

Holding Communities Together Through Covid-19



Getting started

Responding to a crisis

Our local charities have offered the lifeline that has got us through the last 18 months. Throughout the pandemic, national and local funders have come together through the Norfolk Community Foundation to support local communities.

Our interactive timeline on pages 4 and 5 will guide you through the stories of our work to support the local charities and community groups tackling the impact of a global crisis.

Without a rule book to manage a crisis, our actions were guided by our values. We worked at pace, in collaboration and with process in an ever evolving landscape.

Thank you to all who partnered with us. Together, Norfolk shines brighter.

Claire Cullens, Chief Executive



“

I've always worked all my life and here I am, I need the food bank, the community fridge and I need you guys. I'm just so humbled and so grateful that actually you're all here.

- A customer of The Burrell Shop

“

This grant has been more about togetherness and support than I ever imagined. With the help of your funding we have mutated and survived.

- Mind The Gap

“

This support has made a huge difference to women in North Norfolk. It's enabled one woman to flee to refuge and be free from her abusive husband. That alone will make a huge difference to her life after 14 years of almost daily abuse.

- The Pandora Project

Why the Foundation?

Here for Norfolk, here for good

A Norfolk based charity with over 15 years experience of making grants, we were selected to lead the local charity response to the pandemic, making sure funding reached our most vulnerable communities at speed and utilising our established network to provide support and guidance to help see charities through the crisis.

“ During the Covid-19 crisis the Norfolk Community Foundation has truly demonstrated its value and impact by being able to support those in greatest need. Grants have been distributed in unprecedented volume and speed. The Foundation continues to get to the heart of communities and is well positioned for future work.

- Simon Bailey, Former Chief Constable of Norfolk and Norfolk Community Foundation Trustee



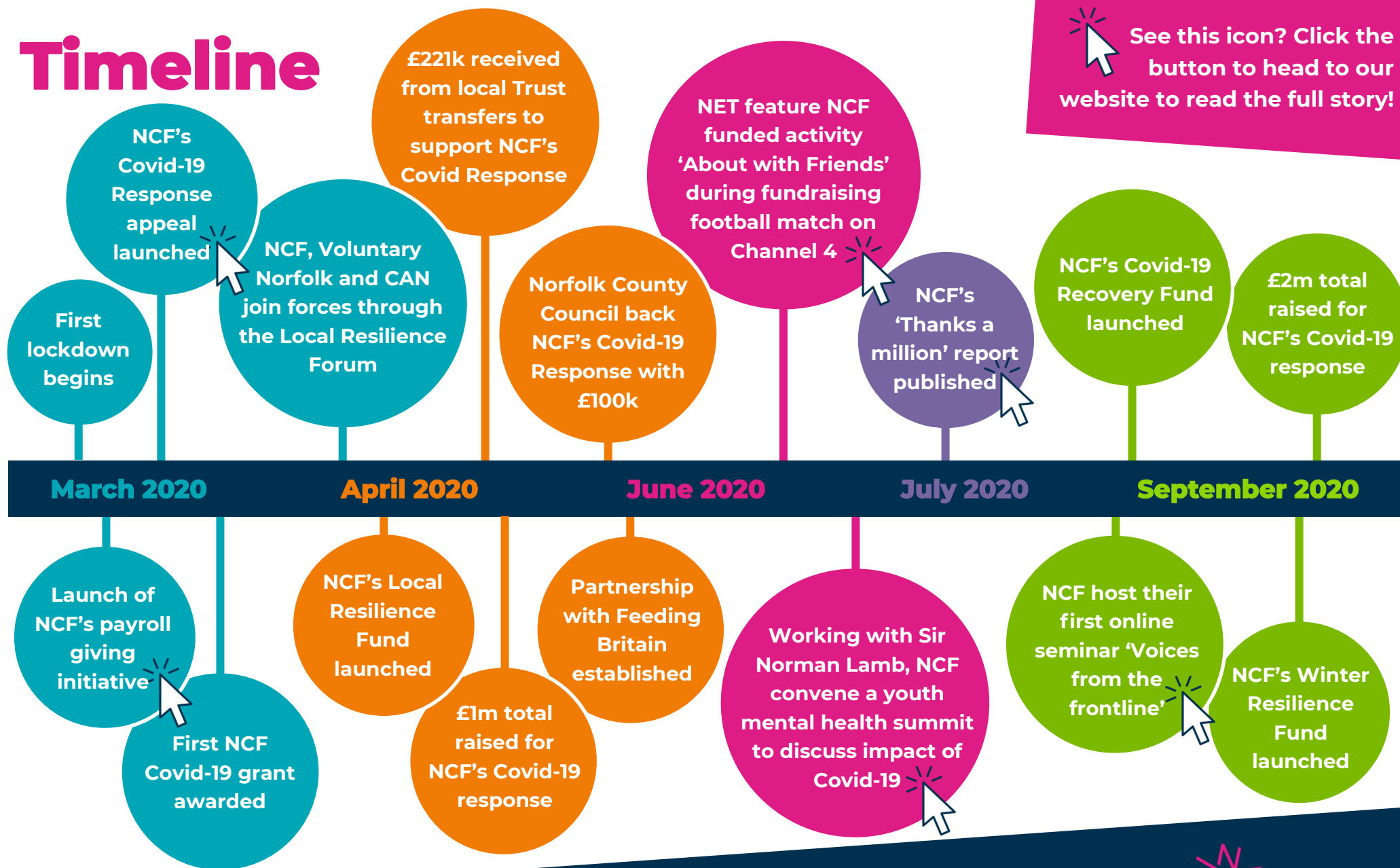
The values that guided us through the crisis:

Responsible **Dynamic** **Trusted** **Partner to**
achieve more **Reflect, learn and evolve**

Timeline



See this icon? Click the button to head to our website to read the full story!





Responsible

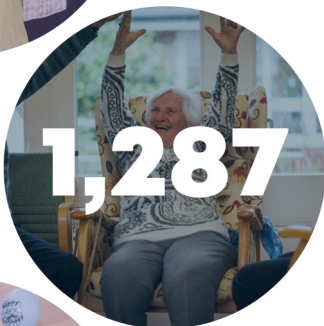
Knowing that every penny counts and acting with diligence

Key outcomes in 2020:



£3.74m

**distributed
in grants**



1,287

**grants
awarded**



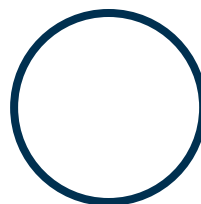
610

**groups
benefitted**



69,000

people in crisis to
access free
advice on money,
debt, family and
employment
matters



52,000

people to receive care
and support whilst
struggling in isolation
due to age, disability,
serious health condition



5,200

people affected by abuse,
exploitation and domestic
violence to receive support



300,000

people to access
food aid in their
community
during lockdown

“

It is very exciting to see just how quickly money has been able to help people who are isolated, hungry, worried or lonely through local community groups and charities. NCF's local knowledge has meant that help has got to where it is really needed at street or village level very rapidly.

- General The Lord Richard Dannatt,
Chairman, The National
Emergencies Trust

Dynamic

Working at pace with innovation

In the first 100 days of the pandemic crisis response, 25% of Norfolk Community Foundation's funding was awarded to 'pop-up' food distribution networks, highlighting the need not only for emergency response but to develop long-term sustainable solutions to combat food insecurity and ensure no-one goes hungry.

Case study: The Burrell Shop

The Burrell Shop was launched in November 2020 as a community supermarket on the Burrell estate in Thetford. Funded through a partnership between Breckland Borough Council, Norfolk Community Foundation and Feeding Britain, the shop aims to address the challenges many face around accessing affordable food on a regular basis.

The community shop works on a membership basis: customers can buy fresh, frozen, dried and tinned food, alongside essential toiletries, nappies and personal care items, at a hugely reduced cost, with one shopper reporting a saving of £30 on their weekly shop.

Inspired by the success of The Burrell Shop, Norfolk Community Foundation is working with charity partners and local authorities to build further practical solutions in Norfolk to eliminate food insecurities in local communities and feed the future of our county.

[Read the full story now.](#)



“ I am proud of the individual impact and the dignity and the freedom that The Burrell Shop has provided for people. The mum that says she can afford to put the heating on at home in the winter now. The family of 7 that can buy 4 times as much food for the same cost.

- Danny Whitehouse, former CEO of The Charles Burrell Centre

Trusted

Recognising that the community knows what it needs

We recognise that our local charities understand what their communities need and we have been proud to champion their creativity and determination in taking action.

Case study: The Sir Norman Lamb Coalition for Young People


The Coalition was established alongside the mental health campaigner and former Member of Parliament Sir Norman Lamb after consulting with charities and community groups in Norfolk and with key stakeholders. This helped to understand not only the current challenges faced by children and young people, particularly in the face of Covid-19, but what the VCSE sector needed in order to respond to increasing demand.

Being part of the Coalition provides an opportunity to develop a groups

existing offer, recognising the value of the vital support they provide to young people, with an ambition to show how Norfolk can lead the way by coming together to make a real difference. By providing access to shared resources and opportunities, sharing good practice, raising the profile of the work groups do, and linking up with larger countywide and national networks, the Coalition enables groups to have a seat at the table and grow.

Already providing over £150,000 worth of support including direct funding, training and [laptops to help with remote learning and digital access](#), the Coalition has listened and responded to the needs of community groups and the young people they support.

By recognising that the community



“ You have allowed us to change the lives of so many vulnerable children, young people and families across North Norfolk.

- Holt Youth Project



knows what it needs and responding to meet this, we can help encourage and promote innovation to enrich our children and young people's lives and build a brighter future.

[Read the full story now.](#)

Partner to achieve more

Local communities benefitting from local knowledge

We know from experience that what we can achieve for Norfolk when we work together is nothing short of amazing, and the community response to the pandemic has further shown the power of coming together.

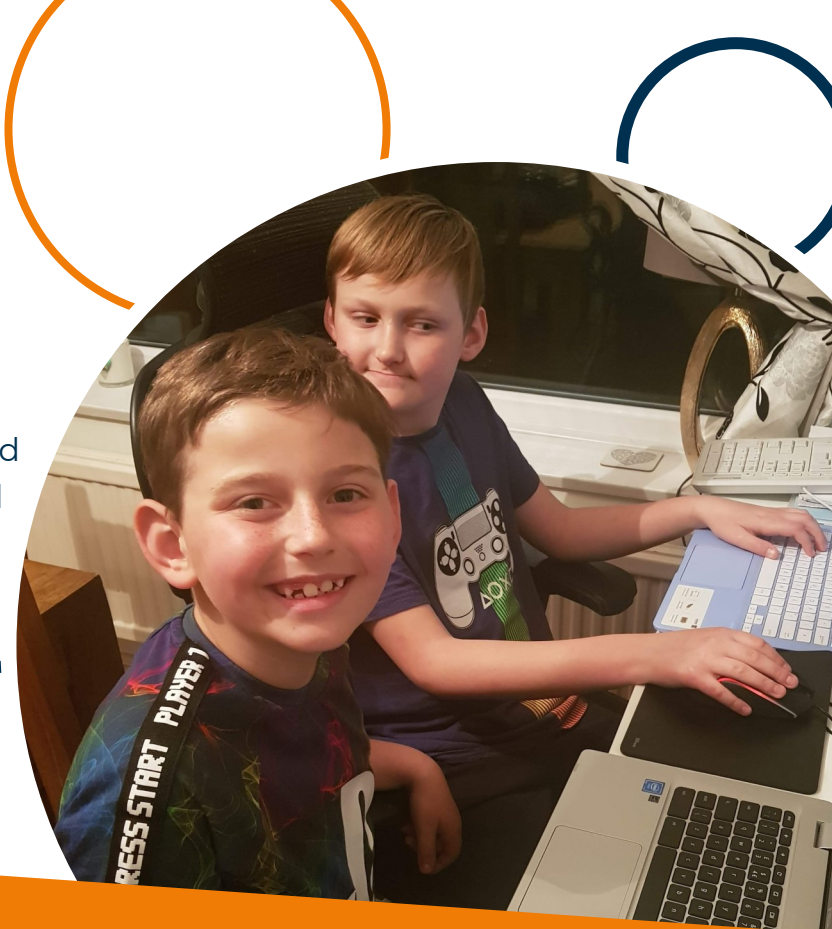
Case study: Every Child Online

In January 2021, as the UK settled into another lockdown, hundreds of Norfolk children were at a major disadvantage because of a lack of access to suitable equipment required for remote learning.

Working with Norfolk County Council and the Eastern Daily Press, we launched the **Every Child Online campaign**. Our aim was simple: to ensure every school age child in Norfolk had a digital device and internet connection to enable them to learn from home.

By working together and pooling resources, knowledge and expertise, more than 5,000 devices were provided to ensure that no child was left behind in their learning because of digital disadvantage.

[Read the full story now.](#)



“**Norfolk Community Foundation responded almost instantly to set up a highly successful fund to help those in most need. It's been fantastic to see Norfolk as a county come together and look out for each other. Not only did it help in limiting the immediate devastation of Covid-19, it will also help massively in the recovery.**

- David Powles, Editor of the Eastern Daily Press

Reflect, learn and evolve

Turning learnings into legacies

As well as responding quickly to crisis, it's important to stop and reflect on the best way to respond to need in the longer term.

Case study: Funding+

Our **Funding+** programme recognises that funding is just one aspect of the support that charities and community groups need to thrive and grow.

During the pandemic, charities reported issues around HR and other operational concerns. We responded by organising a series of webinars offering a range of support from accounting to HR and staff wellbeing, giving charities access to the help they needed to overcome organisational challenges, build networks and grow stronger.

Whilst grant funding will always be vital, our Opportunities4Communities

initiative matches people who have other things of real value which they want to give, from IT and office equipment to use of a minibus, with Norfolk charities and community groups grateful for any help offered.

As we continue our way out of the pandemic, we know how critical it is to make sure our charities are given the support they need now and in the future to help Norfolk shine brighter.

[Read the full story now.](#)



“ I thought this course was superb! It was hugely valuable to meet other colleagues and discuss situations with them. The course materials are fantastic and I shall be using these my entire career I am sure. Thank you so much for such a valuable 2 days.

- Attendee of a free Mental Health First Aid course accessed via Opportunities4Communities

What's next?

Continuing to tackle key areas of need within our communities

This report shows just a snapshot in time of our work over the last 18 months. As ever, we continue to evolve at pace to meet emerging needs in our county, from building sustainable communities and addressing vulnerability to supporting health and wellbeing and unlocking potential.

Our key initiatives are already making a difference to lives across Norfolk, but with your support, we can do so much more. Interested in what you can get behind?

Sir Norman Lamb Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund: Join Sir Norman Lamb and help us make a difference to youth mental health in Norfolk.

Vulnerable Families: Change the future of Norfolk's children facing poverty, isolation and low aspirations.

Together for Women & Girls: Help our women and girls take positive steps towards empowerment and opportunity.

Love Norfolk: Build stronger communities from the ground up through supporting local places, spaces and services.

Nourishing Norfolk: Join the movement to feed Norfolk's future by helping to combat food insecurity and ensure that no-one goes hungry.

Please get in touch if you would like to know more about our work and be part of this journey.

What could we do together?



“ If there was any doubt before the pandemic of the unique value and need for small charities at the heart of communities, there can be none now. Together we must work to ensure they emerge from this crisis stronger, more innovative, and more visible than ever, to ensure they are in a position to meet whatever comes next.

- Lloyds Bank Foundation



Norfolk Community Foundation

Together, Norfolk shines brighter

Find out more or get in touch



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