – including visual, hearing and mental and physical impairments.

The theatre group runs weekly activities, workshops and rehearsals to build towards a biannual performance in front of a live audience at Shanklin Theatre. Each session helps develop teamwork and communications skills among those taking part – important skills which are transferred across into their daily lives.

The boost in confidence allows those who often feel excluded from society and the community to feel included and feel a sense of pride in what they have achieved.

Funding from the Isle of Wight Foundation has assisted with venue hire for a year, along with costumes and props for the twice-yearly performances. These shows are becoming more professional each year meaning additional funds are needed to support the productions.

Thanks to the funding from the foundation, it has been able to purchase more sophisticated production equipment and has also been able to promote the shows using professional quality posters, programmes and photographs – all of which help to instil a sense of pride in members of the group.

At present, First Act has around 40 members aged between 23 and 72, who are supported by a dedicated team of ten tutors and volunteers. The project provides a safe and inspiring environment for people who feel disconnected from the wider population, to become inspired to achieve greatness.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£9,304.50 to run weekly activities, workshops and rehearsals towards performances at Shanklin Theatre.

Project lead

Charlotte Laidler
First Act 2011

"First Act is very grateful for the funding we were lucky to receive. It provided the company with the chance to reach ever closer to the standard of show we aim to produce each year. We are forever proud of our members and all they achieve, and with this money we have been able to ensure we provide the most inspiring environment for them to work in and be surrounded by. Thank you once again for the support!"





Social Integration

Community
Life

Youth and
Citizenship

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Project: Woodland Apprenticeship Scheme

Status: Charity

Area: Islandwide

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) is a conservation charity working to protect local wildlife and inspire people to love nature. As part of this work it ran an apprenticeship programme to provide the opportunity for young people to learn new skills and gain experience in woodland management, a sector where skills are much needed on the Island.

Many young Islanders had an interest in developing skills in conservation and had volunteered with the trust to gain experience. The Woodland Apprenticeship Scheme built on this to provide more formalised training and a structured work programme that prepares apprentices for future employment in the sector. Working with Sparsholt College, the apprentices worked towards a Level 2 Diploma in Environmental Conservation. A key aspect of the apprenticeship is the on-the-job training provided by the HIWWT, delivered by a dedicated experienced woodland officer.

The apprentices have carried out important conservation work as part of their training at a range of woodland sites on the Island, including work to restore habitats for a wide range of species, including Island specialities like Bechstein's bat, dormouse and red squirrel. As part of the scheme, they also carried out work alongside local contractors to give them a platform to showcase their new skills to potential employers.

Funding from the Isle of Wight Foundation provided the apprentices with extra training, equipping them with additional skills to help prepare them for their chosen careers and enhance their employability.

Since its launch in 2016, eight apprentices, in two cohorts, have successfully completed the programme with six in full time employment in countryside/wildlife management-related roles and two actively seeking employment.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£8,000 to fund places for four young people on a Woodland Apprenticeship Scheme.

Project lead

Jamie Marsh

*Senior Reserves Manager
Hampshire and IW Wildlife
Trust*

"The funding from the IW foundation has greatly enhanced the apprenticeship programme for the woodland apprentice team. The funding has allowed for extra training in the use of tractors, brushcutters, ATV/RTV (off-road vehicle training) and first aid. These qualifications are all highly desirable for a career in the environment sector and have greatly improved future employability for the apprentices."



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**



**Access to
Employment**

**Training and
Qualifications**

Isle Access Project: New Cycling Equipment

Status: Charity
Area: Islandwide

Isle Access is helping to improve life for disabled people on the Isle of Wight by removing barriers to access, enabling people to enjoy a better quality of life and achieve new skills and experiences. The charity works with business and organisations to help them become more accessible to all and also provides a comprehensive directory of accessible travel, accommodation and activities on the Isle of Wight to help residents and visitors alike.

Part of its work also includes providing some accessible services, such as adapted cycling. Thanks to a grant from the Isle of Wight Foundation, the charity was able to purchase seven adapted bikes, along with secure storage, to develop a cycling programme for those unable to ride two-wheeled bicycles. People of all ages and abilities have been introduced to cycling for the first time through the programme, including those with disabilities, veterans, people who experience loneliness and those who need more supportive exercise.

The fleet includes a number of three wheeled recumbent bikes, which help people with poor balance, a bike to transport people in a wheelchair and a double-hand cycle. The bikes allow people who have difficulty riding conventional bikes to try cycling with family and friends – giving them an opportunity to enjoy the Island's network of accessible cycling routes.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£16,000 for accessible cycling equipment for people with disabilities.

Project lead

Jan Brookes
CEO Isle Access

"The funding for bikes and storage facility have enabled us to create a cycling programme for people who cannot ride regular two-wheeled cycles. The people using the bikes are gaining new skills such as, confidence, balance, coordination, and they are now enjoying a sport that they previously couldn't take part in. We are very grateful to the Foundation for funding this project."





**Social
Integration**

**Community
Life**

RAF 1024 Sqn Air Training Corps Project: Technology Lifeline

Status: Charity
Area: Islandwide

The Air Cadets is a youth organisation that facilitates training and activities based around the RAF ethos for young people aged between 12 and 20. The activities are designed to help prepare young people for a career in the armed forces, equipping them with the life skills, teamwork and discipline required. All useful skills for young people to develop, even if they choose not to pursue a career in the military.

While the RAF helps with the costs of accommodation, flying and gliding opportunities and finances trips to the mainland, the Air Cadets has a Civilian Committee which works to fund-raise for activities and to cover running costs. An important part of the Cadet's training is carried out online using specialist computer systems. With the computer equipment more than eight years old the cadets were struggling to access the software they needed to help them learn skills needed to progress to the Air Training Corps (ATC).

The Isle of Wight Foundation provided a grant to update the cadet's flight simulator, computers, tablets and laptops. It also allowed them to upgrade the server system to allow them access to the Bader Utlilearn system – which is essential for their learning and to enable them to achieve qualifications.

The project has helped to support and encourage young people to develop vital life skills, become more confident and articulate and provided them with a solid background, grounding and qualifications to prepare them for a career in the Armed Forces or civilian engineering roles.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

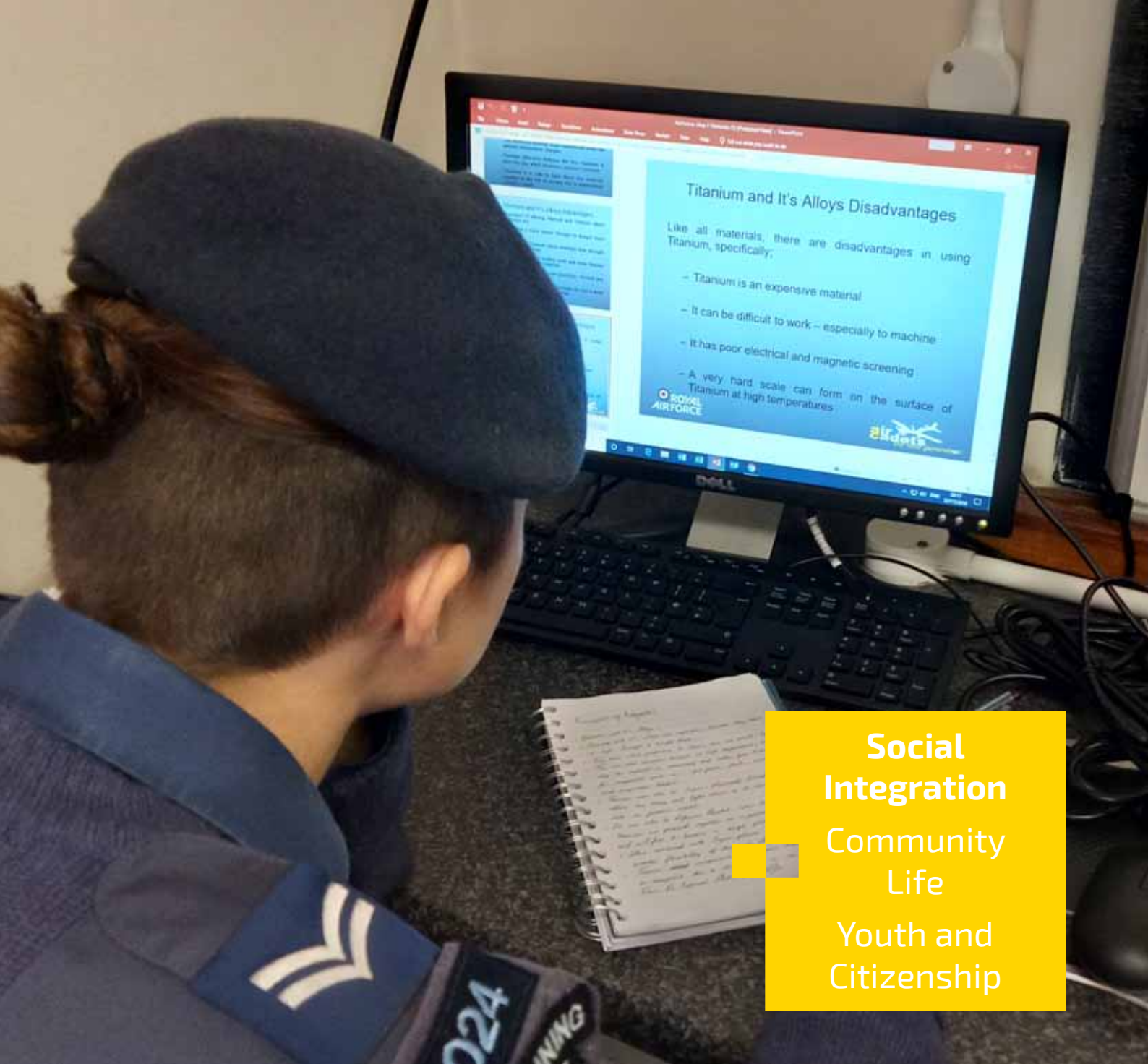
£5,000 for replacement IT equipment to help cadets undertake online training and qualifications.

Project lead

Ann Lovejoy
Adjutant to 1024 Sqn Air Training Corps

"We are extremely grateful to the IW Foundation for this generous grant. It has set the squadron up for the next five years and enabled our cadets to access basic and bespoke training, specialist activities, as well as qualifications that will help map their chosen career path."





**Social
Integration**
Community
Life
Youth and
Citizenship

The Common Space (Discovery Bay) Project: MicroEYE

Status: : Non-Profit Organisation

Area: Islandwide (but with a particular emphasis on Sandown Bay)

The Common Space was set up by ARC – an environmental consultancy based in Sandown Bay. Its goal is to revitalise underused public land, green spaces and historic buildings to improve community wellbeing and aid the regeneration of Sandown Bay. This is an area with lower levels of economic activity and a higher percentage population with no formal educational qualifications when compared with the average for the Isle of Wight.

As part of its work it engages directly with the local community through a series of events, which includes wildflower planting and volunteer sessions, Under the Pier and a free natural sciences calendar, Discovery Bay which includes British Science Week, Biology Week, Hullabaloo as well as supporting Bioblitz with the Isle of Wight Natural History Society and the Walking Festival calendar.

Microcopy is one of tools the team at The Common Space use to inspire and involve those attending the events. The Common Space secured a grant from the Isle of Wight Foundation for a specialist microEYE microscope. It is robust, powerful and accessible to all – including those with disabilities and young children – as it doesn't require glass slides like traditional microscopes. It provides users with an insight into the weird and wonderful world of nature, with samples immediately available to view on a super-sized widescreen monitor – helping to transform how people see and think about everyday wildlife.

At Discovery Bay events, the equipment was used to view everything from seahorses to moth wings, soil to living moss – inspiring children and families to take a real interest in the natural world around them.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£4,177.95 to purchase a specialist 'accessible' microscope for use a free nature and science events.

Project lead

Claire Hector

The Common Space

"The Discovery Bay calendar showcases amazing wildlife in free public places, linking the Bay and Isle of Wight communities to the UK's natural sciences diary. The microEye has helped to engage thousands of people instantly with the extraordinary world on their doorstep, encouraging them to see things differently, come back to explore or make space for wildlife at home too. Thank you!"





Social Integration

Training and
Qualifications

Access to
Employment

Community Life

Youth and Citizenship

The Phoenix Project Project: Phoenix Accessible Technology and Sensory Room

Status: Charity

Area: Islandwide

The Phoenix Project helps people with learning disabilities, whose ability to live an independent and fulfilling life is restricted. In the expert and highly motivational specialist environment people can learn new skills, maintain friendships and develop independence. They become part of a family, enjoying a full and active life, improving health, happiness and wellbeing and social contribution.

Day services are provided for around 90 clients from Monday to Friday at their centre in Ryde, with people choosing from a range of activities – from gardening to cooking and art to dance.

Part of the funding from the Isle of Wight Foundation was used to upgrade the centre's sensory room. The aging equipment, some of which was 20 years old, was replaced with new lights, bubble and light tubes, tactile glow cubes and a new sound system. Used by adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities as a place to relax, it is a safe and comfortable place which promotes communication and positive behaviour – giving service users comfort and a focus to help them face the challenges they face in other areas of their lives.

Funding was also used to purchase new IT equipment to be used by clients with moderate to profound and multiple learning disabilities – many with severe communication difficulties. The six new desktop computers and laptops – with large screens and touch screen capability – along with software packages, supported the users to learn new skills and access the wider world through the internet.

The computers have been used by many of the project's 88 service users who are enjoying gaining confidence in the use of new technology.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£4,787.75 for sensory room equipment and £4,431.60 for accessible computers and laptops.

Project lead

Louise Smith

*Fundraising Coordinator
The Phoenix Project*

"The new sensory and computer equipment has made a huge difference to the individuals we support. The sensory equipment has completely updated the old system we had and has allowed for a much more interactive experience for the user. We're all so grateful to the IW Foundation for their support."





**Building Better
Communities**

**Social
Integration**

The Way Forward Programme Project: Accessible Way Forward Main Entrance

Status: Charity

Area: Islandwide

The Way Forward Programme works with adults and young people from the age of 12 years to retirement who have a learning or physical disability, those on the autistic spectrum and people suffering from mental health conditions.

The charity provides a support service seven days a week and every evening with a focus on helping people while they build up skills and confidence to live as independently as possible.

The charity's centre in Newport is attended by more than 100 customers a week. Its front door used to be a manual door with a raised threshold which was difficult for people with disabilities and didn't encourage independence.

A grant from the Isle of Wight Foundation was used to install brand-new push button doors to create a fully accessible entrance. Now all visitors to the Way Forward centre, particularly wheelchair users, can access the support services far more easily.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£5,500 for an accessible front door so that disabled users can access the charity's support as independently as possible.

Project lead

Tracey Hill

Chief Executive

The Way Forward

"The new doors have made a huge difference to our customers who find it much easier to access our fabulous Learning Disability day centre in Newport. We are very grateful for the continued support we have received from the IW Foundation which is making a big difference to people living on the Isle of Wight every day – thank you."





**Building Better
Communities**

**Social
Integration**

Waterside Community Trust Project: Poolside Hoist

Status: Charity
Area: Islandwide

Waterside Community Trust is an Isle of Wight charity which owns and operates Waterside Swimming Pool in Ryde. The 25-meter heated indoor pool with retractable roof is used by people of all ages from the local community and further afield. It has a diverse weekly timetable from fun and casual swim sessions to water workouts, sensory swims, underwater hockey and lifeguard classes.

The pool works closely with many disabled and sensory groups to help people fulfil their dreams of swimming. In the past, the pool has not been able to accommodate some disabled groups due to a lack of specialist equipment.

Thanks to a grant from the Isle of Wight Foundation, the trust has been able to purchase and install an Oxford Poolside Dipper Hoist, which safely and reliably provides access to the water for people with disabilities. As well as benefiting existing pool users who need help to access the pool, it has also enabled those with more profound disabilities to experience activities in the pool for the first time.

Schools have also been able to bring children with additional needs for swimming sessions. As well as the physical benefits time in the water brings, the sessions are also mentally stimulating and provide a chance for people to socialise in a different setting.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£4,500 for a new poolside hoist to provide disabled swimmers with full access to the pool.

Project lead

Todd Miller
General Manager
Waterside Community Trust

"The new hoist is perfect and along with our new disabled room has really transformed our accessibility to disabled customers, who have been thrilled with the feature. Thank you Isle of Wight Foundation!"





Wight Community Access Project: FYT Bus Service

Status: Charity
Area: West Wight

Wight Community Access provides a lifeline transport service to residents in the West Wight who may lack public transport links in their local area or because of difficulty accessing it due to age, sickness, disability (hidden or physical) or their financial situation. The FYT (Freshwater Yarmouth Totland) bus service, run by a team of around 70 volunteers, regularly provides more than 1,500 passenger journeys each month.

In Freshwater, Yarmouth and Totland, the FYTbus service provides vital door-to-door access to shops, health centre and social clubs and groups. The service has become a 'social club on wheels' for many regular users, giving those who live alone the chance to integrate and talk to others – helping to reduce social isolation. It also provides a safe and welcoming environment for those suffering from forms of dementia and other illnesses. FYTbus now also runs dial-a-ride services to the local Health Centre and St Mary's Hospital in Newport.

Thanks to funding from the Isle of Wight Foundation, Wight Community Access was able to purchase a brand-new minibus to replace an ageing vehicle in the fleet. The grant was also used to help publicise the service to West Wight residents through a targeted poster campaign, presentations to local groups and publicity in local press.

The new bus will provide the charity with a reliable vehicle with latest safety specifications, that is also more fuel efficient which helps to keep running costs down for the charity.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grant

£10,350 towards a new bus for community transport services to elderly, disabled or vulnerable residents in the West Wight.

Project lead

Michael Craig
Co-founder
Wight Community Access

"Thanks to this generous grant from the IW Foundation we are able to continue with our services in the West Wight and have added the hospital run, something we have always wanted to do as part of our service to our communities."





**Building Better
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Social
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