

B | C Better Community
B | N Business Network

BCBN
Small Grants

2025

Distributing small grant funding of up to £3,000

OUR IMPACT

£320K
distributed

10+
years of UK grant giving

100+
organisations funded

9
key funding areas



BCBN launched its Grant Initiative in 2014, enabling us to increase our support to local community projects and initiatives by providing small grant awards to empower UK charities.

The Grant Initiative aims to improve the quality of life and expectations of people and their communities, especially those who come from disadvantaged or socially deprived backgrounds. The grants are awarded to UK charities working in fields such as education, citizenship, disability support, poverty alleviation and community development.

Your donation to BCBN's Grant Initiative will enable us to distribute grant awards to community

initiatives across the UK that are able to demonstrate the positive impact they have on the community. We operate a 100% donation policy for our Grant Initiative, every penny you donate will be awarded to the community projects we support and empower. BCBN does not profit from your Grant Donation, all our expenses and admin fees are covered by the Board of Trustees.

Apply for BCBN Grant funding by visiting:
bcbn.org.uk/grantinitiative



Grant Distributions

Category	Organisation Name	Project Funded	Funding Amount
Art & Culture	Art4Space	Mosaic community art installation workshops with local residents - elderly and school children, celebrating local history	£3,000
	The Rainbow Trust	Arts and crafts materials for children with life threatening or terminal illnesses	£3,000
	CoDeL, Community Development Lens	Uist Beò (Uist Life) created 10 stories of young people who are pursuing enterprising activities, highlighting local opportunities for youth.	£3,000
	Global Centre for Islamic Arts	The grant supports Islamic Art Week to deliver hands-on creative workshops in partnership with cultural institutions and community groups across seven cities in England and Wales, engaging diverse communities in learning, creating, and connecting through Islamic art.	£3,000
Disability	Al - Isharah	Deaf Run awareness event	£3,000
	Challengers	Play activities and equipment for summer holiday day scheme for 4-12 year olds	£2,788
	Muffins Dream Foundation	Horse riding sessions for children with disabilities	£2,700
	Muhsin School Of Martial Arts	Martial art fitness sessions for students with special needs or physical/ mental disabilities	£2281.28
	New Hope Worcester	Purchase of a hoist supporting children in wheelchairs	£3,000
	Sense for Deaf Blind	Purchasing sensory equipment for children with deaf-blindness, encouraging them to use their remaining vision and light perception	£2,923.20
	The Garwood Foundation	Mobility hoist to assist children with disabilities on outings	£2,025
	Parkside Aldershot	Parkside Aldershot: A new dishwasher for a community centre that provides support services for over 200 children and adults with learning disabilities.	£2,617
	Wingate Special Children's Trust	Purchasing a hoist supporting children with disabilities.	£2,570.38
	Action for kids trust	employability support sessions for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities	£2605
	Brighter Futures Foundation	Setting up a training program that will offer more activities for service users	£3000
	Portsmouth Down syndrome	Purchase of new furniture for therapy rooms and family room, including tables, chairs and sofas.	£2892
	Sunbeam	Late diagnosis autism group to publish a book that will raise awareness of the barriers and discrimination faced by those with invisible disabilities.	£1990
	Sound Waves Foundation	BSL after school club for primary school aged children in Brighton and Hove's mainstream education	£3000
Special Needs and Parent Support CIO Yorkshire (SNAPS)	Putting on an annual Superstar Awards to celebrate the achievements of children with disabilities and their families.	£1311.90	

Disability	Special Needs and Parent Support CIO Yorkshire (SNAPS)	The grant funds the annual Superstar Awards, a celebratory event that boosts confidence and community for children with disabilities and their families. The impact of the BCBN grant was felt across the entire community. A total of 159 people attended, including 51 award-winning children, 60 parents and carers, 26 volunteers, and 7 staff members. An additional 15 awards were presented to volunteers and corporate supporters who go above and beyond for SNAPS families.	£1,312
Children/ Education	Basingstoke & District Disability Forum	Presenting films on disability and disability awareness in schools	£995.58
	Black Princes Trust	Refurbishing 'The Space' at the Black Prince Hub for a local homework club	£3,000
	Chrysalis Manchester	One day conference on dangers of human trafficking	£3,000
	Greater Manchester Law Centre	A law centre offering free, independent legal advice and representation	£2,950
	HAAAYA	Supplementary Saturday school teaching national curriculum subjects	£3,000
	Muslim Women Connect	A Mentorship Programme for Muslim women providing master-class sessions on leadership, CV skills, career planning and confidence building	£3,000
	People and Gardens	An educational programme which involves making a video to see how people coped and adapted to Covid-19	£3000
	African Smile	Supporting disadvantaged 7-17 year olds from refugee families in Greenwich through extracurricular activities and employability support.	£2883
	Friends of Stroud Green	To install a little free lending library outside the school	£2000
	Ministry of Stories	To buy and stock a book vending machine for a creative writing centre	£2550
	CVQO	A 12-week programme of varied and exciting outdoor activities, first aid skills and community social action projects.	£2604
	Alice Charity	Providing packed lunches or food parcels to deliver a healthy lunch to every child for each day of their school holidays	£3000
	Kent Enterprise Trust	To help 12 people obtain the qualifications needed to work on a construction site	£2999
	Arundel Museum Society	10 Art and Lego workshops to be held for vulnerable children	£3150
	Made in Europe	Living below-the-line poverty campaign	£3,000
	New Hope Lodge	Providing educational and employment opportunities to young adults 19-25 years with complex learning disabilities	£2,991
	100 Black Men	Mentoring sessions for youth and parents, on mental health and well-being, and financial management.	£2,960
	St. Giles Trust	Gang preventative youth workshop in Southwark schools.	£3,000

Children/ Education	You Make It	An empowerment programme for 25 young unemployed and marginalised women from largely BAME backgrounds living in East London to build the confidence, networks and knowledge to become active socially and economically.	£2,960
	Sound Waves Foundation	Sound Waves Foundation developed and delivered an 11-week British Sign Language course across five primary schools in Brighton and Hove, providing high-quality, inclusive learning for young children. The funding enabled professional course materials for teachers and pupils.	£3,000
	Kent Enterprise Trust	"BCBN funding supported 11 disadvantaged young people (average age 18) to complete a Level 1 RQF Construction qualification, with 6 achieving CSCS cards, leading to 4 entering employment and 1 starting an apprenticeship. Participants were drawn from Thanet (5), Canterbury (3), and Dover (3), including 5 NEET individuals, 4 looked-after children, 6 with learning difficulties or disabilities, and 3 with criminal records, demonstrating strong impact among high-need groups."	£2,999
	Rammy Men CIC	BCBN funding equips Rammy Men's community workshop to run targeted woodwork sessions for NEET individuals. Since launch, 176 people have completed the course, with 80 participants receiving 758 recorded hours of workshop training since April, and 30+ now volunteering, demonstrating sustained improvements in wellbeing, skills, and long-term community engagement.	£3,000
	Arundel Museum Society	The Arundel Museum Society received a grant, enabling free Lego and art workshops for children aged 5-11. 140 children and their families took part, removing financial barriers and supporting inclusive access to creative learning. The programme also brought wider benefits, attracting new visitors, recruiting volunteers, and strengthening links with local schools, reinforcing the museum's role as a community cultural and educational hub.	£3,150.00
	Time Banks UK (operating name Timebanking UK)	The grant develops national training materials that empower disadvantaged communities to start new time banks, strengthening social cohesion and reducing isolation. Since launch, the "Essential New Broker Training" has supported seven co-ordinators in areas including Bridgend, Conwy, Eastfield (Yorkshire), Houghton & Wyton, Stanley (Perthshire), and Stratford-upon-Avon. These co-ordinators now serve a combined 938 time bank members, helping deliver accessible, non-monetary community support.	£2,850
	Goodwill Caravan CIO	BCBN funding provides laptops and digital skills support for refugees, helping them access education, employment, and essential online services as they rebuild their lives. Goodwill Caravan has empowered 12 refugees in the UK by providing them with laptops—opening a gateway to new opportunities.	£3,000
	The Royal National College for the Blind	The grant refurbishes the Braille Library for visually impaired young people, expanding accessible resources that build independence, confidence, and literacy.	£3,000
	The Switch Charity	BCBN funding provides one-to-one interview coaching for over 150 young people, improving confidence, communication, and access to future opportunities.	£2,120
	Naz Legacy Foundation	The grant supports training and professional development for Muslim educators, strengthening representation and improving outcomes for pupils nationally.	£2,800
	Yes Futures	"The grant enables two outdoor development days for up to 48 young people, many from Muslim and other underrepresented communities (e.g. pupil premium entitled, with SEND), to take part developing vital life skills, aspiration, and a sense of belonging."	£2,940
	Stand Against Violence	The grant funds workshops that equip young people with conflict-resolution and personal-safety skills, helping reduce violence and build safer communities.	£2,500

Elderly	Age UK	Winter Warmth campaign - purchasing staying-warm packs, blankets, electrical heaters, cold alarm alerts and supporting individuals living in fuel-poverty	£3,000
	Metro Blind Sport	Purchase of coloured bowling balls for blind and partially-sighted people who can have the opportunity to take part in sport	£1,215.04
	Muslim Aid	Insulating homes of elderly people by purchasing 1,552 radiator reflectors and 400 draught excluders, helping 326 households and 773 fuel-poor beneficiaries	£2,995.36
	Swanwick Luncheon Club	Purchase of 6 coffee tables for social morning time helping elderly people out of isolation	£489
	Dawn Charitable Trust	Social cultural visits and therapists fee	£3000
	Age UK Lambeth	Home cook kits- to be hygienic and covid compliant when being delivered	£994.88
	The Churn Project	A fortnightly 'Memory Club' for people with dementia and the people who care for them over 12 months.	£2970
	Newark Emmaus Trust	Delivered a practical skills workshop teaching young people how to recycle furniture.	£2,354
	Leeds Jewish Welfare Board	Developing a therapeutic natural environment allotment for the community	£3,000
Environment	MADE	Purchase of litter picking items, enabling 397 students to participate in the national 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign as well as delivered school assemblies to over 1000 students.	£2996.68
	Cramlington in the city	Transforming a useless waste land into an environment friendly space which will encourage wildlife, wildflowers and increase the amount of bees.	£2526
	Mosaic & Millwall FC	Ex-offender Mentor Programme	£5,000
Ex-offenders	The Salam Project	12-month offenders' project to connect individuals to employment, hardship grants, and accredited training	£1,570
	Penal Reform International	Producing and publishing a guide to promote women's mental health in prisons targeting prison staff in partnership with Prison Reform Trust UK	£3,000
	Khidmat Centre	Muslim Women in Prison Project, creating short stories of Muslim women offenders and their families, and telling stories that are very hidden from the public domain, largely due to cultural taboo, shame and dishonour. The short film will serve to create awareness of the issues involved within the community and among providers.	£2,960

Health	Black Prince Trust	Free community sports/health/exercise sessions for the elderly in the local community.	£3,000
	Care in Mind	Classes and equipment for weekly sessions for exercise therapy to improve body movement and psychological state	£1,586.84
	Charlton Athletic Community Trust	Summer holiday healthy food provision programmes for 10-19 year olds tackling obesity and improving health in Greenwich area	£884
	Children of Jannah	Community support session for bereaved parents	£3,000
	Early Break	Provided a therapeutic space for young people suffering from alcohol and substance misuse drop-in sessions	£1074.08
	Inter Madrassah Organisation	Supporting men aged 18+ with mental health problems in Blackburn	£ 2,965
	Katharine House Hospice	Nimbus mattress for in-patient unit	£2,730
	Muslim Women of Merton	Delivered a seminar raising awareness of health benefits affecting Muslim women and provided sports equipment for fitness sessions.	£610
	Ucare	To support 150 people and their families across The Thames Valley who are having treatment for cancer with a supportive care package.	£3000
	The Encephalitis Society	To make a donated van roadworthy so it can travel the country as a health and information hub.	£3000
	MAGPAS Air Ambulance	To deliver Community CPR training to up to 5,000 people across Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.	£2985
	Healthbus Trust	Providing tailored healthcare to Bournemouth's homeless, offering food, clothes washing, and showers through a mobile GP service during the winter.	£3000
	Rammy Men CIC	To purchase equipment like a dust extractor, pillar drill, and sanders for the workshops with the aim to reduce suicide rates by offering woodworking sessions for NEET individuals.	£3000
	Cycle Sisters	Cycle Sisters delivered 51 inclusive rides across London, engaging 81 women, with over 85% reporting improved confidence, physical health, and mental wellbeing. The funding also supported 7 new Ride Leaders, expanding the volunteer team to 12 and helping secure further funding to sustain inclusive cycling beyond the project.	£2,996
	Magpas Air Ambulance	Magpas Air Ambulance delivered free Community CPR training, helping equip local communities with life-saving skills. Funding supported the costs of delivery, including specialist staff, travel, equipment, and resources, enabling high-quality training that improved confidence and emergency response capability.	£2,985

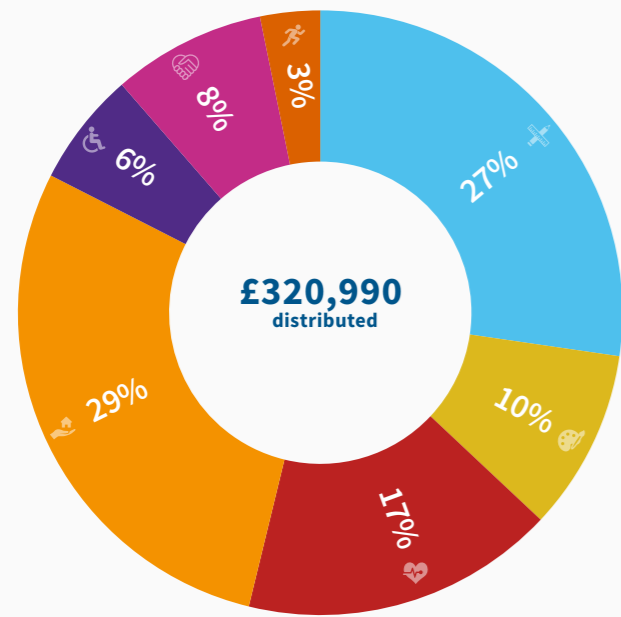
Homelessness & Poverty	Al-Mizan Charitable Trust	Baby kits for mothers living in poverty and Back to School Packs for school children	£2,678.10
	Cambridge House	Hot food workshop and youth empowerment programme delivering long term support for marginalised 16 to 25 year olds.	£2,850
	Family Food Bank: AWTF	4 week supply of dry and fresh food for destitute children and families	£3,000
	Feed the Need	Distributing nutritional food and sleeping bags to the homeless and needy	£3,000
	Newark Emmaus Trust	Furnishing of a five-bed property to accommodate homeless young people	£2,900
	Northampton Hope Centre	Providing cost reduced food in a highly deprived area	£3,000
	Sufra Foodbank	Food Academy helping young people into education, employment and training	£800
	The Refugee Council Youth Services	Funding to meet urgent needs such as travel, food, medicine of asylum-seekers and refugees	£3,000
	Watford Food Bank	3-day emergency food parcels for families in crisis	£3,000
	Luton Foodbank	To purchase stock for the foodbank	£3000
	Raw Project London	Providing iftar meals in Ramadan	£2962.50
	Islamic Society of Britain	To support volunteers in providing meals, toiletries, and clothing to vulnerable women and the homeless across Greater Manchester, serving 400 meals a month and winter warm packs.	£2850
	Miracles	To support for the 'Feed London' project; delivering 200 food boxes with fresh ingredients, vouchers, and additional resources to families in need over the school holidays.	£3000
	Mums United Charitable Bank	To help running costs, using funding to cover volunteer expenses, food purchases, packaging costs, and project coordination.	£2700
	Small Acts of Kindness	To purchase 100 Warm in Winter gift bags for those in need.	£3000
	Ellas Home	To buy vital items: including winter coats, duvets, blankets, and emergency financial help, to trafficking and exploitation survivors facing the cost of living crisis.	£3000
	Nelson Trust	to run weekly cooking classes for up to 4 women per session, teaching them to prepare nutritious meals for themselves and for up to 20 other women	£2771
	Mustafia Sharif	To continue the weekly service that provides essential services like meals, employability support, and counselling to Manchester's homeless community	£3000
	Healthbus Trust	"Over 15 weeks, from November 2024 to February 2025, the HealthBus Drop-In Clinic provided 546 hot meals, directly benefiting 86 individuals experiencing homelessness in Bournemouth town centre. All recipients were aged 18 and above, with many living with chronic health conditions, including diabetes, respiratory illnesses, and untreated wounds. The project not only provided nourishment but also created opportunities for engagement, reducing social isolation"	£3,000
Mustafia Sharif	BCBN funding supports twice-weekly hot meal distributions in Manchester city centre. Approximately 4,800 hot meals were served over 6 months, directly benefiting around 200 unique individuals per week. The beneficiaries were predominantly from Manchester's homeless population, a highly vulnerable group composed of people from diverse backgrounds.	£3,000	

Homelessness & Poverty	Sal's Shoes – school shoes for Kent	The grant provides 1,000 pairs of school shoes for children in poverty across Kent, removing a key barrier to school attendance, confidence, and participation.	£3,000	
	Thurrrock Christian Fellowship	BCBN funding keeps a vital community café open, offering free hot meals, emergency food boxes, and a safe space for people facing poverty or crisis. Last year over 5000 people used the cafes services.	£3,000	
	ApparelXchange CIC	The grant supplies 50 complete clothing packages, including schoolwear and footwear, giving dignity, warmth, and financial relief to low-income families in Glasgow.	£2,500	
	The Cowshed	Funding provides 30 Home Starter Boxes containing essential household items, helping families recovering from homelessness or crisis rebuild stability.	£3,000	
	Pathways for All People	The grant delivers a 24-week life skills and mental wellbeing programme for 50 homeless people affected by poverty, mental health challenges, or offending histories. Weekly 3-hour sessions will focus on practical skills such as budgeting, CV writing, and digital literacy, alongside emotional resilience	£2,980	
	River Kids SCIO	Funding provides beds and bedding to families in crisis, ensuring vulnerable children in West Lothian have a safe, warm place to sleep. The grant will provide approximately 25 – 30 beds.	£2,983	
	9th Southside Scouts Group	Activity equipment for a Muslim Scout group	£3,000	
	Mercy Mission	300 Eid Gift boxes for non Muslim foster carers	£2,850	
Social Cohesion	NASSA International	Debate2Lead program in schools across Newham with the aim to equip young people with the capacity and initiative to promote change in their community through Social Action	£3,024	
	Manchester Cares	To start social clubs to combat loneliness following the pandemic	£2910	
	Young Roots	A one-year grant to continue providing English-language projects and support for young refugees and asylum seekers in Croydon and Brent, aiming to reach 320-400 young people.	£3000	
	Goodwill Caravan CIO	To Purchase 12 laptops for refugees and asylum seekers in London to help them secure employment.	£3000	
	Timebanking UK	to design new training materials and resources to help start community time banks in deprived areas	£2850	
	CoDeL, Community Development Lens	The BCBN grant enables CoDeL to produce 10 inspiring stories showcasing young island entrepreneurs, helping strengthen local pride and highlight that young people can build thriving futures without leaving the Outer Hebrides.	£3,000	
	Evelina Children's Heart Organisation (ECHO)	The grant funds a wellness day for children with congenital heart disease and their families, offering respite, connection, and joyful experiences away from medical challenges 301 people attend, 328 including volunteers/staff. This was a total of 77 families	£3,000	
	My Family Group	Sponsoring 50 Eid and Ramadan gift boxes to Muslim heritage children in care, helping strengthen identity, belonging, and cultural recognition during key faith celebrations	£1,000	
	Sports and Recreation	Capital Kids Cricket	Creating a project for community members to adapt a healthier lifestyle.	£3,000
		Cycle Sisters	To support its pan-London cycling club, enabling volunteer Ride Leaders to offer accessible, entry-level cycle rides for Muslim women.	£2296

Grant Overview

BCBN's Grant Initiative has distributed **£320,989.82** to over **118 charities and community groups** since September 2014. Thousands of people within the UK have benefited with your support.

SMALL GRANTS DISTRIBUTION 2014-2025



Education
£85,000 enabling education, skills development and opportunity for young people.



Social Cohesion
£27,500 supporting initiatives that build belonging, cultural understanding and community resilience.



Health
£32,000 strengthening mental wellbeing, emergency response skills and community-based health services.



Disability
£40,000 invested in inclusive access, specialist equipment and support for children and adults with disabilities.



Homelessness & Poverty
£74,000 supporting food, shelter and emergency relief for those experiencing homelessness and poverty.



Education



Art & Culture



Health



Homelessness & Poverty



Disability



Social Cohesion



Sports

Grant Testimonies

“The grant from BCBN enabled play for disadvantaged children in and around Kingston this summer. Play is an essential part of a child’s life and is vital for their healthy growth and development. The communication skills, co-ordination and confidence that children gain from attending our Play schemes are important in later life.”

Disability Challengers, Kingston



“BCBN’s funding has been vital in helping more bereaved parents access Children of Jannah’s Life After Loss support groups to develop positive coping strategies and reduce the pain and feelings of isolation and numbness experienced on their grief journeys. Thank you so much BCBN.”

Children of Jannah, Manchester



BCBN Grant Initiative in Focus



Sound Waves Foundation; Bringing British Sign Language to Primary Schools

In November last year, Sound Waves Foundation embarked on an exciting journey to bring British Sign Language (BSL) to primary school children through an after-school club. With funding from BCBN's grant initiative, they set out to develop and deliver a high-quality, engaging, and inclusive BSL course aimed at young learners in Brighton and Hove. Here's a look at how this vision into reality and the impact it has had so far.

The first component of the project was to develop a comprehensive, professional-standard BSL course. The funding allowed them to transform initial ideas into a structured, visually stimulating, and fun series of lessons, complete with:

- 11 weeks of teacher-led digital content: Each term, students engage with interactive lessons designed to be both educational and enjoyable.
- Teacher resources: Teachers equipped with materials to facilitate games and activities, making each lesson dynamic and interactive.
- Student resources: Children received materials to keep for future reference, reinforcing their learning.



By collaborating with BSL teachers, Sound Waves Foundation launches the course across five schools across Brighton and Hove.



“ As a charity, it is important for our reputation and ongoing work to positively present deafness and we do this by delivering the best quality product that has a high impact. The BCBN grant has enabled us to do this where the children participating in the BSL after school club, the BSL teachers delivering it and the schools hosting it have all had a very positive experience. Thank you BCBN for supporting us to make this happen ”

Nicola Wyatt, Sound Waves Foundation.

Sound Waves long-term vision is to offer the BSL course nationwide, fostering integrated communities where children of all abilities learn together.



Luton Foodbank Project

BCBN worked in collaboration with Luton Foodbank during the Covid-19 pandemic, to provide essential assistance to members of the community.

The help of BCBN has proved integral to providing support to many members of the community by providing meals to families who would be left helpless otherwise. Covid-19 saw a rise in the use of foodbanks nationally and the help of BCBN has aided the scale of operations, particularly within Luton Foodbank with the demand increasing by 100%.

Many of the recipients were children with over 300 parcels delivered in May 2020, which indicates that the help we provide is essential to the sustenance of our next generation. It is initiatives like ours that make a real difference nationally.

CASE STUDIES:

Sarah's Story: Facing unexpected expenses that disrupted her budgeting, Sarah turned to Luton Foodbank for assistance. The support she received was crucial in helping her manage during a challenging time.

Maria's Experience: While awaiting emergency housing, Maria and her children needed support. Luton Foodbank provided them with essential food items, offering not just sustenance but also hope during a difficult period.

David's Challenge: At 54, David encountered financial difficulties that led him to seek help from Luton Foodbank. The assistance he received was vital in helping him navigate his financial struggles.



SNAPS Yorkshire: Superstar Awards



BCBN funding of £1,312 supported the annual SNAPS Superstar Awards in West Yorkshire, celebrating children with disabilities and recognising the families, carers, and volunteers who support them. The event provided a welcoming space for families to come together, share experiences, and enjoy a day focused on recognition and positivity. The celebration also received coverage in local media, helping raise wider awareness of the community. A total of 159 people attended, including 51 children with additional needs alongside parents, carers, volunteers, and staff. Feedback from families showed an overwhelmingly positive response, with children leaving more confident and families forming new connections beyond the event.



“ It was a fabulous morning celebrating all the superheroes. ”

Parent, SNAPS Yorkshire



Mustafia Sharif: Feeding the Homeless

BCBN funding of £3,000 supported Mustafia Sharif's twice-weekly outreach initiative providing hot meals to people experiencing homelessness in Manchester, including migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The project created a consistent point of contact where individuals could access food in a welcoming environment while engaging with volunteers and support networks.

Over the course of the project, more than 4,800 meals were distributed, reaching up to 200 individuals each week. Alongside food provision, volunteers helped connect people to housing, health, and wellbeing services, while regular interaction fostered trust and ongoing engagement with support systems.

“Some people come for the food, others come because it's the only conversation they'll have all day.”

Volunteer,
Mustafia Sharif Charity



Rammy Men: NEET Woodwork Project

BCBN funding of £3,000 enabled Rammy Men, Greater Manchester to expand its woodwork workshop programme for individuals not in employment, education or training (NEET). The grant supported safer and more accessible equipment, allowing more participants to attend sessions that combine practical skills development with peer support and informal wellbeing engagement.

Over the year, 176 participants aged 16–65+ took part, with more than 758 hours of training delivered. Attendance across the organisation's activities doubled as the workshops became a gateway for wider engagement, contributing to sustained volunteering and organisational growth, including a significant increase in overall turnover.



“This grant has been massively influential for our organisation's development. We have found BCBN to be thorough but reasonable and to have a sensibly pragmatic approach to the funding process. In all honesty, this is a real breath of fresh air.”

- Rammy Men CIC



ECHO: Fun and Friendship Day at the Zoo

BCBN funding of £3,000 supported Evelina Children's Heart Organisation (ECHO) to deliver a dedicated wellbeing and connection day for families affected by congenital heart disease (CHD). The Fun and Friendship Day at the Zoo in London created space away from clinical environments where families could relax together and meet others navigating similar experiences.

The day brought together 77 families, with over 300 attendees in total, many forming connections for the first time. Shared conversations helped reduce isolation for parents and carers and led to informal peer support continuing beyond the event, strengthening networks of understanding and reassurance for families living with long-term medical conditions.



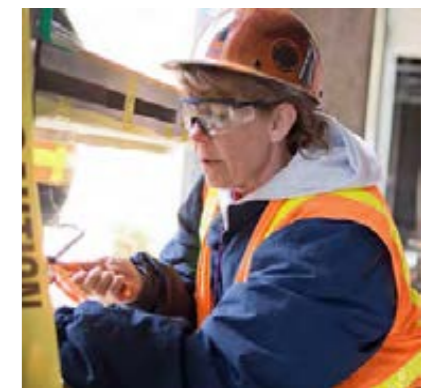
“What made the day truly special was meeting other families who walk this journey too. Some familiar faces, some new but all connected by shared experience, strength, and love. There's a unique kind of comfort in being with people who just get it.”

- A Day out at the Zoo, Parent, ECHO



Kent Enterprise Trust: Constructing Careers

BCBN funding of £2,999 supported Kent Enterprise Trust's Constructing Careers programme, providing disadvantaged young people with access to construction training and recognised qualifications. The project removed financial barriers and enabled participants to gain practical skills and prepare for entry into the workforce. 11 learners completed the training, with most achieving their CSCS certification and progressing into employment, apprenticeships, or further preparation. The programme created a clear pathway into work while strengthening confidence and stability for young people facing significant barriers to opportunity.



Cycle Sisters: Empowering Muslim Women Through Cycling

BCBN funding of £2,996 enabled Cycle Sisters to deliver a programme of inclusive cycling rides across East, West, and North London, supporting Muslim women to take part in physical activity in a welcoming group setting.



The project created opportunities for participation, confidence-building, and social connection while increasing representation within the wider cycling community. A total of 81 women took part across 51 rides, with most participants reporting improvements in confidence, physical health, and mental wellbeing. The grant also supported the training of new Ride Leaders, strengthening volunteer capacity and helping ensure the sustainability of future sessions, with some participants progressing to larger public cycling events.