



ISLE OF WIGHT
FOUNDATION

2024
ANNUAL REPORT

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- 2015 Caddie
- 2015 Pickle
- 2015 Luna
- 2016
- 2016
- 2017
- 2017

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION

**2024
ANNUAL REPORT**

Contents

Foreword	5
About the Isle of Wight Foundation	6
Our Six Key Areas of Support	9
Our Key Criteria for Funding	10
Community Projects Supported 2024	12
Building Better Communities	16
Access to Training and Employment	17
Sponsorship - Involving Our Employees	19
Our Foundation Structure	23
Looking Ahead to 2025	25
Case Studies	30
• Ability Dogs 4 Young People	30
• Care in the Garden	32
• Isle of Wight Youth Trust	34
• Motor Neurone Disease Association IOW	36
• The Phoenix Project	38
• The Way Forward Programme	40
• Vectis Radio 4Ps Training School	42
• Wessex Cancer Support	44
• West Wight Men in Sheds	46



HELPING

Helping everyone to feel part of the Island community

Foreword

Island Roads is part of a wider network under VINCI - the world's leading construction and concessions group. VINCI launched its first Foundation in May 2002, demonstrating a strong commitment to building lasting partnerships within the communities where it operates.

Today, there are 17 VINCI foundations and trusts around the world, each supporting hundreds of projects that promote social inclusion and strengthen local communities by helping those who need it most.

In August 2014, the partners behind Island Roads established the Isle of Wight Foundation - a charitable trust focused on reducing social exclusion on the Island. The Foundation supports initiatives that empower individuals to engage with their communities and access opportunities in employment and housing.

The Foundation is jointly funded by Ringway Island Roads, Meridiam, Island Roads Services, and VINCI Concessions. Meridiam is a global investor with a long-term commitment to public infrastructure, recognised for its leadership in sustainability, corporate social responsibility, and community engagement. All partners are dedicated to advancing carbon-efficient practices, supporting renewable energy projects, and contributing to environmental initiatives that align with global sustainability goals.

While our primary mission at Island Roads is to maintain and improve the Island's road network, we also recognise our deeper role within the community. Through the Isle of Wight Foundation, we're proud to support local projects and encourage our staff to volunteer their time to make a difference. The Foundation aims to build a more connected, empowered, and inclusive Island community - particularly for those who are isolated or face limited opportunities.

We're proud to present this 2024 Annual Report, marking the tenth year of the Isle of Wight Foundation. It celebrates the achievements of the projects we've supported and the real difference they continue to make in the lives of local people. We're honoured to be part of their journey and the positive legacy being created across the Island.

Rob Gillespie

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 such as bridges and retaining walls.

The majority of the upgrade has been completed but the company will maintain the highway network at that standard until 2038 – 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 expanse of stunning countryside and coastal scenery, there are some communities that have fewer opportunities and some people can be left behind. Unemployment statistics are high, particularly amongst young people, and the rural nature of the Island and difficulties with transportation links can leave some communities and individuals isolated.

A recent survey by the Isle of Wight Youth Trust showed an increase in mental health issues among children and young adults. The emphasis on tackling social exclusion aims to reduce these impacts. 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. Since its creation, the IW Foundation has supported more than 90 projects on the Isle of Wight – helping to build better communities that encourage social integration and create opportunities for people to access training and development to improve their life skills and opportunities for employment.

Providing opportunities through funding

Each year, the Isle of Wight Foundation launches a grant call, offering up around £80,000 of funding to local community projects that meet its criteria for supporting projects to help tackle 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 tenth year of the IW Foundation, we have supported projects on the Island with almost £800,000 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 projects to receive support following an initial review of applications and potential project visits carried out by the Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator. 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 tenth year, the Isle of Wight Foundation supported nine projects, which are each 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 by 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 must also meet key criteria in order to qualify for support. These are focused on 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 over the long-term.

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 and lasting 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 2024 the Isle of Wight Foundation awarded funding to nine 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

Ability Dogs 4 Young People

£3,174 to improve IT infrastructure and buy printers for use at its Sandown HQ where it trains assistance dogs for young people living on the Island with disabilities.



Care in the Garden

£15,000 to purchase a Transit van with tail lift to transport large items of furniture produced by adults with additional needs and mental health issues to customers.



Isle of Wight Youth Trust

£8,751.96 to partly finance the Travelling Safe Space project to provide accessible mental health support to young people facing mental health challenges.



Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) Isle of Wight

£5,000 to give Islanders with MND positive and enriching activities and trips, either in the community or within their own homes, with the aim of improving mental health and helping to create a wider support network for families.



Phoenix Project

£16,000 for a replacement conservatory to provide a vital safe, social space for its clients who have moderate to severe learning disabilities.



The Way Forward Programme

£14,000 towards a new minibus to transport clients with learning disabilities, autism or mental health issues to activity sessions at its Newport HQ or on excursions.



Wessex Cancer Support

£13,167 to cover minibus hire, insurance and maintenance costs for one of the charity's Daisy Buses which provide transport for Island patients receiving cancer treatment on the mainland.



West Wight Men in Sheds

£8,035.49 to update power tools and woodworking machines at the group's base in Totland.



Vectis Radio

£3,000 towards the cost of running the 4Ps programme, which helps young people with learning disabilities to build confidence and develop communication skills through radio.





Building Better Communities

The Island community has a population exceeding 142,000, living across an area more than 145 square miles with just over one half of this population living in the seven major towns across the Island. Over a quarter of all residents (28.2%) 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 10% 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 (e.g. management, communication, IT, accounting, commercial strategy, administration) or on technical aspects of the projects where appropriate.

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



Here is what some of our sponsors have to say:

“

Rachel Mills

Project Manager Major Maintenance, Island Roads Ability Dogs 4 Young People
"Ability Dogs 4 Young People is a wonderful charity that provides essential support that enhances the lives of young people with disabilities. "To see these dogs receiving incredible training to support their owners is so heartwarming and the IT support and purchase of printers will make the work more efficient."



Iain Thornton
*Streetworks Manager,
Island Roads
Phoenix Project*

"The Phoenix Project enables people with learning and physical disabilities and those with neurological conditions like autism, to all come together, form friendships, learn new skills and develop their independence. The new conservatory is helping enhance the facilities at the Phoenix Centre in Ryde and enabling people to have a comfortable, safe space to be in, giving them an ability to enjoy a full and active life, improving their health, happiness and wellbeing."



Claire Robertson
*Partner, Robertson Foster
Isle of Wight Youth Trust*

"It's been fantastic to sponsor this project with the Isle of Wight Youth Trust, which provides hugely valuable and much needed wellbeing and counselling support to young Islanders. The grant funding has enabled a significant number of young people to get involved in capturing and lending a powerful platform to children and young people's voices in the community through the medium of film, as well as growing and increasing their confidence and skills."

“

Maddy Clewett
*Geotechnical Engineer,
Island Roads
Care in the Garden*

"I was proud to sponsor this project. When you go to Care in the Garden, you see what a huge difference it makes to the lives of Islanders with learning disabilities.

"The new vehicle will help transport the lovely garden furniture that is made by the team at CITG and will also help to bring in the raw materials needed to keep production going smoothly."





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:

Rob Gillespie

Island Roads Services Ltd

John Sunderland

Ringway Island Roads Ltd

Arnaud Judet

VINCI Highways UK Ltd

Emma Scott

Meridiam Infrastructure Managers S.a.r.l

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 Road Services

Elbie Todd

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 and Board of Trustees. The coordinator is also responsible for facilitating the development of partnership projects in conjunction with their individual sponsor.



Looking Ahead to 2025

We have granted £85,414 to eight community groups for projects taking place in 2025:

YES! Creative Beats

£4,200 given to this new community interest company aimed at developing community drumming / movement groups for adults. They will run 12 weekly sessions in three different locations.



Community Action IW

£14,000 towards developing a grassroots music/media project within the renovated Sandown Town Hall, open for all young people.

Vectis Radio's 4Ps Training School

£6,600 for this radio training school designed to provide individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to produce and present their own radio programmes while boosting much-needed confidence and communication skills.



Aspire Community Minibus

£16,000 to pay for a replacement community bus which will transport Islanders to a number of projects and events, from young people engaged in sports, music and social activities, to older community members taking part in wellbeing trips and lunch clubs.

Alzheimer Café IW

£16,000 for Arts and Woodwork Studios at its newly opened Parklands Centre in Cowes. The studios will allow an artist and a carpenter to work in a light and airy space that will encourage both people with dementia visiting Parklands and others from the wider community to come together to create beautiful things.



Care in the Garden

£16,000 for its Work Buddy Scheme. The scheme will help fund a co-ordinator to source paid employment and work experience placements for clients of Wootton-based CITG. The co-ordinator will liaise with employers, clients and their families, as well as other external agencies such as educational establishments etc.

People Matter IW

£3,690 towards potting equipment for the gardening area in the Learning Disability Support Centre and to purchase a 65-inch smart screen as a learning aid. People Matter aims to improve the skills and self-esteem of people with learning disabilities.



St Catherine's Speech and Language School

£8,924 for an additional Job Coach to specifically work with students who have additional vulnerabilities alongside their Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). These students need to have more frequent and intensive work experience opportunities. The Job Coach will attend placements with these students, helping them break down barriers.



Case studies

Ability Dogs 4 Young People

Type: Social Integration

Project: Training Centre CCTV Security System and IT Upgrade

Status: Charity

Area: Island-wide

Ability Dogs 4 Young People is an Isle of Wight charity (started in April 2012), training assistance dogs to enhance the independence of disabled young people and children living on the Isle of Wight. It trains dogs to help with physical and mental disabilities, including cerebral palsy, autism, diabetes and epilepsy.

As well as helping with practical tasks (picking up items, opening doors, helping dress and undress, crossing the road), its trained Ability Dogs help increase disabled young people's well-being, confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to go on to further education or gain employment without needing full-time carers.

In addition, having a jacketed Ability Dog by their side means that more people feel able to come and talk to them, thereby increasing their general social interaction.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£3,174 to improve IT infrastructure and buy printers for use at its Sandown HQ where it trains assistance dogs for young people with disabilities living on the Island.

Project Lead

Carol Court
Founder and CEO

"The new IT infrastructure has transformed our charity. With a fast, reliable wired Ethernet connection, daily operations are now far more efficient, and staff can complete tasks without the WiFi disruptions we once faced. As Ability Dogs 4 Young People grows, this upgrade is vital for managing volunteers, training, and fundraising. It's a crucial improvement that supports our expanding work across the Island – thank you Isle of Wight Foundation!"

**Ability Dogs
4 Young People**



Social Integration

Care in the Garden

Type: Social Integration / Integration Through Work

Project: Delivery Van for Splinter Wood Projects

Status: CIC

Area: Wootton and Island-wide

Care in the Garden is a Community Interest Company based on the Isle of Wight that provides meaningful work and training opportunities for adults with additional needs.

Operating from Palmers Brook Nursery near Wootton, the organisation offers a supportive environment where clients can build skills and confidence through hands-on work experience. Its 'Work Buddy Scheme' partners with local businesses, such as The Garlic Farm, to create pathways into paid employment.

The organisation delivers pre-employability training across a range of departments. In the woodwork shop, clients learn sanding, assembly and painting to produce wooden items for sale. The horticulture team teaches plant care and production, while the retail department focuses on customer service, till operation, and merchandising. The 'Mower Men' team works in the wider community, gaining experience in mowing, strimming, hedge cutting, and grounds maintenance through contract work in areas such as Newport and Cowes.

The ultimate goal is to support each individual towards greater independence and employment readiness.



Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£15,000 to purchase a Transit van with tail lift to transport large items of wooden furniture produced by adults with additional needs and mental health issues to customers.

Project Lead

John Goodenough
Founder

"Thanks to the support from the Isle of Wight Foundation, we've been able to grow our woodwork workshop 'Splinter Wood Projects' into a thriving part of Care in the Garden. The funding enabled us to make larger, high-demand items like garden bars and picnic tables, creating new employment opportunities. A Transit van with a tail lift has also transformed deliveries, freed up space, and allowed us to expand training. Most importantly, the grant has sustained and grown employment for adults with additional needs and mental health challenges - helping build confidence, skills, and a real sense of purpose."



Social
Integration

Integration
Through Work

Isle of Wight Youth Trust

Type: Youth & Citizenship

Project: The Travelling Safe Space

Status: Charity

Area: Island-wide

The Isle of Wight Youth Trust has been delivering mental health and wellbeing services on the Isle of Wight for the past 40 years, ensuring that young Islanders have access to the right support, when they need it, as quickly as possible.

It currently provides face-to-face therapeutic sessions to around 900 children and young people each year through counselling and psychotherapy, CBT, creative therapies, and specialist support for those who are neurodiverse.

The Travelling Safe Space has been developed by young people for young people to promote wellbeing, community support, and inclusivity. Its goal is to empower young people, alleviate anxiety and equip them with essential life skills that will last for years to come, leaving a positive legacy on the Island.

It will offer those taking part, the opportunity to participate in activities designed to promote/educate good mental health and wellbeing in a fun way. By changing the event location every two weeks (hence The Travelling Safe Space) it will increase accessibility to activities regardless of background and geographical location.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£8,751.96 to partly finance the Travelling Safe Space project to provide accessible mental health support to young people facing mental health challenges.

Project Lead

Jo Dare
CEO

"With support from the Isle of Wight Foundation, we launched the Travelling Safe Space – designed by young people, for young people. Visiting new communities every two weeks, it promoted mental health and wellbeing in a fun, inclusive way. Funding also enabled a video project that built confidence, raised awareness, and developed media and employability skills. The project fostered resilience, creativity, and a lasting sense of connection among the Island's young people."





■ Youth & Citizenship

Motor Neurone Disease Association Isle of Wight

Type: Social Integration

Project: Social Experiences & Inclusion

Status: Charity

Area: Island-wide

The Isle of Wight branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) is run entirely by volunteers. It aims to provide the best possible support to local people with MND, their families, and carers.

MNDA affects certain nerves found in the brain and spinal cord which help tell muscles what to do. This leads muscles to weaken, stiffen and waste – which in turn can affect how people walk, talk, eat, drink and breathe. Unfortunately, there is currently no cure for this life-shortening disease.

MNDA Isle of Wight runs a monthly support group which is hosted by volunteers. It provides a welcoming space for people with MND and their families and carers to speak with volunteers and meet other people who are affected by the disease.

Motor Neurone Disease is a life-shortening disease which severely affects people's mobility. It is a cruel and isolating disease. The MNDA Isle of Wight would like to help people living with MND to access alternative support and experiences – either at their own home or in the wider community.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£5,000 to give Islanders with MND positive and enriching activities and trips, either in the community or within their own homes with the aim of improving mental health and helping to create a wider support network for families.

Project Lead

Dawn Pond
Community Support
Co-ordinator

"Living with Motor Neurone Disease can feel isolating, but thanks to the Isle of Wight Foundation we've been able to bring comfort, connection and joy. From garden trips and film nights to afternoon teas, shared experiences have reduced loneliness and created precious memories. Funding also provided wheelchair-accessible taxis and personal safety buttons, helping people stay connected and supported at home. These small but meaningful gestures remind everyone they are not alone."

The logo for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) features the lowercase letters 'mnda' in a stylized font. The 'm' and 'n' are blue, the 'd' is red, and the 'a' is orange. Below the letters, the full name 'motor neurone disease association' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.



**Social
Integration**

Phoenix Project

Type: Social Integration
Project: Replacement Conservatory
Status: Charity
Area: Ryde & Island-wide

The Phoenix Project supports adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and neurological conditions, such as autism.

It provides an expert and highly motivational environment within which people are able to learn new skills, maintain friendships and develop independence. They are able to become part of The Phoenix Project family and through this enjoy a full and active life, improving health, happiness and wellbeing.

The Phoenix Project is based at the Phoenix Centre in Haylands in Ryde. It is a fully accessible centre, set in large grounds. The centre's conservatory, which overlooks the gardens, is used regularly by various groups and is a much-needed space.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£16,000 for a replacement conservatory to provide a vital safe, social space for its clients which have moderate to severe learning disabilities.

Project Lead

Louise Smith
Fundraising & Events
Co-ordinator

"The new conservatory has transformed life at The Phoenix Centre. It's a safe, welcoming space, used daily by people with learning disabilities, autism, and physical disabilities. With its new roof and insulation, it's comfortable all year round, supporting wellbeing by providing a place to relax, socialise and enjoy the garden. We're so grateful for the funding that made this possible."



THE PHOENIX
PROJECT IOW



Social
Integration

The Way Forward Programme (Osel Enterprises)

Type: Social Integration
Project: Replacement Minibus
Status: Charity
Area: Island-wide

The Way Forward Programme provides support for people with learning disabilities, autism, and mental health conditions. It provides one to one support and daily sessions at its centre in Newport. It works with adults and young people from the age of 12 upwards, with autism, learning disabilities and mental health conditions.

The Way Forward Programme provides a pick-up and drop off service for more than 80 customers to enable them to access sessions and take part in local excursions. Transport is essential to the charity's service as customers are not always able to rely on family members for lifts and some customers are not able to use public transport because of their anxiety of independent travel – plus the centre is not on a main bus route.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£14,000 towards a new minibus to transport clients with learning disabilities, autism or mental health issues to activity sessions at its Newport HQ or on excursions.

Project Lead

Tracey Hill
Chief Executive

"I would like to thank Island Roads and the Isle of Wight Foundation for its generosity. Their grants over the years have made a huge difference, and their genuine interest in our work has helped us build a strong partnership. A reliable minibus is vital to our service – giving clients safe, consistent access to sessions, trips and respite breaks while supporting independence, reducing isolation, and enabling life-enriching experiences every week."





**Social
Integration**

Vectis Radio's 4Ps Training School

Type: Social Integration and Youth & Citizenship

Project: Vectis Radio's 4Ps Training School

Status: Charity

Area: Island-wide

Community radio station Vectis Radio moved into its current studio in the Riverside Centre in Newport in August 2014 after an early nomadic lifestyle.

Having this stable location allowed it to establish the Vectis Radio's 4Ps Training School, which runs as part of the Isle of Wight Council's 'Youth Offer'.

More than 300 students have since completed the course, helping them improve their confidence and communication through teaching the four key areas of radio; presenting, production, promotion and podcasting.

The course is available free of charge to 11-19 year olds, as well as for people with additional needs up to the age of 25.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£3,000 towards the cost of running the 4Ps Training School which helps young people with learning disabilities to build confidence and develop communication skills through radio.

Project Lead

Ian Mac
Vectis Radio Station
Manager

"We're over the moon that, once again, Island Roads has placed trust in our award-winning project – a lifeline that empowers young people with confidence and skills here at the station.

"By learning radio broadcasting in small groups, participants find their voice, share their stories and gain valuable experience that supports social inclusion, creativity, and future opportunities."





Social
Integration

Youth &
Citizenship

Wessex Cancer Support

Type: Social Integration
Project: Cancer Patient Transport
Status: Charity
Area: Island-wide

Wessex Cancer Support is a community-focused charity providing emotional and practical support to people of all ages and with all types of cancer, as well as carers and loved ones who may feel the impact of cancer.

At its core are four cancer support centres – one of which is on the Isle of Wight – which provide a friendly, confidential space, where local people can walk in, or be referred by their GP or other health professional. Qualified counsellors focus on individual needs to help achieve the best outcomes for people – regardless of prognosis. Complementary therapists provide a range of treatments to help reduce stress, aid sleeping and manage pain.

Travelling from the ferry to the hospital can be difficult, expensive and stressful. Wessex Cancer Support's Daisy Bus Service is a practical solution to the logistical issues that Island residents face in accessing cancer treatment. In addition to solving this challenge and alleviating the stress and anxiety experienced by clients, the buses have become informal support groups, increasing the value into much more than transport.

*NB The Wessex Cancer Trust announced in summer 2025 that the Southampton Daisy Bus would cease running due to a change in funding by University Hospital Southampton. However, a fundraising appeal was launched and the Southampton Daisy Bus will continue in the short term. The Portsmouth Daisy Bus service is unaffected.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£13,167 to cover minibus hire, insurance and maintenance costs for one of the charity's Daisy Buses which provide transport for Island patients receiving cancer treatment on the mainland.

Project Lead

Suzanne Bannister
Wessex Cancer Support's
Director of Services

"Thanks to the Isle of Wight Foundation's support, the Daisy Bus continued to be a lifeline for cancer patients during 2024. During the year we provided over 14,000 free, reliable journeys to hospital appointments. The service helps to ease anxiety, reduce costs and offers vital emotional support – making a difficult time a little bit easier for Islanders affected by cancer."



WESSEX
CANCER TRUST



**Social
Integration**

West Wight Men in Sheds

Type: Social Integration / Road Back to Employment

Project: Equipment Upgrade & Staffing

Status: Charity

Area: West Wight

West Wight Men in Sheds is a place where people are welcome to learn things, make things and drink tea! There are many reasons people attend West Wight Men in Sheds sessions – some are retired and looking to fill their time, some are unemployed and need a confidence boost while learning new skills, others may have long-term medical conditions which prevent them from working – and others attend to talk to other 'shedders'.

Men in Sheds is about promoting social inclusion for the public benefit. It helps people to integrate into society by providing a place and facilities where they can meet others and undertake creative, recreational, or physical activities, learn and pass on skills, gain confidence and support each other socially and mentally.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£8,035.49 to update power tools and woodworking machines at the group's base in Totland.

Project Lead

David Waldock
Chairman

"We're very grateful to the Isle of Wight Foundation for funding our new equipment. The upgrade to industrial-grade machinery has been transformative for our 23 members and the wider community. Many are now using a lathe and other tools for the first time, making pens, boxes, jigsaws and more. This investment has boosted skills, confidence and friendships. Thank you for helping us grow and support West Wight."





Social Integration

Road Back to
Employment

ISLE OF WIGHT FOUNDATION

Printed using paper
made from responsibly
sourced wood fibre
from sustainable
forests (FSC certified).

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