

*The Paradigm Foundation supports individuals and community groups...
...can we help you?*



The financial assistance from Paradigm Foundation, alongside existing funders, has meant that Buckingham Youth Club has been able to continue when we were facing closure.

John Barnett, Director and Trustee of Buckingham Youth Clubs

Note from Alf Dench, Chair

As we move towards the Foundation's 5th anniversary, we are proud of the many projects we've supported and people we've helped – in fact through funding organisations that provide support for our residents, as well as direct financial help, we've contributed over £1 million to local initiatives.

Last year our focus was on funding money advice services for residents to help manage debt including rent arrears, budgeting and claiming benefits, as well as initiatives that help people into work and community projects.

We are looking forward to building on this during the coming year.

Group grant

Money advice services in Bucks and Herts

Funded by a two-year grant, The Bucks Money Advice Service is run by Chiltern CAB specifically for Paradigm tenants in rent arrears or struggling to pay bills. The service provides free, confidential and independent advice on managing budgets and ensuring the right benefits are claimed.

As a result 848 Paradigm residents have received assistance totalling £477,936.

Jennifer Allott, District Manager of Chiltern CAB said: "We are delighted to have helped so many Paradigm residents address their money problems and want to help more people next year."



Simon

And a grant to Citizens Advice Welwyn Hatfield pays for a dedicated caseworker for Paradigm residents, Simon Ward.

Simon commented: "It's very satisfying advising Paradigm tenants – many are young and in their first tenancies, or vulnerable and lacking support. We help them understand their rights and responsibilities and increase their income by claiming benefits. We also provide budgeting advice to ensure they have a sustainable plan and can address any debts in a fair and reasonable way."

ToolShed community project

ToolShed equips young people with practical skills such as carpentry, plumbing and decorating to help them get into work, but also covers life skills such as health, mental health, self-esteem and money. They have developed a specific project for Paradigm residents working closely with our Housing Officers.

Resident Ross, 24, has struggled to get on a career path but had now completed an intensive construction skills course with ToolShed, training to get a CSCS card and other qualifications so he can work in the landscaping/gardening industry.



Ross

"This course has been brilliant, it has really built my confidence up which is a big issue for people who haven't worked for a while.

It helps you find out about yourself and what you're capable of. It's been so valuable and has made me feel independent and ready to take the next step. It's been such a positive influence and really has changed my life."

ToolShed's latest project is at The Foyer, Paradigm's temporary supported housing hostel in Welwyn Hatfield for homeless young people. Here they are running train the trainer sessions for the support workers as well as joint decorating days where ToolShed trainees are joining Foyer residents to redecorate some rooms together - having fun whilst learning valuable skills!

Funding support for the ToolShed project in High Wycombe, which helps young people, 16-24, with practical life skills



Individual grant

I am very grateful for the Foundation grant which has helped me pay for course costs and equipment.



Paradigm resident

Resident Ben Jackson's Foundation grants have enabled him to complete a Photography and Digital Imagery course and buy the equipment he needed to start up his own photography business.

He also set up a project called Photography Empowering People. Ben ran workshops teaching photography to adults with learning difficulties and drug and alcohol problems at local centres in Bucks.

Inspired by a graffiti wall at Chesham Moor, Ben has recently published an A3 calendar containing exciting images taken over the last 12 months.

The grant has also helped fund Ben's latest project and he will release a book and prints later this year.

To read more of our success stories visit the Paradigm Foundation website www.paradigmfoundation.org.uk

Financial Summary

In our fourth year of operation to 31 March we awarded 40 grants totalling £198,263 to individuals and groups that met our criteria.

Achievements and performance

	2017 £	2016 £
Donations received	350,550	418,183
Grants awarded	198,263	369,156
Promoting further education, work and training	8,134	13,558
Strengthening local communities	119,360	250,598
Supporting financial inclusion and helping people on low income and welfare benefits	70,769	105,000
Costs of governance	3,000	3,000
Support costs	152	682
Surplus transferred to reserves	149,135	45,345
Summary of net assets at 31 March 2017:		
Current assets	470,523	312,876
Current liabilities	(210,046)	(201,534)
Net current assets	260,477	111,342
Unrestricted funds:		
Opening balance	111,342	65,997
Net movement in funds	149,135	45,345
Closing balance	260,477	111,342

How to apply

All the information you need about applying for a grant is available on our website www.paradigmfoundation.org.uk

Or you can contact Julie Jones – see details below.

Funding

Our principal funder is Paradigm Housing Group but we welcome other donations, legacies or support.

Monitoring and evaluating

We monitor and evaluate all successful applications to ensure the grants have been used for the purpose they were intended. We are putting more rigorous processes in place to help us measure the impact our grants are having on individuals and communities.

Further information

Trustees

- Alf Dench (Chair)
- Patricia Buckland
- Jane Harrison
- Robert Marshall
- Ewan Wallace
- Tim Yates

If you'd like any further information please contact:

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Click on: www.paradigmfoundation.org.uk