

# London Luton Airport Ltd- Funding Programmes

2 year overview-  
1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021



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## Introduction

This report covers the grants and activities of the LLAL funding programmes provided during 2019-20 & 2020-2021 (1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March). This report excludes any Community Investment Fund (CIF) grants, as these will be reported on separately. BLCF provides an annual report to demonstrate the impact of grants awarded however, due to Covid-19 this report has been delayed, as previously advised. Many groups had to cease delivery or needed to adapt their service accordingly and have extended their project timeframe. Therefore, although monitoring is still outstanding for the majority of the grants awarded, we are still able to compile a report based on the data we hold for grants awarded for the last 2 years. This report includes key information around the number of grants awarded, geographical areas and beneficiaries' breakdown etc.

The report is prepared by Francesca Johnstone, Head of Operations at BLCF who can be contacted directly if you require any further information at

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## General Update from BLCF

For the last 18 months there has been turbulence, uncertainty and insecurity for the voluntary sector and other sectors, the likes of which we have never experienced before. Our Foundation, like so many other charities, experienced a surge in demand for our services to help plug the gap in funding to support vulnerable and disadvantaged people during the local and global crisis.

BLCF, like other community foundations across the network, have worked at pace to ensure financial aid was provided where it was most needed and as quickly as possible. We established a co-ordinated response between local trusts and foundations in Bedfordshire, developed and led by our Foundation. With the additional support of the National Emergencies Trust, a joint funding stream and application process was created, to offer local community organisations financial aid to help them deal with emerging issues in the community, as a result of Covid-19. This without doubt was perhaps our Foundations biggest achievement during 2020, creating a shared funding stream, a first of its kind for this county.

Through our emergency type funds alone, over the last financial year, we have provided **191** grants totalling **over £1.3million pounds** to local community groups across the Bedfordshire & Luton area. The majority of grants made were, as anticipated, to help provide emergency food/essentials to those in need across the county.

What has also become clearer over the last year is the increasing need to not only provide financial support to organisations, but also build a programme of work around capacity building/peer support to organisations. We are currently working on a programme of support, through our Small Charities Forum initiative, to build support and development for community groups in the county. We have witnessed the fantastic work that our community groups/charities have undertaken during this challenging time. Whilst there is still uncertainty over what will happen during the next year or so, it

is more important than ever to ensure the stability and security of the excellent groups that operate in our county and funding areas. Put simply, without these organisations it would undoubtedly mean that those vulnerable in this county would not receive the support they need.

## General Grants Awarded during 2019 to 2021

Over the last 2 years we have received **161** applications across all general LLAL funded programmes and have awarded a total of **95 grants**, totalling **just over £971,000**. These grants **benefitted over 55,000 people** across the geographical areas included within the funds. These figures do not include any grants awarded under the Foundations Covid-19 emergency fund or the recent Stability fund, as separate reports have been created for these funding streams and forwarded to the supporting donors already (including LLAL).

Whilst applications overall may have decreased over 2-year period, in comparison to previous years, this can be attributed to a number of factors as follows;

- 1) Organisations have been able to apply to the plethora of alternative funding streams available, established due to Covid-19.
- 2) Larger scale grantmaking trusts (including the Lottery) have also stepped up their funding and provided larger grants, so smaller grants (<£10k) have not been as popular.
- 3) Some groups that might usually have applied had to put their activities on hold, for example community buildings or sport related groups.

BLCF undertakes the same process and due diligence checks for each applicant and as LLAL is already aware, there are a number of reasons why applicants may not be successful. The grant decision making panel carefully considers each application, with representatives coming from all areas of the county.

Of the 161 applications we originally received: -

- ◆ 95 were approved by the panel
- ◆ 35 were rejected by the panel
- ◆ 27 were withdrawn- this is either because they did not meet the criteria for the funding stream or have applied and secured funding elsewhere.
- ◆ 4 have been deferred, pending further information requested.

### BLCF recommendations and considerations for this fund going forward:

1. Due to the uncertainty about the future for charity sector in Bedfordshire, consideration should be made to **grow the Small Grants Fund and also a more discretionary fund** that can be distributed based on evidence of need emerging from BLCF monitoring and discussions with LLAL
2. To invest in and support development of BLCF's Small Charities Forum as a mechanism to help, advise and support charities to recover and grow again.

## List of Grants Awarded (over last 2 years)

Organisation	Project Name/summary	Amount (£)	No. Of Beneficiaries	Year
<b>#iwill</b>				
Hear2Listen	ASAP - Augmented Social Action Projects Social action project working with local groups and charities, increasing the profile, and promoting the work of groups.	£4,970	1000	19/20
Uprising	UpRising Leadership Programme Bedfordshire- #iwill Leadership Programme delivering social impact projects.	£5,000	30	19/20
Queens Park Community Organisation	Bedford BLM Showcase- project aimed at BAME kids and aims to address some of the issues brought up by the Black Lives Matter movement.	£10,000	10	20/21
Mary Seacole Housing Association Ltd	Explore and Celebrate Ethnic Minority Role Models	£7,600	300	20/21
Country Days Ltd	Outdoor Educational Courses for young people	£3,000	60	20/21
Bedford Players Trust	Donut/Money - Finance, Knowledge & Power.	£7,010	12	20/21
<b>#iwill Totals</b>		<b>£37,580</b>	<b>1,412</b>	

LLAL Small Grants				
Bangladesh Youth League	S Asian Health, Well-being & Carers Partnership south Asian health and well-being and carers support groups	£38,378	680	19/20
Transitions UK	Transitions UK- Achieve Project. An existing project to target vulnerable young people across Herts Beds and Bucks to enhance basic skills to help employability and independent living.	£10,000	65	19/20
Music24 Ltd	Luton Dementia Service	£6,000	120	19/20
Mitalee Youth Association (MYA)	Summer School Project A summer school project for young people and volunteers	£8,000	230	19/20
Community Interest Luton	Me Time Women's Gym	£7,144	70	19/20
Hope Church Luton Trust	High Town Festival	£6,484	2,500	19/20
Bangladesh Youth League	S Asian Health & Well-being & Carers Clubs for older people	£30,703	630	19/20
Kokni Community Luton	KCL Recreation and Services	£7,144	350	19/20
Families United Network	Junior Saturday Respite Club	£10,000	100	19/20

SALTO Gymnastics Club	Charity 25th Anniversary - Sustainability Plan - Enhanced Low-Income Opportunities	£5,000	1,500	19/20
Shri Guru Ravidass Sangat	Community Garden Project	£7,970	100	19/20
Shanthona Women's Group	VOICES activities for women- Project running basic - pre ESOL (inc. ICT awareness) & Pre ESOL classes to help improve personal development, confidence building, improve quality of life, community involvement, enable progression.	£10,000	800	19/20
Arcadian Women's Club	Hire of Church Hall, and cost of visiting speakers	£800	36	19/20
East-Europeans Rights Organization in UK - C.I.C.	Link centre- For East Europeans living in the county	£10,000	160	19/20
Crescent Summer School Project	Crescent Summer School Project	£4,000	210	19/20
Young Enterprise	Young Enterprise Luton	£10,000	150	19/20
Friends of Chums	Disability Friendship Scheme	£6,000	30	19/20
The Safer Luton Partnership	African Caribbean Health and Wellbeing Consortium running clubs for the over 60's	£32,250	300	19/20
Bangladesh Youth League	Capital works (boiler replacement)	£10,000	2,542	19/20

Happy Days Children's Charity	Trips to the theatre for children with special needs from Luton	£3,200	200	19/20
Level Trust	'I Love Learning' – this project aims to change the poverty picture by removing unnecessary expenses from education. Give families the tools to encourage learning both at home and in the classroom	£7,952	11,754	19/20
Dallow Development Trust Ltd	Capital project-replacing furniture and equipment at the community centre	£8,323	700	20/21
Refugee and Migrant Development Association (RAMDA)	Supporting Somali and Arabic Refugees-project is to help empower and improve the lives of older people in these communities	£10,000	100	20/21
Families United Network	Respite Club	£6,000	100	20/21
Phoenix Starr Academy CIC	Grant to cover ongoing running costs while they prepare to reopen the studios and shared community hub	£5,000	250	20/21
Lutonian Cricket Club	Membership Fees/Kit/ Equipment for disadvantaged families	£9,950	60	20/21
Presentation Court residents Association	Presentation Court Wellness Activities -	£1,680	28	20/21

	art, mindfulness, gentle exercise, and outings			
CHUMS Charity	Disability Friendship Scheme	£4,500	30	20/21
Friends of Bushmead School	New Library	£5,031	840	20/21
St Thomas' Parish Church	Parish Nurse Provision	£1,000	60	20/21
Organisation for Culture and Character	YP Mental Health support & training local community members	£10,000	100	20/21
Happy Days Children's Charity	Visiting Theatre Performances	£2,876	412	20/21
Luton Shopmobility	Volunteer Expenses & New Uniforms	£1,000	400	20/21
<b>LALL Small Grants Totals</b>		<b>£296.385</b>	<b>25,607</b>	
<b>LLAL Near Neighbours</b>				
Tilehouse Counselling	Counselling for young people who are self-harming	£4,992	184	19/20
Dacorum Community Trust	provision of practical items e.g., bedding furniture, baby items for people in crisis	£10,000	400	19/20
Great Brickhill Parish Council	Great Brickhill Parish Hall Capital Project-Extension to the hall to provide disabled facilities	£10,000	1,500	19/20
Kimpton Bowls Club	Capital Grant To purchase equipment needed to maintain the club	£4,671	120	19/20

Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled Centre	Mechanical Horse Project & Subsidising a terms riding	£10,000	106	19/20
MASKS (Make A Special Kid Smile)	School Dog Project- use of specially trained dogs to provide emotional support to young people with complex needs	£6,000	96	19/20
Great Gaddesden Cricket Club	Main pavilion roof replacement	£6,800	500	19/20
CHAT	Short Term Respite Care	£3,200	48	19/20
Cheddington Tennis Club	Capital project- with the aim to encourage more women and girls into the sport.	£10,000	100	19/20
Cruse Bereavement Care Hertfordshire	Growing Our Groups for Bereaved People- growing group work specifically a walking group to improve health and wellbeing	£2,118	40	19/20
Fairfield Community Hall Trust	Improvements to the hall to enhance facilities available to the wider community	£2,000	1000	19/20
Home Start Hertfordshire	Home-Visiting Service for families needing support	£4,637	60	19/20
Kimpton Pre-school Ltd	Heating System Replacement	£4,800	30	19/20
Aylesbury Vale Dynamos Football Club	"Bowlers Snack Bar"- improvements to club facilities.	£8,225	2740	19/20

Full House Theatre Company	Houghton Regis Art Town- to provide theatre and art-based opportunities for children & families in the local area.	£10,000	200	19/20
Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire	Brighten the Blues- programme supporting families experiencing mental health issues which will provide bespoke practical and emotional support through specially trained staff and volunteers	£2,368	15	19/20
Action4Youth	The Inspiration Programme- working with local schools and colleges to increase young people's awareness of how their community and wider society works.	£10,000	50	19/20
Citizens Advice St Albans District	Volunteer Training Programme	£5,000	720	20/21
Families United Network	Respite Club for disabled children aged from 4 to 11 years	£4,000	100	20/21
Out of Class	Vibe Project- supporting vulnerable young people around mental health, general wellbeing, and social connections.	£3,750	30	20/21

Friends of Collett	SEN School Forest Garden Area	£5,000	450	20/21
Dagnall Village Hall	Dagnall Village Hall Car Park and Access Project	£5,000	600	20/21
Lidlington Gardeners' Association	Waterless Allotment facilities	£3,000	250	20/21
Cassel Hall Memorial Trust	Cassel Hall Rejuvenation Project	£4,000	4000	20/21
Eggington Foresters Cricket Club	Securing Club Premises	£6,000	110	20/21
Rennie Grove Hospice Care	Supporting Hands	£4,000	140	20/21
Trinity Community Preschool	Improve outside space interaction with nature & provide multicultural/diverse learning resources.	£1,813	45	20/21
Hitchin Counselling Service (HCS)	Counselling Service Core Costs to help them to continue to support low-income disadvantaged individuals/families	£2,714	50	20/21
Amphill Baptist Church	Young People Drop-In	£4,929	60	20/21
Berryfields Parish Council	Community Larder	£1,000	100	20/21
Home-Start Central Bedfordshire	Families with children with special educational needs and disabilities	£1,000	450	20/21
The Need Project	Essential Food Parcels	£7,500	5000	20/21
<b>LLAL Near Neighbours Totals</b>		<b>£168,517</b>	<b>19,294</b>	

Mark West Fund				
Embrace CVOC (Child Victims of Crime)	'Time4u' is counselling and psychotherapy service for young people aged 13 – 19 years affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence. They will provide 1 to 1 counselling and CBT Therapy.	£10,000	15	19/20
YMCA Bedfordshire	Refuge Counselling- counselling sessions for women effected by domestic abuse living in two refuges in central Bedfordshire	£6,453	20	19/20
The Luton and Dunstable Hospital Charity	A new initiative to provide essential items to female patients who are deemed or perceived to be victims of domestic abuse	£10,000	300	19/20
Project 229	Project delivering 3 key elements- <b>'Bake'</b> - aims to encourage 16+ women/girls into work delivering tailored workshops. <b>'SPACE'</b> therapeutic dance group helping young people who have experienced Domestic Abuse achieve emotional, cognitive, physical,	£6,785	149	19/20

	and social integration. <b>'Well Woman Workshops'</b> (WWW)- provides extended one to one support to women to improve Social, Physical, Emotional, Creativity, and Learning.			
Mark West Fund Totals		£33,238	484	
All Funds Total		£548,220	52,247	

## Luton Youth Fund Grants Awarded

Luton Youth Fund (LFY) was set up to support local organisations in Luton who listen to young people, who seek to challenge poverty and inequalities and encourage and empower the young people they work with to engage and act.

LYF aims at supporting these organisations who work with 11-to-18-year old's who may be trapped in a cycle of exploitation which could lead to more serious issues around criminality, gang association and/or serious violence/knife crime. LYF has over the years supported many organisations and will continue to support organisations who deliver services to young people and help break the cycle leading to young people putting themselves in risky situation where they are at risk of been groomed and exploited which in turn could lead to criminality.

The fund encourages a multi-agency approach, working and sharing of information between statutory and local organisations especially those working within the voluntary and community sector. This will ensure that young people in Luton are getting the best service provision for their individual needs, as well as creating opportunities for all children and young people including the hard to reach.

### BLCF recommendations and considerations for this fund going forward:

- 1) **To widen the criteria** especially following the last 18 months to include **emotional wellbeing/mental health**. For example, funding emotional wellbeing workers in schools, pilot young people's mental health first aid courses to be delivered to all young people organisations we fund. Investing in preventative projects/initiatives to help cope with the growing demand in MH services.
- 2) **To build a focus group with young people** locally to help shape the fund and its priorities moving forward

Luton Youth Fund				
The Walk to Freedom	Vehicle for Change- A project to engage young people and family at risk of gang related behaviours.	33225	25	19/20
The Flavasum Trust	It's No Joke!' - a lively and accessible play using comedy to address issues of ASB and weapons-related crime. This will be delivered to local schools.	8000	1200	19/20
Greenhouse Mentoring Project	GreenHouse Mentoring- A mentoring project for young people in Luton	19876	195	19/20
REVIVE Youth & Community ~ Family Foundations	Reaching Goals- Family-focused prevention programme which includes home visiting, parent training and family therapy. This program mainly focuses on developing positive parenting skills.	3000	100	19/20
Youth Impact Initiative	Community Dragons' Den and Radio Skills- two projects under the theme of developing personal skills and raising aspirations for employability and local sustainable development	5000	110	19/20
Bangladesh Youth League	Luton Mentoring for Vulnerable & "at risk" Young People- a mentoring service for vulnerable and at-risk young people	30000	48	19/20
Link to Change	Link to Change- weekly, 1-2-1 therapeutic support to YP who have/are experiencing or at risk of CSE and CCE	15000	30	19/20
Dynamic Decisions	Dynamic Decisions community knife crime project- Early intervention project working with	25000	40	19/20

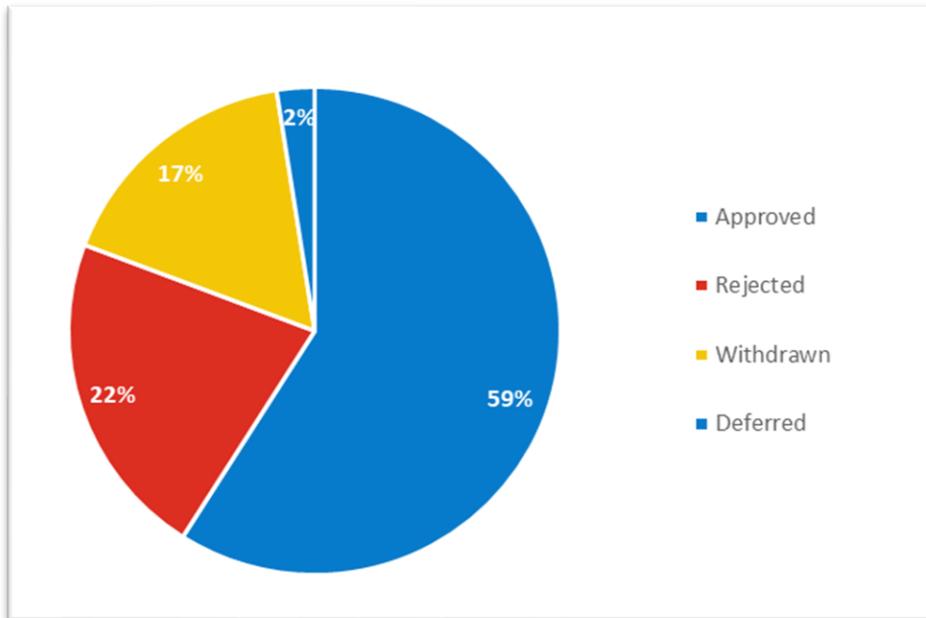
	young person and the family on serious youth violence			
TOKKO Ltd	OK2B (LGBTQ support Project)- Support, 1 2 1and group interventions for LGBTQ community in Luton at risk or vulnerable	16000	40	19/20
One Stop Advice and Training Centre	Innovate- project focusing on building resilience within parents who need support, assistance, and information to deal with young people at risk or involved in exploitation either criminal or sexual.	30000	50	19/20
Luton Town FC Community Trust	Marsh Farm Youth Club- A project to open the Marsh Farm youth club three nights a week, recruit and training local volunteers opening out of school hours and at weekends to help reduce youth violence and gang related behaviours.	20000	300	20/21
Precious Pearls	Butterfly project/part time CSE worker- Raising awareness of CSE amongst BAME communities, empowering, supporting, and equipping parents, with information and knowledge and highlighting services available, engagement is via arts and crafts.	14814	120	20/21
Mary Seacole	It's a Choice- Working with YOS to develop a resource tool, in the form of an app. The new app will explore, scenarios further and provide tangible and relatable examples of the negative and positive impact choices can make. The app will be compatible with the IOS/Android devices and will allow young people the ability	36190	100	20/21

	to view choices around areas of criminality and exploitation			
St Giles Trust	SOS+ Schools Project Coordinator (Lea Manor)- A pilot project working initially in one high school Lea Manor to raise awareness and identify young people on the edge of criminality or at risk of exploitation who would otherwise fall through the gap.	30000	190	20/21
TOKKO Ltd	OK2B (LGBTQ Support Project)- LGBTQ+ project to raise awareness on all aspects day to day living as an LGBTQ+ young person, exploring attitudes to sexuality and CSE.	21658	50	20/21
YouTurn Futures	Supportive pathway with Direction- A full-time worker will engage young people to break the cycle of gang association and violence. Engaging with existing partners and networks including MAGPan.	35000	20	20/21
Directional CIC	Take The Lead- Providing programmes and activities in schools and community settings, including focus groups to identified young people at risk of grooming, CCE and gang associated behaviours i.e., county lines.	35330	290	20/21
Stopsley Baptist Church	GreenHouse Mentoring- A mentoring project for young people in Luton	18983	119	20/21
Boxing Saves Lives CIC	Boxing Saves Lives- A project using boxing courses as a diversionary tool to address issues for those young people most at risk of youth violence,	18465	20	20/21

	gang associated behaviours and or CCE/CSE. Delivering in schools to those identified with behaviour issues. The project will focus on young females as well as males.			
Link to Change	The Choice Project- Reload. Working with partners to deliver prevention and early intervention activities. The project will provide educational and critical thinking skills to enable young females to make informed decisions/choices, while addressing issues of exploitation and contribute to its prevention and raise public knowledge.	19798	110	20/21
<b>Total</b>		<b>£435,339</b>	<b>3,157</b>	

## Data analysis

### Grants Received



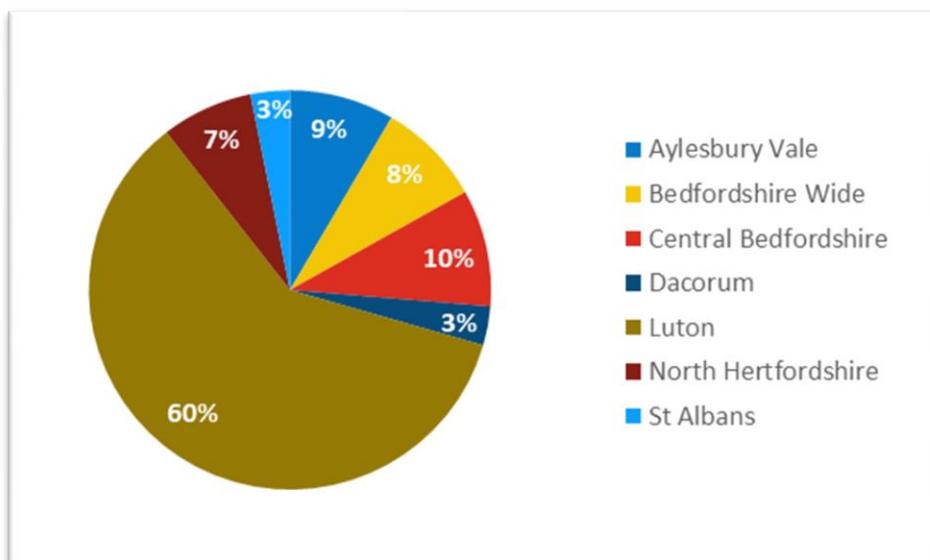
During this 2-year period we received 161 applications across the 5 funding streams mentioned. Decisions around these applications are detailed below

The graph above details the decisions made for the applications received. In comparison to many other local grantmakers, BLCF has a good success rate with applications. This in part can be attributed to the time spent with groups prior to submission to ensure a fit with the fund, and/or to help them prepare for completing the application form. Whilst we have a good rate there are often several reasons why some applications have been rejected or withdrawn, most common factors are that organisations are either duplicating existing work, do not have the skills to deliver the proposed project/initiative or do not have the proper governance or structure in place to be eligible for funding. BLCF will support groups to be 'fit for funding' and will signpost to relevant other organisations to help groups development and potentially come back to us to reapply, if appropriate.

### OVERVIEW

	19/20			20/21		
	No of Applications Awarded	Total Value of Grants	No of Beneficiaries	No of Applications Awarded	Total Value of Grants	No of Beneficiaries
Small Grants Fund	21	£231,025	22,527	12	£65,360	3,080
Near Neighbours Fund	17	£109,811	7,189	17	£71,206	17,555
Mark West Fund	4	£33,238	484	0	£0	
Luton Youth Fund	10	£185,101	1,838	10	£250,238	1,319
#iwill	2	£9,970	1,030	4	£27,610	382

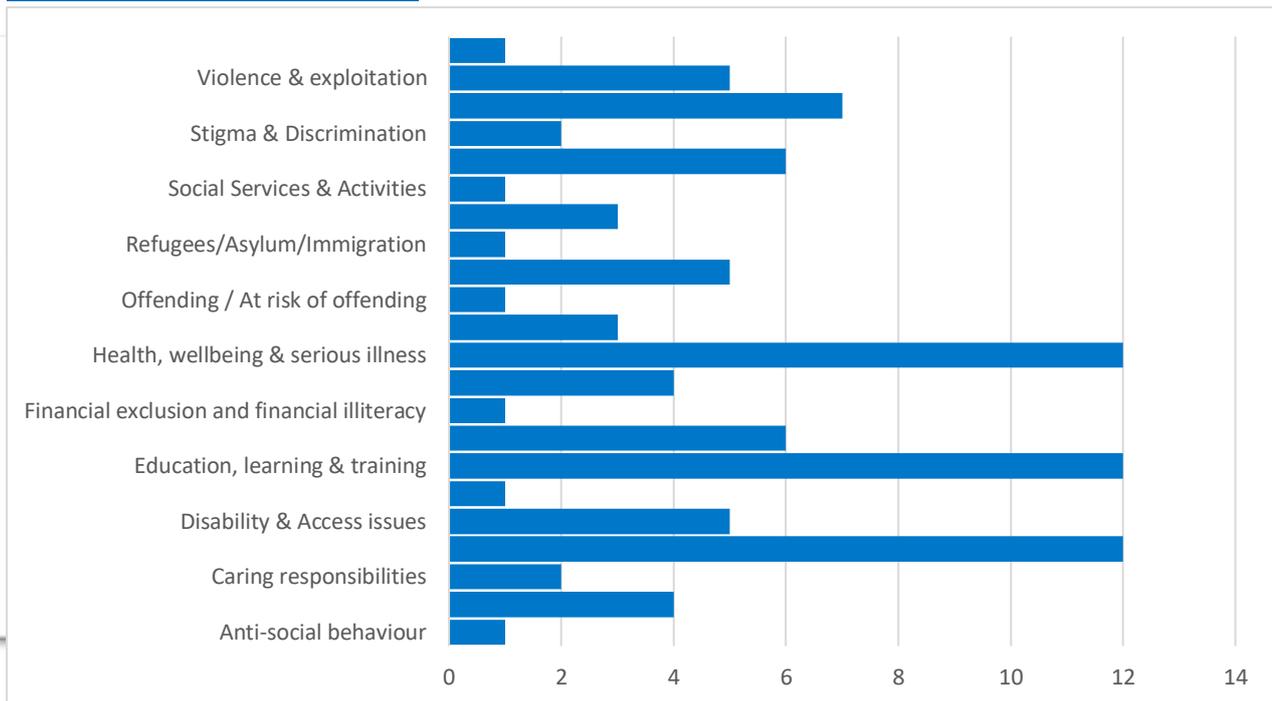
## GRANTS PER LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA



Programme	Aylesbury Vale	Bedford	Central Bedfordshire	Dacorum	Luton	North Hertfordshire	St Albans
#iwill 19-20		£9,970					
#iwill 20-21		£25,510			£,7600		
LLAL 19-20			£6,000		£225,025		
LLAL 20-21			£4,500		£60,860		
LYF 19-20					£185,101		
LYF 20-21					£250,238		
Mark West 19-20		£13,238	£10,000		£10,000		
NN 19-20	£47,425	£10,000	£2,000	£12,118	£10,000	£23,631	£4,637
NN 20-21	£6,000		£2,1429	£5,000	£12,750	£6,714	£6,,813
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£53,425</b>	<b>£58,718</b>	<b>£43,929</b>	<b>£17,118</b>	<b>£761,574</b>	<b>£30,345</b>	<b>£11450</b>

As the graph above demonstrates, the largest proportion of the grants awarded have come from groups working in the Luton area. This is in line with funding streams available, as there is only a relatively small pot of funding available in the Near Neighbours area at present. Where there is an amount set against 'Bedfordshire wide' this relates to county wide funding streams, e.g., #iwill or the Mark West Fund, which LLAL have kindly supported and whereby organisations are often working across either the whole county or in more than more Local Authority Area.

## GRANTS BASED ON AGE GROUP



In terms of the main age group that organisations have indicated they would be working with, the most popular was **Young People (13-18)**, closely followed by All Ages and Children (5-12). BLCF has recently changed how we capture data so that groups will not be able to select 'all ages', as this is often not reflective of the primary age group that they focus on. It is important for groups to acknowledge and collect accurate information to help them understand their work and evidence impact moving forward.

## GRANTS BY PRIMARY ISSUE

\*This chart is based on the combined figures for the 2 year period. It details **22** key issue areas that groups have selected that they are trying to impact on, adopted from our wider Community Foundation network (out of a possible 36 available).

Primary Issue	Grants Awarded
Volunteering	£4,970
Violence and Exploitation	£115,802
Stronger communities/Community support and development	£50,607
Stigma/Discrimination	£37,658
Sport and Recreation	£53,419
Social Services and Activities	£5,500
Social inclusion and fairness	£37,600
Refugees/Asylum/Immigration	£10,000
Poverty and disadvantage	£36,402
Offending/At risk of offending	£30,000
Mental health	£20,338
Health, wellbeing and serious illness	£152,022
Gangs	£96,225
Financial exclusion and financial illiteracy	£7,010
Environment and improving surroundings	£32,671

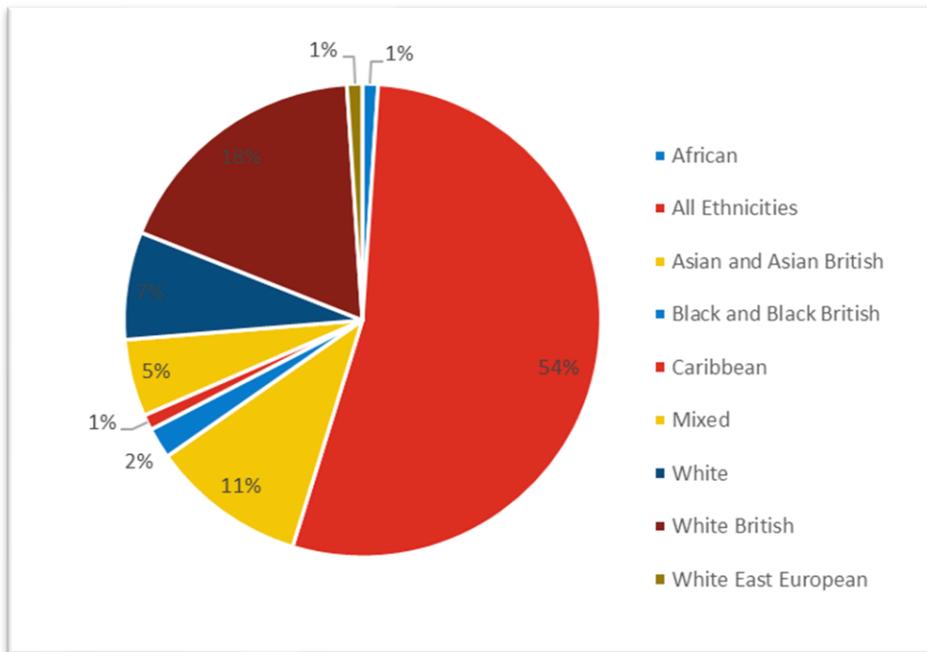
Education, learning and training	£102,974
Domestic violence	£10,000
Disability and Access issues	£26,000
Counselling/Advice/Mentoring	£120,405
Caring responsibilities	£4,200
Arts, culture and heritage	£13,076
Anti-social behaviour	£8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>976559</b>

An important point to note is that groups often address multiple issues with their projects or initiatives but for application or monitoring purposes will select the primary one addressing.

The top 3 issues identified (all of these in fact tied in terms of grants made) were as follows:

- ◆ Health, Wellbeing & Serious Illness
- ◆ Education, Learning & Training
- ◆ Counselling/Advice/ Mentoring

GRANTS PER ETHNICITY



Ethnicity	Sum of Grants
African	£10,000
All Ethnicities	£616,927
Asian and Asian British	£136,175
Black and Black British	£12,600
Caribbean	£32,250
Mixed	£28,664
White	£22,744

White British	£105,519
White East European (blank)	£10,000 £1,680
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£976,559</b>

This graph shows the split of grants awarded against the main ethnicity, indicated by organisations that would be the main/primary beneficiary of the project/initiative. A number of organisations have tended to select the ‘all ethnicities’ category in the past. BLCF has since changed how we are collecting this information to better understand delivery in communities, as well as helping to identify any gaps. Part of these changes have involved removing the ‘all ethnicities’ option from a number of our application forms, so that groups can be more transparent with whom they are working with.

Additionally, BLCF has recently undertaken a deeper analysis of our overall funding streams. Data demonstrated that over a third of our grants had been awarded to BAME led or BAME focussed grantees. We are pleased that our reach in communities is covering a wide range of ethnicities but there is still more work that could be done, for example we plan to develop systems around equitable grantmaking. This would help to ensure those groups working with beneficiaries in other protected characteristics are also aware of our Foundation and the funding available.

## Publicity and Comms for the fund

Our marketing and communication around the fund are managed in several ways. We regularly post about funding streams available on our Facebook and Twitter platforms, as well as including copy in our e-bulletin and linking in with our local CVS (Community Voluntary Service) newsletters. E-bulletins are produced quarterly at present, although we are planning to increase this to bi-monthly in 2021.



BLCF staff have established excellent links with other contacts across the LLAL geographical area and we will continue to build on these during 2021-22.

We are introducing a segment called “Feedback Fridays” on our social media platforms, whereby we will be profiling more grants over the course of 2021. A selection of these grant profiles will be LLAL recipients. This does of course often depend upon the quality of content being provided by groups, but our MarComms Officer will ensure relevant donors are tagged into any posts, where applicable/available.

We also intend to run another series of community-based 'meet the funder' sessions, these have proved really successful in the past and is a good way to encourage other groups to apply to the funds.

Should LLAL wish to review comms for the fund we would be pleased to discuss this further.

## Pictures & Case Studies/testimonies

Below is a selection of some pictures\* sent by some of LLAL grantees and feedback we have received about the support. Bearing in mind many groups have had to either delay the start of their projects or are only just beginning their work, the impact information we can provide at this time will unfortunately be limited.

\*Please note that we only have permissions for some of the below images to share publicly, therefore we would ask you not to use in any publicity at this time.

### #iwill

#### [Uprising- Youth Leadership Programme](#)



#### 1 \*UPRISING COHORT- PART FUNDED THROUGH #IWILL

A young British Pakistani woman from Luton had recently graduated from University in Sports Development and Physical Education. Alongside studying, she was running her own women's cricket team. She didn't see great opportunities for women and saw a lack of motivation from her peers so wanted to push herself to build up young girls to push forward. She joined UpRising to help equip & lead girls better. Before UpRising, she was feeling normal, not exceeding at anything. Since taking part in the Leadership Programme, she feels far more open minded in regard to working with different organisations and not just sporting ones. Feeling more driven with greater knowledge of other organisations in the local area; as a result, she has created partnerships with

Bedfordshire police stop and search panel members- after the UpRising session where we visited the Police headquarters in Bedfordshire.

UpRising has made her want to make a difference in her community. Currently she is doing a social action project through UpRising, preparing for an interview with the NHS with help from mentors (provided by UpRising). She states that she “couldn’t recommend UpRising enough, not only do you learn about yourself, you learn about other organisations and individuals are out there who want to support you. Makes you a



better individual and makes you stronger for your future self.”

## LLAL SG

### Bangladesh Youth League -Health & Well-being Clubs

Grant funding supported 9 health & well-being clubs, meeting weekly, to support older people aged 50+ from the Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Indian (Gujarati) communities in Luton. Each club's programme is based on the needs of their members, but the common threads are light exercise sessions, health & well-being information, workshops, and talks focussed on the health needs of the S Asian communities.

#### Testimony from a beneficiary:

“I've found the group warm and welcoming. It's good to feel a part of the community and be involved in group activities. Over the time I've attended the yoga segment of the sessions I've seen them grow and diversify. We exercise and socialise in the class. It's good to have fun with the group and a shared experience. The fact that we are taking an active role in our health and wellbeing by doing exercise is great! .... I've also learnt a lot from the visiting speakers who discuss health and other topics. After the sessions there is a regular lunch club and it's even more stimulating to have conversations and discussions about all types of things; it might be about the class, or the speaker and a health or other issue, or just life - we are connected in so many ways and over food and

chat we can all come together. I've made many friends and really look forward to the class every week.”

## LLAL NN

### Trinity Preschool-Garden wildlife project

Trinity Preschool received a grant to be spent on creating a wildlife garden area and incorporating natural products into our indoor activities.

“We recognise that for all children, fresh air and open spaces are integral to health and well-being and for some of our learners, the opportunity to take their learning outside is crucial. Part of the project was to install bird boxes and minibeast houses to the garden area. The older children helped to construct the houses, whilst the younger children decorated them. Everyone collected natural resources to use in the minibeast houses and together we decided the best positions to locate them. Thank you to the team at ‘Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation’ for their support and the grant from LLAL Near Neighbours fund, the children have already enjoyed exploring these new resources both inside the hall and in the garden area.”



## Luton Youth Fund Tokko Ltd- LGBTQ+



A programme to support young people who were at disadvantage and had experienced isolation, bullying and abuse as a result of their chosen sexual and / or gender identity.

Quote from a young person 'OK2B' *has given me support and the opportunity to discuss my sexual identity in a safe environment where I felt I was not being judged"*

### [Case study](#)

The service has been working with a young Asian man 17 years old who was referred by one of the schools in Luton. He was struggling with how to come out to his Mother after spending any years playing two roles, being himself out of the home environment by being the dutiful

straight boy at home.

Through this programme and the one to one support we have been able to work with him on this process. Firstly, supporting him with his fears of rejection and the possibility of being thrown out of the home or worse. Making sure would have a safe space to go and a support that will not leave him abandoned. Secondly how to "come out" without crying and then parents thinking he may need medical intervention and on the other hand being overconfident and just blurting it out and upsetting his mother further.

This was a process of time but eventually he sat his mother down and came out to her and she and him are working positively to support each other. Through this process he was able to access the support service at Tokko as a young person without having to exactly explain why he was coming to Tokko again not have to lie to his parents. He is still in contact and will support others if required as part of the peer mentoring service.

## Summary

The last 18+months has been challenging for many organisations and this has impacted upon the number of grants we received for our general (long standing) LLAL funding streams. Organisations instead have been applying to the various emergency funding streams available, including the first collaborative fund for the county, which BLCF lead and managed (and LLAL supported).

As emergency type funds are closed /are closing now we anticipate returning to at least normal levels of demand for our normal funds managed moving forward (subject to Covid-19 restrictions remaining as there are).

Across all the LLAL funding streams (excluding CIF) BLCF distributed **95** grants totalling just **over £971,000** during the last 2 years. The **top 3** areas being addressed were:

- Health, Wellbeing & Serious Illness
- Education, Learning & Training
- Counselling/Advice/ Mentoring

Feedback has been very positive by all those applying to BLCF, and a selection of grant profiles/case studies have been supplied within this document.

BLCF general recommendations and considerations moving forward we would propose the following:

- 1) **Consider allowing a few multi-year grants** (e.g., over a 2-year period)- this would allow for greater impact and sustainability for groups.
- 2) **Review the criteria for the LLAL Small Grants fund** to ensure still appropriate given the changing needs in the voluntary sector and wider community

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the above proposals further with the relevant LLAL representatives, should this be agreeable.

If you have any queries about any of the detail contained within this report please contact Francesca Johnstone, Head of Operations at BLCF.