



Looking back at 2020:

**From Covid-19 response to recovery,
and building back brighter**

Dear Friend,

As we emerge from a second lockdown, it's hard to believe what Norfolk people have faced this year, and will continue to face as the longer term impacts of Covid-19 unfold. The pandemic has touched every aspect of our lives, our personal health and wellbeing, our families, our work and our communities. Many people are left without the certainty of secure employment, and as we enter the winter months, a stark choice between a warm home and food on the table.

Together, Norfolk shines brighter

Our charities and community groups continue to rise to these challenges, adapting rapidly and creatively to the evolving picture. While urgent aid continues to support our most vulnerable people, our community organisations are taking steps to build their resilience through adapted working practices, and financial and operational recovery. We are with them every step of the way.

It is vital that we understand the emerging needs of Norfolk people, and what our charities on the frontline need to provide essential care and support. We continue to listen, and to respond with funding and support to help Norfolk build back brighter.

The generosity and compassion of Norfolk people continues to amaze and inspire us — from those helping us raise much needed funds, to those working tirelessly to make sure no-one is forgotten. As this most exceptional and challenging year comes to a close, I am proud to share with you just a few stories from our work in 2020, and the lessons we have learned during the crisis that will help us meet new challenges in 2021.

This year we have invested almost £4 million in our communities, and we could only do that with your help. We cannot thank you enough.

On behalf of all the team at NCF, we wish you a safe and happy festive season, and we look forward to a brighter 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Cullens".

Claire Cullens
Chief Executive
Norfolk Community Foundation

Rapid response - giving the right funding at the right time

Our Covid-19 Community Response appeal launched in March, with overwhelming local support. Thanks to the incredible response to the public appeal, and additional support from the National Emergencies Trust, we were able to move quickly to back [vital community action across Norfolk](#).

A surge of volunteer led effort ensured that vulnerable people across the county were able to access help with supplies of food, medicine and other essentials to help them stay safe and well during lockdown. Rapid response small grants ensured that this urgent grassroots action could get underway without delay, providing vital breathing space while systems were put in place to identify and support the most vulnerable.



Investing in resilience and recovery



[As the crisis reached its first 100 days](#) and beyond, the full impact of the pandemic on our charities became clear. With charity shops closed, fundraising events cancelled and staff and volunteer teams disrupted, we need to look beyond emergency funding to help strengthen our charities.

NCF has been able to invest £500,000 in helping our charities continue to adapt their services to changing Covid requirements, and safeguard their care and support services for the most vulnerable.

We have also launched Funding Plus, a pilot programme of free briefings and webinars to meet the wider needs of charities struggling with staff wellbeing and new organisational challenges.

Building sustainable solutions together

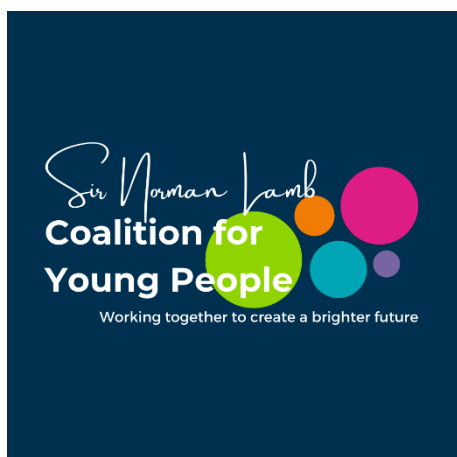
Despite the huge surge in numbers using food banks, evidence suggests that many who are struggling would rather cut meals than seek help. [NCF is taking a longer term approach to tackling food insecurity by bringing the model of a community supermarket to Norfolk](#).

The new community store at the Charles Burrell Centre in Thetford has been made possible with funding from local and national partners, and provides low cost fresh, frozen, dried and tinned food thanks to charities such as Fareshare, and local producers.



We are now looking to move quickly to establish similar community supermarket hubs in key areas across the county, as a sustainable solution that offers people the dignity of choice and independence.

Working in partnership to achieve more



Sir Norman Lamb first approached NCF last year to help realise his ambitions to strengthen youth mental health provision in Norfolk. The need for this action has only become more urgent in the light of Covid-19 and its stark impacts on our children and young people, and [this year we have been proud to work alongside Sir Norman to launch his Coalition for Children & Young People.](#)

There are many charities and community groups across the county providing both positive activities and specialist support for young people. The Coalition will aim to connect these local networks, provide training and funding, and help develop best practice to keep our children safe and well.



Our sincere thanks for your support this year - please do share this update with anyone who may be interested in getting involved with our work. We can do so much more when we all work together.



Please note Norfolk Community Foundation will close for the Christmas break at noon on Friday 18 December, and will re-open at 9am on Monday 4 January 2021.

Norfolk Community Foundation
St James Mill, Whitefriars
Norwich NR3 1TN

Contact us:
01603 623958 or email
shinebrighter@norfolkfoundation.com

www.norfolkfoundation.com



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