

Annual Report 2024



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Chair and CEO Report 2024

We are delighted to share this annual reflection on a year that has brought both challenges and progress for communities across Northern Ireland. Throughout 2024, the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland has remained a committed and flexible funder, supporting grassroots organisations to make a real difference in communities every day.

At the outset, we want to express our sincere thanks to Lloyds Banking Group, our sole funder. Their continued support enables us to direct vital resources into the heart of communities. In addition to financial support, Lloyds Banking Group generously provides access to the expertise and skills of their colleagues. This has allowed us to offer both short and long term skills exchange initiatives to the charities we support, to strengthen and build their capacity.

The cost-of-living crisis continued to place significant pressure on community and voluntary groups. In response, our funding prioritised flexibility, enabling charities to meet immediate needs while planning for long term resilience. In 2024, we awarded over £1.6 million in grants to more than 400 charities, spanning sectors such as health, arts, youth, disability, women's services, and rural support. We extend a special thanks to Lloyds Banking Group for providing additional funding during the summer unrest of 2024. This enabled us to support grantees working with migrant communities at a critical time.

Our core FLEX Programme remained central to our work, complemented by strategic infrastructure funding through EMPOWER, which supports good governance and financial resilience. Our innovative COLLABORATE fund continues to foster meaningful partnerships, while IGNITE provides seed funding to newly established charities.

In this year, we further streamlined our application processes and strengthened support for smaller charities. Listening to our grantees and learning from their experiences helped shape even more accessible and inclusive funding practices. We also deepened partnerships with other funders and stakeholders to share learning and increase collective impact.

The Foundation is guided by strong governance, with our Board providing oversight and clarity of purpose. We have continued to enhance our commitment to diverse and community-informed leadership. We are deeply grateful to all our trustees, who give their time and expertise voluntarily in support of our mission.

As we look ahead to 2025, our 40th anniversary year, we are excited to be working in close partnership with Lloyds Banking Group and our sister Foundations in England and Wales, Scotland, and the Channel Islands to launch a joint fund for the first time in our history. We look forward to this new chapter of collaboration and shared impact in the year ahead.

To the charity leaders, staff, and volunteers we work alongside – thank you.

Your dedication drives change and inspires us all as we hope for a more inclusive, resilient Northern Ireland. We remain committed to being guided by you and grounded in the values that have shaped our work for four decades.



Brenda McMullan, Chief Executive Officer (left) and Chair of the Board, Brenda Kelly

Pretty 'n' Pink



Pretty 'n' Pink provides financial support to men and women with breast cancer and their families in Northern Ireland. They offer financial support via the Pretty 'n' Pink "Support Fund", including wigs, prosthetics, complementary therapies, counselling and emotional support to help people deal with their diagnosis. They provide online and telephone support to those outside of Belfast and have recently opened a new hub in Portadown.

In 2024, Pretty 'n' Pink received £7,000 towards rent costs for their hub in Belfast.

Our Mission and Who We Support

Who are Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland?

The Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland is one of four independent grant-making trusts, covering England & Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. We are funded by Lloyds Banking Group and collectively receive 0.5% of the Group's pre-tax profits.

The Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland is an independent charitable foundation, and our policies are determined by our own Board of Trustees.

We believe in supporting communities that champion good causes, because we're Better Together.

Our Vision

Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland envisions a sustainable and inclusive Northern Ireland where everyone thrives.

Our Purpose

The Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland invests in local charities, empowering communities in greatest need to flourish.

Our Grant Strategy

As part of our new Strategy, 'Better Together', we have designed a suite of new grant programmes to enable our applicants to help those in greatest need.

IGNITE

Open to groups who have been recently set up (within last 2 years) who are registered charities

.....
Seeding support of up to £2,000 to kick-start charity

.....
Examples of costs may include core support, equipment, research

.....
Mentoring and governance support available

Community FLEX

Open to charities with an income of £500,000 or less, with at least one year of annual returns published on CCNI website

.....
1-year grants of up to £10,000

.....
Examples of costs may include core, salary, equipment, project costs

.....
Rolling grants programme

COLLABORATE

Open to 2 or more charities coming together for the first time to tackle a social issue at a local level. All charities must have individual income levels of £500,000 or less

.....
1-year grants of up to £20,000

.....
Collaboration training available

.....
Examples of costs include core, salary, training, equipment, research

EMPOWER

Open to infrastructure charities, both regional and sub-regional who provide guidance and support to voluntary & community groups

.....
1 to 2 year funding available totaling £20,000

.....
Projects must be strategic in nature

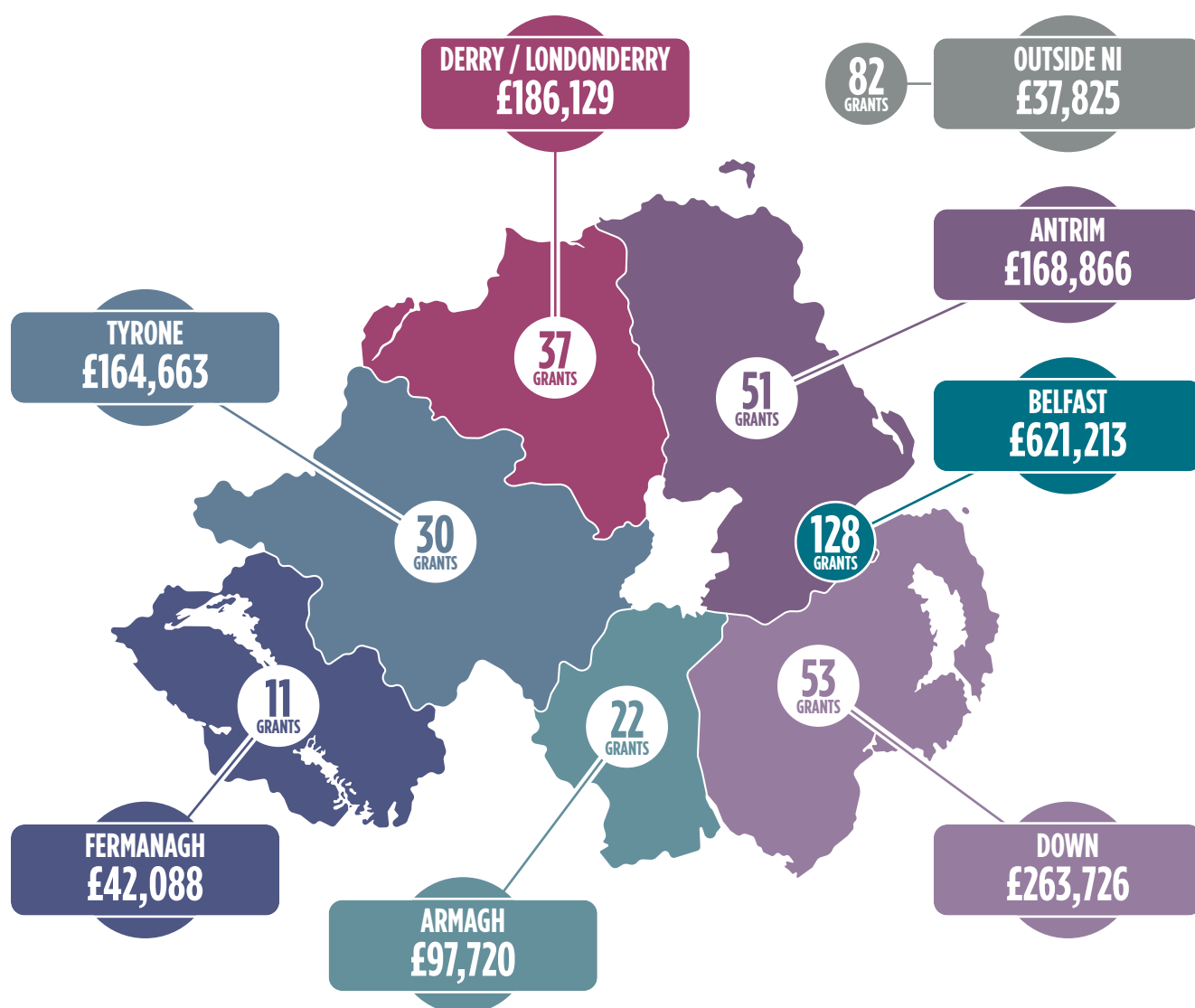
.....
Examples of costs may include research, publications, capacity building training

2024 Grants Overview

Awarding grants to worthy causes is our main focus at the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland. This year, we awarded 414 grants to organisations to enable them to action positive change in their communities.

- **IGNITE** – 4 grants totaling £7,990
- **Community FLEX** – 226 grants totaling £1,245,493
- **COLLABORATE** – 5 grants to a value of £96,119
- **EMPOWER** – 10 grants awarded of £165,102*,
(£112,506 paid in 2024) *includes two years funding
- **MATCHED GIVING** – 169 claims to a value of £70,106.

- In July and August 2024, the UK and Northern Ireland experienced widespread riots and public disorder, fueled by far-right protests and misinformation following a stabbing attack in Southport, leaving many Black and Minority Ethnic communities in fear. An additional £50,016 was donated by Lloyds Banking Group in response to the riots. 18 charities providing direct support to those suffering at this time benefitted from this extra funding, with an unrestricted award of £2,500.



Foundation Grant Programmes

Total Awarded – £1,514,704

Number of Grants – 245

Our Grantees Told Us

138,000 people

Benefitted from our funding

Matched Giving Scheme

Total Awarded – £70,106

Number of Grants – 169

2024 Grants Overview

Digital Support in 2024

As part of our Grants+ approach, grant holders can benefit from a free digital resource (a refurbished laptop/ pc or tablet) to support the administrative duties of the charity. In 2024, 146 of these items were disseminated.

Type	Number	Value (£)
Laptop	89	£18,601
PC	20	£2,780
Tablet	37	£5,883
Total	146	£27,264

Type of People/Charities Supported in 2024

(Excluding EMPOWER and Matched Giving)

Type of People Supported	No.	Amount £
People with Mental Ill Health	21	147,489
Carers	1	9,115
Ethnic Minorities	11	80,387
Homeless	4	25,650
LGBTQIA+	1	5,000
Low Income Background	95	486,442
Offenders/ Ex-Offenders	2	17,000
Other area of need	18	100,338
People with a Learning Disability	14	74,934
People with a Physical Disability	13	78,942
People with an Addiction	1	5,000
People with an Illness	13	77,479
Victims	2	14,000
Young People at Risk	37	221,984
Bereaved	2	5,842
TOTAL	235	£1,349,602



Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative



Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative has been providing training for long-term unemployed people since 1995. To compliment the training provision they provide, they have established a horticultural project, which incorporates the growing of vegetables and fruit. This element was established to support those who did not feel ready for formal training and/or suffered health issues.

In 2024, they were awarded £2,912 towards the salary of their Administrator and running costs. In addition, they benefited from a refurbished laptop, free of charge to support the administrative function of the organisation.

IGNITE Programme

Fueling New Beginnings for Local Charities

In January 2024, the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland launched the IGNITE Programme as part of its 'Better Together' strategy, aiming to provide essential support to newly established charities within Northern Ireland.

The IGNITE programme is a seeding fund programme, set up in order to support a registered charity to get started, who had not yet completed and submitted 1 year's accounts to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. It offers a 12 month grant with a maximum grant award of £2,000.

2024 Insights on IGNITE

Since its inception, the IGNITE Programme has played a pivotal role in empowering newly formed charities, enabling them to establish their operations and begin delivering vital services to communities in need. By providing seed funding and supportive resources, the programme fosters the development of resilient organisations capable of making a lasting impact. An IGNITE grant recipient said, "Your support helped us establish a strong operational foundation as a newly registered charity, ensuring both compliance and safe delivery of our work. Thank you for supporting our journey."

For more detailed information or to apply, please visit the IGNITE grant programme page on the Halifax Foundation NI website: halifaxfoundationni.org/IGNITE

4 Organisations Supported

Total Awarded - £7,990



IGNITE Case Study: The Giving Shed, Helping Others

The Giving Shed provides urgent practical assistance, information and support to individuals and families facing financial hardship and struggling with day-to-day practicalities such as food, clothes, bedding and toiletries. They also work in partnership with well-known chain stores and local businesses to provide essential items and have built a network of community organisations sharing resources and information. They work to raise awareness by networking with relevant support services and organisations and advocate for long-term changes within the local community by recycling, up-cycling and supporting each other through the current cost of living crisis. They secured £1,990 through IGNITE towards setting up costs, providing urgent practical assistance, information and support to families facing financial hardship in Cloughmills.

Community FLEX Programme

Adaptable Grants for Communities in Greatest Need

In 2024, the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland introduced the Community FLEX Programme as a cornerstone of its 'Better Together' strategy, aiming to provide flexible and accessible funding to small charities addressing pressing social needs across Northern Ireland.

The Community FLEX Programme offers 12-month grants, with an average award of £5,511, to registered charities with an annual income of £500,000 or less. Designed as a rolling programme, it allows eligible organisations to apply at any time, ensuring timely support for initiatives that directly benefit individuals facing challenges such as poverty, unemployment, disability, or mental health issues.

The flexibility of the programme ensures that charities can allocate resources where they are most needed, adapting to changing circumstances and priorities, with the opportunity available for grant holders to change their grant use at any stage of their projects.

2024 Insights on FLEX

The Community FLEX Programme has played a vital role in supporting grassroots charities, enabling them to deliver essential services and initiatives that address the needs of vulnerable populations. By offering adaptable funding solutions, the programme empowers organisations to respond effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities within their communities.

As the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland continues to implement its 'Better Together' strategy, the Community FLEX Programme stands as a testament to the Foundation's commitment to fostering resilience and positive change at the local level.

For more detailed information or to apply, please visit the Community FLEX grant programme page on the Halifax Foundation NI website: halifaxfoundationni.org/FLEX

226 Organisations Supported

Total Awarded - £1,245,493



FLEX Community Grant Case Study: Ballymacash Playgroup

Ballymacash Playgroup provides 60 pre-school education places for children based in the Ballymacash area of Lisburn. The playgroup is situated in an area of deprivation and supports families on low incomes, single parents and children with additional needs.

The Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland awarded £5,927 towards salary costs, accountancy fees and the purchase of tables.

By supporting their salary costs, the charity were able to keep the playgroup fees low, maintaining affordability for families on low incomes and/or in receipt of benefits. The tables have enhanced the playgroup setting and increased the range of play activities that can be offered during the sessions.

The COLLABORATE Programme

Because We Are Better, Together

The COLLABORATE programme is designed to support partnerships between two or more registered charities in Northern Ireland that are working together to address local social issues. The programme aims to foster collaboration among organisations to enhance their collective impact on communities in greatest need. A maximum of £20,000 can be secured through this 12-month grant programme. In addition, each collaborate applicant and partner organisation received expert collaboration training through NICVA before submitting an application, to maximise the success of the proposed project.

2024 Insights on COLLABORATE

The COLLABORATE programme has facilitated new partnerships to effect real change through working together to maximise their impact on a particular identified issue. By providing financial support and collaboration training, the programme has created opportunities for charities with differing but complementary skills to provide a more holistic approach to supporting their identified group of people in greatest need.

The Foundation's overall commitment to supporting collaborative efforts underscores its dedication to fostering meaningful change through partnership.

For more detailed information or to apply, please visit the COLLABORATE programme page on the Halifax Foundation NI website:

halifaxfoundationni.org/COLLABORATE

5 Organisations Supported

Total Awarded - £96,119



COLLABORATE Case Study: Sticky Fingers Arts and Caring Coins

Sticky Fingers Arts provides opportunities for children and young people from disadvantaged communities to access inclusive arts and creative programmes across Northern Ireland. They operate from the Imaginarium Centre in Newry, a dedicated space designed by children, for children of mixed abilities. The organisation works with partners across health and education sectors to ensure that children who are often isolated or excluded have access to essential play and arts experiences. The Imaginarium Centre is located within one of the most deprived wards within Northern Ireland and is home to many ethnic minority and low-income families.

Caring Coins was established during the pandemic to help local families cope with the impact of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. The organisation provides support programmes for people suffering from mental health issues, isolation, loneliness, and poverty. Caring Coins has been operating the community café within the Imaginarium Centre for a number of years and has established an essential community hub that is fully accessible to everyone, every day.

Sticky Fingers Arts secured a £20,000 COLLABORATE grant alongside Caring Coins, to support 25 young people with complex needs in the Newry area. These young people have been excluded from mainstream activities due to their disability. Through the programme, they receive one-to-one specialised support from both charities, bringing art/play opportunities from Sticky Fingers, and an opportunity to socialise with friends in the Caring Coins café in a supported environment with the aim of promoting independence and 'normalisation'.

The EMPOWER Programme

Empowering Infrastructure Charities to Strengthen Communities

The EMPOWER programme is designed to support established infrastructure charities operating at regional or sub-regional levels in Northern Ireland. These organisations primarily provide guidance and support to voluntary and community groups. A maximum £20,000 can be secured over one or two years to support costs such as research, capacity building, salary contributions or core costs.

2024 Insights of EMPOWER

In 2024, the EMPOWER Programme funded 10 infrastructure charities across Northern Ireland, distributing £165,102* (£112,506 paid in 2024 *includes two years funding) in grants.

These investments:

- Enabled over 120 member groups to access expert training, governance support, and funding guidance
- Facilitated the publication of key policy and practice research reports for the sector
- Provided key skills through capacity building, financial resilience and mentoring programmes to the third sector
- Helped infrastructure organisations offer dedicated outreach in rural and underrepresented areas

The Foundation remains committed to being a flexible, transparent, and learning-driven funder, ensuring that infrastructure charities can thrive and continue enabling others to do the same.

For more detailed information or to apply, please visit the EMPOWER grant programme page on the Halifax Foundation NI website:

halifaxfoundationni.org/EMPOWER

10 Organisations Supported

Total Awarded - £165,102



EMPOWER Case Study: Fóram na nÓg

Fóram na nÓg is the only regional voluntary youth organisation for the Irish Medium youth work sector since 2009. They provide advice and guidance to 35 groups from across the region. In order to build capacity within the sector, they train youth workers, provide innovative youth provision for young people, and advise groups regarding the formulation and development of strategic and operational plans.

Fóram na nÓg received £20,000 through the EMPOWER Programme over 2 years. Through this funding they will bring together young people from 35 organisations to represent their areas, and work towards collective goals regarding youth rights and those of young Irish speakers. This project will strengthen member groups to support and mentor their young people. It gives young Irish speakers an opportunity to influence decision making within this sector and become advocates for their organisations and communities. It will give young people a voice in their future and on issues that affect them. The young people who have taken part in the programme will then go on to volunteer or gain employment within the Irish Medium youth groups who have supported them in the past.

Turnaround Project



The Turnaround Project enables people who have served sentences in prison or in the community to turn around their futures and is best known as a provider of transitional employment opportunities. They have two social enterprises – Outwork, a grounds maintenance service and Big Loop Bikes, a bike repair and leasing service. Alongside employment, they provide each transitional employee with strength-based coaching to help them identify their abilities, to set and pursue personal goals, and to think about how they can use their past experiences to help them turn around their futures. They provide training and employment in both their ‘Outwork’ social enterprise grounds maintenance service and opportunities for shared community activity, such as technical training and employment within their ‘Big Loop Bikes’ bike repair and leasing business.

They secured £10,000 towards the salary of the Human Resources, Contracts and Payroll Administrator. In addition they received a refurbished PC, free of charge to support the administrative function of the organisation.

Grants Awarded

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
COLLABORATE	
Ardoyne Association	£19,999
Flourish NI	£20,000
Lisburn Downtown Centre	£16,120
Mid-Ulster Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (MACP)	£20,000
Sticky Fingers Arts	£20,000
	£96,119

COMMUNITY FLEX	
1st & 2nd Downpatrick Scout Group Scouting Ireland	£2,500
A Safe Space to be Me Ltd	£4,000
Accidental Theatre	£7,000
ACET Northern Ireland Limited	£9,250
Acorn Women's Group	£5,040
ADDNI LTD	£5,000
Africa House NI	£7,000
Altnagelvin Parents	£4,000
Altram	£4,200
Angel Eyes NI Services	£8,640
Ardoyne Youth Club	£4,500
Ardstraw Football Club	£4,620
Armagh Roma Traveller Support	£5,000
Articlave District Community Association	£7,500
Arts for All	£7,000
Ashes To Gold	£5,000
Aspire NI	£5,000
Atticall Playgroup	£4,000
Autism Support Kilkeel	£9,520
Ballymacash Playgroup	£5,927
Ballymena Sea Cadets	£5,000
Ballymoney u3a (University of the Third Age)	£3,505
Banbridge/Seapatricks/Holy Trinity and St Patrick's / Church of Ireland	£4,465
Belfast Eagle Sea cadets	£4,992
Belfast Homeless Services	£8,000
Belfast Interface Project	£5,000
Benbradagh Community Support	£5,000
Benedy Community Association Limited	£4,500
Black Mountain Shared Space	£5,000
Bourneview Mill Football Club	£5,000
Brassneck Theatre Company	£5,000
Breezemount Community Association	£3,900
Brooke House Health and Wellbeing Centre	£5,000
Bruiser Theatre Company	£7,000
Cancer Connect NI	£5,000
Cancer Lifeline	£9,900
Caring Breaks	£5,000
Carnagat Area Community Association	£4,000
Carnlough Community Association	£4,000
Carrick Hill Residents Association	£8,476
Cathedral Youth Club	£5,000
Cause NI Ltd	£9,115

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Centre for Health and Wellbeing	£4,700
Charlemont and Cranagill Young at Heart	£1,000
Charter for Northern Ireland	£8,388
Children's Heartbeat Trust	£8,694
Clonmore Youth Club	£4,800
Clonoe Rural Development Agency Ltd	£10,000
Coiste Ghaeloideachas Chromghlinne	£5,000
Commedia of Errors	£5,000
Community Dialogue	£5,000
Community Relations In Schools (CRIS)	£5,000
Craigavon Travellers Support Committee	£5,000
Creavery Parent Teacher Association	£3,500
Crossfire Trust	£5,650
Cullybackey Community Partnership	£4,700
Cushendun and District Development Association	£3,603
Derry & Raphoe Action Limited	£4,415
Diverse Youth NI	£10,000
Donagh Wee Folk Playschool	£4,000
Down Right Brilliant (Newry and Mourne Down's Syndrome Support Group)	£5,000
Downpatrick Autism Family Support Group	£5,000
Drake Music Project Northern Ireland	£10,000
Dreamscheme Northern Ireland	£4,550
Drumaness Cross Community Playgroup	£4,000
Dumbworld Ltd	£4,290
Ealú	£7,000
Edenvilla Ltd	£5,000
Ederney Community Development Trust	£6,356
Eglinton community pre-school	£3,916
Engage with age	£5,000
Erne East Community Partnership Ltd	£5,000
Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative	£2,912
Fighting Words Northern Ireland	£5,000
Fitmoms & Kids	£6,000
Fivemiletown United Football Club	£6,000
Forthspring Inter Community Group	£5,000
Friends Forever Europe	£4,000
Friends of Ballylifford	£4,895
Friends of Cabragh	£4,234
Friends of Carniny Primary School	£4,000
Friends of Maine	£4,000
Galliagh Women's Group	£7,250
Garvagh Development Trust	£5,000
Glenview Pre-school Centre	£5,200
Glór na Móna Teo	£4,600
GLOW - Giving Life Opportunities to Women	£5,000
Good Morning Ballymena	£4,852
Good Morning Down	£10,000
Gortallowry House Project Ltd	£4,090
Grace Women's Development Limited	£7,336
Green Shoot Productions	£7,700
Greenway Women's Centre	£10,000
Groggan Primary School Parent Teacher Association	£2,000

Grants Awarded

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Haemochromatosis UK	£2,500
Hands That Talk	£5,000
Happy Days Playgroup	£1,410
Have Your Tomorrow's (HURT)	£5,000
Helping Hands Community Outreach Project	£5,000
HERe NI	£5,000
Homeplus NI Ltd	£6,000
Home-Start Ards Comber and Peninsula Area	£9,998
Home-Start North Belfast	£5,000
Home-Start North Down	£10,000
Home-Start South and East Belfast	£5,000
Hope 4 UR Life Limited T/A Hope 4Life NI	£7,500
Informing Choices NI	£5,000
InterAct Stroke Support	£4,670
Invisible Traffick	£8,000
J29 Project	£8,500
Jack and Jill Pre-School	£4,000
Killicomaine Residents Group	£3,680
Killinchy Community Youth Association	£2,500
Larne Well-Being Hub	£5,000
Leafair Community Association Ltd	£5,000
Leitrim Community Playgroup	£4,930
Life Change Changes Lives	£9,940
Lilac Cancer Support	£5,000
Lincoln Courts Youth & Community Association	£5,000
Lislea Men's Shed	£4,540
Lisnafin/Ardnalee/Trust Cross-Community Development Association	
Listening Ear	£9,631
Little Acorns Community Playgroup	£5,000
Little Orchids Limited	£4,500
Little Sunbeams Pre-school & Playgroup	£4,000
Loanends Primary School PTA	£3,500
LoveHope&Faith	£4,082
Lurgan Town Football Club	£10,000
Macosquin Village Community Association	£4,500
Mae Murray Foundation	£8,000
Magnet Young Adult Centre	£4,065
McCullaghs Amateur Boxing club	£5,000
MHS Heritage & Culture Ltd	£4,000
Mid Ulster Agewell	£4,000
Mid Ulster Community Services Ltd T/A Out & About Community Transport	£4,000
Mid Ulster Victims Empowerment Project	£5,000
Mid-Ulster Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (MACP)	£5,000
Moneyreagh and District Community Association	£6,240
Mornington Community Project	£7,000
Mourne Action For Survivors of Terrorism (MAST)	£2,390
MYMY - Mind Your Mate and Yourself	£10,000
Naíscoil Dhún Pádraig	£4,000
Naíscoil na Seolta	£5,000
Neurodiversity UK	£5,700
New Horizons Partnership Ltd	£5,500
New Lodge Duncairn Community Health Partnership	£10,000
Newcastle Preschool Playgroup	£5,862

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Newry And Mourne Community Transport	£4,000
Newry City Afc Special Olympic Club	£8,450
North Down Boxing Club	£5,000
North West Migrants Forum	£5,000
Northern Ireland Forest School Association	£4,000
Northern Lights Project	£5,000
Northside 50+ Club	£5,380
O4O Cookstown Ltd	£9,000
Obon on the Foyle	£9,984
OG Cancer NI	£3,000
Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group	£4,936
Omagh Futsal Association	£4,000
Open Arts	£5,000
Our Social Space Ltd	£3,300
PeacePlayers International-Northern Ireland	£5,000
People's Kitchen Belfast	£6,000
Place to Wonder	£4,680
Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs	£5,500
Portadown Wellness Centre	£8,000
Portglenone Enterprise group	£6,962
Pretty 'n' Pink Limited	£7,000
Rascals community playgroup	£4,000
Rasharkin Community Association	£5,888
REACT-Reconciliation Education and Community Training	£5,000
Replay Productions Ltd	£5,000
Richmount Rural Community Association	£4,800
River Valley Development Association Ltd	£2,050
R-Space Gallery	£5,000
Rural health partnership	£7,500
Saphara Limited	£7,693
Search & Rescue Dog Association Ireland North	£9,350
Shopmobility Lisburn	£5,000
Shopmobility Mid Ulster	£3,550
Short Strand Community Forum	£9,979
Sieve Gallion Community Pre-School	£6,000
St Mark's Silver Band	£3,380
St Mary's PTA Banbridge	£8,275
St Paul's ABC	£4,800
St. Oliver Plunkett Pre-School	£4,000
St. Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre	£10,000
St. Ronan's College Foundation	£5,000
Stage Beyond Theatre Company	£4,500
Stepping Stones Cross Community Playgroup	£4,000
Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery	£4,958
Strangford & District Playgroup and Afterschool Club	£4,088
Strathfoyle Women's Activity Group Ltd	£4,960
Superstars Club	£5,000
Survivors of Trauma	£3,452
Tara Centre	£5,000
Templepatrick Primary School Parent Teacher Association	£3,160
The Birches Cosy Club	£3,610
The Churches Trust Limited	£5,000
The Courthouse Kesh Limited	£8,500

Grants Awarded

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
The Crow's Nest Community Playgroup	£5,000
The Dojo Juniors	£4,300
The Drummond Centre Project Ltd	£4,275
The Fitzone Foundation	£3,100
The Magic Roundabout Playgroup	£5,513
The Men's Advisory Project	£9,000
The Open Door Centre	£9,000
The Parent Rooms	£1,500
The Speedwell Trust Limited	£7,012
The Turnaround Project	£10,000
The Village Garden (Broughshane) Limited	£4,000
Three Ways Community Association	£4,500
Tiny Tots Community Playgroup	£5,000
Tiny Tots Cross Community Playgroup	£4,000
Tiny Tots Pre-School	£4,793
Tools for Solidarity	£7,788
Walkway Community Association	£5,000
We Are Ports	£5,000
West Bann Development	£5,000
West Wellbeing Suicide Prevention Limited	£4,520
Whiterock Creche Association Limited T/A Whiterock Childrens centre	£9,000
Willowbank Limited	£7,200
Willowfield Parish Community Association	£4,500
Youth Education Health Advice	£3,700
Youth Lyric Limited	£3,288
Youthlife LTD	£5,000
Zachary Geddis Break the Silence Trust	£4,500
£1,245,493	

EMPOWER

Business in the Community	£13,900
Centre for Global Education	£13,390
CO3 Chief Officers 3rd Sector	£16,303
Development Trusts NI Ltd	£20,000
Fóram na nÓg	£20,000
Impact Network NI	£10,000
Institute of Fundraising (Northern Ireland)	£12,080
NICVA (Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action)	£19,941
Northern Ireland Union of Supported Employment	£19,488
Theatre and Dance NI	£20,000
£165,102	

IGNITE

Annahoe Mens Shed	£2,000
Balnamlill Little Learners	£2,000
Derrylatinee Parents Support Group	£2,000
The Giving Shed, Helping Others	£1,990
£7,990	

TOTAL

£1,514,704



Ashes To Gold



Ashes To Gold, based in the Causeway Coast and Glens area, provides activities for individuals who want to increase their confidence, motivation and self-belief while learning new skills. They focus on supporting people who have special or additional needs, mental health issues, are long-term unemployed or are undertaking community service. They support their clients by teaching them new skills, providing counselling and empowering them with the ability to make a difference in their lives. Activities include upcycled furniture workshops, a GROW project where they grow fruit, vegetables and flowers and teach people how to eat healthily, counselling support, food bank, garden and nature therapy, fishing and outdoor activities.

They secured £5,000 towards facilitation costs for 37 weeks of horticultural and woodwork sessions for adults with learning disabilities and/or a brain injury. In addition they received a refurbished tablet, free of charge to support the administrative function of the organisation.

The Application Process

It's important to us that our application process is one of simplicity, efficiency and ease. Below, you'll see our seven step process that makes applying for your grant a smooth journey.

1. PRE-APPLICATION

Connect with our team

Supporting you from the moment you consider applying is important to us. We offer monthly pre-application sessions online as well as one-to-one pre-application calls, to ensure that you and your organisation are clear on what the process is. Contact us on grants@halifaxfoundationni.org to book in and remember that every question is valid.



2. APPLICATION PHASE

Checks and filling in the gaps

Once your application is received, our team will complete an eligibility check. If your application is incomplete, you will have one week to send any outstanding information to us.



3. ASSESSMENT

Working with the grants team

This is the stage where a Grants Officer will be assigned to your application and will contact you to discuss your application further. This gives you an opportunity to express your needs and plans for your grant. The Grants Officer will produce a report on your application which is presented to the Grants Team. The team will then agree on a recommendation.



4. DECISION

Collaborating with the grants committee

At this point, your application will be presented to our Grants Committee. The recommendations are sent to our Board of Trustees for final ratification. We ask that you give us up to 10 weeks from the date that you submitted to process your application, carry out the assessment and share the decision with you.



5. ACCEPTANCE

Starting your journey

If you are accepted for a grant, a grant acceptance email will be sent to you. Your Chair must sign up to the terms & conditions of grant and send payment details. Once received, your grant payment will be made to your charity bank account. Positive impact begins here!



6. MONITORING

Keeping things moving

It's important for you to retain all information relating to the grant including financial records. This helps us monitor your impact, ensure that funding is being spent wisely and allows us the opportunity to advocate for more opportunities in the future. For more information, see our Financial Management Factsheet. You may be asked to provide us with progress reports, so bear this in mind!



7. EVALUATION

Reflecting on the process

When your funding comes to an end, you are required to complete an evaluation form, highlighting the impact of your grant and how you spent the grant. You may receive a visit from a member of the grants team to close off the grant. This part of the process gives us a chance to see the incredible impact you've had on your community and after this, you may then be eligible to reapply for further support.



Offering Grantee Support beyond Funding

In alignment with our commitment to empower charities across Northern Ireland, the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland offers grantee support services beyond financial assistance. Through partnership with Lloyds Banking Group, our sole funder, we are able to provide a suite of capacity-building initiatives designed to strengthen the operational and strategic capabilities of our grantees.

Charity Mentoring Programme

Our Charity Mentoring Programme pairs senior professionals from Lloyds Banking Group with leaders of our grantee organisations. This developmental partnership fosters personal and professional growth, enabling mentees to navigate challenges and enhance their leadership skills. Mentors, in turn, gain valuable insights into the difficult landscape faced by third sector organisations and their tenacity in moving forward despite the challenges they face. The programme includes accredited mentoring training delivered by Advance Coaching. 11 charity leaders were mentored by Lloyds Banking Group colleagues in 2024.

Charity Response Forums

Charity Response Forums provide a confidential space for charities to discuss pressing issues with a diverse team from Lloyds Banking Group. These 2-hour virtual sessions leverage expertise in areas such as risk management, digital transformation, and effective communication, assisting charities in problem-solving and strategic planning. Eight Northern Ireland charities were supported through Charity Response Forums in 2024.

Skills Exchange Programme

Our Skills Exchange Programme connects charities with small teams from Lloyds Banking Group for a six-month collaborative engagement. These teams offer tailored support through virtual sessions, assisting with strategic planning, policy development, and capacity building. Activities may include workshops, document reviews, and action planning sessions, all aimed at addressing specific organisational challenges. Five charities were supported through the skills exchange programme in 2024.

Impact and Testimonials

Feedback from participants underscores the value of these initiatives. Judith Rankin, Chief Executive of the Spotted Foundation described the mentoring programme as “invaluable” for providing a reflective space beyond daily operations. Another grantee expressed immense gratitude for the overwhelmingly positive support received from the Lloyds Banking Group staff.

Looking Ahead

We remain dedicated to listening to our grantees and adapting our programmes to meet their needs. Our goal is to foster a collaborative environment where charities can thrive, ensuring that our support extends beyond funding, to provide a holistic package of support to the charities we invest in.

For more information on our grantee support services, please visit our Grantee Support page: <https://www.halifaxfoundationni.org/grantee-support/>

North West Migrants Forum



North West Migrants Forum is an anti-racism charity based in Derry/Londonderry, dedicated to promoting respect, fairness, and equality for Black, racialised, and minoritised communities, including people seeking asylum and refugees. They provide grassroots-led support through information, advice, and representation, while promoting mental health and inclusion via educational, social, and recreational activities.

They secured £5,000 towards salary costs, digital support and a mini bilingual library.

Furthermore, we were able to support this charity with an additional £2,500 of unrestricted funding to help families that were affected by unrest within Northern Ireland towards newcomer communities during the summer of 2024, through further funding provided by Lloyds Banking Group. (Please see page 6 for more information)

The Matched Giving Scheme

The Matched Giving Scheme was established to encourage employees of Lloyds Banking Group/Halifax to get involved in the community and voluntary sector and become a vital part in impacting real lives within their communities. Employees were encouraged to help fundraise through personal participation in events or give their time freely to support the work of charities throughout the UK.

All four foundations administer this scheme on behalf of Lloyds Banking Group. It is open to the staff of Lloyds Banking Group, its subsidiary companies and Foundation staff and Trustees. To make things simple and personal, every member of staff employed by Lloyds Banking Group is entitled to claim up to £1,000 in each calendar year from the Matched Giving Scheme. This can be claimed for a charity for which they have either raised money or given their own time to volunteer. The Scheme will match every pound raised or donated, including £10 per hour of voluntary time given, to a maximum of £500 for fundraising events and/or £500 for voluntary time given.

Matched Giving in 2024

169 Applications approved

64 Charities received a payment

148 Employees claimed Matched Giving

Total Awarded - £70,106

2024 continued to be a challenging year for fundraising for the community and voluntary sector, with the ongoing cost of living crisis and deep cuts to statutory funding. Despite this, the amazing employees of Lloyds Banking Group got creative to ensure they continued to support charities tackling issues close to their hearts. They arranged gala balls, took part in bag packs and even dressed up as elves to raise funds. They volunteered their time with charities including parent and teachers associations, local sports clubs and youth organisations. Their dedicated efforts enabled us to provide unrestricted donations to charities. We couldn't feel prouder of our colleagues who went that extra mile to provide for those in need.

Charity Partnership

Crisis & Simon Community in Northern Ireland

Ever since we announced our partnership with the UK national homelessness charity Crisis, together with Simon Community in Northern Ireland back in April 2023, we have seen an abundance of support and enthusiasm from colleagues across the Group to help end homelessness for good.

From participating in City Walk events and wearing it red for Valentine's Day, to volunteering thousands of hours in Crisis shops, Christmas hotels and as Changing Lives mentors, our colleagues' support has been inspiring. Thanks to their dedication, the partnership has already raised over £4m (as of July 2025). Over 25,000 colleagues have already completed our co-developed homelessness awareness module, helping them to champion an end to homelessness for good.

Every pound raised through the partnership is directly supporting Crisis and Simon Community in Northern Ireland to deliver their vital services that support anyone experiencing or at risk of homelessness across the UK.

Fundraising is helping Crisis to power their network of nine Skylight centres – there for anyone needing support – as well as funding their Changing Lives Programme – enabling people who have experienced homelessness to progress into education or set up their own businesses. The partnership has also supported the development of Good Place Lettings, a non-profit lettings agency that follows the successful model of Homes for Good in Scotland, working to bring care and responsibility to renting for both landlords and support for tenants. Meanwhile in Northern Ireland, colleague fundraising is helping Simon Community to continue supporting individuals currently living in temporary accommodation or at risk of homelessness in taking their next steps out of homelessness for good.

We thank colleagues for their efforts in supporting Crisis and Simon Community to end homelessness for good.



Friends of Edenderry (a Parent Teacher Association) received funding through the Matched Giving Programme, when a colleague claimed £500 matched giving for the charity after taking part in a 'Family Fun Night' fundraising event.

Pupils and their families enjoyed a variety of different activities including 'soak the teacher', raising £4,017 to support their school.

The Matched Giving Scheme

Trustee and Team Update

We recently said goodbye to our Chair Gillian Boyd, and Trustees Barry Connolly, Aine McCoy and Michael Mulhern. Their service and dedication to the Foundation has been greatly appreciated, over the years. We were delighted to welcome Jenny Burnside to the Board in 2024 and have benefitted from her expertise and valuable insights, which will support the work of the Foundation going forward.

We also welcomed Tom Gray to the role of Grants Administrator. Tom has provided the vital administrative function to the Foundation since taking up his role in July 2024, and we are grateful to have him in post, supporting the whole team to deliver vital funds to our local charities.



Halifax Foundation Trustees

Fivemiletown United FC



Fivemiletown United Football Club, founded in 1888, is a cornerstone of community engagement, offering accessible football, leisure, and social activities for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Entirely volunteer-led, their club embodies local leadership, fostering healthier, happier, and more productive communities in Fivemiletown and beyond.

They were awarded £6,000 towards a 30-week mini soccer programme for children aged 6-13 years.

Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from				
Donations	2,119,569	2,119,569	1,495,685	1,495,685
Grants returned	7,637	7,637	28,889	28,889
Investments income	31,228	31,228	68,191	68,191
Total Income	2,158,434	2,158,434	1,592,765	1,592,765
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities				
- Education and training	526,567	526,567	492,232	492,232
- Social and community welfare	1,393,148	1,393,148	1,282,118	1,282,118
Matched giving	86,400	86,400	80,161	80,161
- Raising funds				
Investment management costs	8,368	8,368	10,465	10,465
- Total Expenditure	2,014,483	2,014,483	1,864,976	1,864,976
Net Income/(Expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	143,951	143,951	(272,211)	(272,211)
Net gains on investments	18,840	18,840	27,619	27,619
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year/Net movement of funds	162,791	162,791	(244,592)	(244,592)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	2,113,519	2,113,519	2,358,111	2,358,111
Total funds carried forward	2,276,309	2,276,309	2,113,519	2,113,519

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net income for the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Statement of Financial Activities

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets		
Intangible assets	3,540	5,900
Tangible assets	1,153	2,410
Investments	1,847,521	1,695,285
Total fixed assets	1,852,214	1,703,595
Current assets		
Debtors	1,579	860
Cash at bank and in hand	459,714	663,969
Total current assets	461,293	664,829
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(37,200)	(254,905)
Net current assets	424,093	409,924
Net assets	2,276,309	2,113,519
The funds of the Foundation:		
Unrestricted general funds	2,276,309	2,113,519
Total charity funds	2,276,309	2,113,519

These financial statements of Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland registered number NI 019019 were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 11 June 2025. They were signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Brenda Kelly

Chair/Trustee

11 June 2025

Commedia of Errors



Commedia of Errors are a local charity based in Belfast who produce and tour theatre and facilitate workshops across Northern Ireland. They work to bring theatre to those that are unable to attend theatres or arts centres due to social, geographic, financial or medical reasons. The charity runs 'Plays Aloud', an elderly specialist theatre programme with a particular focus on dementia. The project uses entertainment to engage, invigorate and re-energise the elderly, improving mental health and slowing dementia-related decline.

They secured £5,000 towards performance fees for the Plays Aloud programme for older people to help engage and improve mental health through cognitive stimulation therapy.



Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland

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