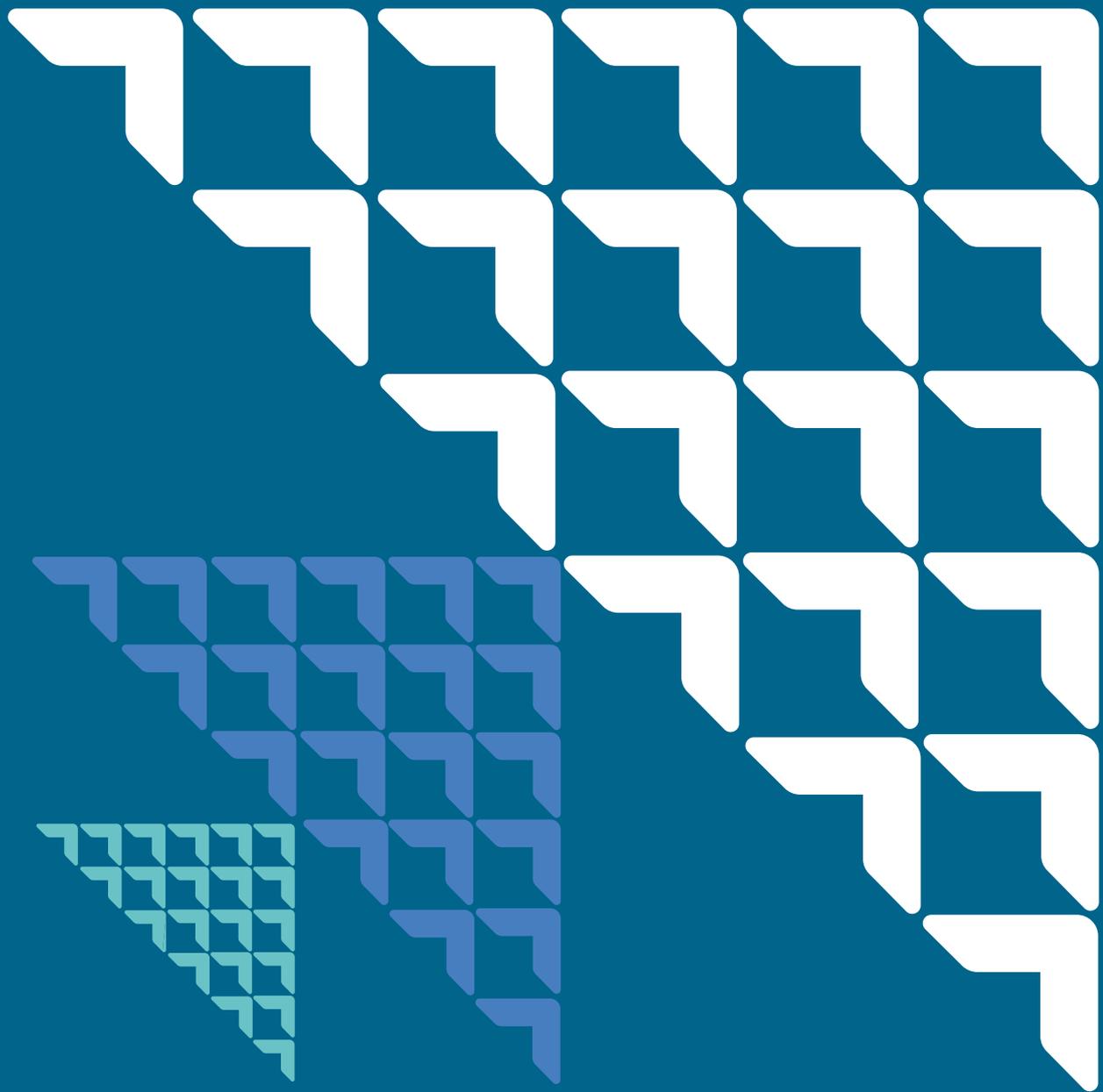


# Social Impact Report

2020-2021



Sanctuary  
Group

# 2020/2021 highlights

## Year at a glance

### The investment



**£1.4 million**  
invested in communities



**34,622**  
interactions with  
beneficiaries



**£3.2 million**  
match funding  
(external investment)



**268**  
projects



### Difference made



**234**  
community groups  
supported



**5,048**  
people supported  
to improve mental  
wellbeing



**4,538**  
people supported to  
reduce isolation



**581**  
people engaged  
in shaping local  
investment



**506**  
people supported to  
live more independently



**283**  
people with increased  
confidence to manage  
their money



**189**  
people gained  
work experience



**£388,953**  
personal debt reduced  
& £470,424 in increased  
personal savings

## Introduction from Craig



**Welcome to our Social Impact Report which reflects back on the incredible impact of our investments in communities over the last year.**

I am pleased to introduce Sustainable Communities, a new name that encompasses all our investments in communities. This includes our programme of direct investment in initiatives that support our Housing and Supported Living customers. It also includes the investment that we lever and direct to our customers through our development programme and supply chain partners.

Our Sustainable Communities investment is a natural extension of our activities as a social housing provider and the delivery of our mission: building affordable homes and sustainable communities where people choose to live. Our focus is on building connection and resilience to support our customers and their communities to create long-term change.

The impact of Covid-19 continued to present enormous challenges and required sustained investment to keep people connected, engaged and safe. We are proud of our collaborative approach, working through a network of local community partners to respond to and support our customers.

Despite restrictions lifting significantly, we expect that our investment in helping communities through the recovery phase will continue in the coming years. I hope you enjoy reading the report and reflecting on what our communities achieved.

We're passionate about our community activities and would welcome the opportunity to talk more about our work, so please get in touch:

[community@sanctuary.co.uk](mailto:community@sanctuary.co.uk)

Craig Moule  
Group Chief Executive

## Foreword from Barbara



I genuinely can't speak highly enough of the fantastic work being done in communities up and down the country. Residents are transforming the areas they live in, bringing people closer together and laying solid foundations for the future. I play an active role in shaping Sanctuary's services for customers so I'm often asked to look at these services through a critical lens.

It's very easy to be negative and for many residents all they ever hear is people being critical. And while their concerns certainly shouldn't be ignored, this report has reminded me of all the good work Sanctuary does, and I firmly believe they need to shout more about it. In these pages you'll read many inspiring stories of how Sanctuary's investment has made a real difference to residents of all ages and backgrounds.

I've seen it first-hand and been fortunate to have played a role in deciding where community investment should be made in my six years as part of the Group Housing Committee. Take where I live in Chester for example. Four old garage sites have been transformed into 'Growing Spaces' where people can grow their own fruit and vegetables. They can also access training to help them develop their gardening skills.

With Sanctuary's support our community has made it a lovely place to spend time. We've added a shed, a polytunnel and all of the beds have been built at a low level so they can be used by people with disabilities. For me, it's been my saving grace during the pandemic as throughout lockdown I was able to take myself off for the afternoon and relax with a book. It really was a Godsend and I am extremely grateful for that.

That's my experience of Sanctuary's work in the community but I know there are many more residents like me who have benefitted from the support available.

I hope you enjoy reading more about it here.

Barbara Owen  
Community champion and resident representative on Sanctuary's  
Group Housing Committee

# Who we are, what we do, why we do it

Sanctuary's mission is to build affordable homes and sustainable communities where people choose to live. We are a not-for-profit housing association, providing homes and care for more than 250,000 people in England and Scotland.

Every penny we make is reinvested in improving homes, building new affordable homes, developing staff and investing in communities. We are driven by our charitable and social purpose and our values.

We believe that no one should be excluded or left behind and that everyone should have a home to live in and community they can belong to.

We want to help build a society with opportunities for everyone, regardless of their background or circumstance.

Now more than ever, people need a sense of ownership of their community and to feel – and genuinely be – empowered and listened to.

We recognise the strengths and assets that already exist within our communities and build on this through partnership working to empower our residents to drive real change.



# Review of the last year

Our approach to Sustainable Communities has been greatly influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic. With changing restrictions over the last year and differing rules imposed across the country we recognised how challenging it was going to be to continue to reach and engage residents.

With a strong network of community partners, we turned to them to realign the focus of our investments. By increasing flexibility and responsiveness we channelled our time and funding in the most helpful way, evolving with communities to support their changing needs.

We worked closely with our partners to make sure that engagement and activity still happened but were carried out safely, were as accessible as possible, and showed sensitivity to the fear and loss that was being experienced across communities. Many new funding routes opened to support those most impacted by Covid-19 and we maximised these opportunities with our partners.

We drew in significant external funding including £96,000 from the Supporting Communities Fund in Scotland and £150,000 from Sport England's Tackling Inequalities Fund. This enabled us to distribute more vital funding through our network to reach those in need with food, advice and support to cope day to day.

In light of the changes we made this year, we completed a full review of our Community Investment Strategy. We did this with our community partners, residents and staff.

The result is a new strategy, published in September 2021, with a new overarching goal to build resilience and connection for our customers and their communities. The strategy can be viewed [here](#).

The stories in this report highlight a selection of our community partners and examples of how we responded to the impact of Covid-19 through our investment.



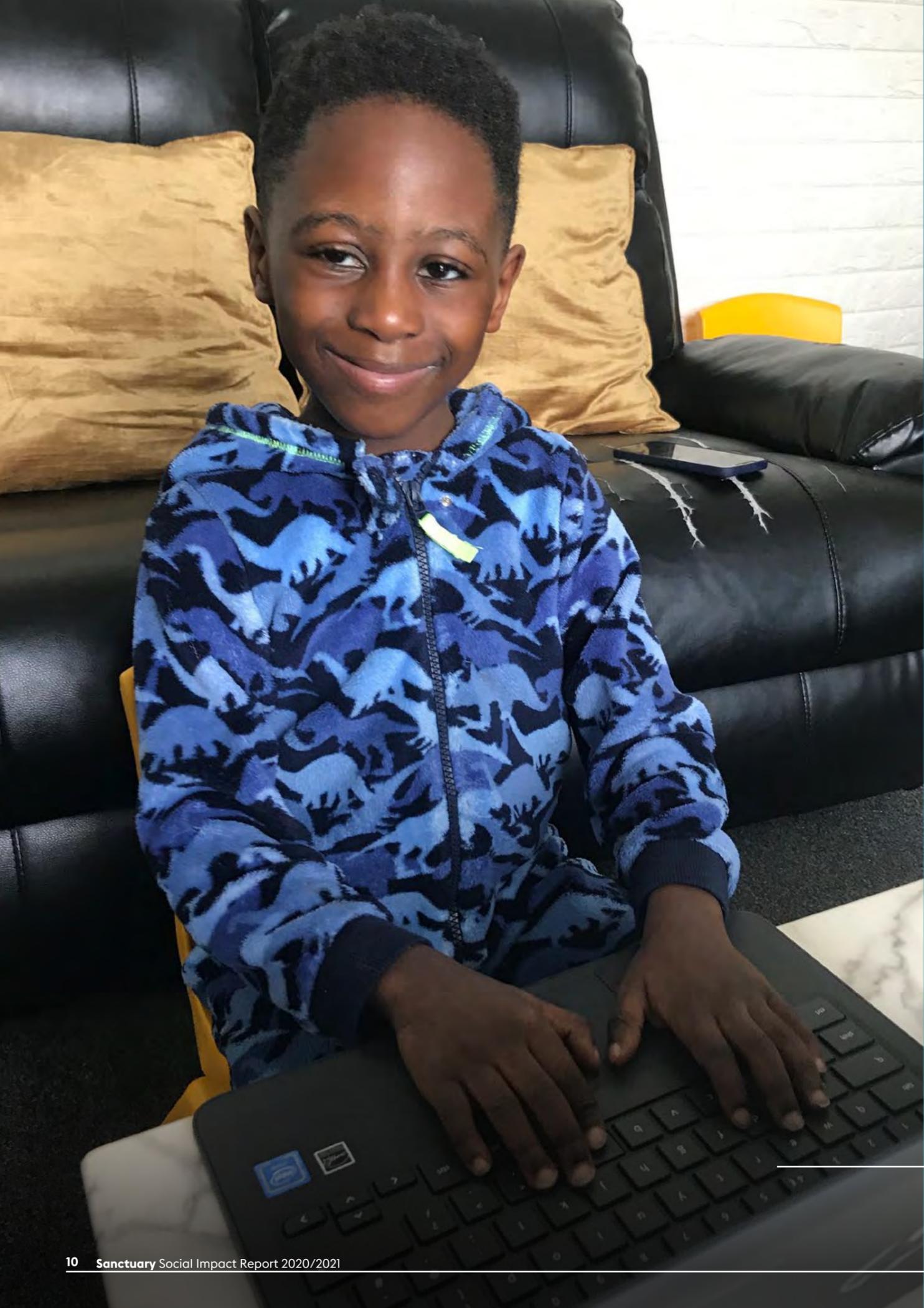
Images are representative



Introducing

sustainable  
**communities**





## Stories from our communities

### Laptops for home learners – supporting young people in Hackney

Months of home schooling exposed many of the inequalities surrounding digital inclusion. One group affected were the children and young people being schooled at home.

We supported a number of projects that responded including one on the Gascoyne Estate in Hackney, where children were using their parents' phones or sharing devices with siblings to access education.

Volunteers from Gascoyne Tenants and Residents' Association (TRA) identified eight local families who would benefit from extra technology in the home. Laptops were then given out for young people to use for homework and virtual lessons.

One local teen, Junior Donnelly, lives with his family in Gascoyne House. He said:

**"The laptop has made a big difference. There were things I couldn't do before, like using Teams at school. I used to share a phone with my brother which was so difficult to manage. My GCSEs are coming up soon, which is why having the laptop is such a support for me."**

The difference this made goes beyond being able to access education. The Residents' Association saw a boost in engagement among the young people and a change in their outlook.



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## Lache Larder – a social supermarket in Chester

**“I can honestly say that the larder has changed our lives. We eat soup every day after school, my son grazes on fruit rather than snacks and there is always a surprise to discover!”**

Live Laugh Lache is run by a group of volunteers in Chester. The initiative helps to bring the community together and tackle social isolation and food poverty. Where people have less money, health and wellbeing can become lower priorities and so the group set out to tackle this inequality through establishing Lache Larder, a social supermarket on the Lache estate.

Initially operating once a week out of a room in the Community Centre, the group transformed the Lache Larder into a “pay as you feel” shop, right in the heart of the community. They are helping to divert food waste from local supermarkets to those who need it.

Volunteers have renovated the shop improving the condition to a welcoming community space. A café area has been created for local people to socialise over a cuppa, with a serving counter made by a volunteer.

Customers come together to share tips and recipes, telling each other how they store and use the surplus food. They have also enhanced the rear space into an edible garden with fruit, herbs and vegetables, all while delivering food to doorsteps of vulnerable and shielding customers. There is a strong sense of community spirit growing through this project.

Throughout the pandemic the group has not stood still, encouraging local residents to use the space for creative ventures and offering opportunities for volunteers to build their work experience and CVs.

We have worked with this group since 2018, initially helping with financial support and advice. Live Laugh Lache is a brilliant example of a community driving change for themselves.

They have made a huge difference to people’s lives, helping to alleviate food poverty and give people a route to reduce social isolation.



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## Stories from our communities

### Play Packs – supporting families in Torbay

Play Torbay approached our local team at the outset of the pandemic to discuss the devastating impact of lockdown on children and young families and explore how to reach families in a different way.

Conversations led to a new initiative, to give play packs to 50 vulnerable families across Torbay. Families were supported by an experienced playworker to engage with children, parents and carers, to encourage them to use the pack to its full potential.

The play packs offered something new and interesting and sparked young imaginations and creativity. Weekly Zoom calls gave families a sociable, fun experience with people they know and a chance to try out fresh ideas and skills as a community. Telephone support was available for families who were struggling to cope, which included signposting to additional services and support.

The demand created by the play packs was so great that many other organisations offered funding for play packs in their own areas, including local authorities outside of Devon.

What was the best bit?

**“Making my kite and having Carmen check in on me lots of times, that was nice.”**

*Arthur, age 6*

**“The fruit kebabs, I want to make these at home with Mum because it's lush and it doesn't cost a lot of money.”**

*Chloe, age 10*

We have worked with Play Torbay for many years. Their aim is to provide fun, accessible play opportunities all year round, including playground adventures and play days. They raise awareness about the importance of play in children's lives by actively involving parents and the wider community in the wonderful benefits of play.

Play Torbay support children from disadvantaged communities and those affected by adverse childhood experiences. The impact of their work includes more children playing actively outdoors, families increasing wellbeing together, developing a sense of community, developing key life skills, as well as building self-esteem, independence and resilience.



View a video of a play pack in action here:  
[vimeo.com/646087679/09cde29d3d](https://vimeo.com/646087679/09cde29d3d)

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## Greater Pollock lockdown response – building community resilience in Glasgow

Once lockdown began last year, the residents of Priesthill, Househillwood and Nitshill in Glasgow, witnessing the difficulties of a country adjusting to major changes, knew they had to band together.

They did so under the name of Greater Pollock Services (GPS). We supported GPS from their initiation, recognising the immense efforts being taken and working side by side to help any families or individuals that were in need.

The first port of call was safe food support. Members of GPS created links with food suppliers and started going door to door. A helpline was created. People could phone and have a hot meal on the same day.

They began picking up prescriptions for people that could not, phoning people weekly who were socially isolated, walking dogs, tidying up gardens and much more. The stories and connections made through this have built resilience, making the community even stronger.

The credit for this work lies at the hands of the residents. We are proud that our local team's asset-based approach, focusing on relationships, doing with and not doing to, believing in people's talents and strengths while building a strong relationship with our tenants, led to a unified approach.

We continue to work closely with GPS through the recovery phase. Luckily, many new local heroes have joined along the way, taking the lead in supporting this community to heal.



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## Stories from **our communities**

### Get on track to wellbeing – supporting young people

The impact of Covid-19 on young people is clear to see. Our colleagues in Supported Living report an increase in young people feeling the impact of loneliness, disrupted education and disconnection from existing support networks. These factors, along with a shortage of key sector employment opportunities including seasonal, hospitality and retail, have led to increasing anxiety levels and poor mental health.

This year, more than ever, we realised the need to develop our approach in supporting young adults at risk of homelessness. A great example of this is our partnership with Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, and their 'Get on Track to Wellbeing' initiative.

The transformational programmes, led by world-class athletes using their unique experience from elite level sport, are designed to improve young people's wellbeing, help them build healthy relationships and unlock the confidence, self-esteem and resilience needed for education, work and life.

In spite of restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the Trust still made it possible for 52 of our young people to engage, both online and in person, through equipment for those who needed it; and running Bitesize Briefings for everyone to access. The initiative took place in five of our specialist services in Weston, Brighton and Hove, Hartlepool, Epsom, and Southend on Sea.

Former boxer Hannah Beharry, athlete-mentor in Brighton shared her story from living a life of crime to becoming British champion. One-time badminton champion Suzanne Miller gave in person support in multiple locations. Their role has made a profound difference to these young peoples' lives – read Leah's story for more information.

[www.damekellyholmestrust.org/leahs-story](http://www.damekellyholmestrust.org/leahs-story)



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## The Gingerbread Centre – cooking in Stoke-on-Trent

The Gingerbread Centre in Stoke-on-Trent offers personalised, confidential, and structured support to 22 families who all live in a Sanctuary property. As the pandemic continued, the Centre responded to offer nutritious food parcels to support shielding residents during the winter months.

“I am a lone mum with a baby, and we have been shielding. My sister was helping me a lot doing my shopping but she was ill with a cough and a temperature so she couldn’t help me for a while, and I didn’t have anyone else who could.”

The Centre also offered residents the opportunity to learn new skills through individual cooking sessions, creating delicious home cooked meals to enjoy as well as helping families to connect and take pride in the food they enjoyed making.

“It’s much better than what you buy from the shop. We are going to bake some more now we have done the first load. It’s quite easy to do, you just have to spend some time and it was so much fun doing it as a family.”



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## Stories from our communities

### Welfare support and digital inclusion – supporting the African French speaking community in Birmingham

This year we worked with African French Speaking Community Support (AFSCS), a charity based in Smethwick, Birmingham.

The charity helps with digital inclusion and linguistic training specifically for people from the African French speaking community.

The charity realised that there was a need for people to be able to access support services online during the pandemic and helped to give digital inclusion training to over 70 local people.

This included helping some people to access employment by building essential technology skills.

AFSCS also helped people through tailored support on welfare issues including housing, council tax, Universal Credit and debt management.

One woman who was supported had to leave her home due to domestic abuse. She was supported to get funding for a tumble drier, washing machine and beds. As a result, she now believes that she can feel safe and live in peace.



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## Zoom cookery – supporting carers in Cheshire and Warrington

**“It’s been a struggle to keep positive during lockdown as we were shielding and so was my son. But having lots of activities to be part of through Zoom has made the time in lockdown a much better experience for us and, of course, it’s helped that we have each other.”**

There are an estimated 13.6 million unpaid carers in the UK and Cheshire and Warrington Carers Trust is helping to make things easier for local carers.

When the first lockdown began, a weekly social baking club was set up. The club gave virtual support to carers who were struggling to find time to cook and bake for themselves and those they cared for.

Many carers do not have alternative support for those they care for and so the online social meant that more people could take part.

The weekly club helped carers to learn new skills. It became a key route for people to feel connected to others and led to friendships being formed, helping people to feel less isolated.

Following restrictions being lifted, the Trust continues to provide support virtually as well as offering face to face sessions.

Cheshire and Warrington Carers Trust offers a wide range of support services to meet the needs of carers within their local community. They recognise that carers have specific needs and offer information around health issues, mobility, grants for holidays, equipment and support.



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## Stories from **our communities**

### Care package project – supporting isolated people in Worcester

**“I knew from the beginning that if I hit a problem and my mental health deteriorated I would be able to call. This has been a great help to me.”**

Alongside businesses across the city, we contributed towards the Worcester Community Trust Care Package Project 2020. Set up following the first lockdown in March 2020, the initiative offered a lifeline for people who were shielding and self-isolating from friends and family.

Weekly wellbeing calls, care packages and access to wellbeing activities were offered to people of all ages and backgrounds, all coping with their own unique experiences and struggles during lockdown.

The Package Project delivered 2,857 meals and distributed 2,525 Care Packages in Worcester.

We have worked in partnership with Worcester Community Trust for several years. They are a registered charity running six community centres in Worcester offering activities and services to empower people of all ages.



Video link:

[https://youtu.be/NAGrT\\_NVD3A](https://youtu.be/NAGrT_NVD3A)



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## Bullet journals – a wellbeing tool in Banbury

Residents in Banbury took part in a therapeutic project with one of our mental health partners, Restore. Bullet journal sessions were designed to support people facing social isolation and mental health challenges during the pandemic. Kits were posted to homes followed by video workshops with a mental health worker, to help people learn how to create a journal from the safety of their own home.

The personalised journals are filled with pages to inspire people to achieve their goals and boost wellbeing such as sleep, diet, exercise, budgeting, managing anxiety and keeping on top of things to do.

Jacqui Vincent-Potter, Recovery Co-ordinator at Restore, said:

**“Bullet journals are designed to help people track the past, organise the present and plan for the future.”**

Members have found the course to be extremely beneficial and commented how good it feels to be part of something during these difficult times. It has provided much needed group camaraderie and we have noticed people are now sharing thoughts, ideas, information and online resources for their journals.

Rebecca, who took part, said:

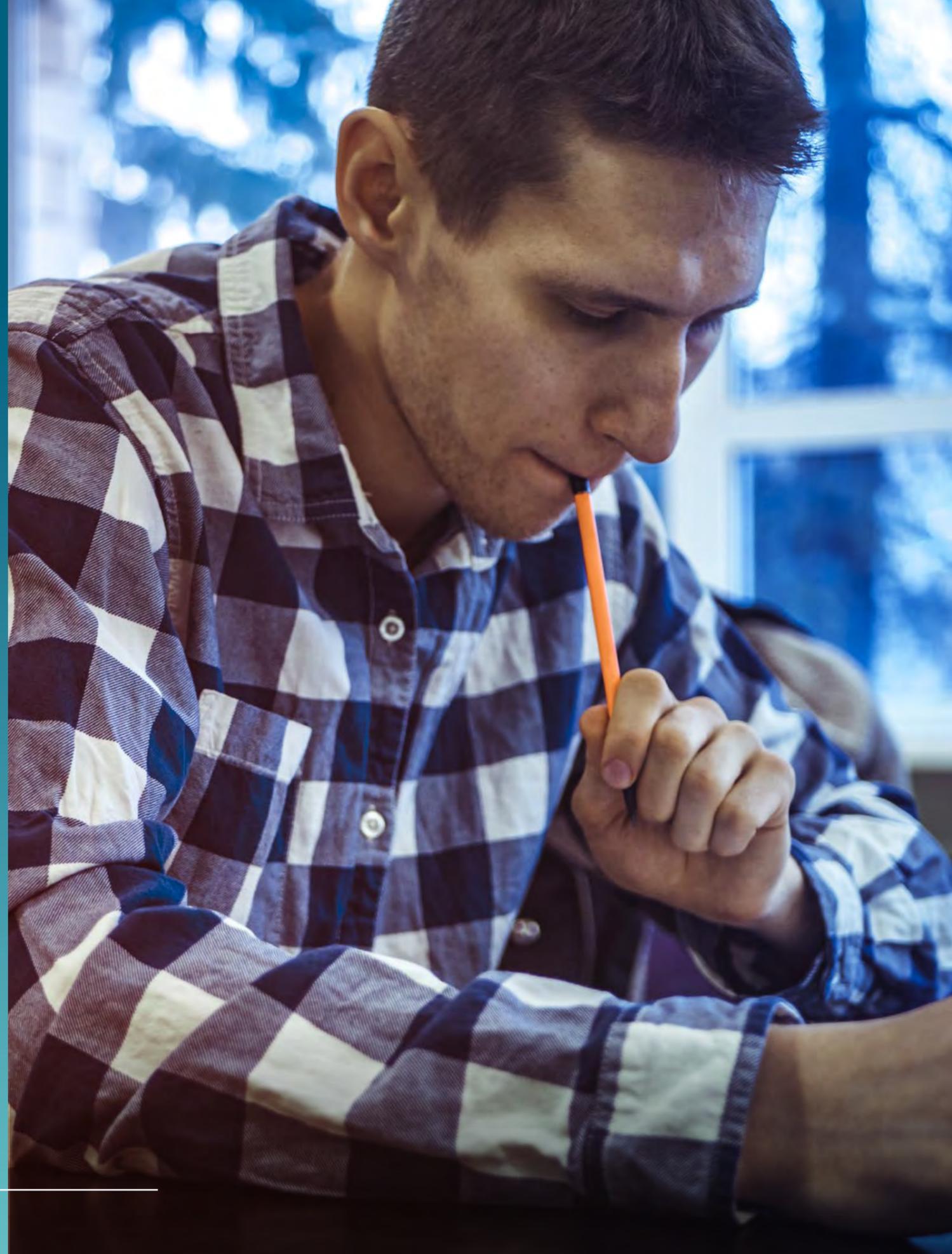
**“Bullet journaling helps me feel a sense of achievement, accomplishment and satisfaction when I complete a task. I now know that it’s okay to achieve my goals in my way and at my pace.”**

We have worked with Restore for many years. They support people to recover, develop, achieve their goals and overcome barriers to employment. Members work in supportive teams doing gardening, woodwork, crafts and running the shops and cafes that sell the products they grow and make.



View a video of the bullet journal project here - <https://vimeo.com/491582378>

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## Stories from our communities

### Working in partnership

Beyond our direct investment, we work with our construction, supply chain and external funders to secure and deliver additional investment for our communities.

This includes the investment generated as part of our £240 million development programme, through which we completed 620 homes and 2,400 were under construction during 2020/2021. This creates significant social and environmental value for the communities where we build new homes. We do this by working with our construction partners to find out how the skills and resources that we have on-site can do more for the wider neighbourhood. Our partners share our values and enjoy giving back, for example through access to jobs and training on-site, renovating green spaces and community buildings, or donating surplus materials to community projects.

During the last year we worked with our construction partners to support communities to build resilience by supporting food hubs, volunteer facilities, on-line training sessions, outdoor activities and environmental improvements. We also gave significant support to schools in response to their concerns with keeping young people connected while home schooling and preparing schools for when pupils returned. This resulted in giving digital equipment, creating new classrooms and nature learning spaces.

Alongside our development programme, we continued to explore our supply chain partnerships to maximise their investments in social value for our communities. We also looked to external grants to secure significant additional funding to build the capacity of our communities to respond to the pandemic.

On the next few pages, we share examples which illustrate the added value our work with our partners makes.



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## Welcome home furniture project – support for new tenants

This year we piloted the welcome home furniture project with support from CDP Management, our printing service provider. The project is designed to help new tenants who move into a home with no support or basic household belongings. There could be a number of reasons for this, including if they have recently been homeless or experienced a relationship breakdown.

By providing a basic pack of furniture and kitchen equipment, the aim is to give people a real sense of “home” and pride in where they live. The packs have helped people to sustain tenancies, reduce anti-social behaviour complaints and encourage greater engagement with other services.

Feedback from the customers we have supported so far suggests that the packs have been really appreciated, and they made it easier for people to commence their tenancies straight away. One had moved into her flat with only a suitcase of clothes after relocating to find a job. She said:

“That’s all I had, nothing to actually furnish a home. The pack has been really helpful and I liked that everything was brand new.”

Another recipient of the furniture pack had lost all his belongings when he moved to care for his father. He said:

“I moved out of my own place to look after my dad when he was ill. When I was offered this property I had nothing. It’s been really helpful to get everything I need to be able to move in.”



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## Stories from our communities

### Supporting communities fund – a resilient response in Scotland

We successfully applied for £96,000 as part of the Supporting Communities Fund in Scotland. The Fund was set up by the Scottish Government to distribute funding to community anchor organisations to help support local responses to the pandemic.

Sanctuary identified key community partners that were already responding to the local issues people faced as a result of Covid-19 and were best placed to reach as many people as possible, making the most of local knowledge and relationships.

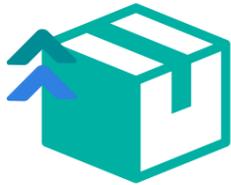
Rather than creating new routes for support in an increasingly complex situation, we invested in nine organisations across six local authorities that were already making a difference. The support varied across the areas and the money helped organisations to get on with the task at hand and respond the way most people needed at that time.

Projects provided food, energy advice and funding, activities for children and families, as well as improving support networks between individuals, groups and the wider community, having a longer-term impact than just relief. Focusing on hyper-local support allowed connections to be made that went beyond simple financial investment and ensured a sustainable response that continued beyond the grant funding.

One community-ran organisation working in Anderston, Glasgow, gave out activity packs, healthy snacks and essential toiletries for individuals and families. This support addressed some of the critical issues people were facing at that moment, and also allowed people to have some independence and not simply rely on the goodwill of others or organisations. The legacy of the funding created a local network of support and connection within the community, vital in a resilient response to the pandemic.

One person who received this support told us:

“Hi! I wanted to thank you for all of your hard work and generosity during the pandemic and ongoing. My daughter and I just moved to Glasgow at the end of May and you guys have been such a great help as we have had to cut corners and such, but she always got good healthy food, treats and new games and toys which she has treasured. I think it would be essential for your work to be remembered for generations to come. It is and has been so very crucial.”



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## Green fingers – outdoor play area in Port Glasgow

An outdoor learning area at St Francis Primary and Nursery School in Port Glasgow has been brought to life by Sanctuary Scotland and construction partners Cruden Building.

The school is on the doorstep of Sanctuary Scotland's new development of 24 affordable flats on Dubbs Road in Port Glasgow. An exciting new outdoor area was developed including timber bench seating, planters and troughs, a water activity wall, work benches and a new mud kitchen.

Nursery Deputy, Carrie Murphy, said:

“Thanks to this fantastic support we can fully realise the dream of this outdoor play area for pupils to safely enjoy, play and learn in.”



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## Stories from **our communities**

### Space to get cooking – renovated kitchen for FareShare in Yorkshire

During the first stages of lockdown we responded to the growing need for food supplies to reach families and people living alone and without support. We linked our construction sites to local charities to see how we might help. Consequently, we provided refrigeration units, improved kitchen facilities, and gave parcels of household items.

One example was the work we supported through one of our building partners, Engie, to fit out a kitchen for the national charity FareShare, to support volunteers delivering food across the North of England.

The kitchen neighbours our development of 18 new family homes for affordable rent in the Berners Road area of Sheffield.

Quote from Gareth Batty, Chief Executive, FareShare Yorkshire:

“This support has been incredible. We needed to renovate the facilities for our volunteers urgently and ENGIE came along at the perfect time to help us. Now, the vibrantly decorated kitchen is a bright space with a breakfast bar and new cooking facilities for the volunteers to enjoy breakfast, hot meals and drinks.”



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## The great outdoors – sustainable outdoor learning zones for Worcester pupils

During Covid-19 we have been able to help schools improve their indoor and outdoor places and spaces in readiness for the return of children who have been learning at home.

In Worcester, our Construction team and contractor, Midwest Landscaping, helped Cranham Primary School create outdoor zones. There is now a wooded zone and a recycling and composting zone where teachers will help the children learn more about caring for the environment. This work followed on from a visit just prior to the first lockdown where Colleen Eccles, our Head of Place Shaping, held an assembly to get the children enthused about the natural world and how we can all help biodiversity.

The work with Cranham Primary School supports our nearby development of 34 new homes for affordable rent in Cranham Drive.

Pupil at the school, 10-year-old Kara, said:

“This new area means that we will be able to encourage insects, birds and small animals onto our school grounds. We might even be able to make bird boxes and areas for hedgehogs to nest!”

Cranham headteacher, Nick Cale, commented:

“I’m really pleased to see all of the children enjoying the great outdoors. Learning outdoors really enhances our curriculum and it gives the children opportunities to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the world.”



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## Stories from our communities

### Tackling inequalities fund – a health partnership with Sport England

We successfully applied for £150,000 from Sport England's Tackling Inequalities Fund. The Fund was set up in recognition that Covid-19 was widening inequalities in sport and physical activity for people from Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic communities, disabled people and people with long-term health conditions. Acting as an anchor organisation we channelled funding through 25 local community groups in Cherwell, Chester, Hackney, Liverpool and Rochford.

From walking to yoga, dance to fitness sessions, people from all five areas were able to take part in local physical activity sessions run by local trusted partners for free or low cost. Groups benefitted by being able to build their capacity to reach people from the safety of their own homes or in safe outside spaces.

One project we funded in the Northwest of England supported 50 adults who were recovering from addiction and mental health challenges.

One person who took part in virtual dance sessions talked about the impact of coming together with others who have their own problems to dance and shows the power of connection even through a virtual space.

**“It gives me optimism, and my family notice the difference, it gives me strength. I am motivated and happier.”**

We have been working in partnership with Sport England since 2014. We divert any funding we receive from them to local groups who empower people to identify their individual and community assets which they can use to build physical activity into their day to day life. Sport England's 10-year vision is to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity. To learn more, watch a video about Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy here:



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7\\_J0\\_CawGc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7_J0_CawGc)

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## Learning with nature – outdoor classrooms for pupils in Cumbernauld

We also worked with our construction partners in Scotland to help schools as they prepared for the return of children after months of virtual learning. St Mary's Primary School in Seafar, Cumbernauld, benefitted from two new outdoor classrooms which will offer pupils more opportunities to enjoy outdoor learning and connect with the natural environment.

Paula Brazill, headteacher at St Mary's Primary, commented:

*"We're very excited about the opportunities this outdoor space will provide. We'll be able to access the woods, examine mini beasts in their habitats and do some den building, and it will provide a context for our work on sustainability. We are tremendously grateful to Sanctuary Scotland and Engie for bringing this project to life"*

The support comes as part of Sanctuary and Engie's partnership to create 134 new homes in nearby Berryhill Road and Hume Road for affordable and social rent.



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## Stories from our communities

### Green enterprise – garden maintenance opportunities with specialist Essex college and charity

Because of the challenges of finding work opportunities and placements during the pandemic, Market Field College in Frating, a village in the Tendring district of Essex developed a plan to give its young people real and meaningful pathways into work.

The College, which provides support for young people with learning disabilities and autism, put together a social enterprise proposal, to offer paid employment to young people by gaining local gardening and maintenance contracts.

Seeing a great deal of ambition and potential, we gave £14,000 seed funding to help them to get the enterprise off the ground. The funding came through our partnership with Hill Construction as part of our development of 67 new homes in Frating. It has given the charity the confidence to start working with groups across Tendring.

They are working hard to sustain a viable enterprise and support many young people with learning difficulties and autism into the working world.

The charity has bought its first tools and clothing for the young people and has also been successful in gaining its first contract. The project worked with Frinton and Walton Parish Council to help plant their Frinton in Bloom displays on the greensward in the summer, resulting in two young people from Market Field College having the opportunity to work and earn their own money for the first time.

Alongside these two young people, Naomi the Charity Founder will be rolling her sleeves up, planting and working as part of this small team.

The biggest project the charity is working on will be in partnership with The Big Green Internet, a business with the aim of planting half a million hedgerow trees. This project will create 100 miles of wildlife corridors to connect isolated and fragmented woodlands together, both in Tendring and across Essex.



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## Want to find out more?

If you would like more information about anything you have read in this report, you can contact us by emailing [community@sanctuary.co.uk](mailto:community@sanctuary.co.uk).

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## Accessibility

We want this report to be accessible to all. If you would like it in a different format, email [pr@sanctuary.co.uk](mailto:pr@sanctuary.co.uk).

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[www.sanctuary.co.uk](http://www.sanctuary.co.uk)



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