

# The Wellcombe Group Fund

**Impact Report**

December 2023





# The Wellcombe Group Fund

## Impact Report

The Wellcombe Group Fund was set up at Sussex Community Foundation in April 2013 to provide grants to charities and community groups in Brighton & Hove.

It has a specific focus on supporting projects that have a positive, lasting effect within the community. This includes funding projects that influence, support, and encourage employment and skills development providing opportunities for people with disabilities; ex-offenders; black and minority ethnic groups; long-term unemployed people and other disadvantaged groups.

Since its inception, The Wellcombe Group Fund has given 25 grants totalling £74,080. Feedback on outcomes and impact from those given in 2022 is captured in this report.

**Thank you, on behalf of all those we were able to support.**

## Bramber Bakehouse

### - £9,000



### What activities were funded by the grant?

Bramber Bakehouse provide therapeutical baking, wellbeing and employability skills for female survivors of human trafficking who have suffered sexual exploitation and servitude. Your grant supported the costs of 'little taste of freedom' baking courses.

### The difference your grant has made

All students received significant help to rebuild their confidence and connect with a community to work towards a future of independence – through voluntary work, paid employment or education. Holistic support provided a way forward towards a positive future free from past traumas, shame and stigmas.

All graduates achieved a certificate in baking and Food Hygiene and gained a reference, giving them a sense of achievement and belonging. Several have since joined a college to study and two have gained volunteer positions.



## Real lives

### Emily's story

Emily\* was trafficked into the UK in 2020. After her rescue, she was referred to Bramber Bakehouse and joined our cohort in July 2021. A keen baker, Emily was quick to learn each bake, taking the recipe home each week to make and share delicious baked products for her household. She even surprised our community with homemade chicken pies during our workshop!

During her time on the Bramber Bakehouse programme, Emily worked alongside our Programme Coordinator to identify three goals she'd like to work towards:

- Increase her mental wellbeing through sport and exercise
- Improving her English, Maths, and computers skills
- Build her experience with hope of volunteering in the community

With the support of our Programme Coordinator, Emily undertook a course via a local training provider for functional skills and computing. She's also taken up a volunteer role at Bramber Bakehouse - an opportunity to grow in confidence, increase her English skills and enable other survivors to learn from her experiences.

We are so proud of how far Emily has come and can't wait to see what the future has in store for her.

\*name has been changed for anonymity

Watch Amari's testimonial about her time at Bramber Bakehouse:

[Click here](#)

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Beneficiaries

# Spear Brighton Trust

## - £4,500

### What activities were funded by the grant?

Spear Brighton supports disadvantaged young people who face serious barriers getting into work, giving them the support, skills and confidence to find employment or re-enter education and begin to build a future filled with hope. Your grant went towards core running costs of the organisation.

All of the young people who complete Spear Foundation were noticeably more 'work-ready' than when they entered the programme with an average Work Readiness Indicator score of 7.1/10.

**81%**

of trainees completed Spear Foundation

**68%**

found work or enrolled in an educational programme one year after completing the programme

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## Real lives

Sum – Having completed Spear Foundation, Sum is now volunteering two days a week at St Peter's to build up maintenance experience. He massively struggles with his confidence and self-belief and it has been amazing to see him so encouraged! Sum has even joined in with several 'optional' staff activities such as a recent baby shower for one of St Peter's staff members.

Leo – Leo was unemployed for most of Spear Career, which left him feeling incredibly low and struggling to engage. However, he has recently started a role at Lidl and sent a text recently saying he has found community there and is loving his job – what an incredible change!

**“Through the Spear Programme, I’ve landed myself a job that I’m so excited to start. Now, I’m so happy to put myself out there, be back in the world of work, and to finally find myself on the route that I want to be on.”**

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**Beneficiaries**

# Conversation Over Borders

## - £4,500



### What activities were funded by the grant?

Conversation Over Borders provides free one-to-one English conversation classes, culturally relevant and trauma-informed mental health support and digital inclusion support for refugees and asylum seekers. They build confidence, reduce social isolation and ensure that everyone has the support and skills they need to rebuild their lives in the UK.

Your grant supported the group's English and Befriending Project. Around 120 displaced people were matched with 120 volunteers and had regular English classes over 8 months. Over that time, friendships bloomed, and clients and volunteers built social connections with someone from a different background.

**Prisoner of Hope (2023)** was produced as part of the Refugee Heritage Project, to platform the voices of displaced people in our communities.

[Watch here](#)



## Real lives

### Kholoud's story:

Kholoud, a nurse in her early 20s, has been in the UK for two years. She began taking English classes with Conversation Over Borders in preparation for the English Occupational Test, which she had to complete to register with the English Midwifery Council. Kholoud had struggled to register with the Council for the last two years on account of this test, partly due to her English. She struggled with English Grammar, conversational skills and translating.

"It's built my confidence. I had the basic English, but the problem was with communication. Maybe I had low confidence. I know basic English in a plain accent but with an accent it's quite difficult for me to catch what someone is saying! It built my confidence a lot. I think I got used to the sounds of the letters, so it moved me from the intermediate level to the upper intermediate level."

Taking part in English classes helped Kholoud build her confidence by improving her communication skills. By talking with her teacher, she became more comfortable with English accents and the pronunciation by different English speakers. She built a good relationship with her English teacher and enjoyed the classes. When Kholoud decided to finish the sessions it was because she felt confident enough to speak English without her teacher.

"After that I applied for my English exam and I passed it. I really thank Conversation Over Borders for supporting me."

Having passed this test, Kholoud is now planning to continue volunteering at Conversation Over Borders whilst working as a Nurse for the NHS.



## The difference your grant has made

97%

of learners reported feeling more confident with their English ability after eight weeks of classes

71%

of learners reported that classes helped them feel less socially isolated

**“When Megan teaches me it helps my mental health. Sometimes I feel so isolated and I need to talk... We talk, we laugh, I even tell her: I'm so glad I have someone to talk to.”**

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# The Wellcombe Group Fund

## All Grants from The Wellcombe Group Fund

Date	Organisation	Grant amount
16/11/2022	Spear Brighton Trust	£4,500
15/11/2022	Conversation Over Borders	£4,500
11/03/2022	Bramber Bakehouse	£9,000
19/07/2021	Safety Net	£1,090
19/07/2021	Men TalkHealth	£5,000
22/11/2019	Allsorts Youth Project	£4,050
09/07/2019	Ralli Hall Lunch and Social Club	£4,050
19/03/2018	Salaam Football Club	£2,115
19/03/2018	Know Dementia	£2,385
16/09/2016	Salaam Football Club	£1,500
16/09/2016	Sing for Better Health	£1,800
16/09/2016	Sussex Syrian Community Group	£1,500
04/03/2016	St Cuthman's Whitehawk	£5,000
15/09/2015	Fareshare Sussex & Surrey	£4,468
11/09/2015	Aqua Seniors	£1,500
11/09/2015	Mad Hatters	£1,500

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Date	Organisation	Grant amount
27/02/2015	Whoopsadaisy	£4,615
27/02/2015	Silver Sounds	£1,380
12/09/2014	St Luke's Advice Service	£1,500
12/09/2014	Salaam Football Club	£2,887
04/03/2014	Fun in Action for Children	£4,000
04/03/2014	Millwood Kicks Club	£1,500
13/09/2013	Brighton City Table Tennis club	£1,000
13/09/2013	Craven Vale Community Association	£1,500
13/09/2013	Plot 22	£1,740



*Sussex Community Foundation* brings *inspirational* people together to create the change Sussex needs. We make and *strengthen connections* between philanthropists, businesses, charity founders and community leaders. We make *vital grants* through over 100 dedicated *funds*. And we share knowledge, inspiration and stories too – to help grow the power of community, and create a Sussex where people and *communities thrive*.

# Thank you.



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