

# IMPACT REPORT 2022



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Cover collage images are all courtesy of the incredible local charitable organisations in our shared community that have been supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation grants over the past 12 months. Each image was supplied to us by them as part of their grant’s evaluation process, and we thank them all for sharing them with us. We hope you love looking at them as much as we do.

# Foreword

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This has been a remarkable second year for Kingston Charitable Foundation. It has been a year of consolidation and growth, building on the firm foundations laid in year one, following our launch in January 2021. We have been able to increase our offering to our local community, to serve it in the ways it needs us to.

Over the last 12 months, we have awarded 47 grants, which have directly benefitted over 24,900 local people. This is almost double the grants we awarded in year one. We have stayed true to the mission we set out at launch: to identify where social needs exist, to provide funds to local support groups, to inspire and engage with local donors, and to build sustainable funds.

We have continued to identify local need through outreach and ‘Meet the Funder’ events. Many of these are now in person following the move back to normality post-pandemic.

However, there have been new challenges, the post-pandemic mental health epidemic and a cost-of-living crisis, the likes of which have not been seen since the 1970s.

Never has there been more need for creative, direct, expedient grant-making, through listening and understanding both the needs now and those on the horizon and taking a holistic approach to how we can collectively support local people.

The grant for ‘Winter Warmer’ bags we awarded to RBKares is an example of this and is covered in more detail on page 18. It came out of a chance conversation I had whilst volunteering in July 2022. We knew that with careful planning it was something we could collectively work on, pulling together to support our local community in time for the hard winter ahead.

In September, we announced partnership work with The Willow Tree Foundation, by way of creation of a bespoke restricted fund to support local people living with cancer. It will deliver a grant programme for people living with blood cancer, and a ‘Healing Sanctuary’, offering integrative therapies free of charge to every one of the 13,000+ people living with any form of cancer here in our borough.

And to top off the year, in late December we were notified that our application for the City Bridge Trust Strategic Development Fund had been successful, enabling us to recruit three new team members to support our organisational growth in all areas in 2023. This investment in our organisation is an investment in Kingston upon Thames: it shows a belief in what we are collectively doing to support our shared community and how, with help, we can all do more.

And looking forward, we’re introducing two new grants programmes in summer 2023. These are specifically designed to directly support more individuals and families facing hardship. They comprise Participatory Grant-Making and Catalyst for Change grants. You can read more about this on page 24.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped us to get where we are today; we stand together ready to build on the solid foundations we have in place. Stronger together.

Hicky Kingsbury – CEO, Kingston Charitable Foundation

# Executive Summary

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We are proud to deliver our Impact Report 2022 to you, offering a window through which you can see what we have collectively achieved for our shared community over the past year.

Who could have predicted how the post-pandemic landscape would continue to affect us all? It has brought with it a devastating effect on mental health that continues to spiral. The war in Ukraine and the ever-increasing cost-of-living crisis have also caused so much suffering.

In our report we have identified areas of need, underpinned by carefully considered borough-wide statistics. We have evaluated and reflected on how we have supported our community over this year, in order to guide our thinking on how we can further tailor future offerings. We always aim to be both a proactive and reactive funder, constantly listening to our community through outreach and continued consultation.

We have evaluated our grants in eight distinct categories:

- Food Poverty and Support
- Mental Health Support
- Disability Support
- Advocacy and Support
- Movement and Sports Access
- Community Facilities and Cohesion
- Environment
- Direct Support for Families

In this, our second Impact Report as Kingston Charitable Foundation, we are delighted to share with you the difference we have collectively made, supporting the work of the incredible organisations working tirelessly at the heart of our communities.

In 2021, our first year as your foundation for Kingston, we supported 12,555 local people through our grants programme. In 2022 we supported almost double this number.

As we move into 2023, we will continue to support this popular grants programme, but will also introduce two new grants programmes: Participatory Grant-Making and Catalyst for Change grants.

In this Impact Report we also introduce our new partnerships and explain how they will support local people living with cancer and those urgently needing accessible transport and solutions to their mobility needs.

We need your support to build on what we have achieved in year two. We urgently need to continue the conversations we've been having, and to keep bolstering our fundraising in order to award more grants in the ways that our local community needs.

Join us as we continue in our vision: to build stronger communities where everyone's needs are met.

# Kingston Charitable Foundation Vision, Mission and Values

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## Vision

- **Build** stronger communities where everyone's needs are met.

## Mission

- **Identify where social needs exist** in our area through commissioning, publishing, and utilising the best research available.
- **Provide funds to local support groups** that have the expertise to alleviate need, enrich people's lives and improve their life chances.
- **Inspire and engage** with local donors to help build sustainable long-term funds to support our vision.
- **Build sustainable funds** to increase the level of immediate and long-term resources available to organisations with charitable purposes across the Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

## Values

- **Inclusive** – we embrace everyone in our community across the Borough of Kingston upon Thames.
- **Passionate** – we are compelled to always go the extra mile for our community.
- **Caring** – we act with empathy and understanding in all our doings.
- **Collaborative** – we work better together, providing mutual support and achieving more.
- **Responsible** – we are accountable for the funds that we raise and the grants that we give out.

# The Cost-of-Living Crisis

**The cost of living has been rising in recent months in the UK and across the world.**

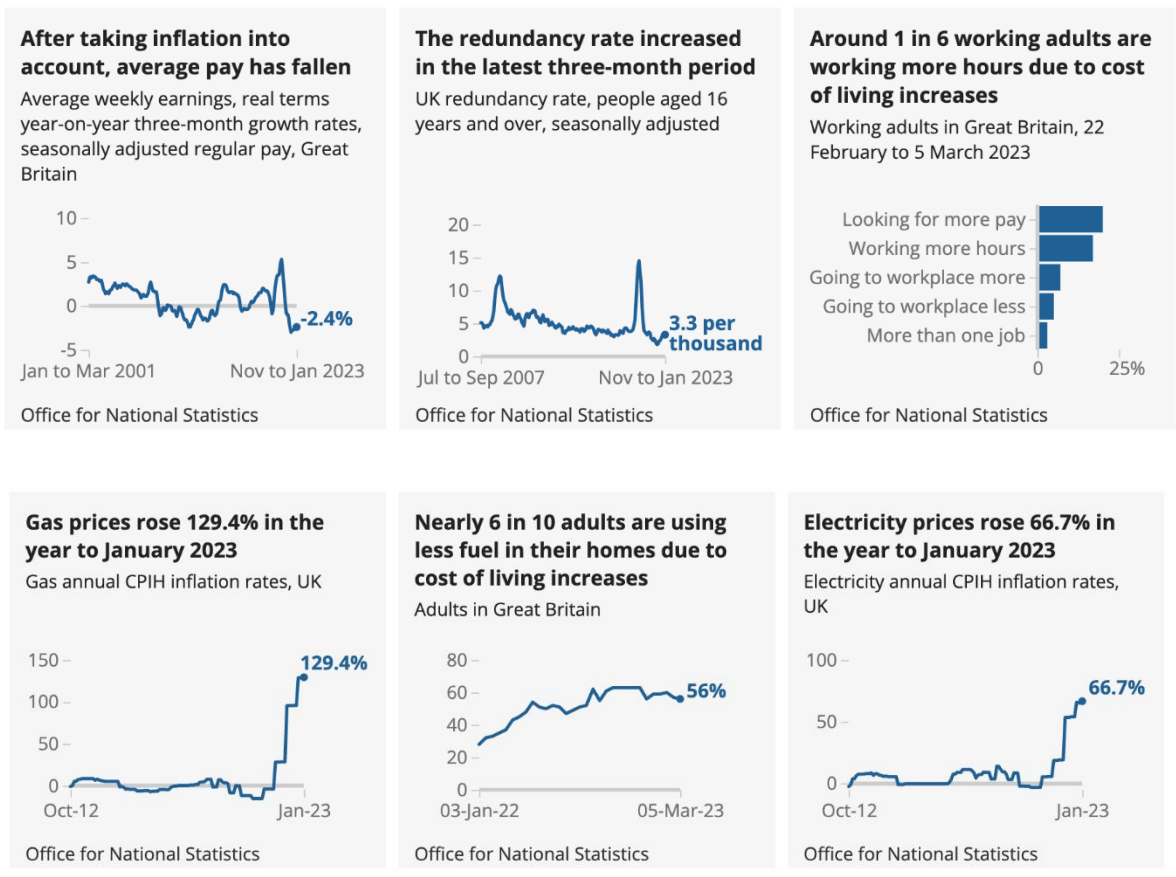
Food and energy prices have been rising markedly over the past year, particularly gas prices, largely in response to the conflict in Ukraine. Global recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is putting further pressure on prices.

In the UK, the price of consumer goods and services rose at the fastest rate in four decades in the year to October 2022. The annual inflation rate reached a 40-year high of 9.6%.

The average rent in Kingston upon Thames is £1,448 per month; this is £502 more than England's average rent of £946.

There are 33 newly registered 'warm spaces' in the borough offering free food and refreshments.

For the first time ever, foodbanks are giving out more food than is being donated. There are 12 foodbanks in Kingston, and each of the 'warm spaces' also offers free pantry staples for guests.



# Our Borough

**Kingston in Numbers** The population of Kingston upon Thames is **167,845**.

There are **5,595** children classified as living in poverty, **23%** of the child population.

If housing expenses are considered, **21%** of children in the borough in 2020–21 lived in households with incomes that were less than **60%** of the UK median.

**18.9%** of Kingston upon Thames residents were estimated to be making less than the Living Wage in 2021.

**21%** of over 65s suffer from depression.

Life expectancy of **84 years**.

A diverse and vibrant community, the population is predominantly white at **68.3%**, with non-white minorities

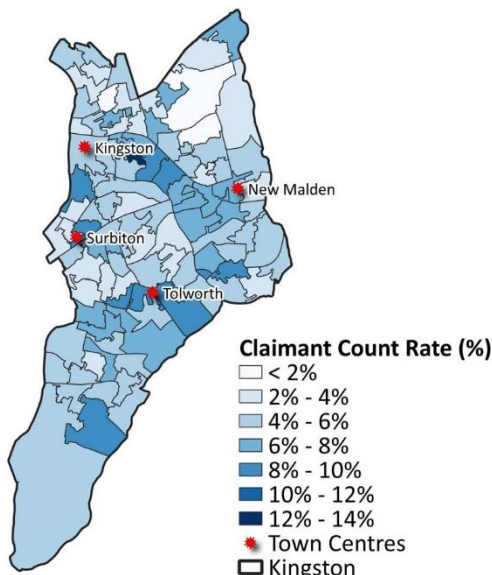
representing the remaining **31.7%** of the population.

**7.6%** of Kingston upon Thames' people who were of working age were receiving benefits in 2022.

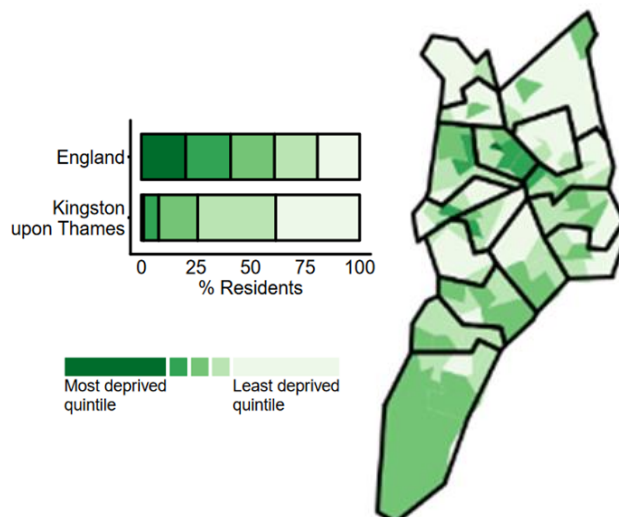
## The Geography of Kingston

Our borough could largely be considered as affluent. However, there are geographical discrepancies in unemployment and deprivation, with higher levels of deprivation in the lower and mid portions of the borough, around areas such as Chessington, Tolworth and Kingston town centre. Our foundation is committed to reaching all areas of the borough, including those that may have historically felt left behind. Despite these maps being created in 2019, they remain unchanged.

**Unemployment in Kingston**



**Deprivation levels in Kingston**



# Reflections on Kingston in 2022

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Whilst the last 12 months have been challenging from many perspectives, it is important to reflect on the positives that have taken place in our vibrant borough. These are just a few of the meaningful changes for good that have happened locally.

## **Kingston became a 'City of Sanctuary' as our borough commits to supporting communities**

Our community has united, together with Kingston Council, to support vulnerable families and become part of the 'City of Sanctuary' network; communities across the borough have come together to support families most in need, including hundreds of people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

## **Affordable e-bikes launched in Kingston on World Car-Free Day**

The Royal Borough of Kingston and the London Borough of Sutton are partnering with e-bike industry leaders HumanForest, bringing 120 dockless electric bikes to the boroughs' streets and offering each rider ten minutes free hire daily with no unlocking charges.

## **Kingston students excel in A-level and GCSE results**

A-level results in Kingston remain 4% above the national average, with 87% of all A-level entries across the Kingston schools being awarded A\*–C grades.

## **Partnership between Kingston Council and Countryside Properties wins Best Community Engagement Award at the Building London Planning Awards**

The judges recognised the partnership's accessible and flexible approach to engagement opportunities, achieving good local awareness and building community support for estate regeneration projects, specifically our high-rise estates.

## **Kingston Hive, a climate emergency centre, opened in Kingston town centre**

This is run by a collective of local volunteers who are focused on helping tackle climate change, protecting the environment and safeguarding the borough's ecology, while also working to educate and empower residents to tackle climate change.

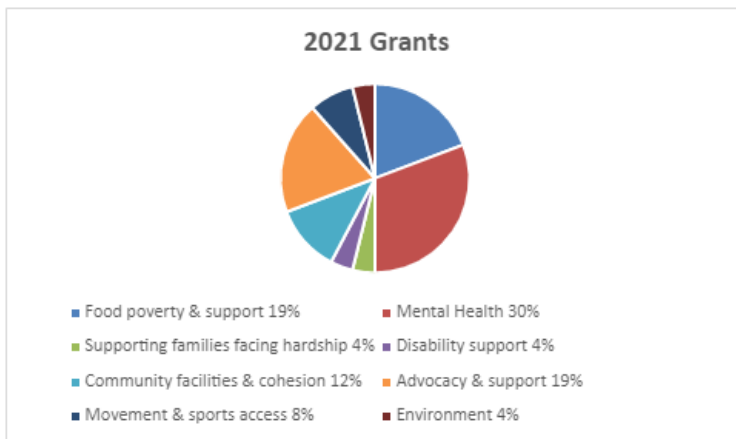
*Images from November 2022, Kingston Hive launch event:*





# Our Grants by Category in 2022

As with our Impact Report 2021, we have reviewed and evaluated our grants programme over the past 12 months by categorising them into eight key areas: Food Poverty and Support / Supporting Families Facing Hardship / Community Facilities and Cohesion / Movement and Sports Access / Mental Health / Disability Support / Advocacy and Support / Environment. These grants have supported local charitable organisations, individuals, and families, addressing social need.



Our grants are always awarded in direct response to outreach and what we are told our community needs by the local charities that support them. We pride ourselves on working with a multitude of local organisations and indeed understanding just what Kingston residents need, supporting them in ways specifically tailored to these requirements.

Comparisons could be made with regard to the percentage of grants we have awarded in each of these eight categories, but since there are consistently multiple benefits to each grant that we award, there will always be an overlap for each category. An example of this is that our grants-awarded percentage for the benefit of mental health halved in the past year, but this does not tell the full story.



It is more helpful to consider grants holistically; for example, the percentage of grants we awarded for Movement and Sports Access has more than doubled this year, and the discernible mental health benefits for sporting activities are well documented, so the impact of grants in this category is obviously more than the sum of its parts.

And indeed, whilst the percentage of grants awarded for Food and Poverty Support has halved this year, direct support for families facing hardship has more than quadrupled, and we expect Food and Poverty Support to sharply rise in 2023. Our support in both of these areas will rise, partly as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, but also due to the introduction of Participatory Grant-Making, where individuals and families can themselves apply for grants to be awarded through peer-led decision-making.

## Food Poverty and Support

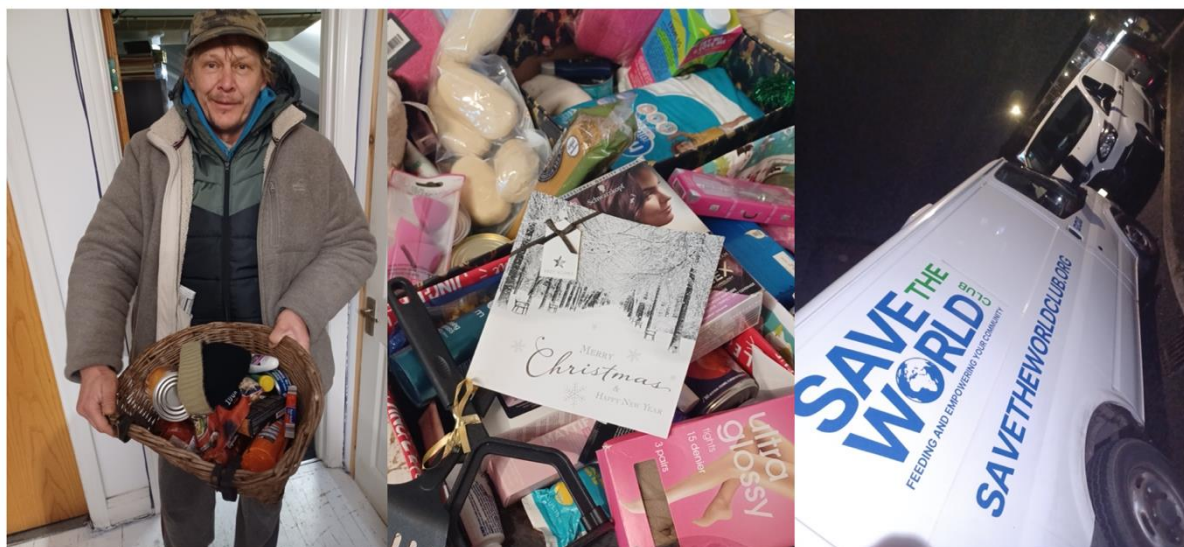
As illustrated in our cost-of-living crisis feature in this report, the meeting of basic needs is no longer a given for everyone in our community; this is like everywhere across the country. Sharply rising inflation is directly translating into abject poverty and highlighting the need for us to share better, as there is no reversal of these alarming trends on the horizon. Over the past year we have looked to support sustainable change that will better facilitate sharing.

Two incredible local organisations that we have supported with grants since the start of our programme in 2021 are New Era CIC (known as Chessington Community Food Project prior to formalising as a CIC in 2022) and Save the World Club. Both have had the vision to support essential changes for good to enable much-needed advances in food sharing.

The focus of our grants for both organisations has been in the development of spaces to safely store and redistribute surplus food. We have also aimed to support additional building work, address rising energy costs for equipment and even provide security for one of their storage facilities following multiple break-in attempts.

Supporting the creation and the running of community fridges and foodbanks for essential sharing will continue to be a priority for our grants over the forthcoming year, a year in which we will also be supporting more individuals and families directly, through our Participatory Grants programmes.

*Images from 2022, Save the World Club, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*



Grant Recipient	Amount	Purpose of Grant	Beneficiaries
1. <b>New Era CIC</b>	£600.00	For the initial stages of the refurbishment of a derelict barn to become a foodbank	200
2. <b>Save The World Club</b>	£750.00	To provide a security system and to change locks following a break-in of their premises and community fridge	1015

<b>3. Save The World Club</b>	£750.00	To provide food for hampers for vulnerable individuals, plus cover costs for tools, kit, travel expenses and training for volunteers, and PAT testing for second-hand electricals  Running costs for three community fridges	1015
<b>4. New Era CIC</b>	£750.00	To complete the refurbishment of a derelict barn to become a foodbank	200

## Supporting Families Facing Hardship

Our grants have continued to support local individuals and families through grant-making to the local charitable organisations that support them. This has remained a focus over the past year, a time in which the majority of charities have had less funds available to support people with additional needs, further to what their core funding affords.

We are seeing more applications than ever before requesting direct and urgent support for families facing both basic and more complex needs. As a listening funder, we continue to fundraise to provide more grants like these and are now seeing a rise in applications from charities that are looking to offer the same support to families all needing the same needs met, for example food vouchers.

We have repeatedly supported the work of one of our first 2021 grantees, local heroes RBKares. It is now an independent, registered charity, with an army of volunteers that ensure every penny we award to them in grants is maximised. We are proud to support the work of organisations like theirs and have taken the opportunity to spotlight them later in this report, together with four other case studies detailing the difference that place-based giving makes.

*Images from 2022, RBKares and Kingston Young Carers Network, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*





Grant Recipient	Amount	Purpose of Grant	Beneficiaries
1. Home-Start Richmond, Kingston and Hounslow	£340.00	To purchase bunk beds for a family living in poverty in a small flat	3
2. Voices of Hope	£500.00	To create a safe garden for a single mother of two children, one of whom has ASD	3
3. RBKares	£1000.00	To buy hot water bottles, thermal socks and gloves for 'Winter Warmer' bags, together with knitted blankets	320
4. RBKares	£1000.00	To create 'Wonder Bags' which cook meals with no heat once they have cooked for 20 minutes on a hob	95
5. Home-Start Richmond Kingston and Hounslow	£300.00	To buy a family living in extreme poverty a supermarket voucher	2
6. Yorda Adventures	£500.00	To provide a bed and new bedroom storage for a family with an autistic child	2
7. Kingston Carers Network	£750.00	To provide coats, school shoes and warm bedding for child carers	20
8. New Era CIC	£750.00	To set up and run warm space Chessington Square 1 Wellbeing Café where advice, support and signposting is provided	50
9. Home-Start Richmond Kingston and Hounslow	£670.00	To purchase equipment and a food voucher for a disabled mum of a young family	3
10. Kingston Carers Network	£750.00	To buy 200 small Christmas presents and host a party for child carers, and provide food vouchers for seven vulnerable families at Christmas	241

## Community Facilities and Cohesion

After the periods of prolonged isolation that the pandemic brought, there has never been a more important time to focus on bringing people together and, indeed, the environments that these gatherings take place in need to be warm, positive places fit for purpose and our changing communities.

We've proactively supported the development of existing venues and the hiring of spaces to better bring people together for clubs, activities, and support. Furthermore, we have covered the costs of seasonal celebrations at a time when there is a genuine need for more joy, in particular for those that are isolated and often in traditionally harder-to-reach communities.

*Images from 2022, Milaap Centre Kingston and Kingston Kerala Community, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*



Grant Recipient	Amount	Purpose of Grant	Beneficiaries
1. Kingston Beats	£500.00	To purchase a waterproof gazebo, tables, and sandbags for local community events	330
2. Kingston WelCare	£500.00	To create a new website that will help people with differing needs with local signposting	600
3. Kingston Kerala Community	£500.00	To provide the Kerala Community with support for the Onam Festival	330
4. Shine Bright	£500.00	To hire a venue, marketing, publicity and charity information leaflets for awareness	150

<b>5. Supporting African Youth Development</b>	£500.00	To purchase a computer, software, and a printer for children	100
<b>6. Milaap Centre Kingston</b>	£750.00	To provide a Christmas celebration with traditional Christmas food and gifts for vulnerable people	50
<b>7. St Andrew's and St Mark's, Surbiton</b>	£750.00	For a Christmas Day lunch for isolated and vulnerable people	50
<b>8. Kingston WelCare</b>	£500.00	To redevelop their garden for the children that access their services, many of whom have no garden	600
<b>9. Kingston WelCare</b>	£750.00	To purchase and fit a fire door to change/separate one room into two for activities and privacy for different groups	600
<b>10. Kingston Beats</b>	£745.00	To deliver the WE Club pilot project and to create a welcome hub dedicated to supporting migrants from Hong Kong	30

## Movement and Sports Access

There has been a demonstrable rise in our grants awarded in this area: from 8% in 2021 to 20% in 2022. Physical activity is proven to help alleviate issues with mental health; due to this being a growing crisis, it has been a real focus of our work over the past 12 months.

We have continued to support access to physical activities for vulnerable children, families, and older people, facilitating inclusive access to activities that create feelings of both happiness and wellbeing, combining essential exercise and movement.

Our funding in this area has also had a focus on welcoming and inclusion, bringing together different communities, with a particular focus on local residents who have moved to Kingston from Kerala, Hong Kong, and Korea. The benefit for all our shared communities has resonated, culminating in wonderful cultural celebrations and activities broadening all our horizons, building new relationships, and enriching the lives and sense of wellbeing for many.

The diversity of which can be seen in the table of nine grants awarded in this area.



Images from 2022, Man&Boy and Barnfield RDA, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:



Grant Recipient	Amount	Purpose of Grant	Beneficiaries
1. <b>Plough Green School</b>	£475.00	Inclusive story yoga classes for children aged 2–5	24
2. <b>Man&amp;Boy</b>	£1000.00	For 20 families to access multi sports, enrichment, and family mentoring activity sessions	40
3. <b>Kingston Kerala Community</b>	£500.00	To offer activities, including dance and language classes, to children	45
4. <b>London Kim’s Dance Group CIC</b>	£1000.00	To hire warm spaces for traditional Korean community classes	22
5. <b>London Kim’s Dance Group CIC</b>	£500.00	To hire warm spaces for traditional Korean dance community classes	26
6. <b>Brighter Living</b>	£750.00	To offer Ki-gong and meditation sessions for isolated older people	35
7. <b>Kingston Beats</b>	£750.00	For lion dance classes for primary school students to promote and share Hong Kong culture	6

<b>8. Man&amp;Boy</b>	£750.00	To provide canoeing sessions for vulnerable children who usually never have access to activities	10
<b>9. Barnfield RDA</b>	£750.00	To offer horse-riding therapy lessons for vulnerable families and the disabled	30

## Mental Health

Further to the nine grants that facilitated movement and sports access, that in turn supported mental health, our grants programme has also directly supported mental health needs in a variety of nuanced ways – from aiding a resident with direct therapy sessions following the loss of a loved one to trips out to lift spirits and make memories. These are grants that provided the opportunity to go somewhere different, to feel special and cared about, to local people such as isolated older people and refugees that would not ordinarily have access to some activities.

*Images from 2022, Milaap Centre Kingston, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*



Grant Recipient	Amount	Purpose of Grant	Beneficiaries
<b>1. Kingston Bereave-ment Service</b>	£500.00	For EMDR trauma therapy sessions for a resident of Kingston	1
<b>2. RBKares</b>	£500.00	200 gift bags with puzzles, notebooks, and craft kits for child carers	275
<b>3. Milaap</b>	£500.00	A trip to the seaside for isolated, older, and disabled people	50
<b>4. SEEN</b>	£500.00	To provide 16hrs of support sessions to people who are struggling with unexpected pregnancy or baby loss	48

<b>5. Voices of Hope</b>	£720.00	For female survivors of domestic violence to buy an outfit for The Pearl Project graduation event	9
<b>6. Kingston Bereavement Service</b>	£500.00	For EMDR trauma therapy sessions for a resident of Kingston	1
<b>7. River Thames Boat Project</b>	£750.00	For two boat trip days for local refugees	24

## Disability Support

Providing support through grants for local people living with disabilities has always been a priority for Kingston Charitable Foundation. We have plans for our grants programme to support more people going forward, and indeed we will reach more individuals and families through our new Participatory Grant-Making, once launched. We will also be trialling a new grants programme in 2023: The Victoria Foundation will be funding us to deliver a programme to support under-18s with their mobility needs.

*Images from 2022, Yorda Adventures, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*



Grant Recipient	Amount	Purpose of Grant	Beneficiaries
<b>1. KAB (Kingston Assoc for the Blind)</b>	£500.00	Screen-reading software for blind users	1 (to date)
<b>2. Yorda Adventures</b>	£897.99	A trip for disabled children for a respite holiday in Hampshire	6



## Advocacy and Support

Over the past year we have aided a variety of people with differing support needs, in ways that are tailored to them. We have supported digitally excluded people and funded a project to help people to get back into work or retrain.

Supporting advocacy projects is something that is clearly aligned with our values: no one in our society should feel excluded or face adversity alone.

There is a growing need for advocacy, particularly as the needs of some individuals and families are becoming more complex due to post-pandemic mental health issues and the alarming rise in debt caused by the cost-of-living crisis. We will be addressing this area of support further, developing it over the forthcoming year due to the burgeoning need.

Grant Recipient	Amount	Purpose of Grant	Beneficiaries
<b>1. KAG Advocacy</b>	£500.00	To deliver workshops to assist vulnerable people of all ages back into employment and/or education	18
<b>2. KAG Advocacy</b>	£500.00	To provide a 'help shop' offering weekly sessions for digitally excluded people to access support and information	26
<b>3. Supporting African Youth Development</b>	£750.00	To offer help with signposting and accessing support services to African and BME families	75

## Environment

Kingston is a wonderful borough to live in: warm, inclusive, with beautiful green spaces for our community to collectively enjoy.

Nationally, available recycling opportunities vary from borough to borough. Whilst the recycling services of our borough are excellent, we can all do more with practical support, guidance, and motivation. Independent charities KEC and SECRA help us all to go further, including recycling materials that are currently not recycled in our borough. Pound for pound, this is one of our most successful areas of grant-making of 2022, equating to a cost of just 8p per Kingston resident that our grant supported to recycle in the past year. More can be read later in this report about the work KEC have delivered, grant-funded by Kingston Charitable Fund.

We will be continually looking to support projects like this over the coming years, to ensure our environment is preserved for future generations.

Images from 2022, Kingston Environment Centre and Sunray Recycle supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:



Grant Recipient	Amount	Purpose of Grant	Beneficiaries
1. Kingston Environment Centre	£750.00	To pay a staff member to run multiple local recycling projects	18100
2. Sunray Recycle (part of Sunray and Egmont Community Residents Association SECRA)	£750.00	To offer a community fridge scheme and the recycling of drinks cups to be filled with soup for vulnerable people	25

We thank all our grantees for delivering such incredible projects for the benefit of our community and for reporting on this, to us, to share.

And thank you to the many individuals, families and businesses who have generously donated to Kingston Charitable Foundation over the past 12 months; they have enabled us to support the work of these local charitable organisations with 47 grants that have directly benefitted over 24,900 local people.

# Our Impact

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For our team, each of our grants is special as they all respond to and work to remedy an identified need in our shared community. Place-based giving schemes, like ours, pride themselves on outreach and listening to their community; as such, we are always listening for the quieter voices and endeavouring to engage with traditionally harder-to-reach communities.

We have chosen five of our grants that we believe provide a window into what we consider to be some of the best of the tailored and meaningful charitable works we have funded over the past year. It was challenging to select such a few of the grants to detail here, but they have been chosen as they are all so different, yet with each one human impact and community has been at the heart of them.

## RBKares

In July 2022, the cost-of-living crisis was already taking hold and the reality of ‘heat or eat’ during the winter was on the horizon.

Through a chance conversation, our CEO was offered hundreds of knitted and crocheted squares. We thought they could, with the right volunteer network, become blankets, to form the heart of care packages for potentially vulnerable people in the winter months. We spoke to the inspirational Kate Kenyon of RBKares about our idea, and the blueprint for ‘Winter Warmer’ bags was created.

RBKares’ wonderful volunteers tirelessly sewed these squares into beautiful, warm blankets and created sustainable cloth bags to house them in, together with items that our grant paid for which included hot water bottles, thermal socks, and gloves. In total, more than 250 Winter Warmer bags were packed by members of Kingston Liberal Synagogue as part of their Mitzvah Day celebrations, and hand-delivered by volunteers to local people in our shared community.

These bags were clearly more than the sum of their parts. Yes, they were practical and contained much-needed items for people facing hardship, but what they also represented was the reminder that people care, and that these bags were gifts from one person to another, at a time when so many are suffering with their mental health.

For us, this was one of the standout grants of the year: the combination of practical and emotional gifts, powered by community, inter-generational volunteers, and a grant.

We have had the privilege to support two other RBKares projects this year.

The first was 200 care packages for Kingston Young Carers, children between the ages of 9 and 12 years. RBKares volunteers created beautiful bags and our grant provided the funds to support the purchasing of puzzles, notebooks, and painting kits.

The second was for materials for their volunteers to create ‘Wonder Bags’, South African cooking bags. These are highly insulated bags that reduce the need for fuel. Food is conventionally cooked for just 20 minutes and then placed in the cooking bags for a further two hours. It’s a genuinely useful, cost-effective way to cook a warming casserole on a budget.

As a foundation, we love to support the essential work that RBKares does at the heart of the community, providing caring and creative solutions to need. We originally identified them as heroes of the pandemic, and they were one of our first grantees from early 2021.

*'Being part of this group has helped us turn our good intentions and craft skill into practical, active support for Kingston's community. It may have started with a bunch of strangers in lockdown, but now there is a network of friends.'* RBKares, adult volunteer

*Images from 2022, RBKares, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*



## New Era CIC

New Era's incredible work supporting local people in Chessington with food started during the pandemic too. Paul and 'The Duchess' Caryn Cockle and their team are everything that is right about community – caring, altruistic and generous. They have a huge understanding of our borough and its residents, knowing what is needed and how to be a force for good, in practical ways.

Over the past 24 months we have supported them to deliver the work they do tirelessly and instinctively, seeing them grow and go from strength to strength. They started out as a call-to-action WhatsApp group called Chessington Community Foodbank, through which Paul and Caryn ran a fully functioning foodbank from their home. They are now a formalised CIC called New Era Community Projects. The team are supported by a proactive Board including Bob Bollen and Michele Lewington, and collectively are a trailblazing force of nature.

Our initial grant, in 2021 to Chessington Community Foodbank was for insurance and tax for the van they were donated, so they could deliver food to the homes of vulnerable and shielding people.

Our first grant this year supported the early stages of their barn renovation – a semi-derelict space behind the Community Fridge at The Museum of Today on Brighton Road, Surbiton, that with vision and dedication they are transforming into a base for food storage, onward distribution, and collection of surplus and donated perishable and non-perishable goods.

This all stems from great relationships with local supermarkets who, at the end of each day, provide their short-dated food and products which are collected, sorted, and distributed to local people to



supplement their budgets. New Era have conservatively estimated that they have provided food to families and individuals over 75,000 times. Realistically that number is much higher.

Our second grant has been for the setting up and running of Chessington Square 1 Wellbeing Café, which provides a safe place to local people and much-needed food and warmth. This has naturally segued into signposting guests to support services where needed, including housing, social services, wellbeing, and family advice.

Guests of Square 1 love attending, and have let us know:

*'Being disabled, I love coming to the café and the lovely ladies make a fuss of me and provide lovely food. Brilliant!'* Cindy

As a very small and new organisation, New Era have not been able to access some of the larger, more traditional funders. The support of a local foundation like ours is key, particularly at micro-community level in the early development stages.

We love the warmth and agility of this organisation, growing and evolving to tailor their offering to what the local community needs.

*Images from 2022, New Era CIC, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*



## Kingston Beats

Kingston Beats is one of the newest and fastest growing local charities we have had the pleasure of working with. Their charitable aims are to promote integration and social inclusion, whilst inspiring a community that embraces multi-cultures. They help Hongkongers to become familiar with public services, local resources, and local communities.

Due to the political situation in Hong Kong, tens of thousands of families have left, and many have chosen to move to the UK. Kingston Beats have proactively networked and collaborated with various community groups to foster social participation and cultural exchanges to connect Hongkongers with local residents and other ethnic groups.

Our first grant paid for an awning for them to have stands at community events.

*'This is the first time we shared our cultures in the neighbourhood. It is amazing to see our booths and children's lion dance performance draw so many people. Our food stall was extremely popular, and all Hong Kong-style food was sold out in two hours. Some Hong Kong people came to us saying that they had been living in New Malden for years and were happy to see us and more activities like this.'* Belinda of Kingston Beats

Our second grant was for their lion dance classes for primary school students in Kingston. These were attended by children from all different cultures and there was a Cantonese interpreter on hand too.

Lion dance is a form of traditional performance art in East Asia, common in Hong Kong, mainland China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Singapore. Performers mimic a lion's movements in a lion costume to bring good luck and fortune. Lion dance combines Chinese martial arts with acrobatics and is commonly accompanied by the music of beating drums, cymbals, and gongs.

Our third grant of the year was for a pilot of the 'WE Club' ('W' for 'wellness'; 'E' for 'enrichment'), a welcome hub dedicated to supporting migrants from Hong Kong. Activities offered included Tai chi, yoga, art, free health advice from traditional Chinese medicine practitioners, a cooking workshop and Mah-Jong.

Kingston Beats are dynamic and driven but also recognise the need for us to collectively pull together and form symbiotic relationships. Yuwing, a local Hongkonger who farms organically in our borough, took part in our Kingston Charitable Foundation Dragon Boat Race team, a fundraising event. With the support of the Kingston Beats members, he raised funds for the whole of one of our grants.

The work Kingston Beats do to support migrants moving to Kingston, to enable them to become part of the rich fabric of our community through integration, is wonderful, and we are always keen to support it.

*Images from 2022, Kingston Beats, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*



## Yorda

Yorda was created 16 years ago to support children with severe learning disabilities. Today they run play projects for children and young people with significant learning disabilities and their families who live in the Borough of Kingston.

Their aim is to enhance children's lives through play and consistent care, in a home-from-home environment.

We have a long history of supporting the excellent work of Yorda, having supported them in the past with grants during our time as community project Love Kingston before we novated to become an independent charity in January 2021.

We love to support projects run by local charities, but we are also keen to directly support the most in-need individuals and families that access their services.

We awarded a Kingston Charitable Foundation grant this year that provided the gift of a bed and new bedroom storage. When Yorda applied for this grant, they let us know it would add much-needed 'good luck' to a family who had had a run of difficulties recently. Yorda explained that this family were always the last to ask for any help with any services, despite their child being one of the mostly highly autistic young people that Yorda cares for and, indeed, the services they access through Yorda provide the only support they get.

They are a truly inspirational family, where the father provides 24-hour care for his child, despite working full time and having his own health issues.

*'I cannot highly recommend enough that the individuals who help fund these grants can be confident that not only is this a family in need, but they will be making a significant difference to their lives.'*

Laura, CEO of Yorda

For us, this long-term relationship, and ones like it, built on mutual trust and understanding, are key; Yorda's knowledge of where the need is enables our foundation to get support to the right people, and fast.

*Images from 2022, Yorda Adventures, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*





## Kingston Environmental Centre

Kingston Charitable Foundation is proud of its green credentials. Our team all work from home with no new purchased furniture: only sustainable wood standing desk stands are offered. Our meetings are primarily online, and we encourage staff and volunteers to use public transport, cycle, or car share for any required travel. We avoid printing where possible, and mailouts and newsletters are sent electronically, unless we are extending our messaging to the digitally excluded.

We use recycled paper, card, printing cartridges, plastic, and glass, with no purchasing of single-use plastic. We never replace equipment unless it is broken, with no 'upgrades', proactively adhering to environmental sustainability principles.

So when we receive grant applications from Kingston Environmental Centre, detailing innovative initiatives that would make immediate and meaningful environmental differences to our borough and its residents, we are always keen to support them.

KEC works with individuals and environmental organisations to secure a sustainable future for our borough. They provide a community hub for a range of organisations, from Little Star After-School Club to the incredible Square 1 Café that is provided by New Era CIC, mentioned above.

KEC run a range of events on environmental themes: volunteer 'gardening', plant sales, seed swaps, plus social events to celebrate Halloween, the solstices etc. They even offered their centre free of charge for a Ukrainian fundraising event in April, which was hugely attended and massively successful, raising over £9,000.

Whilst so much of the work they do is powered by dedicated volunteers, they need funding for staff too, and often funding for core costs such as these can be less readily available. Our grant enabled them to employ the wonderful Janine Martin as their Recycling Officer, to lead projects and make a real difference to our shared community. Her achievements to date have been spectacular, with local businesses and residents getting increasingly involved to create a greener, happier borough.

*Image from 2022, Kingston Environment Centre, supported by Kingston Charitable Foundation:*





# New Grants Programmes

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We will be launching our new Participatory Grant-Making programmes in early 2023, having consulted with our local supporters, grantees, and stakeholders about how this method of grant-making could best support local individuals and families facing hardship.

Participatory Grant-Making involves creating panels of people who themselves have experienced need in some way. These panels will then meet to assess grant requests and make appropriate awards. What's more, local people will be able to apply for a grant for themselves, independently or with support, rather than having to rely on a charitable organisation to apply on their behalf.

Our peer-led panels will place local people at the centre of grant-making, which increases the diversity of decision-makers, and it allows more funding at grassroots level by giving the panellists the power to decide who and what to fund.

Our panels will also afford us the opportunity to offer Catalyst grants, which will unlock potential and increase wellbeing in people by providing funds that will help them effect positive change. For example, a Catalyst grant could fund the cost of a bicycle to be used to get to college, or the cost of evening classes, or therapy sessions. The sky is the limit, and we very much look forward to hearing more about what these catalysts for change are and how they will meaningfully change lives for the better.

From our perspective, there has never been more need for these new grant programmes. We have a timely and essential opportunity to develop and roll out these programmes, to support local people in the ways they need us to, and fast, in the face of the unprecedented cost-of-living crisis that we are all living through.

We are proud members of the London Funders Network, a warm and inclusive network of place-based giving schemes, like ours, in and around London. We are always able to reach out and learn from these schemes and share information with other 'Givings' like ours. So when it came to designing our new grants programme, we were privileged to have the opportunity to learn from other members of this network.

We would like to thank Geraud de Ville de Goyet and Cameron Bray from Barking & Dagenham Giving, Natasha Friend of Camden Giving and Lisa Robinson of Islington Giving, for generously offering their time and wisdom at the start of this process earlier in the year. Thank you also to Deborah Xavier and Helen Mathie of London Funders, for creating and facilitating this network of trailblazing grant-makers, and indeed, for their tailored and nuanced support over the 24 short months since our launch.

We would like to thank the City Bridge Trust for their support to date, and for their investment and belief in our organisation, our shared community and what we can and will collectively achieve together. This is represented by the Strategic Development grant that they awarded us in December 2022 which will fund our new staff roles in Grants, Marketing and Development over the next three years.

A true investment in Kingston.

# New Partnership – The Willow Tree Foundation

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We are delighted to announce the creation of a wonderful new partnership with The Willow Tree Foundation.



Richard and Kelly Tyler contacted us in July, to start the conversation about how we could collectively support local Kingston residents living with cancer.

A whirlwind of activity ensued, and in September we announced an incredible new partnership, which will directly support local people who are living with blood cancer with grants. It will also offer integrative therapies to local people living with all types of cancer, to be available at a new 'Healing Sanctuary' premises, for which construction will shortly begin.

Richard and Kelly set up The Willow Tree Foundation in December 2021, after Richard was suddenly diagnosed with a rare blood cancer, mantle cell lymphoma, which was already at stage 4b and in need of urgent and aggressive treatment. He was offered a new drug as part of his treatment, but this was not available on the NHS, costing £40,000. They set up a 'GoFundMe' campaign and amazingly raised £40,000 in six days, which paid for this treatment.

The fund continued to grow, and they knew they wanted to help other people living with blood cancer. In 2022, they raised over £63,000 and shared £20,000 with other families living with the same type of cancer.

*'There are over 13,000 people currently living with cancer in Kingston and for many that will be a very isolating, scary, and physically draining journey to be on. Our foundation exists to help others with emotional, practical, and financial support and to share the lived-experiences from ourselves and our members, in order to provide hope, comfort and peace of mind, that they are not alone. We strive to stand shoulder-to-shoulder and heart-to-heart and travel alongside our members, whether that be in our online groups or in person, locally.'*

*Partnering with Kingston Charitable Foundation has been like an answer to all of our prayers. We already feel like part of a family that has the ability to make huge impact and positive ripples throughout society, and we are blessed to be part of their vision.'* Richard and Kelly Tyler

Grants rounds are due to commence in early spring 2023 and will follow the Participatory Grant-Making model.

Our team is very excited about this amazing new partnership with The Willow Tree Foundation, which will afford us all even more opportunities to support local people in meaningful and tailored ways, and fast. It is brilliant to be working with such an inspirational, energetic local couple as Richard and Kelly Tyler, people whose vision, mission and values perfectly align with ours.

# How You Can Help

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Kingston Charitable Foundation has ambitious plans to award even more grants over the forthcoming year, directly helping local people in the ways they need most. We will be continuing our existing successful grants programme and rolling out our new funding streams, following our new Participatory Grant-Making model, which will be even more tailored to the needs of local individuals and families.

We would love you to consider a donation, to help us continue our vital work. Monies raised would be used to distribute more grants now, or to build the Endowment Fund to afford grants for future generations, for a more equal, thriving Kingston. The choice is yours.

As this Impact Report shows, we have supported thousands of local people in meaningful, life-changing ways, by providing grants to a wide variety of the charitable organisations that directly support them.

As part of our grant-giving process, Kingston Charitable Foundation carries out due-diligence checks on all shortlisted applications to determine the risks attached to funding, thereby ensuring your donation is used wisely.

Join us to help achieve our vision of building a stronger community where everyone's needs are met.

You can help by giving a one-off or regular monthly donation:

<https://localgiving.org/charity/kingstoncharitablefoundation>

We are also always looking for in-kind, pro-bono support for our team; if this is something your company could help with, please let us know.

If you would like to contribute to our Endowment Fund, create a Bespoke Fund, become a Friend of Kingston Charitable Foundation, or discuss leaving a gift in your Will, please call CEO Hicky Kingsbury on 020 8255 6056 or email [hicky@kingstoncf.org.uk](mailto:hicky@kingstoncf.org.uk)

To find out more about us, please visit our website: [www.kingstoncf.org.uk](http://www.kingstoncf.org.uk)

Or follow us on social media:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/kingston-charitable-foundation/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheKingstonCharitableFoundation/>

[https://www.instagram.com/kingston\\_charitable\\_foundation/](https://www.instagram.com/kingston_charitable_foundation/)

[https://twitter.com/Kingston\\_c\\_f](https://twitter.com/Kingston_c_f)

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