



Norfolk  
Community  
Foundation

Surviving Winter appeal

How you've transformed lives



We're delighted that you helped us to raise **£125,969** to tackle winter poverty and isolation in Norfolk – and we have put this to use immediately.



Thanks to your generosity we've been able to provide essential support to some of the most vulnerable in our community through the winter.

Read on to hear about the huge impact that your support has had on local people's lives.

Winter is a difficult time for many in our society: from families on low incomes struggling to pay their fuel bills to those living on the street; from isolated and lonely older people to single people in poorly paid jobs.

Norfolk Community Foundation, having identified this level of need locally, recognised that the best way to support the vulnerable in winter was at local level and took the initiative to change local lives. Together with local organisations working tirelessly on the ground, we provided an innovative, strategic and responsive package of support to people who found themselves vulnerable. The aim was not to just to help prevent crisis, but also to help people plan ahead and find their way to a more positive future in the long term.

## A break from the streets

With the ultimate aim of breaking the cycle of street homelessness, we worked with our partner, local charity St Martins, and other local support organisations to provide short term accommodation to rough sleepers across Norfolk.

As well as giving them a much needed break from the streets, it has meant that some of the most hardened rough sleepers have been able to access the right support and help to be able to move on to a brighter future and off the streets. In some cases this help literally turned out to be a life saver.

Help to support the homeless has not just been focused on Norwich. We've also been working together with King's Lynn Winter Night Shelter, which provides help to adults who are sleeping rough on the streets of the town over the winter period. It has been a safe haven for those sleeping rough and has also provided help for them to access further specialist support services to help them off the streets.

23  
rough sleepers in  
Norwich given  
temporary  
accommodation over  
winter

Bill\* went to the King's Lynn Night Shelter having been discharged from the local hospital. He explained how he had been fleeing domestic violence in the north of England. Bill says *"If it wasn't for you and the shelter, I wouldn't be here now."*





## Tackling loneliness in Norfolk

Loneliness among older people is a growing issue. Working with our partners Age UK Norfolk, we identified over 200 of the most vulnerable and isolated older people locally. Your support has enabled us to provide these people with a package of support over the winter months. This has included weekly, friendly phone calls, helping to alleviate levels of loneliness and poor wellbeing; medication checks; and access to advice and funding.

This has proved to be a lifeline for older people in Norfolk who are facing isolation and exclusion, often with nowhere else to turn.

**3,200**

calls made to isolated older people over winter, including 4 calls on Christmas Day

*"I look forward to calls as I feel alone, especially in the winter months. If I did not have the calls I would not speak to anyone."*

## Keeping vulnerable people warm

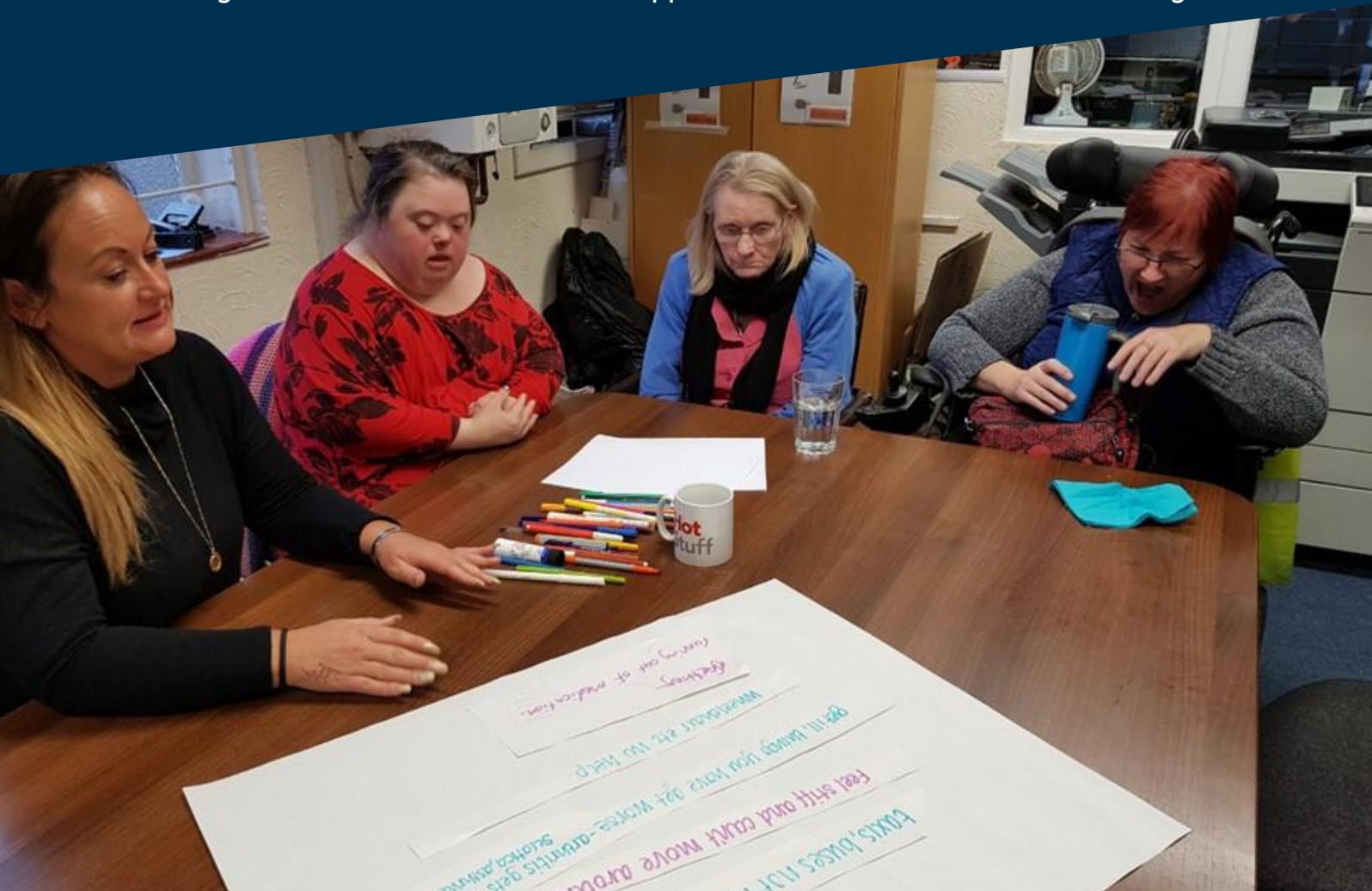
Working with our partners at local foodbanks and Age UK Norfolk, we have helped hundreds of vulnerable people and families struggling to heat their homes by providing heating grants and fuel vouchers, and also gave out cold weather packs containing warm clothing.

*"Many thanks again for your help and support, in my time of need. Please accept my thanks from the bottom of my heart, I truly mean that, in a harsh world, there are still some guardian angels looking out for other people. I can finally have some hot water and heating on at last! You are an amazing team that can give a glimmer of hope to people who are down and out of their luck."*

# Vital support to vulnerable groups

Your donation has also enabled us to support many other neighbourhood charities and community groups working with vulnerable groups on the frontline, providing targeted funding to support vital initiatives such as:

- Organising social opportunities for older people to alleviate isolation
- Supporting centres working with disabled people during the winter months
- Providing weekly visits to rurally isolated older people, ensuring they are keeping warm and well
- Helping people with transport to social events to reduce isolation
- Providing free hot meals and additional support for those who are vulnerable during winter.



This year's Surviving Winter appeal could not have helped so many without your support, showing the strength of people in your community supporting other members of their community.

Together, Norfolk shines brighter.

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