

a better future, together

Devon Community Foundation Annual Report April 2010 – March 2011



OUR VISION

Passionate Devon communities which actively challenge disadvantage and bring about positive social change on a local level.

OUR MISSION

To connect the 'haves' and 'have-nots' within Devon communities in a way that empowers them to identify and tackle local issues, together.

Dear Supporter,

We are absolutely delighted to tell you that together we have achieved what at times seemed like an impossible task! The Grassroots Challenge is over.

Just to remind you, we have spent the last three years of the Grassroots Challenge trying to do two things:

1. Distribute over £1,400,000 in grants to small, community based groups across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.
2. Raise donations of £1,250,000 locally to be matched by £1,250,000 of government funds to create an endowment fund which will give grants to groups in Devon forever.

What happened?

We have received and assessed over 1000 applications for funding and we have distributed the full amount of £1.46m to incredible groups, manned by unsung heroes who do astonishing work across the county, mostly on a volunteer basis, making Devon a better place to be for everyone. As usual we could not have done it alone. It is thanks to the impressive commitment of our grants panels, local people who read and consider each application, that this has been possible

We have been moved, educated and consistently impressed by the wealth of ideas and dedication we have seen. These groups have used the grants we have given over three years to directly benefit a staggering 478,471 people in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay including (to name just a few):

- children getting new play equipment
- vulnerable people finding work
- carers young and old offered support, friendship and respite
- young people given the opportunity to try new things and expand their horizons
- thousands of people trying new sports and outdoor activities
- people with disabilities managing independent living and forming groups and social clubs
- families living in poverty or in crisis getting practical help
- adults and children experiencing the joy of growing food and eating healthily
- older people getting company and friendship and mastering the internet
- Devon people getting together for fun days or celebrations of their communities
- more Brownies and Scouts than we can possibly count

A massive success. We hope you agree.

Then we had the £1.25m to find in Devon and, amazingly, you have done that as well (plus a bit more) because the people here are incredibly generous and really care about offering a helping hand to others. Added to our other funds, we now have just over £3,027,000 in endowment so we will all go on giving, together, forever.

Of course, there was more than Grassroots to do this year. In addition to the Grassroots programme we have continued to distribute funds for other donors such as Comic Relief and the money the police receive from selling recovered property. We have also been successful this year in attracting new partners such as White Stuff Foundation and The Dulverton Trust. You will find details of all our programmes and grants made this year inside this report.



There are changes in our office as well, the Trustees and team have focused on revolutionising our systems and introducing new ways of working including our very successful 'grant alert' which tells groups about our own and other sources of funding; a new online application and assessment process; and our presence on Facebook and Twitter. Alongside all this development we were thrilled to be successfully re-accredited for Quality Assurance which happens every three years. For more news about our work please visit our website on www.devoncf.com.

Our team is now much smaller but just as hard-working! It is vital that people know about us. We need to create a network of people to spread the word about what the Foundation does and keep us in touch with what's happening across the county. So we are inviting all those who love Devon as much as we do to consider becoming an Ambassador for Devon Community Foundation. Being an Ambassador can take many forms; speaking at functions and events, networking either online or in person with individuals or groups, hosting or organising events. What you can do is limited only by your imagination and if you would like to know more, email sarah@devoncf.com.

One highlight this year was working closely with Channel 4's 'Secret Millionaire' Marcelle Speller whose great generosity made a huge difference to the groups she supported in Plymouth. Her mission is to create and develop a very exciting national initiative with Community Foundations, www.localgiving.com, which will transform the ability of small local groups to have a web presence, raise local donations and tell the world about their great work.

Another new idea we brought to Devon this year is The Funding Network, an opportunity for people to come together to share drinks, good company and hear from four local projects all doing great work. At the event, those present can, if they wish, make donations to any or all of the four projects in a ground-breaking pledging session which is guaranteed to get the adrenalin flowing and good feeling breaking out all over. The very first Devon Funding Network was a huge success, with nearly £21,000 (including Gift Aid) of donations made on the night. If you would like to come to the next event, please contact laura@devoncf.com.

Existing and new donors are vital to the future of the many groups we support. I am sure you are aware that Government funds are tight and the future for funding these groups via that route is unclear. Consequently we will have much less to offer in the coming year or so and are likely to be distributing about a third of the funds we have had in recent times.

On the other hand, this is an exciting time for us, and we hope for you. Thanks to the outstanding success of the Grassroots Match Challenge, Devon now has its own endowment fund here at DCF for supporting small community groups. This means that, for the first time since we started we can use these funds entirely according to the wishes of our community and that gives us all the chance to make a real difference, together.

We only have one thing to say on behalf of the thousands of people who benefit from our grants each year..... THANK YOU

Very best wishes

Mike Bull
Chairman

Financial Overview of the Devon Community Foundation Endowment Funds



DCF delivers grant programmes for others such as Comic Relief, the Office of the Third Sector and private and corporate donors. However, another key function of a community foundation is to attract donations into an endowed fund, the income from which is used to make grants to local groups. Devon Community Foundation considers this a mission critical element of its work, since it is this fund (supported by Devon people to be used forever to support communities in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay) that will enable the Foundation to continue supporting groups independent of the political or economic forces in play at any time.

Donations	Donations received
Total Fund Value March 2009	£1,808,852
Total local donations	£597,020
Match funding contributed by DCF and OTS	£597,000
Invested Endowment Growth net of DCF fees and grant making for 2011-12	£24,152
Total Fund Value as at 31st March 2011	£3,027,024

Where did the donations come from?

Where a donor invests in excess of £25,000 with DCF they can opt to do this as a 'named fund' within DCF's endowment, giving them the option to specify geographic and/or issue based objectives for the grant making from their fund. This allows donors the personal freedom and pleasure of seeing their donation go to the causes closest to their hearts whilst still benefitting from the professional services of DCF to ensure excellent grant-making based on good local knowledge and due diligence of the groups concerned. And its much cheaper and easier than creating and running your own Trust.

Some examples are named funds created by Plymouth University, The Arnold Family Fund, and our own Christmas Unwrapped campaign which raised £32,000 last Christmas to help those in need during the festive season.

The Grassroots Match Challenge has led to a considerable number of new named funds being created and we believe that this is a sign of the ongoing commitment of our donors to philanthropic activity in Devon. This year the largest donation to create a named fund was £280,000, which the Grassroots Challenge allowed us to double to £560,000 immediately and which will make grants to support former servicemen and women and their families.

But it's not all about named funds. People who care in Devon this year have made sky dives, run marathons and taken on daredevil challenges and assault courses, held tea parties and concerts or just had a whip round in the pub to raise funds for us. Legacies are also a very important source of funds and we know that many people enjoy giving to charities in their will but find it hard to identify the local projects that they might like to give to. A legacy to Devon Community Foundation in your will could make a huge difference to the community where you and your family live, so it's a very personal and effective way of giving.

There have been hundreds of smaller donations ranging from £5 to £500 where your natural generosity has shone through and because of this we are looking forward to a future where we continue to raise funds and make grants, bringing about great things in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

Endowment and flow-through funds 2010-11



Endowment Named and Acorn funds

Activistock Community Fund (Devon)	Pete Yeo Acorn Fund (North Devon)
Arbuthnot Latham Fund	Philip J Milton & Co Fund (North Devon)
Arnold Family Fund (Devon)	Drake Foundation Fund (Plymouth)
Barclays Fund (Plymouth)	Plymstock School Acorn Fund (Plymouth)
Blundell's School Fund (Devon)	Police Property Act Fund
Christmas Unwrapped Fund (Devon)	Ray Miles Fund
Devon 100 Club Fund	Ripple Devon Fund (Devon)
Devon Grassroots Endowment Fund	Royal Mail Fund (Plymouth)
Devonian Trust Endowment Fund	Rural Devon Fund (Devon)
Eagle One Endowment Fund	Steve Hindley Family Fund
Friends Of The Foundation	South West Water Fund
General Endowment Fund	Tamar Science Park Acorn Fund (Plymouth)
Gurney Family Fund (Devon)	The Royal British Legion The Drake Foundation Fund (Plymouth)
Kitsons Solicitors Fund (Torbay)	Throwleigh Centre Fund (Devon)
Laurie Conner Fund (Devon)	Tiverton Religious Fund (Tiverton)
London & Westcountry Estates Fund	Torbay Grassroots Fund (Torbay)
Loyton Lodge Fund (North Devon)	Trinity Fund (Plymouth)
Mildmay-White Fund	Two Four Group Fund (Devon)
Millfields Trust Fund (Plymouth)	University Of Plymouth Fund (Plymouth)
Mumme-Ackford Fund	Wales & West Fund (Devon)
North Devon Relief Fund (North Devon)	Western Morning News Fund
North Devon Fund (North Devon)	

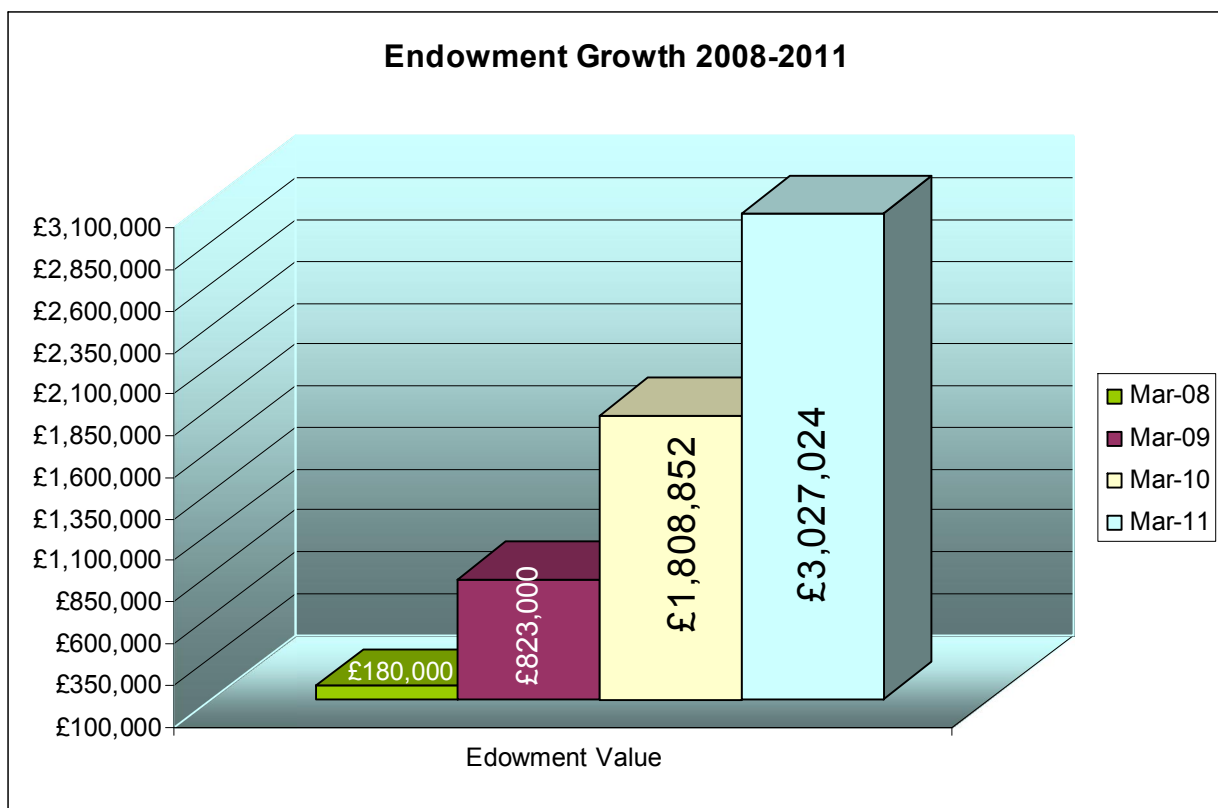
Non-endowment grant making funds

Bristol & West Flowthrough Fund	Grassroots Grants Plymouth
Clare Milne Flowthrough Fund	Grassroots Grants Torbay
Comic Relief - Community Cash	Exeter Positive Steps Plus Fund
Comic Relief Medium and Large grants	TFN Events Flow through Fund
Devon 100 Business Club Fund	Keepmoat Grants
Grassroots Grants Devon	May Gurney Grants

Financial Overview of DCF Investments

This year has been one of staggering growth in the total endowment (containing Devon, Plymouth and Torbay) as can be seen from the table below. We have added another £1,218,172 to the endowment this year which could not be more amazing in this age of austerity.

Quite rightly, everyone is interested to know how much is spent by charities on their own administration. The costs of fund development were under £52,000, just under 3.8% of our increased funds and, in fact, all our costs represent less than 10% of our turnover. We believe that tightly controlling our costs is vital to our future. We also know that there is a world of difference between handing out cash and **good grant making**. The processes of outreach and support, assessment, due diligence, monitoring, evaluation and organisational development pay dividends far beyond their actual cost.



Despite a turbulent financial climate, thanks to the availability of the match funding, all investments into endowment this year yielded in excess of 100% return within a year. Funds have been fed gradually into the investment market over the course of the year and we have achieved a 7.5% total return on our endowment funds in 2010-11. Next year the endowment funds will be fully invested for the whole year which we hope will deliver as good results.

Devon Community Foundation has three Investment Management firms to handle the investment of the endowment funds. These are Rathbones Investment Management Ltd, Coutts & Co and Hawksmoor Investment Management.

Our investment strategy requires a moderate to cautious investment whilst maximising returns and all three Investment Managers have a Devon presence, and a commitment to our County and our mission. The Trustees have formed an investment sub group who oversee the performance of our investment Managers and make ongoing investment decisions.

Of course, the reasons to support Devon Community Foundation go far beyond the financial. It is about making a real difference to our communities, helping hundreds of small groups and projects to get going and keep going, offering vital support to the most disadvantaged in Devon.

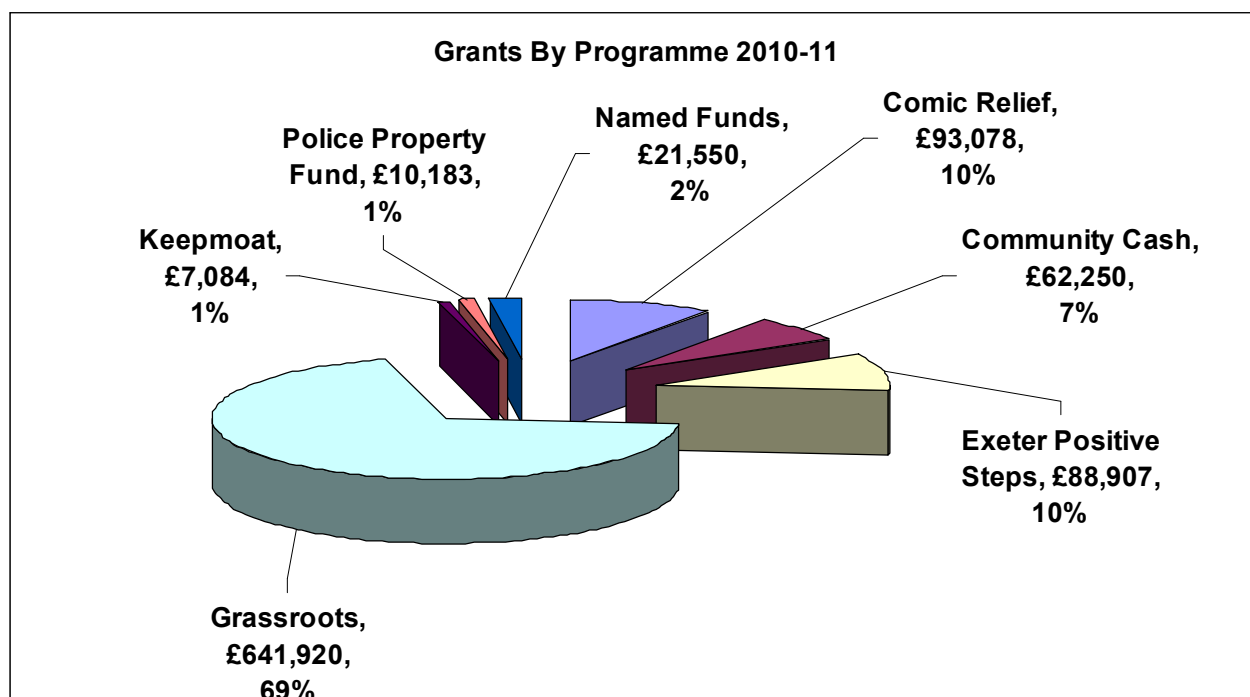


So, how have we used the available funds this year?

Grant Making

From April 2010 to March 2011 Devon Community Foundation distributed £925,000 in a total of 411 grants to 382 local voluntary and community groups helping people in need in Devon. This represents a considerable increase in activity on last year:

	2010-11	2009-10	% increase or decrease
Value of Grants	£925,000	£704,788	31% increase
No. of grants made	411	272	51% increase
No of groups funded	382	260	47% increase
No. of beneficiaries	308,463	119,040	158% increase
Operating costs	£248,008	£253,015	- 2% decrease



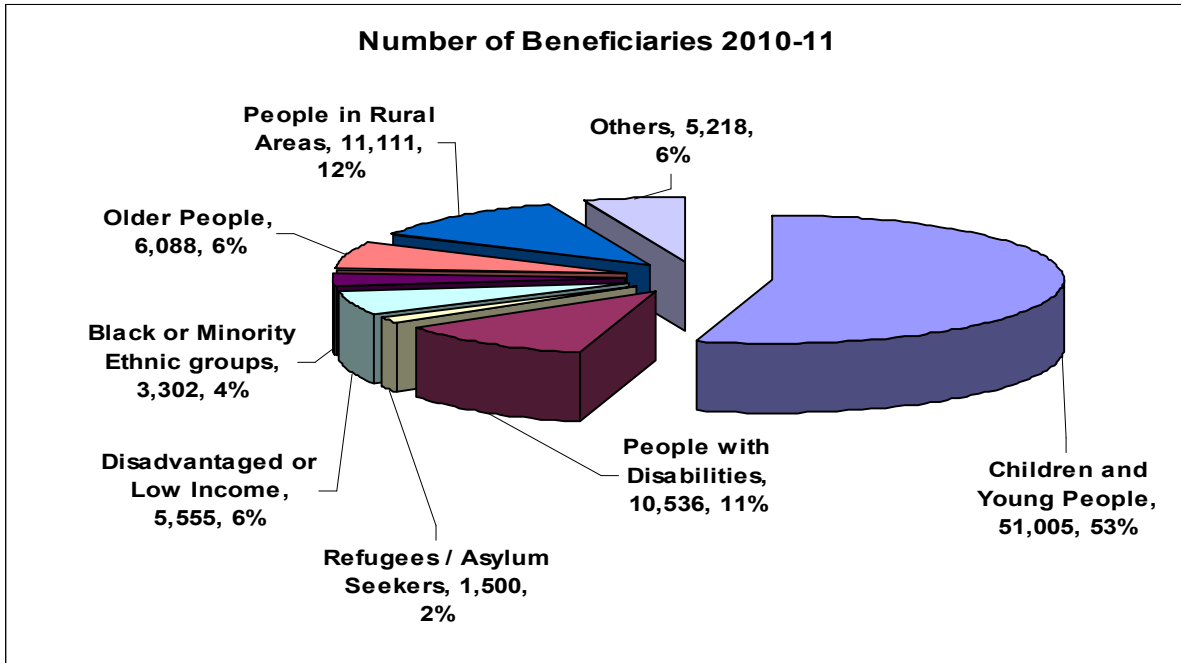
These grants have been used to fund an amazing variety of projects and ideas and we think of our grants as falling into three categories:

- **Community Glue** – such as the activities and events that bring communities together and keep them together like playgroups, luncheon clubs and befriending schemes, village halls and community celebration events.
- **Crisis Interventions** – like work with families in crisis, debt and housing advice, counselling, work with the homeless, helping the unemployed into work and foodbanks.
- **Prevention** – including opportunities for young people, work with the elderly on health issues or early intervention with families.

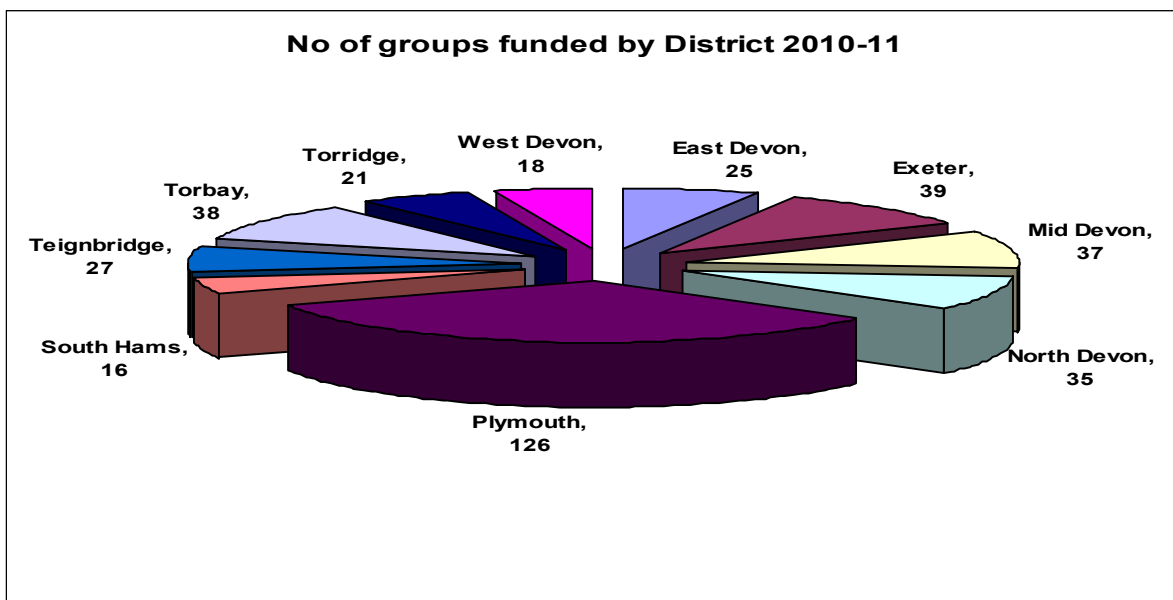
The following charts illustrate the beneficiaries of these grants and the issues that we at DCF have supported over the last year.



The vast majority of grants this year have gone to projects supporting children and young people, which very much reflects the wishes of those we surveyed about needs in 2009. Many people feel that young people are having a particularly tough time at the moment with many lacking the funds for extracurricular activities, finding it hard to see where their futures lie and in some cases struggling to get their first job.



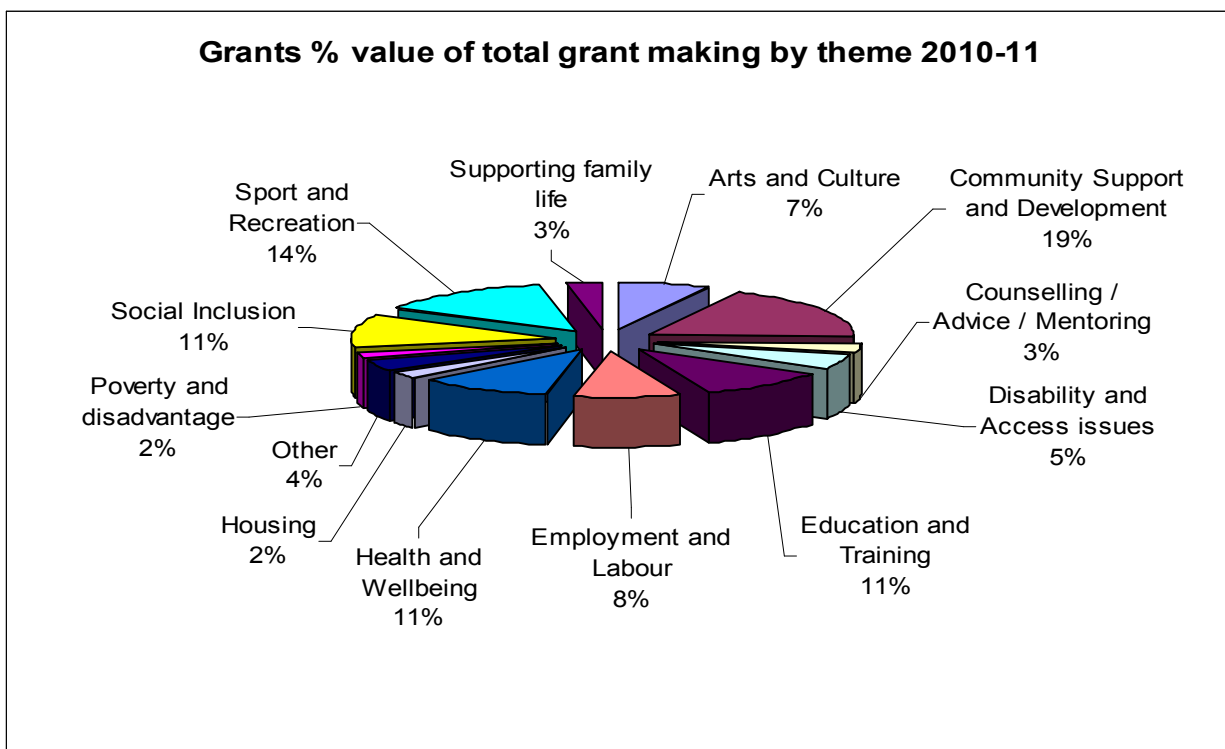
Over 308,000 people have directly benefitted across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay (158% more than last year's total of 119,000). We are sure you will agree that this, in a time of increasing need, is a great result. This year groups have applied for a total of £1,415,349 to support their projects, far more than we had available. We have tried to make the funds stretch as far as possible funding 65% of the cost of projects and 56% of the groups that applied. In many cases we do this by awarding part of what is requested to offer some help at least, even if we cannot afford to pay the whole amount.



Plymouth has had more groups funded which is a direct result of funds coming to us for use in Plymouth only. Whilst 35% of our grants went to Plymouth groups this represents only 26% of the value of the grants given, mostly because of the Community Cash (Comic Relief Red Nose Day) grants which are a high number of small grants. In many ways this is as it should be with the higher levels of acute deprivation found in the City.

Nonetheless it is our task to continue to support Plymouth whilst also trying to demonstrate to donors and funders that there is still great need elsewhere.

Plymouth apart, the spread of our grants across the county is fairly balanced although we are still working hard to try and ensure as many people as possible know about the grants programmes available. Rural areas especially suffer from particular challenges in the face of rising fuel costs, limited transport, fewer work opportunities and public services and increased isolation.



Our vision is to see passionate local communities tackling their own issues together and we try to ensure that the grants we give are really achieving that. Of course, many of our grant programmes come with their own conditions but we are pleased to see that the more general categories of community support, sport and recreation, social inclusion and family life represent 47% of all our grants. All the other categories of grant make a contribution to this ultimate aim as well and it has been, as always, extremely hard to decide which projects can and cannot be funded.

What difference does this make to people in Devon?



Kids Who Care, Unite Mid Devon



Carol Benn, Chairman of Unite, receiving her DCF Volunteer of The Year award from sponsors Ashfords Solicitors and our President, Eric Dancer, Lord Lieutenant of Devon. October 2010

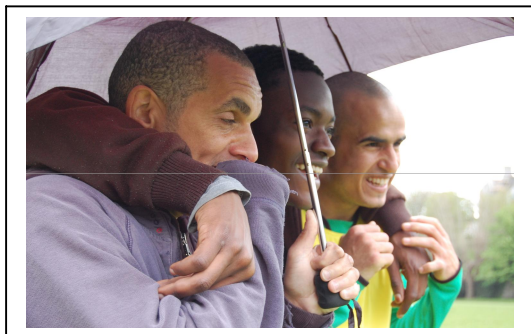
The Project has recently received a grant of £4,000 from the Foundation to help pay rent on an office for the Kids Who Care project. The office will be used by the charity's four youth workers and as a venue for a homework club, a place to train mentors for the young carers, and as a general drop-in centre for carers.

"It's absolutely great to now have a space where we can invite carers and we soon hope to have a homework club where they can get away from home to a quiet place to do their work"

There are approximately 7,000 young carers across Devon looking after sick or disabled relatives. The average carer is 12 years old and has spent 4 years caring before they receive any support. 56% of young carers live in a single parent household and one in ten of them care for more than one person. For many young carers, this means their schoolwork suffers; they don't have a chance to socialise with other children or to experience quality time with a parent. They don't have a childhood.

"There's seven kids and two adults and I look after them, clean and cook and take them to the park so they get a break from the house. I found myself lashing out and when I was given a mentor it was a great opportunity to get out and have a break and try new things that I wouldn't normally get to do" Young Carer

Plymouth Hope Football Club



David Feindouno with other club members

Hope FC brings together asylum seekers and refugees, local people and migrant workers, giving them something to do and way of connecting with the local community, often leading to them volunteering to help other projects in Plymouth.

The Foundation gave a £1,000 grant to buy equipment for the club, train a mini-bus driver and cover the club's costs for joining the league.

"Some of the most difficult challenges refugees face are just basic, practical, where to live and how to feed yourself. They don't access any benefits, are not allowed to work and they have no support. Volunteering is often the only lifeline they have, a way to connect to the community and it also enables others to meet them and form their own opinions about the people they are."

Five years ago, David Feindouno was beaten close to death by soldiers in his native Guinea whilst accompanying his politician uncle home from a rally. He was dragged from the car and left unaided and with shattered limbs, before being helped to safety by the Red Cross. Like many victims of torture and persecution, David arrived in Britain, speaking no English. As an asylum seeker, he is banned from both paid work and standard benefits. Before coming to the UK, David was studying for an economics degree and was a keen footballer. Plymouth Hope FC was his brainchild.

"When I moved here I saw so many people like me sitting around doing nothing and have over 20 nationalities here, when we play football we come together as friends." David Feindouno, Founder Plymouth Hope FC

Freedom Social Projects, Barnstaple



The Foundation has awarded several grants to Freedom Social Projects totalling more than £25,000 over three years to support their excellent work.

“Our services combat social issues such as isolation, loneliness and poor self-esteem. This may be helping the homeless access accommodation, advocating for the marginalised, referring substance users into treatment, sorting out someone’s benefits, delivering training and education, providing volunteering opportunities or work placements for offenders and the long term unemployed.”

Freedom Social Projects Café

Based at The Freedom Centre, a large modern converted industrial unit in Barnstaple, the centre provides a commercial training kitchen, gym, showers, laundry, internet café, TV lounge, training facilities, meeting rooms, recreation area and social enterprise workspaces. Social enterprise schemes plan to provide work experience and work based training. All programs are designed to encourage progression and change for the individual, which in turn leads to social change in the community. The Freedom Centre is one place where people find hope when their circumstances appear hopeless.

“Mr S was the most active service user of The Freedom Centre for over 4 years. He was a prolific offender with over 150 known convictions and his 12 year heroin addiction was costing the local community hundreds of thousands of pounds. With help from The Freedom Centre, Mr S began a process of change. Last year he received a ‘Pride of Britain’ award for a transformed life. He is now married with a family and running a residential rehab for other recovering addicts in North Devon. The saving to the community from this one individual is huge and there are other stories just like his.” Phil Noall, Freedom Social Projects

What people say about Devon Community Foundation

(taken from Devon Community Foundation’s ‘Using Us’ forms which are completed anonymously)



“I think it’s brilliant that there is a local award giving body who know the needs of the area that we live and work in. You are accessible, very helpful and knowledgeable. DCF is good for Devon - we need you.”



“DCF have a track record of building long term relationships with local, small charities and community groups which help them understand our needs and keep in touch regarding the work we are doing. DCF are also great at building relationships with other funding bodies and becoming a gateway for small grant programmes that really target the organisations (and their users) that would benefit.”



“A fantastic foundation that helps so many people achieve so much. I think the work that the Devon Community Foundation does is amazing. It’s a great way to get funding for a great cause.”



“The aims and work of the Foundation appears to be meeting the needs of the community in terms of support and funding. It provides for organisations and local activities, improving the quality of life for those benefiting from the support of the Foundation. We believe that the Foundation really makes a difference to many people.”



“Brilliant, a superb grant provider who are allowing many opportunities for those who would not normally have them.”