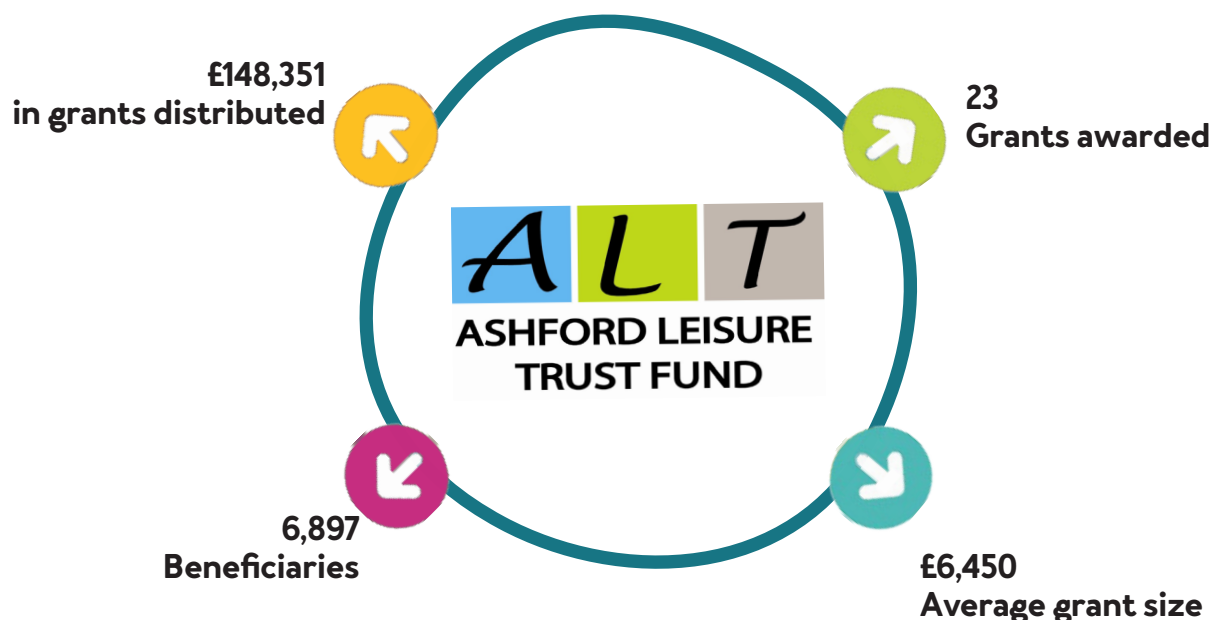




Ashford Leisure Trust Fund Impact Report 2023



Fund's Key Statistics since 2020



Introduction from KCF



At Kent Community Foundation we set great stock by really understanding the difference our grants make and the impact they have on people's lives. You'll see in this report stories of individual impact, from organisations supported by the Ashford Leisure Trust Fund and the onward benefit to the communities they work with. Thank you for your support – it makes a real difference to those living across the county.

- Natalie Smith, Director of Grants & Impact.

Sustainable Development Goals

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



As an environmentally mindful funder we are also measuring our impact against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These are international targets for social and environmental justice, which many countries are working towards achieving by 2030. We have chosen nine of the 17 goals which are particularly relevant to Kent and are capturing our grant-making against them. Relating to your fund we have selected the top goals your grant-making has met.

Rylands Road Park Renovation

Rylands Road play area is situated in the heart of Kennington and provides the local community with a green space as well as fitness and play equipment.

The grant - £10,000 was awarded towards the play park's renovation costs.

The impact - This funding contributed towards the purchase and installation of new outdoor gym equipment to replace the old and unsafe items in the community play area on Rylands Road. The equipment was installed in May 2022 and since this date has had regular use with the group estimating around 1,000 beneficiaries to date.

The new additions to the field have been used by all ages, with local community groups using it in the summer months to encourage their beneficiaries to become more active, without having to pay for hall rental costs or purchase the equipment themselves. The group report back that, when they surveyed the first users of the equipment, even within a few weeks of being installed this equipment has created a positive impact in the community, residents feel ownership of the play area and have noted an improvement in both their physical health and mental health.



Ashford Sea Cadets

Ashford Sea Cadets provides adventurous training and activities to local, disadvantaged young people, from the ages of 10 to 18.

The grant - £7,500 was awarded towards the purchase of a second-hand minibus to enable the corps to take young people to and from activities.

The impact - The grant was awarded to replace the groups' existing minibus, which was 17 years old and was increasingly more expensive to keep on the road. This new vehicle has not only provided a more reliable mode of transport for the corps, it has provided an immediate decrease in running and maintenance costs, with 59 cadets benefitting from the minibus so far, using it to get to and from water based activities and to local cadet meet ups. As a result, these young people have been able to take part in activities they may have otherwise missed out on, learn new skills and improve their confidence and self-esteem.

This new addition has not only been a huge improvement to the corps but has reduced any additional costs to parents, as many were subsidising local travel for their children on public transport or driving their child(ren) to and from meets and activities. This was placing increasing financial pressure on these households, which has now been mitigated, helping the corps to become more accessible to all, no matter their family's financial situation.

Uprising Youth and Community CIO



The Charity aims to support young people and communities, facing significant challenges, achieve improvements in life, resulting in personal and community transformation.

The grant - A grant of £4,000 was made to support the Hang10 project being run in Ashford.

The impact - Uprising used the funds to run sessions of Hang10 in the Stanhope ward of Ashford. They delivered four sessions of sports a week for 381 beneficiaries. Each session runs the same format, with Uprising setting up various sports activities for the young people to get involved in.

Each session provides a safe place for the young people to ask for support and advice from the team, which has given them a chance to build skills, better their physical wellbeing and spend quality time with their friends. For many, these types of activities elsewhere would come at a cost and/or require travel that their families could not afford, so the work of Uprising coming to their local greenspace has stopped financial backgrounds being a barrier to the children and young people taking part.



Joe (not real name) is a 12-year-old young person that has regularly been attending one of the newly established Hang10 sessions. Joe has additional needs and usually struggles in new settings and around new people and this can have a negative on his behaviour. He started attending and connected well with the team, and over the weeks became the first young person to turn up at this session. Joe's mum popped along at the beginning of a session over the summer holidays and said that 'He had found a new home and that he was excited to every week when it got to Wednesday!'. Mum was also amazed that we had not witnessed some of Joe's usual behaviours. Mum also explained that she was able to use Hang10 as a 'carrot' for Joe and that this had also had a positive impact on his behaviour at home. Joe has definitely come out of his shell and now helps to set up football goals and take them down and see's the team as his 'Best friends'.

Case Study

Charing Bowls Club

Charing Bowls Club was established to offer the local community the opportunity to participate in the social and recreational activity of lawn bowls.

The grant - £2,000 was agreed towards the cost of repairs to the playing area and surrounds.

The impact - The funding awarded was used towards the costs of renovation and repair of the grass surrounding the playing area at the bowls club. Since this work has been completed, 300 residents have accessed the club, including current members. It also allowed the club to hold events at the throughout the year, which was a great vehicle to increase interest in the area and draw in new members.



Pirates Canoe Club

Pirates Canoe Club is a warm and friendly paddle sport community, where members can learn in a safe, relaxed atmosphere.

The grant - £4,500 was granted to support operational, training, safety and equipment costs for the club.

The impact - The funding allowed the group to cover various training and equipment for the club, helping to improve skillsets and increase the number of individuals taking part. In total 251 beneficiaries engaged with the organisation over the funded period, taking up the opportunity provided to engage in water-based activities, either as a one-off or on a regular basis.

The equipment purchased has allowed more people to get out and, on the water. This proved to not only be a great form of exercise, but a great method to improve the overall mental wellbeing of participants, who were able to get out into the fresh air and do something they may not have had access to before. Families have been able to paddle together and enjoy exercise and older people are able to socialise and feel less isolated.

Funded Organisations

2021-2022

Kent Challenger Games	- £5,000
Wealden Leisure Ltd trading as Freedom Leisure	- £5,000
Step-Out outdoor learning, training and therapy CIC	- £7,243
Sport On Your Doorstep CIC	- £9,400
Rylands Road Park Renovation	- £10,000
Pirates Canoe Club	- £10,000
Boughton and Eastwell Cricket Club	- £7,500
Downs View & Kennington After School Club	- £5,000
Ashford Sea Cadets	- £7,500
Kent Refugee Action Network	- £9,168
Uprising Youth & Community CIO	- £4,000
Hamstreet Youth Football Club	- £2,000
Charing Bowls Club	- £2,000

2022-2023

Confidance Limited	- £9,350
Repton Community Trust	- £9,400
Sk8side CIC	- £7,110
Pirates Canoe Club	- £4,500
Sport On Your Doorstep CIC	- £9,180
Wye Community Farm	- £5,000
The Kench Hill Charity	- £2,000
Charlton Athletic Community Trust	- £10,000
Bethersden Cricket Club	- £5,000
Ashford Town Swimming Club	- £3,000





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