



The Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund

Enabling people and communities



About The Leathersellers

In 2022 Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to celebrate a platinum jubilee following 70 years of service. In recognition of this, the Leathersellers' Company and Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund chose to run a celebratory jubilee funding programme to further support our charity partners and highlight the remarkable impact they have on their local communities.

The total of £210,000 represents three contributions of £70,000 from the Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund, the Charity Committee and the Leathersellers' Company to celebrate this historic occasion.

The Jubilee grants have been provided to existing charity partners of the Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund, already supported on a multi-year basis, who made an excellent case to explain how an additional one-off sum would help them to rebuild, strengthen and/or adapt their services using their learning from the last two years.

We hope you will find this snapshot of their work an inspiring example of the difference our funding seeks to make to a diverse range of partners and people across the UK.

s' Jubilee Fund

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Designed by Visyon Designs.

A social enterprise initiative of Visyon, a mental health charity that supports children and young people in Cheshire East

Front and back cover photography courtesy of Acacia Family Support - www.acacia.org.uk

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Acacia Family Support

VOLUNTEER TRAINING TO SUPPORT NEW MUMS AND DADS IN BIRMINGHAM

One in ten mothers will experience depression and anxiety during pregnancy and in the first year after childbirth. This can take many forms: some have debilitating self-doubt about whether they are good enough mothers and guilt that they find it hard to bond with their baby. Some feel extremely lonely and have a sense of failure. It may be common, but it is also devastating to lives, relationships and families.

Acacia Family Support is there to offer support to new mums and dads who are experiencing mental health problems in the Birmingham area. Free of charge, they provide vital help, advice and support; a friendly voice who's there in person or at the end of a phone who understands what new parents are going through and, in many cases, have been through themselves.

Aside from a small permanent staff, Acacia's services are delivered by a dedicated team of over 50 trained volunteers. But in 2020, Covid-19 struck and Acacia had to quickly close their centres and move their services to the telephone and online. The volunteers needed new skills and new training and Acacia staff were finding it harder to recruit and onboard new volunteers to cope with growing demand for their services.

NEW MATERIALS FOR A NEW WAY OF TRAINING

A Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant of £15,000 will help Acacia to produce

materials to train new and existing volunteers. They plan to move all their training to an online e-learning platform and produce a range of videos, modules and interactive quizzes that not only help them train new volunteers to the highest level but onboards them quickly and flexibly, whilst widening the geographical range recruitment.

Our grant will help Acacia to enhance their services and emerge from the pandemic even better placed to support new parents.



Volunteers are essential to the delivery of our services and a key factor in the very high recovery rate of our beneficiaries. We're delighted that this grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will help us recruit and train volunteers quicker and from further afield, meaning we can support more parents in need of our support.

Vicki Hook
Business Director

Art Against Knives

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN LONDON

Can you stop a knife with a paint brush? Perhaps you can. Art Against Knives works to reduce the root causes of knife crime and violence against women and girls through youth-led creative initiatives combined with holistic and trusted support. They help young people across London to use their creativity to step away from violence and create change within their local communities.

This is needed now more than ever. Pandemic lockdowns have been especially hard for young people, with many saying that their mental health has worsened and they feel less safe. Services for young people have been affected with education and training opportunities especially badly hit.

AAK discovered that what young people really want is training in new skills that they can use professionally and to start their own enterprises, so they started to introduce Education, Employment and Training (EET) support into their youth programmes on a pilot basis. The results have been so encouraging that the next step is to employ a specialist EET Youth Worker. This will bring real focus to this area, supporting hard-to-reach young people with everything from developing portfolios, job applications and interview preparation to opening bank accounts and developing enterprise ideas.



At this critical time for Art Against Knives and the hundreds of isolated and disadvantaged young people we support, who need our help more than ever in the wake of the pandemic, this grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will boost our youth provision. With specialist education and career support we will open up more opportunities that give young people the hope and prospects they need to build their own positive futures, free from violence.

Sally Zlotowitz
CEO

TURNING CREATIVITY INTO OPPORTUNITY

A Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant of £8,000 will help fund this new youth worker. Their role will be to unlock the creative strengths and ambitions of young people and to give them experience on projects with partners such as Apple. They will set up and co-ordinate workshops and training to improve skills and build relationships and networks with the ultimate aim of creating an in-house, youth-led creative design agency to work on live briefs.



Bristol Hospitality Network (BHN)

GIVING HOPE TO ASYLUM SEEKERS IN BRISTOL

Almost every day news bulletins bring us pictures of refugees and asylum seekers fleeing oppression and attempting to make a new life. But once they arrive, some are caught in the vicious loopholes of the system; unable to work or claim benefits, they can't afford adequate food or a place to live. The result is often homelessness and destitution.

Bristol Hospitality Network extends the warm hand of solidarity and hospitality to asylum seekers in the city. They provide housing accommodation to the homeless; access to legal advice and help with asylum applications; English classes; financial support; and social events. For many desperate people BHN is their only source of refuge and hope.

One of BHN's most valued services was their Welcome Centre where destitute asylum seekers could come in for warmth, advice, companionship and a hot meal. Forced to close during the pandemic, it has reopened in a Covid-safe way to protect all visitors.

FUNDING STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Our Jubilee Fund grant to BHN will cover two separate needs. They have identified that their staff and volunteers need more training to deal with the wide variety of issues that confront them and to deepen their knowledge of the UK asylum system, together with important topics such as safeguarding, mental health and PTSD. The grant will fund ten training sessions over the next year.

Also, providing a good hot meal is an important aspect of BHN's Welcome Centre but they urgently need to modernise some of their equipment. So, we will fund a new rice cooker, some plug-in induction hobs and a few new pans as well.



The grant from the Jubilee Fund will enable BHN to deliver new volunteer and staff training. This is essential to make sure we are delivering the highest quality service we can for our members and means we can run many more sessions across the year. It also means we can upgrade kitchen equipment for cooking meals at our Welcome Centre, an important, ongoing part of our work.

Community Solutions North West

This grant will enable us to support so many more people that are recovering and trying to reconnect after the pandemic, trying to get back on their feet following isolation, bereavement, or unemployment. All being experienced at a time of many other difficulties such as financial matters, which impact on the security of their homes and the welfare of their families. Working closely with a mentor can turn lives around.

Maggie Moody
Chief Executive Officer

SUPPORTING EMOTIONAL WELLBEING IN LANCASHIRE

When Covid-19 hit the UK in early 2020, Community Solutions North West found itself at the centre of the local response to the mental health fallout from the pandemic. As a charity that specialises in practical help and wellbeing for local people of all ages, it had to scale up its services rapidly to cope with the many vulnerable people facing isolation and economic disadvantage. At a time when the health service was stretched to bursting point, CSNW provided vital support that the NHS couldn't.

Two years later and the problems remain with many people long-term isolating and others experiencing financial, employment or housing problems. How can these people get the support they urgently need in the time they need it? With long waiting lists for counselling and mentoring and NHS referrals taking up to six months, it's clear there's a critical need for a faster, more nimble response.

CSNW has come up with the idea of a triage process where people's needs can be assessed quickly and professionally so that pathways can be found to help them through 1:1 mentoring and personal development, but to put this pilot scheme into operation, they need to increase the capacity in their team.

ACCELERATING THE RECOVERY FROM THE PANDEMIC

A Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant of £10,000 will help fund a Project Manager and Emotional Health Mentor and Trainer to train permanent staff and volunteers to deliver this new process. With their help, more people enduring social exclusion and declining mental health will receive the support they need faster. It's hoped that the learnings from this pilot scheme will help to shape the charity's future services and build partnerships with other local providers.





Crossroads Derbyshire

A LIFELINE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE IN DERBYSHIRE

From their base in Glossop, Crossroads Derbyshire provides much-needed support for people suffering from domestic abuse in the Derbyshire region. They offer confidential advice, counselling, a community outreach service and a refuge where women and children can feel safe and speak freely about the problems they face.

Having just been contracted by the local authority to expand their services into rural Derbyshire, the pandemic suddenly meant that they could no longer provide face-to-face interaction. As successive lockdowns led to more and more cases of domestic abuse, Crossroads Derbyshire had to migrate their services to the telephone and online, but this had its own problems. Many victims struggle with technology or are unable to speak freely in their own homes. With the easing of restrictions, Crossroads Derbyshire was determined to re-establish its capacity to offer face-to-face connection and a safe place for victims to receive confidential counselling.

As their newly-expanded catchment area can be up to an hour and half's drive away from their Glossop base, Crossroads identified the need to set up a satellite office and advice centre in the south of the county. This will offer domestic abuse victims a place of safety and confidentiality where they can speak freely and get the help they need.

EXPANDING SERVICES TO WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED MOST

Crossroads Derbyshire have found the perfect premises in Matlock and agreed a lease with the local council. All they need now is the funding to get the new centre off the ground. The Leathersellers' Jubilee Grant of £6,500 will help them to set up and run the office which will become the focal point for services in the area and allow them to reach more victims of domestic abuse. It will also provide a base for staff and volunteers, reducing their travel time and giving them facilities to provide vital services in the community.

The grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund is going to make such a difference to survivors of domestic abuse in Derbyshire. We cover a wide rural area, and many of the people we support live a long way from their nearest service. All of us at Crossroads Derbyshire really appreciate the support we have received from the Leathersellers' Charitable Fund, particularly over the past two years when victims of abuse have been more isolated than ever.

Vicky Bunnage
CEO



Crossroads
DERBYSHIRE

Helm Training

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN DUNDEE INTO ADULT LIFE

On St Andrew's Lane in the middle of Dundee you'll find an office, a leisure space, a well-equipped gym, a training garage, a hair and beauty salon, a gardening project and a catering kitchen. It's all in one building, it's called Helm and it's there to help young people in the city make the transition to the adult world, offering life skills and access to work experience, careers and college places. Helm has been doing this amazing work for over 30 years, helping around 250 young people every year.

Then these brilliant facilities all had to shut up shop. During the pandemic, Helm quickly had to switch to a remote digital service and the phone and the web suddenly became even more critical to the delivery of their services. Successive lockdowns underlined just how important IT skills are for young people and highlighted the inadequacy of Helm's existing IT infrastructure and devices.

CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE WITH NEW TECH

The Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant will fund 20 new laptops for Helm, giving young people the opportunity to learn, connect and prepare themselves for some of the technology they are likely to find in the workplace. They will also help Helm staff to provide new digital services including face-to-face meetings, tracking progress, evaluating outcomes, and taking part in online learning and training.



The pandemic has highlighted just how crucial IT skills and technology are today. We're so grateful to have received a donation to provide new laptops for young people who need our services.

Katie Shephard
Fundraising Manager

I Choose Freedom

Formerly Reigate and Banstead Women's Aid

A PLACE OF REFUGE IN SURREY

All charities supporting victims of domestic abuse have reported a huge rise in demand for their services since the pandemic struck, and I Choose Freedom is no exception. They have had to triple staff numbers and open a new refuge for those fleeing lives of abuse and violence. Services have been stretched and it has become clear that some equipment and resources are no longer fit for purpose.

One glaring problem is IT security. The charity has 30 women and 60 children in its care who are taking refuge from life-threatening situations. Abusers are getting more and more skilled in the ways they try to track their victims, so it's vital that sensitive data is secure and victims get the best possible protection.

CREATING A SECURE ENVIRONMENT

The Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant will pay for the installation of a new Firewall and data protection systems to protect the private information stored and enable I Choose Freedom staff to work from home without compromising the safety of their clients. It will contribute to maintaining a secure environment in which the victims of abuse can feel safe and focus on getting their lives back together.

I Choose Freedom run four refuges for victims of domestic abuse. Our refuges are places of safety for 34 adults and up to 60 children. It is important that the families feel they can start a new life, free from harm when they come to our refuges. The Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant will enable us to make improvements to the way we manage the data of the people staying with us to ensure we are able to keep them safe. It is not always easy to apply for grant funding for such projects so we are grateful that the Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund saw what a valuable, lifesaving project this is.

Charlotte Kneer
CEO



Integrated Neurological Services

LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

People with neurological conditions have the lowest health-related quality of life of any long-term condition. For those diagnosed with MS, Parkinson's, stroke or a wide range of recognised conditions, the NHS can provide acute hospital care but only time limited support in the community. It's up to charities such as Integrated Neurological Services to provide practical advice and emotional support to counter the loneliness and depression that these conditions can induce.

INS is the only source of ongoing support for around 400 people in their area. Operating in south-west London, the team of specialist staff

and volunteers at INS provides physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy as well as counselling, exercise and much more. When the pandemic meant that many services had to move online, it highlighted that much of the IT equipment was outdated, no longer able to cope with the increased need for remote working and data security. For INS to continue to provide existing services and develop new ones they need new IT that can scale up as needs grow.

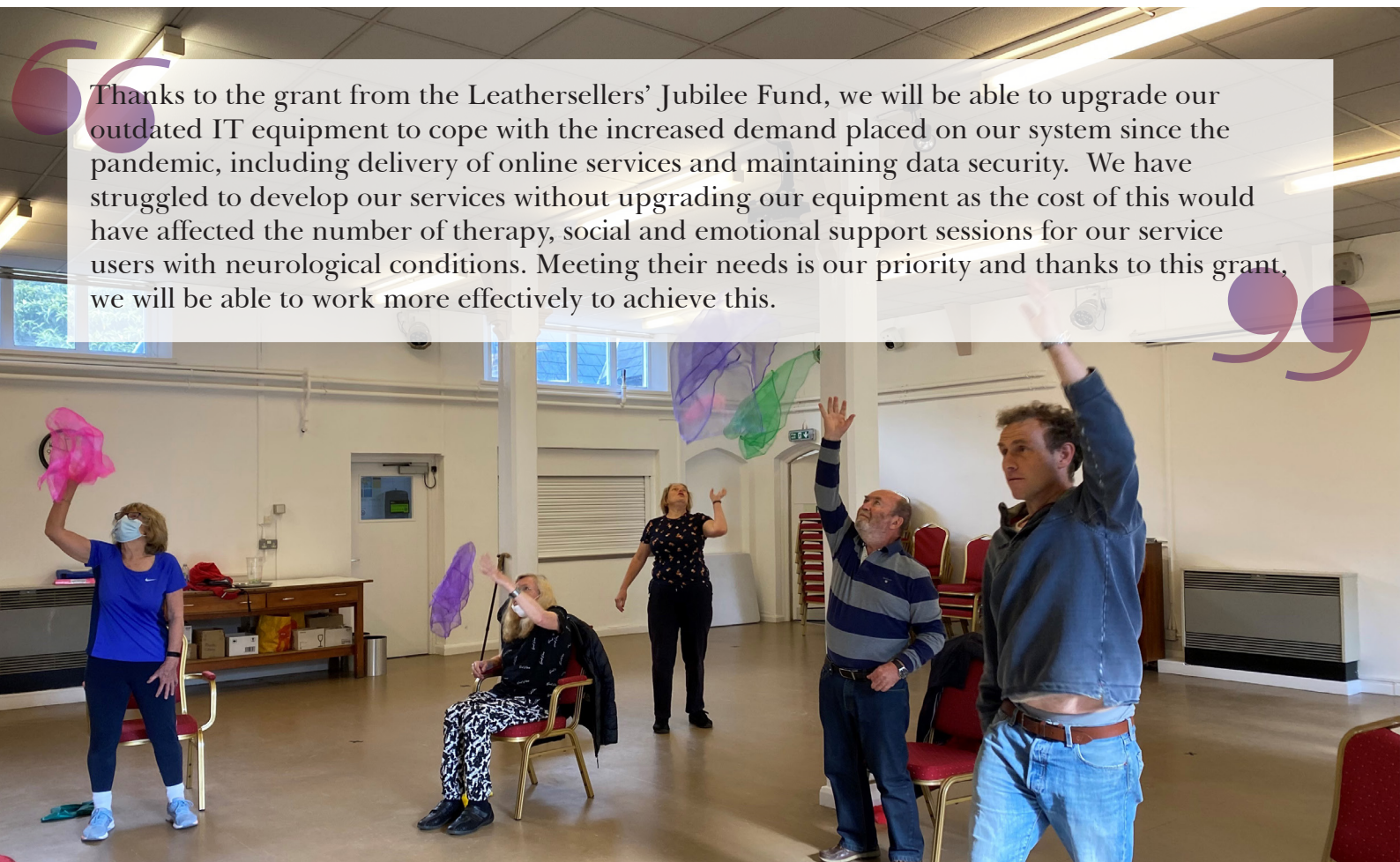
HELPING PROVIDE A NEW IT INFRASTRUCTURE

The urgent need is to replace an old server which is almost a decade old. A Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant will help fund this and enable INS to implement a new hybrid working model that gives more people greater

access to their services. As many service users are physically unable to attend in person, it will allow INS to develop online group sessions and 1:1 counselling; an important step as INS seeks to update and innovate its services to cope with growing demand.



Thanks to the grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund, we will be able to upgrade our outdated IT equipment to cope with the increased demand placed on our system since the pandemic, including delivery of online services and maintaining data security. We have struggled to develop our services without upgrading our equipment as the cost of this would have affected the number of therapy, social and emotional support sessions for our service users with neurological conditions. Meeting their needs is our priority and thanks to this grant, we will be able to work more effectively to achieve this.



Latin American Women's Aid

A REFUGE FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LONDON

Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) offers refuge for Latin American women and children escaping domestic abuse and gender-based violence. For over 30 years, they have provided shelter, advice, support and a welcoming community for survivors of violence, helping women to determine their own futures. It is the only charity of its kind in Europe.

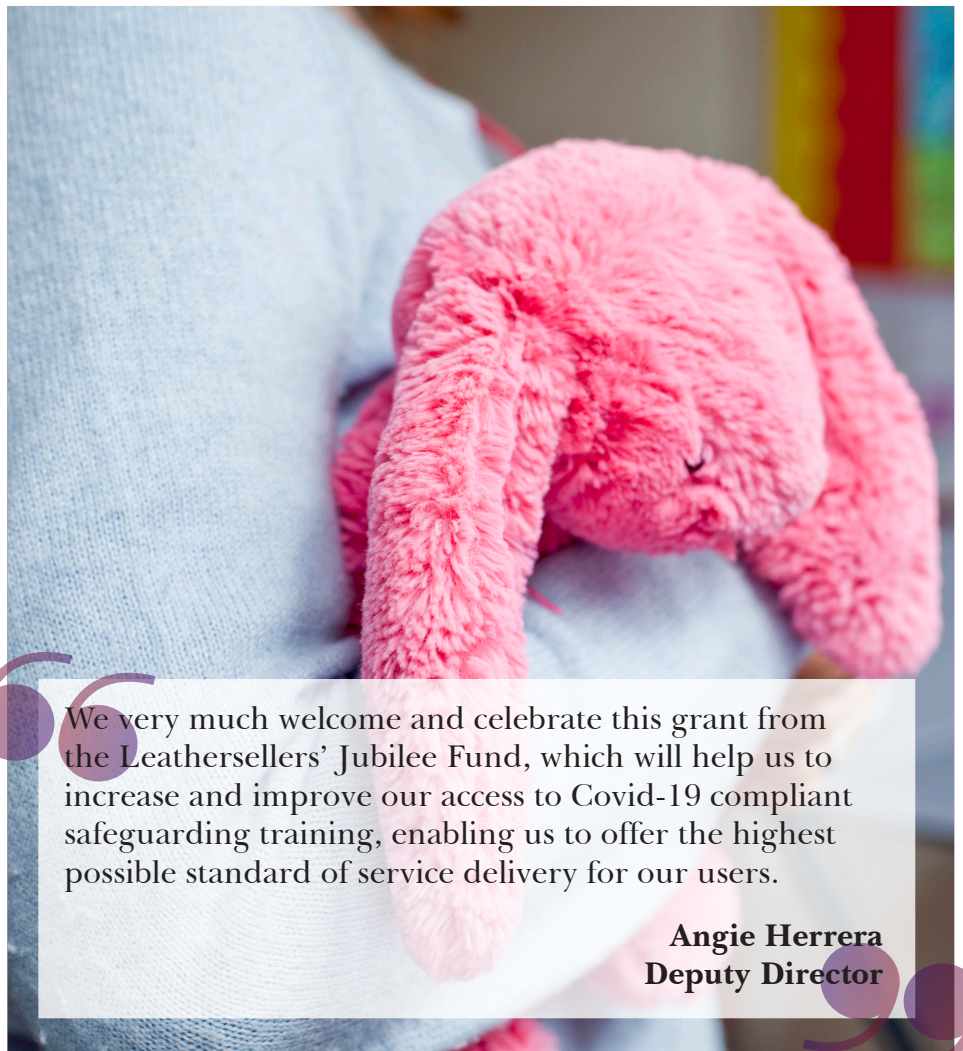
LAWA's dedicated staff have to deal with a huge variety of sensitive situations involving vulnerable women and children for which they need proper training. As a result of Covid-19 they realised that they have to improve all safeguarding procedures, especially on health issues arising from infectious viruses. Also, the transfer to online delivery of many services during the pandemic has highlighted the need for digital safeguarding.

As services evolve and needs change, LAWA believes it's vital that all their staff receive this vital safeguarding training to develop their skills. However it must be delivered by certified professionals and is expensive. It's a cost that an organisation such as LAWA will struggle to finance without cutting back on their core services.

DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

LAWA needs all staff to undergo training for safeguarding adults and safeguarding children, both programmes with a Covid-19

approach. This training is no longer provided by local authorities, and the grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will help pay for these programmes for 28 staff members and 13 volunteers. This will not only allow LAWA to fulfil their legal responsibilities but also increase the pool of knowledge that can be passed on to new staff members and volunteers as they join.



We very much welcome and celebrate this grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund, which will help us to increase and improve our access to Covid-19 compliant safeguarding training, enabling us to offer the highest possible standard of service delivery for our users.

Angie Herrera
Deputy Director

Launchpad

HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS ACROSS THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

For those who have served in our armed forces, the transition to civilian life can be difficult and traumatic. Many experience mental health issues and often drift into unemployment, addictions and crime. Sadly, some of our veterans end up on the streets, homeless and living rough.

They need a steppingstone back into civilian life and veterans' charity Launchpad gives them that. With houses in Liverpool, Newcastle and Durham, they provide more than just accommodation; they offer support and advice to residents around wellbeing, health and employment that veterans need to break the cycle and re-integrate into society.

Yet money is tight, and costs are increasing. Launchpad realised they needed a new funding model that was stable and sustainable. How about asking local businesses for help? Launchpad made enquiries and several expressed genuine interest in becoming supporters. They realised this could be a rewarding initiative and one that could deliver long-term funding.

LAUNCHING A NEW LAUNCHPAD FUNDING MODEL

Nurturing relationships with local businesses takes time, something Launchpad's already overstretched managers don't have. They need someone who can make it their exclusive focus and asked us whether we could help fund a new part-time employee. The new role will help to make connections, build relationships and develop a new income stream for the charity that they believe could generate over £50,000 a year in corporate support.

It's a pilot scheme with real potential, but one the charity couldn't afford to risk without extra funding. Our £10,000 Jubilee Fund grant will help make it a reality.

As a charity, we are always looking at new ways to raise awareness and funding to support our residents and bringing in an employee who is dedicated to making connections, building relationships and hopefully generating new income will assist us greatly in ensuring we can continue to deliver the excellent services we provide to our veterans.

David Shaw
CEO and Founder

Lifecentre

HELPING SURVIVORS OF UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES IN WEST SUSSEX

Unwanted sexual experiences happen to people of all ages and genders and cause deep trauma. The psychological and emotional scars can be profound and long-term; without support and counselling it ruins lives. Lifecentre is there to provide hope, guidance and fresh possibilities to people in West Sussex who have experienced an unwanted sexual incident and have nowhere else to turn. Starting as a simple telephone helpline service, they have grown into an important charity in the region offering a range of therapies and face-to-face counselling.

The Covid-19 pandemic saw an increase in the number of people needing help. However, facilities had to close during lockdown and counselling switched to Zoom calls which meant that those living with their abuser or keeping it secret from their families could no longer access help. Lifecentre is currently facing a 128% increase in referrals from the Crawley area, with 266 people on the waiting list of whom 63 are under 18 years old.

It's vital that Lifecentre finds new premises in Crawley where they can deliver the face-to-face help that survivors need.

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund. We are using the money to pay for our accommodation in Crawley, where we will be able to provide a safe space for survivors of sexual violence to come and talk about their experience and the impact upon their lives. This space will be transformational to the lives of survivors as they receive professional specialist support to help them recover.

Kathryn Slatter
CEO

A SAFE PLACE TO PUT LIVES BACK TOGETHER

The need is immediate with many vulnerable people and those with most severe mental health symptoms having been on the waiting list for a long time. The grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will pay for a year's rent in new facilities, giving people in the Crawley area a safe place to go where they can get help and therapy in a sheltered environment and with complete confidentiality.



Link to Change

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF EXPLOITATION IN BEDFORDSHIRE

Children as young as twelve have needed the help and support of Link to Change as survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Bedford-based charity offers services, counselling and therapies in the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire areas, with the aim of inspiring positive change, growth and self-worth in young people who have experienced exploitation and mental health issues arising from it. The pandemic has seen a sharp increase in mental health and wellbeing concerns and a rise in more explicit sexual abuse. These young people can be hugely traumatised; almost all self-harm and a third have suicidal thoughts. Link to Change practitioners need a wide range of skills to find the right way to help, and support needs to be long-term. The aim is to build a trusted relationship through 1:1 counselling, outreach work and group programmes with the object of building self-esteem and using their experiences to help others.

ACCESS TO THE SKILLS THEY NEED

Staff need to be highly-trained and this is where they need our help. Link to Change are looking to strengthen their skills and knowledge, especially around mental health and trauma. Through the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant, all 11 practitioners will receive Youth Mental Health First Aid training with St John Ambulance and a one-day Intensive Trauma training course with a world-leading psychotherapist. These courses will make a real difference to Link to Change staff and give them the ability and confidence to offer more effective support to hundreds of vulnerable young people.



We are so grateful for the support provided by the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund. Their support will provide additional training for our practitioners to ensure that we are providing the best possible support for our vulnerable children and young people to overcome their trauma from child exploitation and abuse.

Hayley Brown
Chief Executive Officer

Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH POWYS

Anyone can experience domestic abuse and research shows that one in four women and one in six men will suffer from it at some point in their lives. Abuse is about someone you know trying to control your life, whether it's real or threatened, physical or mental, sexual or financial. And it is hugely destructive of families, relationships and the mental health of its survivors.

For many, the only way to escape an abusive relationship is to leave home and seek refuge. The Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre offers accommodation for those who need to escape a life of abuse, offering safe havens for women and men in separate buildings as well as practical and emotional support. For those who do not need to leave their home, support is still available from their Outreach teams. The pandemic has led to a measurable increase in incidents of domestic abuse putting a strain the resources of the Family Crisis Centre. They are looking for new and smarter ways to work and offer their services to a wider client base.

WORKING SMARTER

The Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre has developed its group programme provision over the past few years, and this has been particularly successful during the pandemic as they have been able to offer remote access. The grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will also enable the centre to also offer



the ACEs Recovery Toolkit, aimed at individuals who have experienced ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences).

The Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant will also help fund the adoption of Outcomes STAR, a powerful tool that measures and records client journeys and enables effective assessment of impact.



We were delighted to hear that we had been awarded funding from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund. We are honoured to be one of 23 charities selected to receive one of these special grants. We will now be able to access training to enable our staff to deliver the ACEs Recovery Toolkit programmes, thereby extending and strengthening our service provision. We will also be able to adopt a new method of improving our monitoring and measurement of impact.

My Sisters Place

COMBATING A RISE IN DOMESTIC ABUSE IN MIDDLESBROUGH

The Covid-19 pandemic saw a huge rise in the number of domestic abuse incidents as successive lockdowns put a severe strain on relationships and families. For My Sisters Place, an independent charity operating in Middlesbrough, it brought an unprecedented demand for their services as women and children experienced high levels of anxiety and trauma. Caseloads backed up and waiting lists reached an all-time high as frontline support workers were called upon to provide complex emotional support, something for which they are not properly trained. All were feeling the pressure.

Their solution was to set up a system where a specialist therapist was on duty every day as a Brief Intervention Counsellor to give clients immediate access to therapeutic support. It took the pressure off the frontline workers, allowing them to concentrate on the practical elements of their role. It proved highly effective in reducing anxiety and trauma of women and children in desperate need of support. So far over 250 women and girls have benefited from these sessions.

and effective help to domestic abuse sufferers and take the strain off an already-stretched service.

The grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will pay for a specialist therapist for one year to act as a Brief Intervention Counsellor, providing immediate assessments and employing techniques and therapies to reduce stress and alleviate trauma. We'll also fund a laptop to help with admin support and onward referrals.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

My Sisters Place sees this system as the way forward and is keen to build on this pilot scheme. They believe Brief Intervention is the way to get fast



On behalf of My Sisters Place we wanted to say a huge thank you to the Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund for their ongoing support through their Jubilee Fund. This funding has come at a vital time for the Charity. It will enable us to continue to offer survivors, who at the time of reaching out are often experiencing very intense psychological and emotional difficulties, with immediate access to therapeutic support that provides practical tools and interventions that help with immediate anxieties and help prevent the longer time impacts of abuse and trauma. Access is via a specialist domestic abuse counsellor who will be on hand daily to support survivors at these critical times of need when waiting times for psychological support services are at all-time highs. Our pilot has shown how helpful and vital this immediate access is and we are so happy to have received this funding so we can continue this work over the coming year.

Ejaye Moran
Therapeutic Services Manager/Clinical Lead



Port Talbot and Afan Women's Aid (Thrive Women's Aid)

We are over the moon to be receiving Jubilee funding which will support the growth of our social enterprise and build capacity to launch a new property acquisition project. These projects will increase our accommodation services for victims of domestic abuse and improve our sustainability so that we can continue to deliver high quality services now and into the future.

Kate Jones
Services Development Manager

A SAFE HAVEN IN SOUTH WALES

Port Talbot and Afan Women's Aid (also known as Thrive Women's Aid) is an innovative charity because some of its funding is generated by its own social enterprise. The group includes a cleaning business, a catering company and a soft-play centre, all of which contribute to the charity finances as well as creating employment opportunities and serving the local community.

The charity itself has been supporting women and children who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual violence for over 40 years, providing a safe haven and access to support, group programmes and therapy. A growing portfolio of properties provide refuge accommodation and their team of staff and volunteers offer specialist support and counselling to break the cycle of domestic abuse. With increased demand due to the pandemic, over 450 women and children per year are currently benefiting from their services.

AN EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS

To cope with demand for the charity and reduce their reliance on statutory funding, it's important that the social enterprise maximises its income potential. The group has identified the need for an additional finance assistant to build capacity within the organisation and free up the Finance Manager to focus on growth. The grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will help fund this new employee for a year, enabling the group to expand its enterprise and commercial business opportunities and create a sustainable income stream to support their charitable work for the long term.



Safe and Sound Group

TACKLING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN DERBYSHIRE

People of every background, gender, race and sexual orientation can be victims of sexual and other forms of exploitation, but those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are more vulnerable than most. Safe and Sound is a specialist charity that works with children and young people who have experienced exploitation in the Derby and Derbyshire area. A third have SEND. In the course of their work with children they uncovered cases of SEND adults who were being sexually exploited. It became clear that this was the tip of the iceberg and there are many more cases throughout the country.

Safe and Sound is hoping to set up a pilot scheme to help vulnerable adults with special educational needs and disabilities. This will include providing intensive long-term counselling with trained trauma-informed specialists, as well as other forms of support. This new service will also link to police, social care and other agencies through an agreed referral pathway.

HELPING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN THE COMMUNITY

The grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will help fund this pilot scheme which aims to give at least seven young adults intensive support over a twelve month period. The service will try to understand the impact on vulnerable adults and discover the most effective response to reduce the risks of exploitation; Safe and Sound wants to learn what works and share this information as widely as possible. As part of the scheme, Safe and Sound will go out into the community and run awareness sessions to engage local people in helping to protect the vulnerable.



Safe and Sound charity support children, young people and families affected by all forms of exploitation. The demand for our services during Covid-19 has risen by over 100%.

This grant will make a massive difference. It will help us to raise awareness and offer one to one support for young adults with special educational needs and /or disability (SEND).

Sadly, we know that young person or adult with SEND is three or four times more likely to be exploited. We are very grateful for this grant to enable us to do more.

Tracey Harrison
Chief Executive Officer

Safer Merthyr Tydfil

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES IN WALES

For 25 years Safer Merthyr Tydfil has been working to make the local community feel more secure and confident in their daily lives. Their work can take many forms: from helping those who have experienced domestic abuse; to promoting the rights of children and young people; to caring for lonely older people and reconnecting them with the community. Such is their reputation for trust and respect that their remit now extends to the whole of Wales.

Like many charities throughout the UK, they found cases of domestic abuse increased dramatically during the pandemic. Services were severely stretched and frontline teams felt the pressure. Furthermore, it has become clear that this is not a short-term need. Many survivors of domestic abuse have complex needs that will require long-term support.

However, the waiting lists for help continue to grow. Safer Merthyr Tydfil wants to look at a new way of delivering help to those that desperately need it by trialling a triage pilot scheme with the aim of speeding up the provision of help and relieving the pressure on frontline staff.

SMT

Supporting Safe and Confident Communities
Cefnogi Cymunedau Diogel a Hyderus

25 MLYNEDD • 1997–2022 • 25 YEARS

A NEW WAY TO DELIVER BETTER SUPPORT, FASTER.

The grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will help support the new service. This will involve a newly recruited staff member conducting an initial needs and risk assessment on each case to establish the extent and type of support they need, whether it's protection from an abuser, help with substance abuse or criminal justice intervention. It's an important new initiative that could signal the way ahead for services in Merthyr Tydfil and throughout Wales.

We are delighted to be awarded a grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund. The money will increase the capacity of our domestic abuse resource team, enabling victims and survivors of domestic abuse to receive timely and immediate support when they choose to engage.

The triage worker will immediately establish the priority needs of the survivor, provide safety advice and make any necessary, onward referrals at initial contact stage whilst an appointment is scheduled with an Independent Domestic violence Advisor. We are thankful to the Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund for the opportunity to pilot this much needed role.

Julie Beck
Deputy CEO

Schoolreaders

TACKLING THE UK'S LITERACY PROBLEM

Remember when you learned to read? It's perhaps the most important thing we ever learn. However, some children find it harder than others and for many it can be a long and difficult journey. The UK has a literacy problem; around a quarter of all children leave primary school without being able to read well and this has serious impact on their subsequent education and prospects for the future.

Schoolreaders aims to change that. They find willing volunteers and send them into primary schools to give free 1:1 reading sessions with children who need them - and it works. 95% of children improved their reading age under the scheme.

Then came the pandemic. With school closures, many children stopped getting the opportunity to

read with an adult. It impacted the volunteers too with many older and more vulnerable people leaving the scheme for fear of Covid-19. The need for 1:1 reading support is now greater than ever with over 11% of English primary schools registered with the charity and over 5,000 reading volunteers requested by partner schools.

RECRUITING NEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP NEW READERS

With this increasing demand, Schoolreaders wants to introduce a new Recruitment Coordinator position to lead volunteer and school recruitment, prioritising those most in need. A Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant will support this new appointment and help the charity to increase their capacity to reach more children and start to tackle the terrible effect of the pandemic on our children's education.

This new role will increase the charity's capacity and effectiveness to recruit new volunteers and schools, ensuring we reach even more children whose education has been disrupted by the pandemic. The ability to read is the gateway to learning. We want to help ensure that no child is left behind.



Sefton OPERA

ENHANCING THE WELLBEING OF OLDER PEOPLE IN MERSEYSIDE

Older people have been affected more than any other group by the Covid-19 pandemic. Fear of the virus has kept them at home, apart from their families and friends. Even two years later, many still feel vulnerable, isolated and fearful of human contact.

It has also had a profound effect on the charities that support them. Pre-pandemic, Sefton Opera provides a vibrant community for old people in the Sefton area; you could drop in and find everything from Zumba sessions to rock'n'roll dancing, from Tai Chi to crafting. All that had to come to an end during the pandemic.

Restarting activities and face-to-face interaction is vital. And while the pandemic has been difficult for the charity, it has given them a chance to rethink their services. How can they best adapt to the changing needs of older people and what do they need to put in place for the future?

HELPING SEFTON OPERA TO REBOOT FOR THE FUTURE

The first priority is to get online. Sefton Opera urgently needs to update their website for increasingly web-literate clients as well as for staff training and volunteer recruitment. The grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will help pay for a redesign. Their Beating Loneliness group sessions have proved hugely beneficial in combating isolation, so we will help fund two sessions in new locations in the area. Plus, we will also help with initiatives to recruit more volunteers by providing basic equipment and training.

The grant will help us recover after two years of pandemic restrictions, giving older people the chance to re-join their communities in a safe and supportive setting. In turn this helps them to take more power over their own health, and in maintaining and improving their quality of life, recognising they are an important resource to their peers and their community.

Margy Robinson
Development Manager



The Amber Foundation

A NEW START FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Teenagers or young people who have escaped an unhappy home or domestic abuse too often end up homeless and destitute. Sleeping on sofas or in hostels, they struggle to find work with devastating effect on their self-confidence and mental health. It's hard to break out of this vicious cycle.

The Amber Foundation is there to help these disadvantaged young people rebuild their lives. With centres in Kent, Wiltshire, Devon and Surrey, they take young people away from their everyday environment and offer a place to stay and a programme of activities, skills training and counselling to help them realise their full potential. Over 180 young people a year benefit from Amber's services.

It is highly effective but residential help isn't cheap and income from statutory funding has been hard to come by. One positive impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, however, has been that public bodies have recognised just that homeless people are especially vulnerable, and are now making new statutory funding available. The Amber Foundation feels they can really benefit from this changing landscape; they just need the knowledge and expertise to do it.

SECURING THE FUTURE

Their strategy is to invest in a consultancy project to identify new funding opportunities at a local and regional level. The aim is to come up with clear and achievable



recommendations of practical steps that Amber can take to ensure sustainable income over the next three years. The grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund will help fund this strategic initiative. It's an important step to ensuring that fundraising is more productive and predictable, and will help secure a better future for the charity and the hundreds of young people it supports.

Amber

transforming lives

With this support we will be able to invest in a project that will help Amber diversify its income, ultimately meaning we will be in a position to help more young homeless and unemployed people in the years to come. It will be a fantastic legacy from the Jubilee Fund.

Stephen Ballantyne
Head of Fundraising & Communications

The Bond Board

A SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Private landlords have empty properties, the homeless need homes. It makes sense to match demand with the supply, yet, homeless people and families on low incomes will usually struggle to come up with the financial guarantees that landlords need before they will let a property. That's where The Bond Board comes in. Operating in Rochdale, Bolton and throughout Great Manchester, they provide bond guarantees for tenancies, giving

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund. This will help us bring communities together during this special year, with peer-to-peer volunteers, to overcome the loneliness and isolation that is caused by poverty.

Andrew Beeput
CEO

landlords the security they need. They also offer a range of support services for tenants and landlords designed to make a tenancy more manageable and sustainable for everyone.

This simple solution to the homelessness problem has been a success: in 2021/22 The Bond Board supported 1872 homeless households to get housed or maintain their homes. However, the pandemic had a major impact on the charity, not least when their pool of volunteers reduced from a team of seven to just one. Volunteers are a vital component in the charity's ability to deliver projects across the organisation and the need to recruit is critical.

RECONNECTING WITH THEIR VOLUNTEER BASE

The Bond Board wants to appoint a qualified coordinator who will work to relaunch their volunteer programme, recruiting and training much-needed volunteers, especially amongst local people and those with lived experience of homelessness. They have already been promised funding from Rochdale Council, and a Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant will make a major contribution to making this a full-time role. Ultimately, this will enable The Bond Board to expand their services to vulnerable people in need and improve their connection with the local community.



The Listening Place

GIVING HOPE TO THOSE WHO FEEL LIFE IS NO LONGER WORTH LIVING

Suicide kills around 18 people in the UK every day, in many cases because people in despair could not find the help they needed to realise that their lives were worth living. The Listening Place provides that support. By offering free, face-to-face sessions of active listening, their trained volunteers encourage suicidal people to reflect openly on their situation in a warm, safe and supportive atmosphere. In this way, The Listening Place helps over 5000 visitors a year.

The charity operates through a small paid team and an army of 650 active volunteers. The growth in the number of people feeling lonely and isolated during the pandemic has put pressure on the service and they are urgently recruiting and training 600 new volunteers over the next three years. This recruitment process in itself puts a huge admin burden on the staff and their IT systems, who are struggling to cope with the sheer volume of communications needed.

RETHINKING VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

The solution is to overhaul their IT and automate some of these processes. For this, The Listening Place wants to build a bespoke volunteer database

with the functionality to generate emails, arrange interviews and coordinate interview feedback. The Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant will help fund this important step in expanding the charity's ability to cope with the growing numbers that need their services. It will help to keep the team lean, reduce the volunteer drop-out rate, and, ultimately increase the capacity of The Listening Place to provide confidential support to 6000 people who feel that life is no longer worth living.

We now have over 600 active volunteers delivering 100% confidential, face-to-face and ongoing support for the suicidal across three sites. This huge operation is supported by a Volunteer Management Team of only five people. This setup will only be sustainable with IT systems that enable our team to work efficiently.

The grant from the Jubilee Fund will not only save our small team time by automating certain processes but it will also free up their time to focus on building strong relationships with volunteers which helps keep turnover rate low.

Daniel Hall
Head of Fundraising

the
listening
place

Wheels for Wellbeing



REMOVING THE BARRIERS TO CYCLING

If you think cycling is just for the fit and healthy, think again. Wheels for Wellbeing believes that everyone should enjoy the health, wellbeing and mobility benefits of cycling and helps disabled people of all ages to discover (or rediscover) the joy of feeling the wind in their hair. They provide the specially-adapted cycles, the training and the encouragement to get over 1000 disabled people riding each year.

The pandemic and successive lockdowns highlighted the importance of getting out in the fresh air to everyone, and Wheels for Wellbeing's services became more important than ever. It also enforced new ways of working with the introduction of a brand-new booking system. They quickly had to set up a new portal where disabled people and their carers could book specific time slots as the organisation could limit numbers, allocate time to clean cycles between people etc. The charity soon realised that this portal could become a vital part of their future service delivery and they are now giving it an upgrade so that people can reserve a cycle, book a time slot, give feedback, make payments and keep their personal details up to date.

EASY ACCESS TO THE OPEN ROAD

After a testing period, Wheels for Wellbeing wants to be able to review the portal to see what's working and what's not. How accessible is it and what's the user experience? By getting input from staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, they can ensure the system makes access to services easier and brings tangible benefits to their efficiency and ability to meet beneficiaries' needs. In addition there are further features they want to add to the portal that their current funding won't cover.

The Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund grant will help fund this vital upgrade and system review. In the long term this portal will become a focal point of their organisation and help bring more people to access the physical, emotional and social benefits of cycling, whether for fitness, leisure or transport.

Wheels for Wellbeing is excited to receive a grant from the Leathersellers' Jubilee Fund. Our improved online booking system will facilitate wider access to our services and streamlined administration processes will enable our staff to focus their time on ensuring that all participants, whatever their barriers, are able to experience the physical, emotional and social benefits that cycling brings.

Isabelle Clement
Director





The Leathersellers' Company, a livery company of the City of London, supports and enables people and communities across the UK through making grants from its charitable fund and the commitment of its members.

Distributing around £3.5million annually to a range of charities, educational partners and directly to individuals, we run a varied portfolio of grant funding programmes supporting frontline charitable work, social mobility through education and support for leather craft and the leather industry. For further information and to view the latest opportunities available please visit www.leathersellers.co.uk or follow us on our social channels below:

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 The Leathersellers' Company

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