



Impact Report

2024 - 2025

Sir
George
Martin
Trust



Introduction

The Sir George Martin Trust was established in 1956 and is an independent grantmaker which aims to improve the lives of economically and socially disadvantaged people in West Yorkshire by giving grants to predominantly small, local, registered charities and churches who deliver community outreach work in their area.

OUR VALUES

The Sir George Martin Trust supports a wide range of local communities and issues, and places an emphasis on being approachable, supportive and flexible so that the grant application process is as positive as possible for grant seekers. A vital part of the Trust Manager's role is to talk to and/or visit each applicant which she is putting forward to the trustees. The trustees aim to continue the legacy of Sir George in an inclusive and generous spirit.

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THE YEAR IN SUMMARY

- We gave out £267,481 in grants to 86 charities and churches which supported thousands of West Yorkshire people in need, plus x6 £600 awards to Leeds City College Access to Science Professions adult students
- The average sized grant was £3,068
- Our funding flexibility continued with 67% of all grants for core costs, 14% for a combination of core and capital costs and 19% for pure capital needs
- We funded 47% of all enquiries and applications
- 43% of all grant holders were 'new' applicants to the Trust



Focus on West Yorkshire



2024/25 Grantmaking

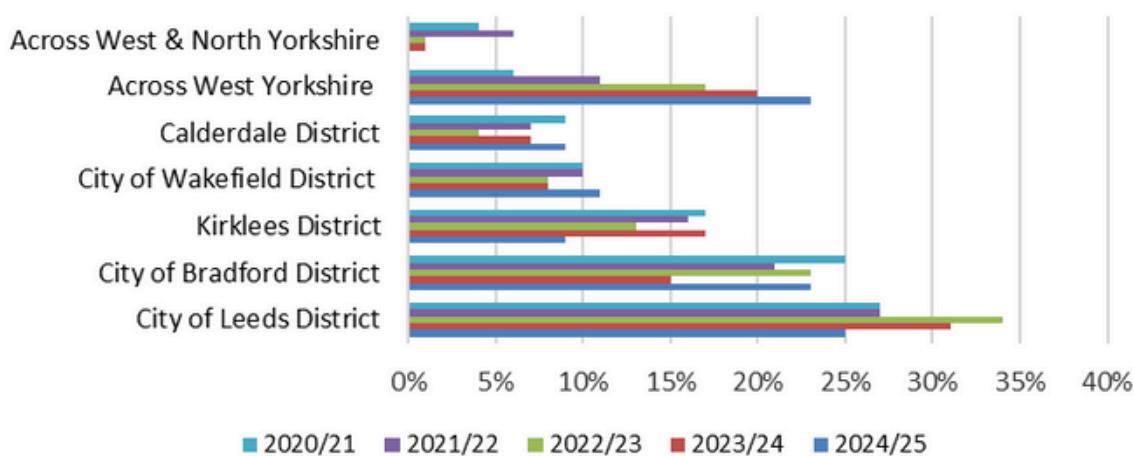
City of Leeds	25%
Across West Yorkshire*	23%
City of Bradford	23%
City of Wakefield	11%
Calderdale	9%
Kirklees	9%

*283% increase in grants to charities working across whole of region 2020/21 vs. 2024/25

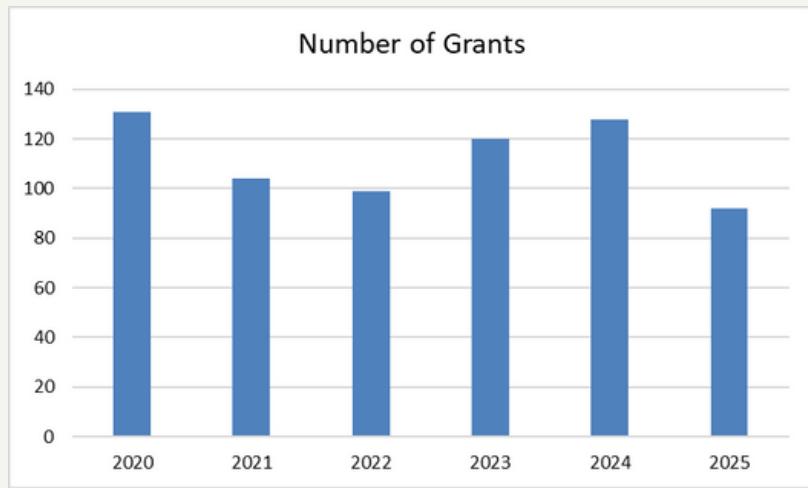
The five West Yorkshire districts

The Trust's grants were 100% focused on West Yorkshire for the first time this year and support for charities which work across the region increased further.

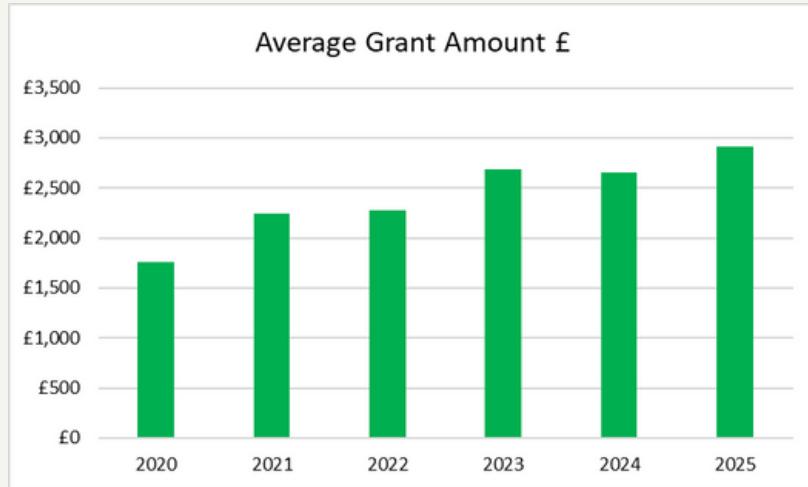
Geographical breakdown of organisations supported



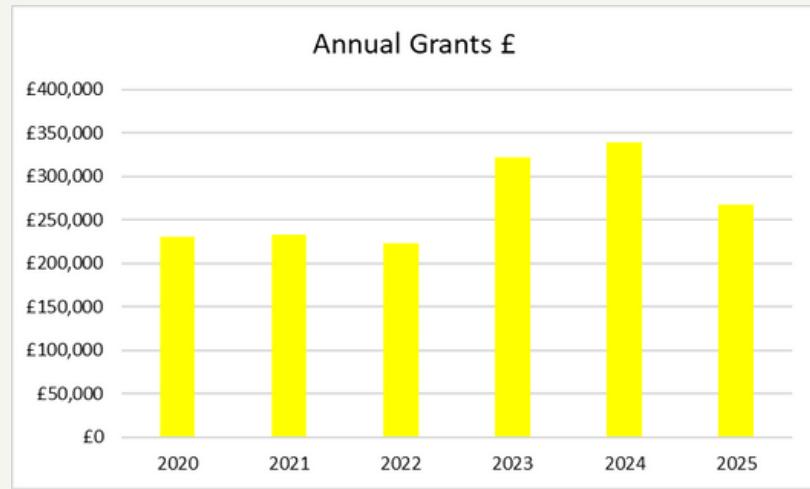
The 2024/25 story



2024 - 25 saw austerity, cost of living and global instability increase, which meant many charities and their communities continued to operate on a knife edge. The trustees agreed the key priorities were to continue to support a wide range of economically and socially disadvantaged West Yorkshire people and fund mainly small, locally-based charities and churches to survive and thrive. This meant that applicants had to have their administration address in West Yorkshire and have an income of £1m or lower.



As demand for the Trust's funds continued to be very high and the Denton Trust funds given in March 2022 almost fully spent, the trustees decided to tighten up the grantmaking criteria for April 2024 - March 2025 and beyond. Another key driver for these changes was to continue to aim for an approximately 50% success rate for applicants, giving quality charities and churches a strong chance of getting a grant.



The Trust's number of grants and total monetary amount of grants decreased during 2024-25 as the Denton Trust funds had largely been spent. However, the trustees and Trust Manager worked hard to ensure the average grant amount went up significantly by 10% from 2023-24 and most grants continued to be flexible and for core costs which was greatly appreciated by grant holders.

Who & what we supported

The Trust continued to be a 'generalist' funder, supporting a wide range of people and places in West Yorkshire, but who are all economically and/or socially disadvantaged in some way. We have supported families living in poverty, older people living in isolation, people with disabilities and young people dealing with multiple issues at home and in school.

Every year the trustees review the type of organisations the Trust is supporting and discuss if other community organisations like CICs (Community Interest Companies) should be supported, but in order to maintain the high applicant success rate and ensure strictly regulated organisations are funded, the trustees continued to focus on charities, and churches, due to the founder being a staunch Methodist.

For many years Youth Welfare & Education has been the number one cause which the Sir George Martin Trust supports and once again in 2024 - 2025 young people came out top. However, last year this was followed closely by disability support and activities and this year Advancement of Health/Saving Lives came in second, with Community Centre/Village Halls seeing a significant increase from 4% of all grants in 2023 - 2024 to 14% of all grants in 2024 - 25. And although Connecting Communities shows as 0% on the data, it should be said that Communities Centres and Village Halls are connecting their communities very effectively.

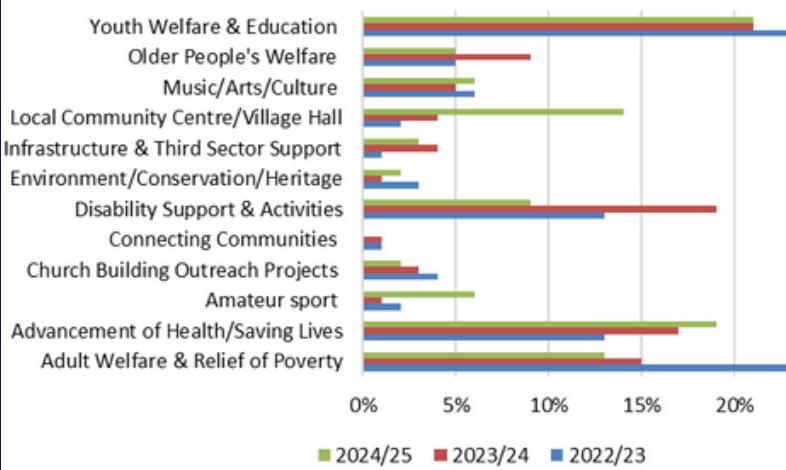
The Trust maintained its reactive approach to grantmaking and the Trust Manager worked hard to ensure a constant flow of enquiries from across all five districts of the region by taking part in funding fairs and maintaining relationships with the local infrastructure support organisations and other funders.

The Trust maintained its flexible and helpful ethos, with an increasing number of grants going towards core funding - 67%. 19% for capital needs and 14% of grants were for a combination of core and capital costs.

Youth Welfare & Education	21%
Advancement of Health/Saving Lives	19%
Local Community Centre/Village Hall	14%
Adult Welfare & Relief of Poverty	13%
Disability Support & Activities	9%
Amateur sport	6%
Music/Arts/Culture	6%
Older People's Welfare	5%
Infrastructure & Third Sector Support	3%
Church Outreach Projects	2%
Environment/Conservation/Heritage	2%
Connecting Communities	0%

- **Community Centre/Village Halls up by 250% from 2023/24**
- **Disability Support & Activities down by more than 50% from 2023-24**
- **Six times more Amateur sport grants in 2024-25 compared with 2023-24**

Breakdown of who and what supported



Supporting work across West Yorkshire & Multi-year funding

Constantly listening and learning from organisations on the frontline and other grantmakers, during the 2024-25 period the Trust trialled an Extended Funding Partner initiative. At each of the three board meetings, the trustees awarded a three-year grant to one charity which the Trust Manager felt would benefit most from a multi-year grant along with guidance and signposting from her when it comes to governance, fundraising and marketing.

NEST - HELPING THE HOMELESS

NEST were the first Extended Funding Partner recipient and were chosen as they were transitioning from a Rotary Sowerby Bridge project, giving rucksacks and essential equipment to the homeless, to becoming an independent charity (CIO). They will receive £2,000 a year from June 2024 - May 2027. Hazel Brindle, NEST's Founder & Chair said: "The grant from the Sir George Martin Trust has made a significant difference to our organisation. As a newly established charity, this funding allowed us to put in place the essential building blocks we needed to operate effectively... and in the longer term, the grant will have a lasting impact by laying the foundation for sustainable growth."

BREAKING BARRIERS TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The Trust gave £5,000 for three years to BBTA to help them grow and enable more disadvantaged, West Yorkshire youngsters to play tennis. Justin Taundi, Founder & Chair said: "As a relatively new organisation we have been able to lean into the expertise of the Trust through their Trust Manager which has saved us a lot of time, and potential mistakes, as we navigate the growth of the organisation and our delivery of programmes."



NEST - Helping the Homeless



BBTA (Breaking Barriers Tennis Association)

Helping young people & families to flourish

Helping young people and families to thrive and lead happier lives has been a top priority for the Trust for decades.

RAINBOW BABY BANK - KIRKLEES

The Trust gave a £2,900 grant to this charity based in Heckmondwike which was set up by two sisters. The funds enabled the charity to have their first website created and also paid for essential off-site storage costs for all their baby equipment. Co-founder, Sam Cottam said: "The funding allowed us a little more financial security as a small charity and helped to build up some of our reserves. The website funding has made a significant impact ...we aren't totally reliant on the Facebook algorithms to promote our charity and we are reaching a large audience and have already boosted our fundraising efforts."

CATCH - LEEDS

The Trust has supported this excellent Harehills charity a couple of times and gave £3,650. Founder, Ash Razzaq said: "Since receiving the Sir George Martin Trust grant, an estimated 500 young people have benefited from visiting our educational farm, engaging in hands-on learning experiences with animals and nature. Additionally, over 100 young people have actively participated in farm-based activities, including animal care, horticulture, and environmental sustainability projects."

STAR BEREAVEMENT - WAKEFIELD

The Trust gave £2,500 to this crucial charity and said: "The money provided by Sir George Martin Trust has enabled us to fund travel for 16 people over 10 trips to peer support groups from across the Wakefield District. The grant has enabled the service to fund travel for a range of ages between 7-13 and has decreased financial barriers which can stop young people from accessing our bereavement support groups with peers and their families."



Rainbow Baby Bank



CATCH



Star Bereavement

Older people living life to the fullest

The Sir George Martin Trust is dedicated to supporting West Yorkshire people of all ages, but ensuring older people are connected and feel valued is a key priority.

CARELINK BEFRIENDING SERVICES - BRADFORD

Carelink's volunteers provide company and a listening ear to Keighley older people requiring longer-term support and some volunteers have been providing a service for 10 years. Lesley Barnes, Project Coordinator at Carelink Befriending & Support Services said: "The £5,000 grant from the Sir George Martin Trust helped us to bridge a huge gap in funding and ensure the continuation of the service at an effective level. The grant has been pivotal in helping support lonely and vulnerable older people in Keighley throughout the past year."

SPACE2 SEACROFT MEN'S GROUP - LEEDS

The Trust gave £2,500 to help keep the charity's long running men's group going. Space2 aims to develop new social connections for men, get them to learn new skills and build confidence. All necessary to support health and wellbeing and develop self-care habits to improve mental health, reduce isolation and/or maintain mental and physical health conditions. The charity said: "The funding has allowed us to continue running the group and the participants were so grateful and happy that they were able to continue meeting once a week in a safe space, where they can enjoy a cooked meal."

ARTS CHARITY DEAN CLOUGH (ACDC) - CALDERDALE

With the £2,980 grant, ACDC was able to offer art courses to two contrasting groups of individuals with particular needs. These laid firm foundations to extend artist-tutor experience for future courses for people with additional needs. Anita Cormac OBE, Founder & Executive Trustee said: "The Sir George Martin Trust grant enabled ACDC to profile the arts to the general public who visited the gallery where participants' work from the Age UK course was shown. It has already had longer term impact on the participants who requested additional sessions. Age UK attendees enjoyed their classes so much that they have asked the artist-tutor if they can continue art lessons at their own expense."



Space2 Seacroft Men's Group



Carelink Befriending Services



Arts Charity Dean Clough

The power of the great outdoors

With more people living in poverty and poor mental health on the rise, charities providing outdoor activities to help improve people's physical and mental wellbeing are more important than ever.

MINDFUL MOVERS - WAKEFIELD

A new charity, Mindful Movers holds weekly walks and outdoor craft sessions. They asked the Trust to fund a proportion of dedicated charity management time to allow Mindful Movers to grow and develop as they reached a crossroads in their organisation. Founder, Rachel Hale said: "We were at a pivotal transition point with scope for enhanced service provision, increased capacity and ultimately providing more opportunities for our existing and new group members. Sir George Martin Trust awarded us £5,000 which paid for dedicated staff time and new accounting software which were both vital to the growth and development of the charity and our service offer."

LEEDS RIDING DISABLED ASSOCIATION (RDA)

There are hundreds of RDAs around the country and the Sir George Martin is a keen supporter of many of the charities based in West Yorkshire. Both riding and sensory sessions provide a great joy to all participants and happy, healthy horses are vital for the charity and the beneficiaries. The charity said: "The grant has ensured the horses were well fed over the last year. The £1,500 grant has helped to cover the cost of feeding the horses over the winter and the money was used to purchase hay. Last year we fought a long battle with sycamore seedlings - the seedlings are poisonous to horses and this meant that we were unable to cut hay from our large turnout field and as a result had to purchase all hay needed for the year. "



Leeds RDA



Mindful Movers

Leeds City College Awards

For a fourth year the Trust runs its initiative with Leeds City College, to celebrate Adult Learners of Access to Health Science Professions.

The Trust's founder was extremely passionate about supporting the medical sector, and having left school at 16 the trustees felt it was important to recognise and celebrate hard working local people who have returned to education so they can get onto a degree course and secure their dream job in the medical and health science field.

Sir George Martin Trust trustee, Janet Martin, a former university lecturer came up with the awards initiative idea and working closely with the College, six fantastic winners were chosen by their tutors and won £600 from the Trust which could be spent on anything to help them continue their degree studies. Many of the winners continued to work full time and look after their family whilst studying at Leeds City College, which made them so deserving of the £600 award.



Sarah Blenkinsop, Vice-Chair of Sir George Martin Trust and winner Emmanuel Ugbogu



The Sir George Martin Trust team

