



THE
BERN^{ICIA}
FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2024-2025



01

A Message from our Chair

Lesley Moody OBE – Trustee and Chair of the Bernicia Foundation

I'm privileged to have taken over this year as chair of the Bernicia Foundation. Having seen the excellent projects the Foundation has supported in the past makes me proud and excited to be part, along with my fellow trustees, of a team which is making a real difference across the North East.

During another year of cost challenges, we have continued to focus on helping people and the voluntary community overcome obstacles to economic inclusion. We have supported projects which strive to remove barriers and create opportunity. Alongside this, we've helped those charities that tackle real hardship.

We are now in a time of change for the region, with new national and regional governments and uncertainty over how issues on the international stage will filter through to affect people at the local level. We will continue to respond to those changes and help the voluntary community adapt to new ways of working or deliver new opportunities for the people they support.

It is encouraging that, despite sometimes facing obstacles and challenges, we see so many young people demonstrating determination to reach their full potential. Our Inspiration grant is well named and supports young people showing commitment, perseverance and talent, across many different disciplines. It reminds us of the abilities that exist in our region and the importance of being able to support people's development, whatever their needs and circumstances.

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Summary of Progress

During 2024/5 we have funded 17 Inclusion projects and 13 Inspirational young people, awarding over £167,000 of grants. Since we launched the fund in 2020, we have now supported our communities with over £1.2million of funding.

Inclusion Grant

In awarding Inclusion grants, our primary objective is to promote economic inclusion, supporting initiatives that create employment opportunities, enhance skills, and reduce barriers to financial independence for individuals and families. Alongside this, our secondary objective, social inclusion, seeks to encourage projects that foster stronger community connections, support wellbeing, and ensure that all individuals, regardless of background, have the opportunity to participate fully in society.

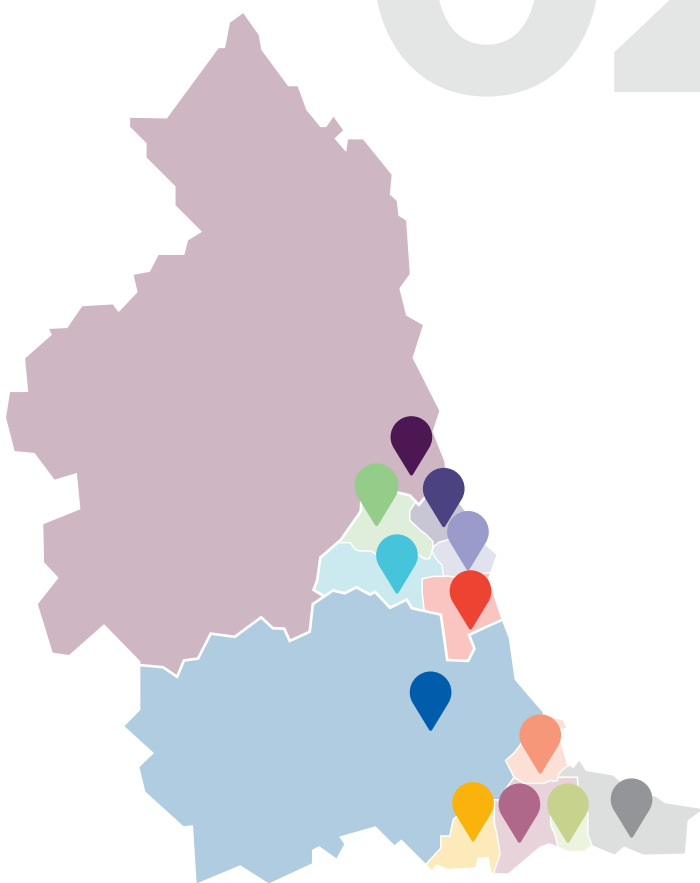
We try to balance these objectives with the aim that our tenants might be able to access or benefit from the projects we fund. We try to ensure that the level of grant awarded to local areas, reflects those areas where our tenants mostly live. This year, we have focused especially on encouraging applications from Northumberland, since that area has typically been underrepresented in volume and value of grant awards. Areas which have had proportionately high funding in comparison to our presence, have been considered a lower priority this year.

However, we also take into careful consideration our broader goals when making grant decisions.

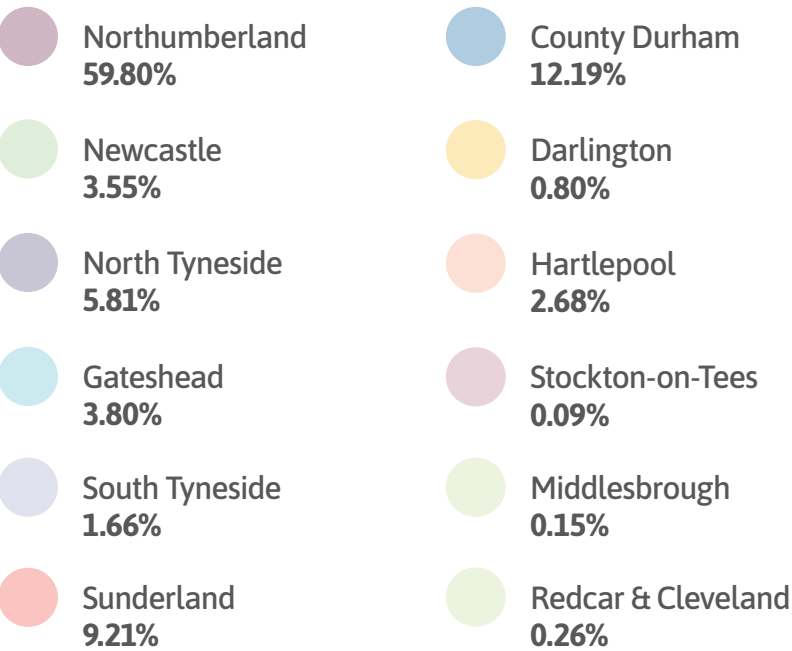
Additionally, to maximise our resources and support a wide range of projects and people, we place a higher priority on applications that have not been funded in the past three years while still considering recently funded applicants. In balancing these goals, we strive to fund projects that align with both the needs of our tenants and our overarching mission of creating inclusive, thriving communities.

Delivery Location	Number of Grants	Bernicia Grant Paid Out	Percentage of Grants Awarded
Newcastle	17	£145,495	14.7%
Sunderland	17	£144,517	14.6%
SE Northumberland	12	£115,561	11.7%
Gateshead	11	£94,856	9.6%
South Tyneside	9	£86,669	8.8%
North Tyneside	8	£78,168	7.9%
Northumberland	8	£75,406	7.6%
Co Durham	6	£58,000	5.9%
West Northumberland	6	£46,370	4.7%
North Northumberland	3	£30,000	3.0%
North East	4	£30,000	3.0%
Tyne & Wear	3	£25,000	2.5%
Middlesbrough	3	£23,000	2.3%
Darlington	2	£10,000	1.0%
Stockton-on-Tees	1	£9,489	1.0%
Hartlepool	1	£9,440	1.0%
Redcar	1	£5,000	0.5%
Grand Total	112	£986,971	100.0%

02



Percentage of Homes in Local Authorities

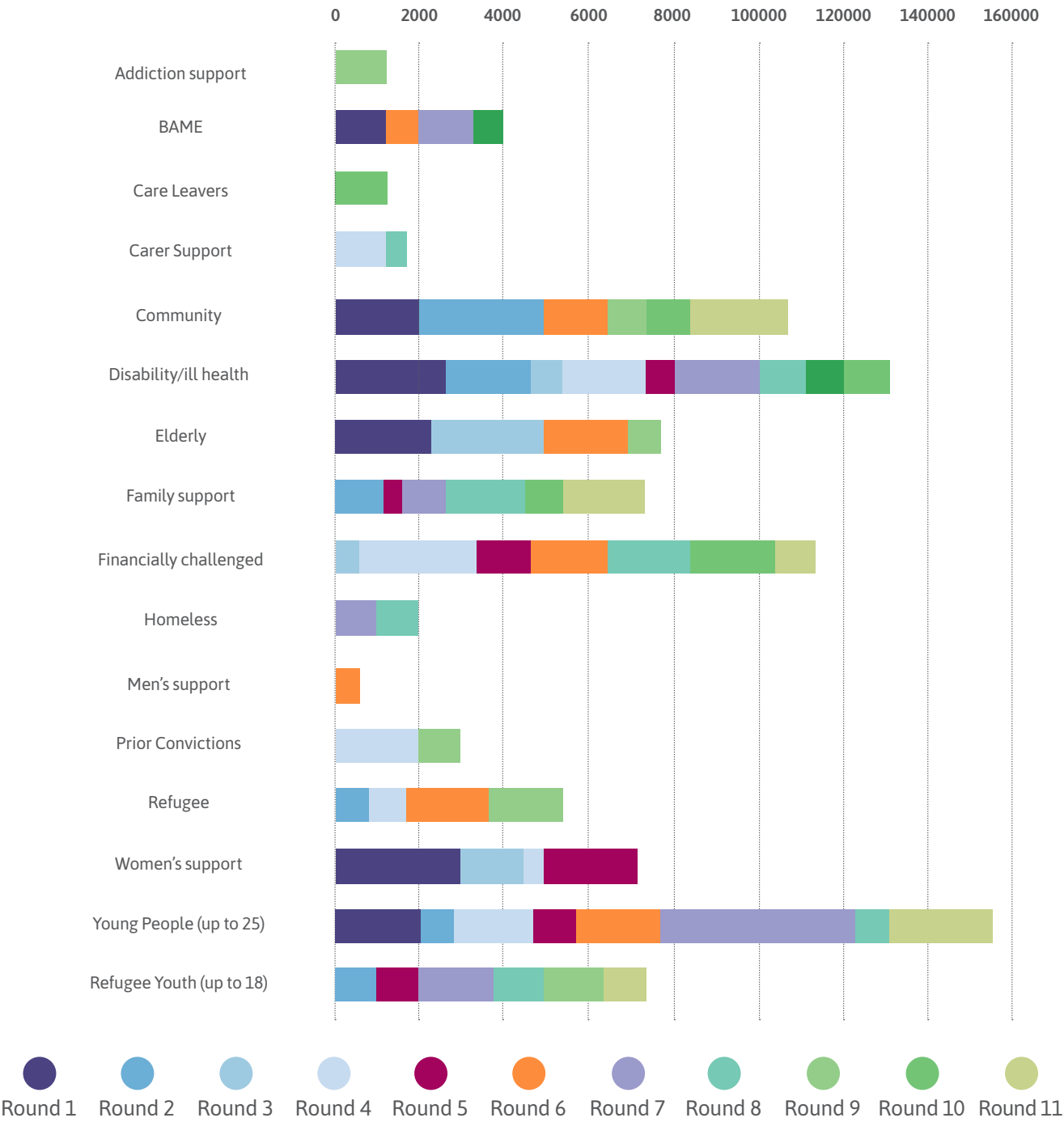


By prioritising support for Economic Inclusion, we recognise the effects that poverty has on families and communities. It affects wellbeing and life chances across generations. At a time where living and business costs continue to rise, we understand both the challenges and benefits, of accessing good work. The grants we have supported this year have reflected that need for both hardship support and enabling access to opportunities.

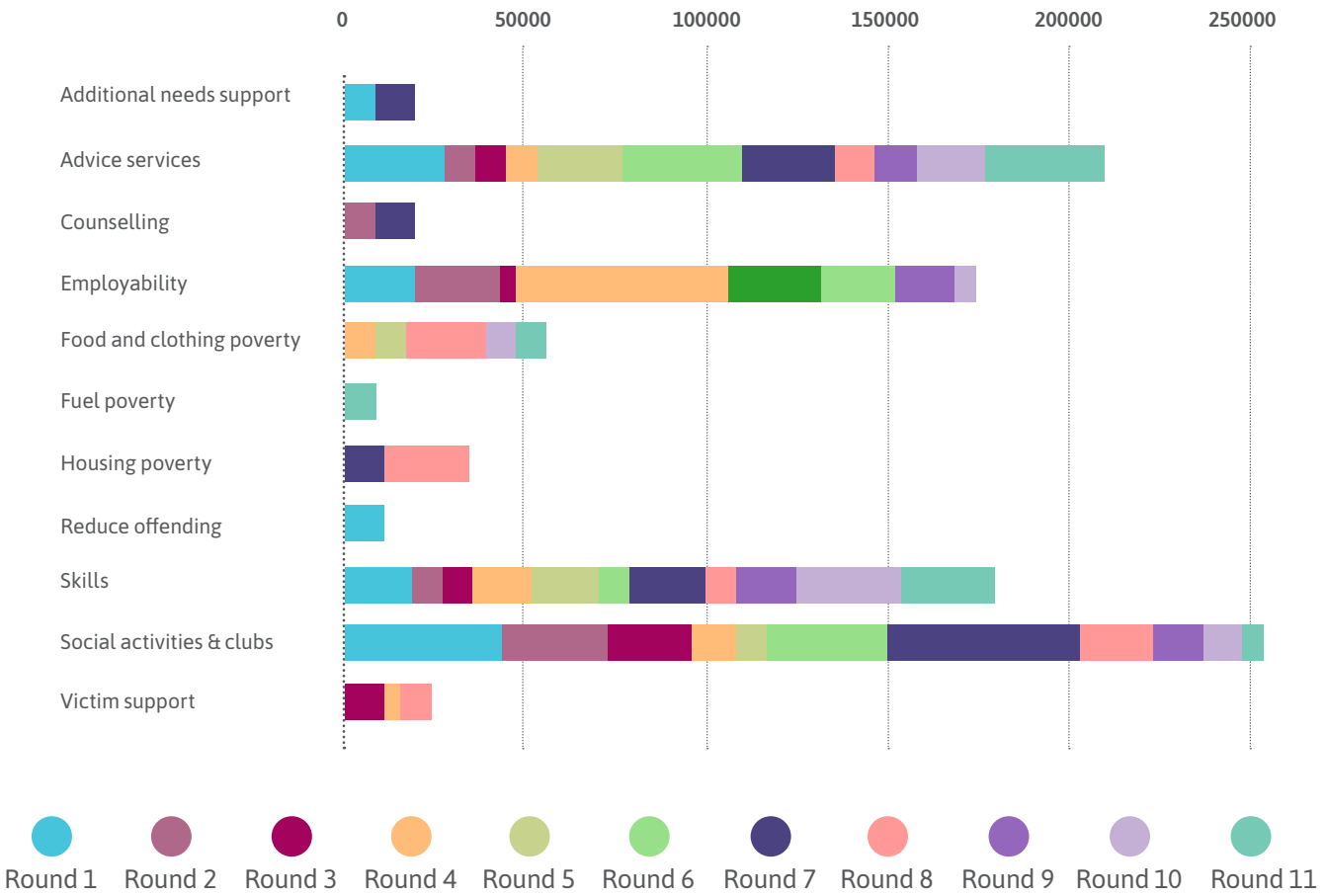
Some projects might support these aims less directly. Engaging young people in activities can be a first step in working towards the job market. Often people seek advice and support for domestic issues and are then, in time, able to move on to addressing longer term aims.

Many of the social activities and clubs we have funded have been a gateway for people to access further services such as advice, counselling or employability support.

Types of Projects Funded per Grant Round



Outcomes per Round





Luke Pichler

Inspiration Grant

Our Inspiration Grant is designed to support young people who demonstrate exceptional talent and excellence in their chosen fields. Most often, we receive applications from those involved in sport. We are very pleased to have been able to provide valuable assistance and help them access opportunities. They are extremely talented, often competing at national and international levels, representing their teams and countries with pride. By investing in the potential of these young leaders, we aim to foster growth, ambition, and achievement across various disciplines.

We are keen, however, to encourage a more diverse range of applications and continue to explore ways of promoting the grant to a wider audience, alongside the world of sport. There are many ways in which young people demonstrate excellence and inspirational qualities. We'd like to reflect that in our grant awards to support young people with a wide range of interests and skills.

Luke Pichler – Competing for Blyth and England in Athletics

Beginning his athletics journey at just 7 years old, the now teenage athlete one day dreams of representing Great Britain at the Olympic Games.

National competitions means costs for hotel stays, entry fees, training fees and fuel costs – of which Luke said “This amounts to substantial costs of up to £4,000 per year.”

Review of Grants Awarded

Grants are typically awarded for a 12-month period, after which we ask recipients to let us know what difference the grant has made to their project. We report here on the projects and individuals that we supported in 2023/24 (Rounds eight and nine) who have now completed their projects.

Brief details of the grants awarded this year (2024/25 - Rounds ten and eleven) are also listed below. We will report on their progress next year.

Inclusion Grants Awarded in Round Six



£10,000

Border Links Ltd – Skills for those with disability or ill health, Berwick

New kitchen at new central hub. Skills activities to develop cooking, budgeting, hygiene and healthy eating. Respite for carers. Explore business links as place for training new staff, placements and work experience.



£10,000

YMCA Northumberland – Youth social activities & clubs

227 people aged 10-18 attended evening youth sessions designed to improve socio-economic skills through group activities and building confidence and aspirations. 82 youths attended more than 5 times.



£10,000

Impact Family Services – Family support, South Tyneside

Core costs funding increased group domestic abuse victim programmes. Worked with 127 domestic abuse victims. 37 have progressed from the service, 90 remain in-service receiving continued tailored support. 12 families received tenancy support.



£9,992

North Tyneside Disability Forum – Advice services

“Advice Plus” for economically disadvantaged people. 126 families supported in PIP/DLA appeals and renewals, pension credits and attendance allowance to maximize their income. 146 families (438 people) are using the support hub weekly with 350 participating in activities and 60 people in café/food services.



£9,700

Tyneside Vineyard – Food and clothing poverty, Newcastle

Community outreach hub, increased by 285 members. Generated significant increase in donations, resulting in 39% increase in stock and over 600 pairs of shoes distributed. 40% of respondents use foodbanks less, and 78% say their overall well-being has improved due to the service.



£9,900

Emmaus North East – Homeless Provision and Advice in Northumberland

Pilot to deliver new service in new location. Level of referrals did not meet expectations and Emmaus are now exploring new ways of delivering this service in the coming months to meet grant objectives



£9,420

Love Amelia – Food and Clothing Poverty, Sunderland

Core costs funding. Project supported 5,130 financially insecure families (7,480 people). £847,500 of essential items such as mattresses, cots, clothing, and toys provided to at risk families creating a safer environment.



£9,548

Northumberland Pride t/a Pride Action North – Young people social activities & clubs

Costs towards a youth advocate. Worked with 927 youth in the community. Established 5 new detached youth provision sites across the North-East.



Border Links Disability Hub

Border Links was founded in 2006 and runs 18 weekly groups across Berwick, Amble, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Duns and Kelso that support 60 adults with learning disabilities. Its new central hub in Berwick will be a focal point for activities and Bernicia Foundation was delighted to help with the cost of installing a new kitchen.

As well as supporting the new centre’s day to day activities, it will provide training for adults with learning disabilities to cook and work safely in a kitchen, helping them to prepare nourishing, healthy meals and understand the importance of a good diet.

Evening training sessions will help them learn how to cook a basic meal together and develop essential skills in food hygiene, budgeting and healthy eating. Border Links also provides opportunities for participants to earn formal qualifications appropriate for adults with learning disabilities that could help them secure employment in the catering industry. The Disability Hub was designed in consultation with Border Links members and their families, who visited the site, gave feedback to the architect and helped to choose furniture, fixtures and fittings.

Melanie Deans, Director of Border Links, explained the importance of the training sessions: “Parents, carers and health professionals have told us they urgently need more support in the Berwick area to relieve carer stress and enable adults with learning disabilities to develop essential skills to help them in their everyday lives and play a part in their local community. We worked closely with our members and their families to design a Disability Hub that would provide practical support and social interaction for those with learning disabilities, while giving vital respite to parents and carers.

The grant from The Bernicia Foundation has allowed us to build a professional kitchen where our members can not only develop core life skills but have the opportunity to gain qualifications to get into employment.”

Inclusion Grants Awarded in Round Nine



£9,958

Waffling On – Disability/health advice services Northumberland

Neurodivergent support project. Includes advocacy, info hub, staff training, steering group, and website development/design/production of web-based publicity. Website has 6.5k views. Six team members were trained and four achieved a Level 2 Certificate in Information Advice or Guidance with NOCN.



£10,000

Minerva Arts & Wellbeing – Prior Convictions skills, Sunderland

To fund two 12-week former offender employability programmes. Jobs seeking advice and CV development. Confidence skills and finance management. 95% claimed Maths, English or computer skills increased.



£5,000

Success4All – Youth Social Activities & Clubs Sunderland

New learning hub 34 young people accessed learning, 26 reporting improved confidence in learning. 12 volunteers were recruited, 7 remaining involved for the full duration of the project.



£10,000

Headliners UK – Care Leavers Employability North Tyneside

Project to support SEND care leavers. 200 sessions on pre-employment, education, training, budgeting, and digital skills. 36 gained OCN London quals. 8 helped into work or apprenticeship.



£10,000

Search Services for Older People – Elderly Housing Poverty, Newcastle.

Advice and guidance for older people. 2,384 enquiries from 732 clients, 492 supported with financial gains. Two people transferred from rough sleeping or temporary accommodation to secure housing.



£10,000

Gap Supported Housing – Homeless Housing Poverty, West Northumberland

Core costs of supported housing service. 45% gained employment. 28% moved into a home of their own. 70% of those with addiction issues have engaged with services to address those addictions.



£10,000

Cowpen Quay Community Association – Youth Skills, Blyth

"Buffalo Youth Projects". 15 young people attended each youth club and 12 attended each of the SEND sessions. Using connections with local police, CQCA have noticed a drop in anti-social behaviour.



£10,000

Stakeford and Bomersund Welfare – Community Social Activities & Clubs, S.East Northumberland

Core costs. 700 people per week attended activities. Weekly warm room for socializing and refreshments. Were able to provide rooms at a non-commercial rate for community use.



£8,041

International Community Organisation of Sunderland – BAME employability

Employability support for migrants. 18 migrants secured jobs and 26 progressed into education or training. Jobs included teaching assistants, healthcare workers, cleaning staff, driving jobs, and warehouse workers.

Holly Ayrton,
Headliners

Headliners

Headliners will support 30 young people who are transitioning out of the care system and those with SEND who are moving towards independence from care through its unique Tyne on Your Side project. Participants will learn digital and media skills to create content and speak about the issues that affect them, leading to the production of a portfolio that will enable them to gain their Level 1 Open College Network (OCN) London qualification.

The young people will also learn the basics of building their CV, job searching, managing their money in the future, budgeting and interview practise, all designed to get them ready for new employment opportunities.

The project aims to bridge the support and skills gap faced by young people leaving care. Currently, 31% of children leaving care have no qualifications and 35% of care leavers aged 19 are not in education or employment.

Headliners will work with its extensive partnership network to offer advice and signposting to Tyne on Your Side participants, to help them access further education, employment and/or volunteering opportunities and experiences.

Holly Ayrton, Headliners' Charity Manager, said: "Young people have told us that they are often disillusioned

and suspicious of the "system". They feel like they are left out in the cold at the point of leaving care.

"Headliners believes in the importance of young people's voices and we aim to provide personal support and professional development to allow care leavers to transition to independent living with confidence and hope for the future.

"The Inclusion Grant from The Bernicia Foundation has enabled us to develop a fantastic programme that will give care leavers the means to make good choices in their own lives."

Headliners will deliver over 200 sessions to 30 young people in Northumberland and North Tyneside through the Tyne on Your Side programme.



Penelope Boisseau-Hardman

From first picking up the violin at the age of six, Penelope has excelled musically. She auditioned successfully and was accepted into the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) at the age of ten, has been a member of the Young Sinfonia since she was 13 and achieved ABRSM Grade 8 with a high distinction in violin at 16.

“I want to become a professional violinist”, said Penelope. “My tutors believe I have the ability and work ethic to do so.”

But her talent doesn’t stop with violin – with Penelope simultaneously training in clarinet to a Grade 8 level and, more recently, in viola and keyboard on the advice of her tutors. However, the path to becoming a professional classical musician is very expensive, even with large grants for tuition. Expenses range from smaller items like sheet music, shoulder rests and strings to larger overheads, including tuition fees and the instruments themselves.

Penelope has frequently been told that to support her ambitions, she requires high-quality instruments. With her current instruments loaned to her, family illness and changing circumstances have meant that, without external support, Penelope would not be able to continue pursuing her dream career path.

“In order to fully prepare for entry into a conservatoire, I am now taking additional lessons in viola and keyboard,” she said. “However, this means that I now need to raise over £2,500 just for the extra tuition. When you factor in other activities, such as chamber music or National Orchestra courses, things can get very expensive. Grants like the Inspiration Grant from The Bernicia Foundation really do go a long way towards covering some of those expenses for me.”

Inspiration Grants Awarded in Round Eight



£1,000

D, North Tyneside - Boxing

Funds helped D in training and travel requirements for both National Amateur Championships and the National Elite Championships. D is now No.1 in the country thus propelling their own and the club’s profile.



£1,000

J, Gateshead - Karate

Cost of travel to Scotland for training. Achieved Bronze at Banzai Cup in Berlin and finished top 16 in first world ranking in 2025. First British female to do this. World ranking has improved from 430 into the top 164.



£1,000

L, North Tyneside - Athletics

Towards participation in running at an international level. L achieved 2 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze medals from 2023-2024.



£1,000

P, Newcastle - Music

Cost of tuition fees. Achieved Grade 8 Distinction Clarinet and Grade 8 Distinction Viola, auditioning successfully for National Youth orchestra on Violin. Preparing auditions for music colleges for a September 2025 start.



£1,000

G, North Tyneside - Hammer Throwing

Cost of equipment and attending competitions. Gold at a Scottish National championship, a Silver at the Northeast championship and Bronze at the Northern. Awarded the Under 20 top athlete from her home club in recognition of outstanding performance throughout the season.



£1,000

H, Newcastle - Judo

Towards coaching and competition fees which has allowed H to attend competitions around Europe with the English Judo Development Programme which is self-funded.



£1,000

J, Newcastle - Karate

Cost of international tournaments. J’s world ranking increased to top 30 and European ranking to 11th. In qualifying position for 2025 senior world championships. Achieved a National Title, European University Games Bronze Medal and 9th Place at the Senior European Championships. J travelled to Germany to be trained by “some of the best coaches in the world and alongside some of the best athletes in the world”.



£1,000

S, Newcastle – Powerchair football

Cost of training and competing. S has been ill and injured and not competed as fully as expected this year. Is now back in action and will be competing again soon. Has continued to train and remain involved in club and we continue to follow his progress.

Inspiration Grants Awarded in Round Nine



£1,000

P, South Tyneside - Cheerleading

Costs of preparing for and attending "The Summit" in Florida, America, to compete against teams from across the world. Team placed 8th of 40 teams.



£1,000

A, Northumberland – Ski Racing

Cost of training and racing costs. A is now 3rd ranked British woman in age group, maintaining place on English Ski team. Competed in English Alpine Championships (2nd) and the Czech Republic Championships (4th).



£1,000

I, Gateshead - Gymnastics

Cost of attending specialist training camp in Scotland. Qualified in the English Championships Feb 2025 and accepted space in North of England team 2025.



£1,000

A, Newcastle, Judo

Cost of training and competing including attending two different European Cup competitions.



£1,000

J, South Shields and £1,000, K, South Shields - Acrobatic gymnast pairs

Cost of competing as pairs. Just been placed 7th in World Championships



£1,000

A, Stockton-On-Tees – Martial arts

We are communicating with A and their family to best understand how they are progressing



£1,000

C, Stockton-On-Tees - Martial arts

We are communicating with C and their family to best understand how they are progressing



£1,000

R, Stockton-On-Tees - Martial arts

We are communicating with R and their family to best understand how they are progressing

Amy Stokoe



Amy Stokoe

Since age 6, Amy has enjoyed skiing on artificial surfaces at centres locally and went on to represent her school in squads as part of her development pathway. Amy then made the transition to an elite alpine skier.

Amy received a £1,000 grant from The Bernicia Foundation which contributed towards her Ski racing. Amy improved hugely in her slalom and scored a PB of 73.01 FIS points, a big drop from the previous season (a good thing in ski racing!). This meant Amy became the 3rd ranked British Women Racer in her age group and has therefore maintained her spot on the England Ski Team for another year!

Travel to ski competitions is very expensive, being held in various locations around Europe. At the English Alpine Championships she came 2nd in the under 21 age group and competed in the Czech Republic Championships where she came 4th overall. Amy has also been able to give back to her sport and is able to use her skills to coach younger athletes.

"The Bernicia grant helped significantly to allow these opportunities and achievements to happen so a massive thanks to the trust!"



Waffling On

Waffling On

Hundreds of neurodivergent young people will be helped to live more independent lives by neurodivergent adults employed by Amble-based charity Northumberland Splinter Group and its 'Waffling On' project. They're creating three info hubs across Northumberland where up to 350 neurodivergent young people will be helped to grow their self-confidence and boost their skills.

The hubs provide peer-to-peer support for young people, with the aim of creating paid work and volunteering opportunities that simultaneously develop skills and enhance participants' future prospects. The Waffling on Project was launched to illustrate that "differences" are not pathological disabilities but disabilities that arise from societal barriers.

Frank Lyford, Waffling On project lead, said: "It's really important that this project is run by people with direct experience of the challenges people with learning differences face. Our team is learning new skills and working on good communication between ourselves and with people in the community."

"We are always looking for more organisations and services to sign up to our online hub to help spread the word and make things more inclusive."

Grants We Have Funded This Year

04

Inclusion Grants Awarded in Round Ten

- 
£10,000
 Community@NE66 – Community advice services, North Northumberland
 Core cost funds to provide additional staff hours to support 200 at risk young people and 30 vulnerable families.
- 
£6,000
 Blyth Resource and Initiative Centre – Employability and qualification support
 Provide delivery of functional Maths and English courses.
- 
£10,000
 Recycle y/bike – Refugee skills, Newcastle
 Providing refugees/asylum seekers access to a travel cost reduction program which provides bike maintenance skills and employability opportunities.
- 
£5,000
 Readeasy Newcastle and North Tyneside – Skills to provide economic support
 Core costs to recruit and train 20 volunteers and purchase learning and training resources.

- 
£10,000
 Peace of Mind CIO – Refugee advice services, Gateshead
 Employability, training and advice services to improve the economic standing of refugees.
- 
£10,000
 Bringing Words to Life Limited – Disability/ill health skills, Northumberland
 Literacy workshops for neuro-divergent people.
- 
£10,000
 Baby Equipment Loan Service and Toy Library – Food and clothing poverty, N. Tyneside
 Core costs towards staff wages and volunteer costs to aid in providing economically challenged families with food, clothing, and essential baby items.
- 
£10,000
 Northumberland Community Bank – Social activities & clubs
 Financial education and inclusion project for schools and community groups.

Inclusion Grants Awarded in Round Nine

- 
£10,000
 SILX (People and Drugs LTD) – Youth advice services, Blyth
 Core costs for Teen Bar project. Facilitates gatherings for socialisation and use it to share advice sessions on personal safety, sexual health, knife crime, substance misuse, cookery and more.
- 
£8,000
 Cleveland Housing Advice Centre – Financially challenged fuel poverty, Middlesbrough
 Affordable warmth project to tackle poverty in Tees Valley area and address their critical primary needs for fuel and food.
- 
£10,000
 Acorns (North Tyneside) – Family advice services
 Costs to continue family support service where they help adult carers of children with issues relating to housing, debt, benefits, family court, emotional support and domestic violence awareness.
- 
£10,000
 Newsham and New Delaval Youth Forum – Young people skills, Blyth
 Core costs to continue two centre-based sessions per week to give young people skills/advice such as cookery, hygiene practices, preventing crime and personal safety.

- 
£10,000
 Building Self-Belief CIO – Family poverty support, Consett
 Food & fuel poverty activity clubs that include a children's activity club and a jobs & budgeting support group to address poverty rates in the Leadgate community.
- 
£10,000
 The Young Women's Film Academy – Young people skills, Newcastle
 Talent and skills development, "future lasses in film" to develop film making skills of young women, weekly work on personal development, and a L1 qualification in film and media production.
- 
£5,000
 Friends Action Northeast – Community social activities & clubs, North East
 FriendKit mentoring programme and wellbeing socials to foster new friendships to tackle isolation, build confidence and create new networks.
- 
£10,000
 Shiny Advice and Resource Project – Community advice, Sunderland
 Core costs for community advice hub to address loneliness/isolation, poverty and primary needs.
- 
£10,000
 Meadow Well Connected – Community advice services, North Tyneside
 Core costs towards centre which supports community involvement, skills development, social activities and building citizenship.

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Kickboxing

Neve Clark

Hello, my name is Neve Clark and I am a 15 year old kickboxer, working hard while having fun and chasing my dreams. I have been a part of the kickboxing community for 8 years now and train with Ironfist Kickboxing Club. My hard work in training has led me to become a blackbelt and a junior coach for my club.

I have won multiple English, Scottish, British/National and World Titles (fighting for England) and recently represented kickboxing GB at the WAKO World Championships in Budapest. I picked up a silver medal in kick light and was chosen to represent the older cadet female team, where we picked up a bronze medal.

I could never have done it without the help of my amazing coaches, the immense support from my parents, family, friends, and all the help, support and opportunities Team GB has given me. Not only those, but the kindness of The Benicia Funding Foundation who have helped support me financially during my journey to worlds. It was a dream of mine for several years to represent team GB at the world's most prestigious kickboxing tournament, and this charity has helped me make that dream come true.

Travelling around the country and the World doing what I love and what I hold so much passion for is an amazing opportunity, which I am extremely lucky to experience. However, it comes with great cost; training fees, GB Squad Trainings, competition kit, travelling and hotel fees - it quickly adds up. I couldn't thank The Benicia Foundation enough for the support they have given me in order to help me compete.

The charity's £1000 grant has enabled me to represent Team GB at the World Championships last year, giving me the financial support needed to make my dreams come true. I am so grateful that such a kind charity exists, helping people like myself carry out their passion and live their dreams.

In February of 2025, I competed in the WAKO GB Nationals, where I picked up 3 gold medals. This put me in the position to represent Team GB, for the second consecutive year, at the WAKO European Championships in Portugal later this year. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity, which could not have been achieved without the help of The Benicia Foundation. I hope that one day kickboxing gets chosen for the Olympics so that I can represent my Nation at the highest level of sporting competition, and make my family, friends and coaches proud.

Note from Gary and Kate, (Neve's parents) - We are so proud of Neve, not only for her achievements, but the relentless hard work she puts in day in, day out, and her dedication towards everything she does within her kickboxing. We thank and appreciate The Benicia Foundation for their £1000 grant which went a long way in order to help Neve achieve her dreams.

Inspiration Grants Awarded in Round Ten



£1,000

N, Sunderland – Kickboxing

Costs towards attending the World Kickboxing Championships in Hungary as part of WAKO (World Association of Kickboxing Organisations) GB team.



£1,000

E, Northumberland – Rowing

Cost towards representing Great Britain in national and international rowing events.



£1,000

F, Newcastle – Ballet dancing

Living and dancewear costs of attending a prestigious dance school in London.



£1,000

E, Northumberland – Rowing

Cost towards representing Great Britain in national/ international rowing events and to gain experience in coastal rowing.



£1,000

A, Northumberland - Athletics

Costs associated with competing in running at national level.



£1,000

W, South Tyneside – Climbing

Costs towards coaching fees for climbing after joining Great Britain Climbing England Regional Squad.



£1,000

A, Newcastle – Judo

Towards costs of competing in Judo as part of the England development squad.



£1,000

A, Newcastle – Judo

Towards cost of competing in Judo and continue training for national events.



£1,000

R, Middlesbrough – Judo

Towards costs of representing the Great Britain and English Judo team.

Inspiration Grants Awarded in Round Eleven



£1,000

J, Northumberland – Judo

Towards traveling and hotels for J's Judo activities to help with their GB ranking.



£1,000

G, Middlesbrough – Judo

Towards specialized training and protective equipment and other competition related costs for Judo activities.



£1,000

J, Northumberland – Rowing

Towards costs of travel, equipment and accommodation for rowing activities.



£1,000

B, Northumberland – Gymnastics

Costs towards travel and camp training.

Taylor and Joshua Chrisp

Taylor and Joshua Chrisp, aged 15 and 18 respectively, are currently ranked number one and number three in Great Britain in their respective age categories. Taylor has previously won gold at the Welsh, English and Scottish Opens before winning the British Championships three consecutive times, most recently in 2024 while Joshua won gold at the 2024 Welsh Open before taking a bronze medal in the 2024 British Championships – two of the most prestigious judo events in Britain.

But the costs of competing at this level quickly stack up. Following the brother and sister's acceptance onto the England Judo Talent Development Programme, the family now needs to fund two sets of international competitions, training camps in the UK and abroad, kit requirements, including International Judo Federation-approved judogis in both blue and white for each sibling, and personal training fees.

This is in addition to the travel expenses for Taylor and Joshua's four-times-a-week training schedule and monthly training sessions over 200 miles away – all at a time of soaring fuel, energy and food prices.

Two Inspiration Grants of £1,000 have now helped Taylor, Joshua and their family meet the additional costs necessary for them to progress their judo careers to the next level. Taylor and Joshua are both now part of the Great Britain under-21s squad.

"Judo is such an important part of my life, and I've learned so much from it – like how to stay focused and keep trying my best, even when things are tough," said Taylor. "Winning gold at the British Championships has been amazing, and with The Bernicia Foundation's support, I can keep training and competing at the highest level. I'm so excited for the future and where judo will take me."

"Judo has been a big part of my life for as long as I can remember, and it's helped shape who I am today. Competing nationally and internationally is challenging, but also incredibly rewarding," added Joshua.

"The grant from The Bernicia Foundation has made it possible for me to continue chasing my dreams without worrying as much about the financial side. I'm determined to make my family and our supporters proud."


"Taylor and Joshua have committed a lot over the years", said John Chrisp, the siblings' father and judo coach. "But now they are facing more financial pressures from the increasing cost of living crisis. They are both really excelling in judo, so there is a bigger financial pressure than ever."

The coaching Taylor and Joshua receive at Blyth Juno Michi Judo Club is integral in helping the Chrisp children achieve their sporting dreams. Commenting on their coaching, Claire Chrisp, Taylor and Joshua's mum, said: "We're so proud of what Taylor and Joshua have achieved through their hard work. The costs of supporting them at this level are significant, so the grants from The Bernicia Foundation are a huge relief. It's wonderful to see their efforts recognised and supported in this way."



Taylor and Joshua Chrisp

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