

# **Cambscuisine Community Fund**

April 2024



**Cambridgeshire  
Community  
Foundation**

For a better county

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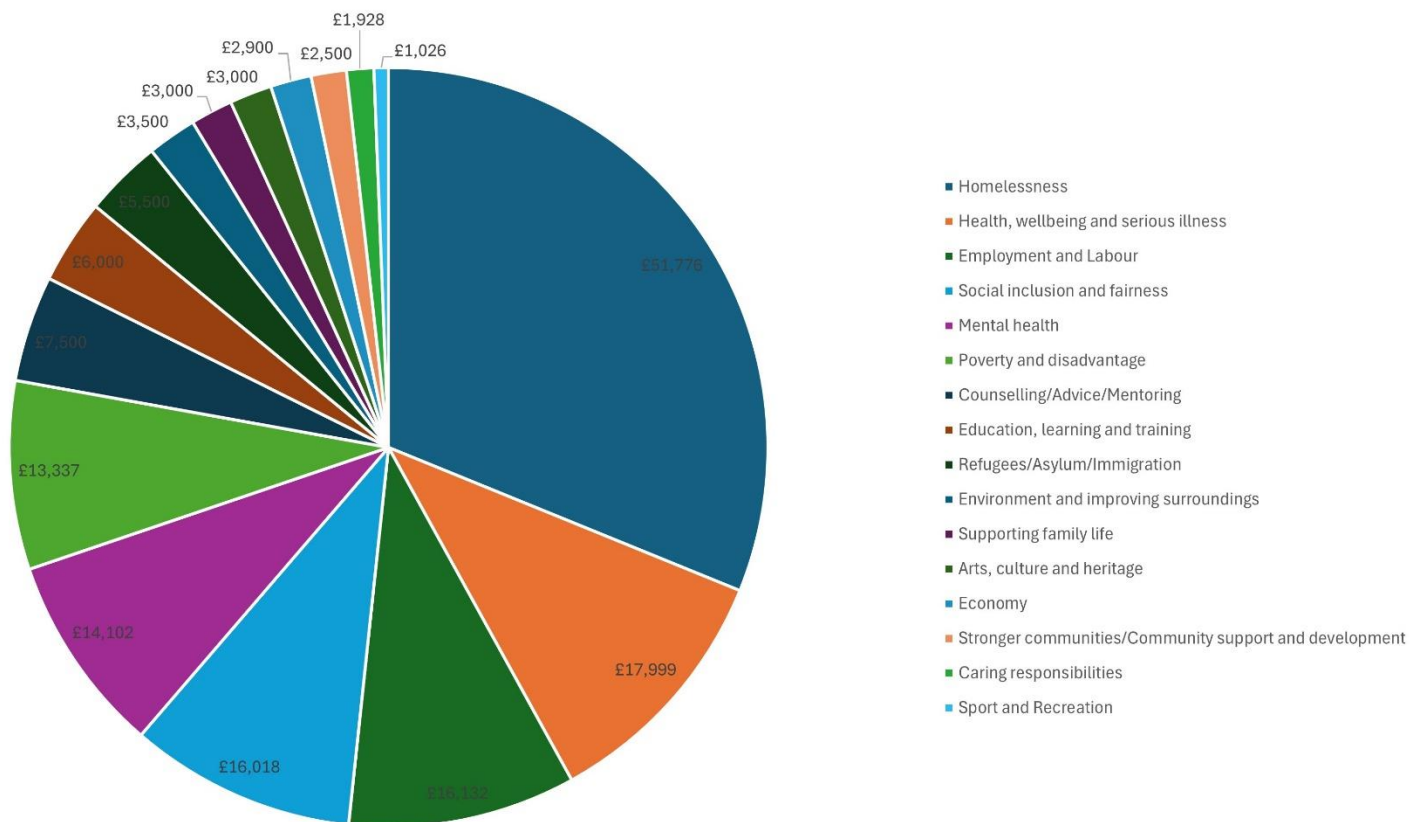
# Introduction

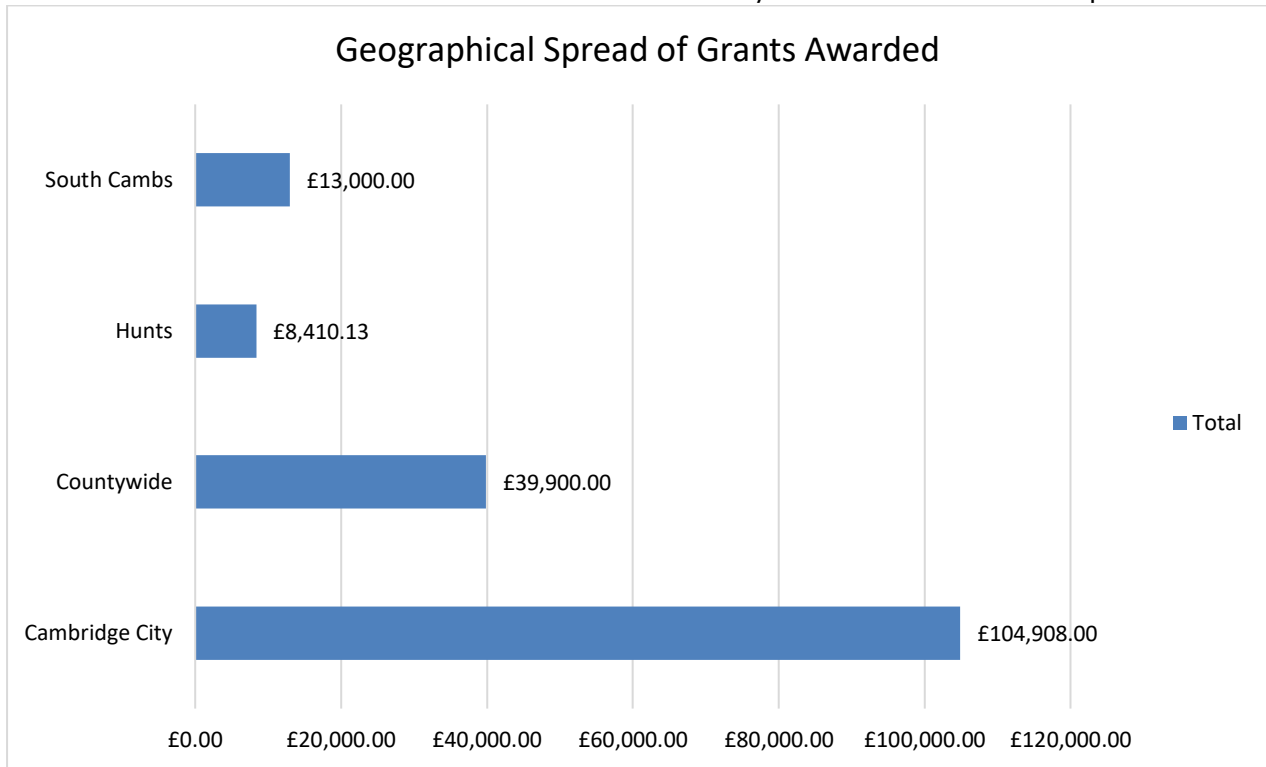
The Cambscuisine Community Fund offers grants to support local voluntary groups, community groups and organisations that are undertaking charitable work with the aim to help people that face disadvantage and to those that engage and support local people, and therefore build stronger, healthier, inclusive, and sustainable communities.

## Overview:

- 44 grants have been awarded to date totalling **£166,218.13** (see Annex A).
- The tables below show the amount awarded by primary issue and the geographical spread of grants awarded.

Amount Awarded by Primary Issue





**Balance available for distribution April 2024**

- A donation of £25,000 is available this round, to include the Foundation’s fees.
- The fee level laid out in the fund agreement is 12% for donations up to £25,000, so the amount for distribution is £22,000.

# Feedback from funded projects to April 2024

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## Hemingford Grey Parish Council

### Received £3,500 to plant a native hedge (125 metres) along the boundary of a housing development that fronts the busy A1096 road into St Ives



A native hedge was planted along the eastern boundary of the Yes Development. A temporary chicken wire fence was erected to protect the hedge and the contractor watered the hedge for the first growing season. The grant from CCF contributed towards a section of the hedge (Parish Council in the previous financial year had approved the finances for planting of a smaller section). The Parish Council provided the outstanding monies as the grant awarded was less than the amount applied for. The planting of a native hedge was the first step in creating a safer and more pleasant environment at the frontage of the Yes Development. The Yes Development has 192 dwellings (flats and houses) with small gardens. There is limited open green space with about a third of it facing the A1096 (the busy main road into St Ives). So the

area was not really safe for children to play on (no barrier between the grass and the road), it was noisy, pollution from the traffic, absence of wildlife and generally not a welcoming space.

The hedge is now in place and due to the temporary fence no through cuts have been created. Young whips were planted as these have a higher success rate than mature hedging plants so the impact of the hedge will not be truly felt for at least three years. The Grant from the Cambscuisine Community Fund means that the Parish Council was able to plant a native hedge along the length of a busy A road in 2023 in one go rather than planting smaller sections as money became available.

#### **Feedback from participants:**

Local residents responded that they felt more secure now that the hedge had been planted. As the hedge matures, it is hoped that the following impacts will be noticed:

- An attractive physical barrier between the Yes Development and the A1096

- An increase in use for recreation and leisure especially young children being able to play ball games
- A decrease in noise and traffic pollution
- Helping the environment by increasing biodiversity and contributing towards carbon capture
- Will create a sheltered green space which residents will be able to enjoy with a feeling of privacy.

## Wintercomfort

### **Received £3,500 to help fund Wintercomfort's *Moving Forward* project which supports non-UK nationals who are homeless or vulnerably housed in Cambridge**

The *Moving Forward* programme was created in 2018 in response to the increasing need from migrant homeless people in Cambridge. Many of the homeless migrants who came to Wintercomfort did have a case for staying in the UK but were struggling to prove it. In addition to the complex challenges that the homeless community face, such as alcohol and substance misuse, health problems, lack of employment and finding accommodation, homeless migrants also face racial discrimination, lack of access to legal immigration advice and English not being their first language.

Over the past year the programme supported 58 non-UK nationals (8 more than we had expected). The programme has continued to take a holistic, tailored person-centred approach. The awarded funding has helped to ensure that we have been able to support migrant homeless people to gain the appropriate immigration status (pre-settled or settled status), and support them with their additional needs including employment, housing and general welfare. On the more complex cases, we have worked closely with IR Immigration Law, a specialist immigration service based in Cambridge, to ensure they are resolved as quickly and effectively as possible.

Our migrant support service activities have included:

- Specialist 1:1 support
- Free, high quality legal advice
- Translator service
- Gaining qualifications
- Housing support
- Women's service
- Job skills training / work experience
- Welfare

The programme has helped tackle disadvantage and exclusion by:

- Supporting vulnerable people
- Promoting human rights and equality
- Improving economic wellbeing of non-UK nationals who are homeless or vulnerably housed.

Earlier in the year, we were given some funding to independently evaluate the programme. The evaluation found that the *Moving Forward* programme has had a profound impact on those it exists to support. It found that approximately 73% of those supported were very unlikely to have

had the same positive outcome around their immigration status without Wintercomfort's support.

The elements of provision that have made the most difference to those with complex needs include the ability of Wintercomfort to provide a support worker who can travel with service users to appointments, as well as the funding flexibility to pay for official documents and travel tickets.

### **Feedback from recipients:**

We continue to be extremely grateful to the Cambridge Community Foundation for their support of our work and we would like to thank the trustees of the Cambscuisine Community Fund once again for their donation towards this vital programme, many thanks.



### **Case Study:**

Peter came from Lithuania in 2018 with a work agency. Unfortunately, he started suffering from psychosis which left him very isolated and struggling to access support. Peter moved to Cambridge and started work in a car wash. He

broke his leg and was unable to continue working. He lost his accommodation and moved into a tent where he has been living since. With the decline in his mental health, Peter began to struggle with an addiction to alcohol. Sadly in this period his passport and other legal documents were stolen. Without a passport, Peter has been unable to prove he has the right to work in the UK.

Peter was told about the support Wintercomfort could offer and visited the day centre. Wintercomfort have been able to help Peter with access to medical care, and he is now under the care of a psychiatrist who is supporting him to improve his mental health. Wintercomfort also assisted Peter with getting new legal documents. One of the support workers has helped him to complete the necessary paperwork, paying for the application and accompanying him to the embassy in London to collect his new passport. Peter feels more positive about his opportunities since Wintercomfort's support. With Wintercomfort's help he hopes to find secure accommodation and begin to work again.

*"Wintercomfort is helping. I can come to use the showers and the laundry. They gave me a SIM card, which is very important because it is hard in the city without internet. If you're not from here, it's very hard to understand. I'm glad to get my new passport too. I have [pre-settled] status here until 2025 but I need a passport to be able to work." – Peter*



## The Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society

### **Awarded £4,000 to continue to deliver ESOL classes for up to 45 new arrivals from Ukraine in Cambridgeshire**

This project provided opportunities to continue learning English language to those who have been attending our ESOL classes since April 2022 and offered places for new learners who joined in the autumn term. Structure of the lessons and accompanying teaching materials were aimed primarily at improving life skills, social confidence and employability prospects. Results from the end of course assessment showed that 73% of the students who took the final test achieved 77% or more at their individual language proficiency level. At the end of the course we provided accreditation, i.e. graduation award certificates to 120 students.



The opportunity to continue attending ESOL classes at a familiar venue and being taught by the professional teachers who have built a rapport with the students, helped them to engage in new occupational activities, allowed some to help other students and improved employability prospects for others. In the advanced level groups we see an increasing number of students finding jobs, predominately in service or hospitality sectors. We are aware of at least 5 cases in the period. One lady (Olesia Shkafarak) started her first job in December and offered her extra curriculum support to the beginners.

These classes delivered at St Andrew's Street Baptist Church continued to serve as an important support hub for the Ukrainians in Cambridge, where they also benefited from attending conversation groups and getting involved in other groups and making most of the networking opportunities after the classes.

The graduation ceremony on 16th December was attended by over 70 students and their family members and served as a proof of students' eagerness to participate in social activities and growing confidence in communicating in English. This was confirmed by the church manager, family members and teachers.

Members of our charity who are involved in the delivery of this course are thrilled with the results and progress our students have made, their confidence and new job prospects some have shared with us.

Improving English language skills has proved to be key to the social/cultural adaptation of the Ukrainian refugees in the UK. Attending ESOL classes helped to build confidence, provided better understanding of British culture and assisted in starting to build their independent life in the UK, finding jobs and continuing further education.

### **Feedback from recipients:**

Feedback from students:

- 1) *All of us came to Cambridge from different parts of Ukrain. Each of us had different story escaping from the country, a different lifestyle. But one problem was how we will be live over new conditions: new language, new traditions, new relationships....English language courses organised by CamRuSS, became a problem solving guide. Friendly and helpful organisers , professional teachers, interesting meetings adapt us to a new life. My collègues and I were looking forward to new classes, where we learned the language, interesting traditions of UK and it's regions. It's necessary for people who have to work. I am a pensioner, but the courses also gave me the opportunity to visit a doctor, buy groceries, travel by public transport, visit museums and talk with English- speaking people. I don't feel lonely. Thanks to everyone who makes it possible for us to feel comfortable, work and live independently.*
- 2) *I would like to share some results after my 1 year on the course from CamRuSS. It's really helpful because I can study coaching and business administration in English. I couldn't imagine it when I arrived in Cambridge. I had had a few good interviews and I know what I need to say and I can understand everything. I can go to GP, hospital, council and etc. without an interpreter. It's amazing. I feel more confident and I would like to say huge thank you to our teachers and administration.*

### **Case Study:**

S had not studied English before. It was important for her that the teacher could explain in Ukrainian or Russian. She learned about this course from friends and it suited her perfectly! The

course enabled S to feel more confident in the English-speaking environment. Although she still has a lot of work to do, S has gained a better understanding English grammar. She can communicate in everyday topics in English, solve problems at her children's school, hospital, job centre, at work. S recently managed to get a job in the Botanical Garden of the University of Cambridge, which she would have been able to do had she not attended the course. She is looking forward to increasing her knowledge of the English language in the future and would highly recommend the course to other learners.

## Annex A: List of all grants awarded to date

Grant Application Name	Date Approved	Amount awarded	Project by Area	Primary Issue	Project Summary	Description	- Final Monitoring Due Date	Included in Report
Inspire2Ignite CIC	15/12/2023	£2,900.00	Countywide	Economy	towards a life coaching and entrepreneurship programme for 16-24 year-olds across the county who are classed as NEET		31/08/2024	
Turtle Dove Cambridge CIC	06/12/2023	£2,000.00	Cambridge City	Social inclusion and fairness	to fund monthly skills and training mentoring sessions for 15-20 disadvantaged young women for 12 months		31/12/2024	
Together Culture C.I.C.	17/11/2023	£2,000.00	Cambridge City	Education, learning and training	to recruit 6 young people (NEET or at risk of becoming NEET) to take part in a Creative Entrepreneur training programme and then help facilitate design sessions in the new Citizen Studio		29/04/2024	

Safe Soulmates	17/11/2023	£1,000.00	Hunts	Health, wellbeing and serious illness	to fund 4 hours a month for 2 staff members to organise sport socials, benefitting 20 people	01/10/2024	
Sew Positive	17/11/2023	£2,862.00	Cambridge City	Mental health	to support 30 people, potentially including Ukrainian refugees, through sewing activities	02/07/2024	
Cam Sight	17/11/2023	£1,000.00	Cambridge City	Health, wellbeing and serious illness	to offer emotional support for 80 people with impaired vision - including access to counselling and support with mental wellbeing	31/01/2025	
Centre 33	18/10/2023	£1,928.00	Cambridge City	Caring responsibilities	to provide recreational activities for young carers - benefitting 35 people	14/05/2024	
Fusion Youth Projects CIO	18/10/2023	£3,910.13	Hunts	Poverty and disadvantage	to fund activities of volunteers youth club for one year - benefitting 35 people	22/08/2024	
Caring Together	06/07/2023	£7,500.00	Countywide	Counselling/ Advice/ Mentoring	to support the continued provision of confidential counselling to c.140 unpaid adult carers across Cambridgeshire	30/09/2024	

New Meaning Foundation	06/07/2023	£7,000.00	Countywide	Employment and Labour	towards employing a construction professional and tutor (Team 2) to help disadvantaged young people to learn skills building a modular community café	30/09/2024	
Wintercomfort	06/07/2023	£3,000.00	Cambridge City	Homelessness	to hold twice weekly evenings of activities for 40 homeless and vulnerably house women	30/06/2024	
Something To Look Forward To	06/07/2023	£2,500.00	Countywide	Health, wellbeing and serious illness	to fund the service costs of delivering support for people affected by cancer poverty in Cambridgeshire	01/07/2024	
Cambridge Film Trust	04/05/2023	£3,000.00	Cambridge City	Arts, culture and heritage	towards the delivery of the Trust's Educational Programme, which culminates in the annual Cambridge Film Festival (CFF) in October 2023, with initiatives for 370 young people aged 16 to 24	31/01/2024	
The Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society	26/04/2023	£4,000.00	Countywide	Education, learning and training	to continue to deliver ESOL classes for up to 45 new arrivals from Ukraine in Cambridgeshire	31/01/2024	<b>X</b>

CHS Group	26/04/2023	£6,000.00	Cambridge City	Homelessness	toward the Outreach Employment Advice Service (2 days a week) for people who are homeless or vulnerably housed in Cambridge, to enable them to get on in life and thrive	24/06/2024	
Break	26/04/2023	£4,018.00	Cambridge City	Social inclusion and fairness	to enable 12 young people living in a Break care home, or using their leaving care services, to take part in a mass participation visual arts project culminating in a trail of sculptures around Cambridge	31/08/2024	
Urban Uprising	25/04/2023	£1,026.00	Cambridge City	Sport and Recreation	to partner with the Galfrid School to deliver a climbing coaching programme for 25 children at risk of exclusion or dealing with other very difficult issues	31/07/2024	
Care Network Cambridgeshire	25/04/2023	£2,500.00	South Cambs	Stronger communities/Community	towards the cost of delivering the Community Navigator service which supports people	31/05/2024	

				support and development	with a wide range of additional needs by signposting them to access help		
Cogwheel Counselling	14/12/2022	£4,000.00	Cambridge City	Mental health	to contribute towards general core costs for counselling provision based on a 12-month Cashflow and Recovery Plan	30/06/2023	
The Kite Trust	28/11/2022	£4,000.00	South Cambs	Social inclusion and fairness	to deliver a 4-night residential opportunity in Abington Woods for 20 young LGBTQ+ people in Cambridgeshire aged 16-25	31/07/2023	
Hemingford Grey Parish Council	21/11/2022	£3,500.00	Hunts	Environment and improving surroundings	to plant a native hedge (125 metres) along the boundary of a housing development that fronts the busy A1096 road into St Ives	01/02/2024	<b>X</b>
Wintercomfort	21/11/2022	£3,500.00	Cambridge City	Refugees/ Asylum/ Immigration	to help fund Wintercomfort's Moving Forward project which supports non-UK nationals who are homeless or	30/12/2023	<b>X</b>



					vulnerably housed in Cambridge		
Abbey People CIO	21/11/2022	£3,499.00	Cambridge City	Poverty and disadvantage	to support the operation of the Abbey Food Hub for six months	30/04/2024	
Cambridge Cyrenians	21/11/2022	£4,000.00	Cambridge City	Employment and Labour	towards a project worker to deliver Cambridge Cyrenians' Meaningful Activities Project, which provides practical support to help 80 residents engage with education, training and voluntary work	31/01/2024	
CCHP (Cambridge Churches Homeless Project)	27/05/2022	£2,500.00	Cambridge City	Homelessness	towards emergency accommodation for 60 rough sleepers and vulnerable adults, including a hot meal, pastoral support and help to find longer term accommodation	30/04/2023	
The Reanella Trust	09/05/2022	£5,000.00	Countywide	Mental health	to deliver an online course called "Resilience, Recovery, Relief" aimed at 35 looked after children in Cambridgeshire	30/06/2023	

Rowan	29/04/2022	£2,000.00	Countywide	Social inclusion and fairness	to deliver creative workshops and outdoor forest school sessions to support 76 local people with learning disabilities	02/07/2023	
Wintercomfort	29/04/2022	£5,000.00	Cambridge City	Homelessness	towards an Employment, Training and Volunteering Programme to help 150 homeless people overcome challenges they face by increasing their confidence and self-esteem, learning new skills, gaining qualifications, undertaking work experience and helping them into secure paid employment	30/06/2023	
CHS Group	20/04/2022	£10,335.00	Cambridge City	Homelessness	to continue to provide the Outreach Employment Advice Service (2 days a week) for people who are homeless or vulnerably housed in Cambridge	30/04/2023	

CRRC Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign	29/03/2022	£2,000.00	Cambridge City	Refugees/ Asylum/ Immigration	to cover transport costs and entrance fees for holiday excursions for 30+ refugee families for 2-3 years	01/10/2024	
The Kite Trust	25/11/2021	£4,000.00	Countywide	Social inclusion and fairness	to cover one youth worker for 4 days per week for 5 months, including travel expenses for youth worker and young people, as part of a youth work programme that reaches 350 LGBTQ+ children and young people	30/06/2022	
East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH)	16/11/2021	£5,000.00	South Cambs	Health, wellbeing and serious illness	towards core services at Milton hospice for 141 children, including end of life care, short breaks, symptom management nursing, wellbeing activities, therapies, counselling, specialist play, spiritual support, and volunteer services in the home	31/05/2022	

Home-Start Cambridgeshire	29/10/2021	£1,500.00	Cambridge City	Supporting family life	towards a weekly under-5s support group for 30 mothers and children at Chesterton Methodist Church	30/11/2022	
Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire	29/10/2021	£1,500.00	South Cambs	Supporting family life	to provide home-visiting support for 2 vulnerable South Cambridgeshire families who are at risk of slipping into crisis	31/10/2022	
Something To Look Forward To	04/10/2021	£5,000.00	Countywide	Health, wellbeing and serious illness	to support families affected by cancer by providing experiences such as cottage holidays, restaurants meals or spa breaks designed to make facing cancer more bearable	31/01/2023	
Fight Against Blindness	04/10/2021	£3,499.00	Cambridge City	Health, wellbeing and serious illness	towards an increase in psychologist's hours to meet the demand for supporting 15 children with sight loss	31/12/2022	
Abbey People CIO	26/02/2021	£2,000.00	Cambridge City	Poverty and disadvantage	to cover costs of the hub which provides community support, partner drop-ins, food provision and poverty alleviation services for 500	31/03/2022	

					residents in the Abbey/Barnwell area of Cambridge (whilst the Community Centre is being rebuilt)		
Cambridge Sustainable Food Alliance (CaSFA) CIC	26/02/2021	£3,928.00	Cambridge City	Poverty and disadvantage	towards the continued operation of the Cambridge food redistribution hub at Buchan Street Neighbourhood Centre during 2021/22, and/or enabling senior staff to work on establishing a permanent home for the hub	31/05/2022	
CHS Group	10/02/2021	£3,000.00	Cambridge City	Homelessness	towards an Outreach Employment and Money Advice Service for up to 50 people who are homeless or vulnerably housed in Cambridge, to enable them to get on in life and thrive	30/04/2022	
Cogwheel Trust CIO	17/04/2020	£2,240.00	Cambridge City	Mental health	to provide weekly counselling sessions for 7-13 vulnerable and financially disadvantaged men to	31/03/2021	

					improve mental well-being and reduce the risk of becoming homeless		
Turtle Dove Cambridge CIC	17/04/2020	£5,132.00	Cambridge City	Employment and Labour	to provide specific employment training and emotional support to 12 young women facing disadvantage, many of whom are at risk of homelessness and living in supported housing	31/12/2022	
CHS Group	12/03/2020	£15,641.00	Cambridge City	Homelessness	to run an Outreach Employment Advice Service for 50 people who are homeless or vulnerably housed in Cambridge to enable them to move on with their lives	30/06/2021	
Wintercomfort	12/03/2020	£3,300.00	Cambridge City	Homelessness	to support 50 homeless people into work by providing IDs, bus passes or bikes, and a one-off cost of living allowance once they're employed	30/04/2022	

Cambridge Cyrenians	12/03/2020	£3,000.00	Cambridge City	Homelessness	to run the Meaningful Activities project to empower 60 homeless or vulnerably housed people to undertake training and work experience to learn new skills, earn qualifications and ultimately move into, or towards, employment	31/12/2021	
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*Total amount awarded: £148,618.00.*