



Impact Report

2025 - 2026

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.

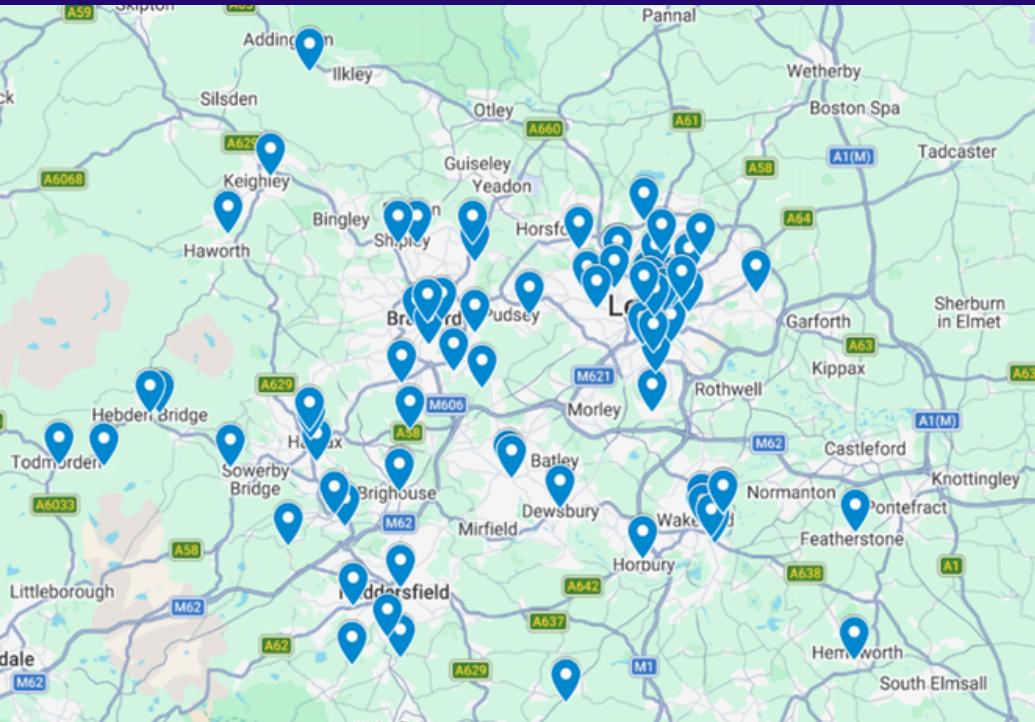
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THE YEAR IN SUMMARY

- We gave out £264,994 in grants to 84 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 £2,944
- 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 49% of all funding enquiries and grant applications to the Trust
- 39% of all grant holders were 'new' applicants to the Trust



Focus on West Yorkshire



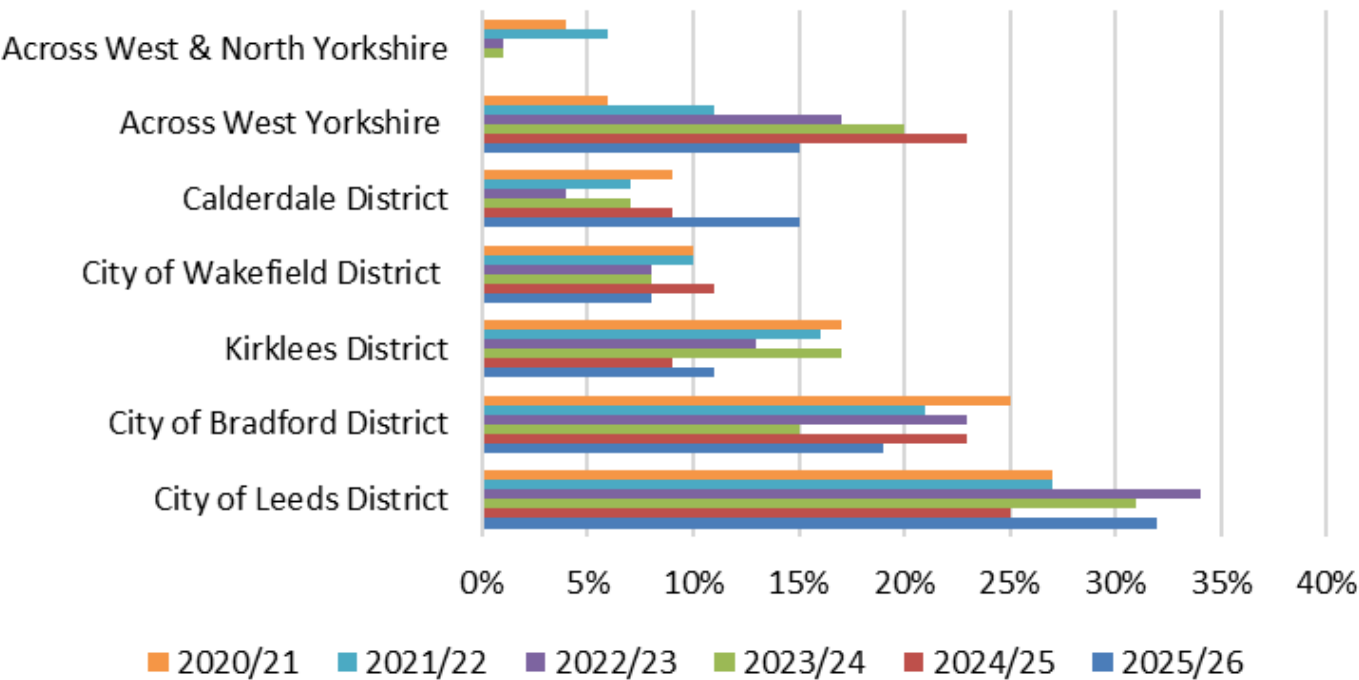
Location of 2025/26 grants awarded

2025/26 Grantmaking

City of Leeds	32%
City of Bradford	19%
Calderdale	15%
Across West Yorkshire	15%
Kirklees	11%
City of Wakefield	8%

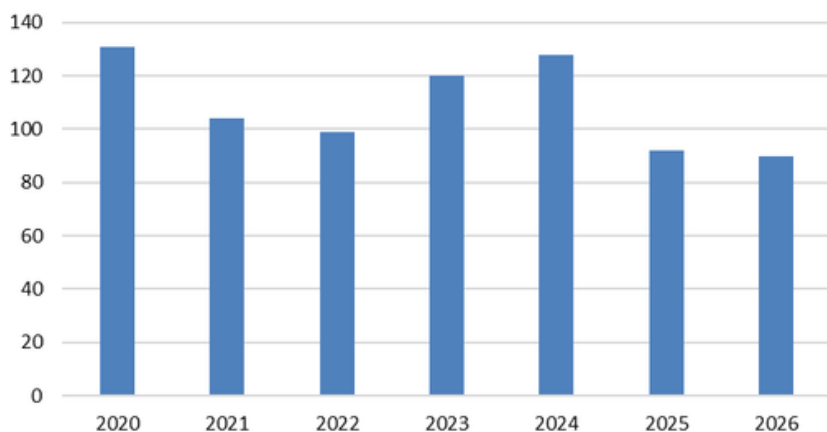
The number of enquiries from charities in the Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield Districts is mainly dependent on how much the local infrastructure support organisation is focusing on holding funding events and promoting the Trust. The Trust attended Voluntary Action Calderdale’s two funding events which boosted grants by 6% compared with 2024/25.

Regional breakdown of grants



The 2025/26 story

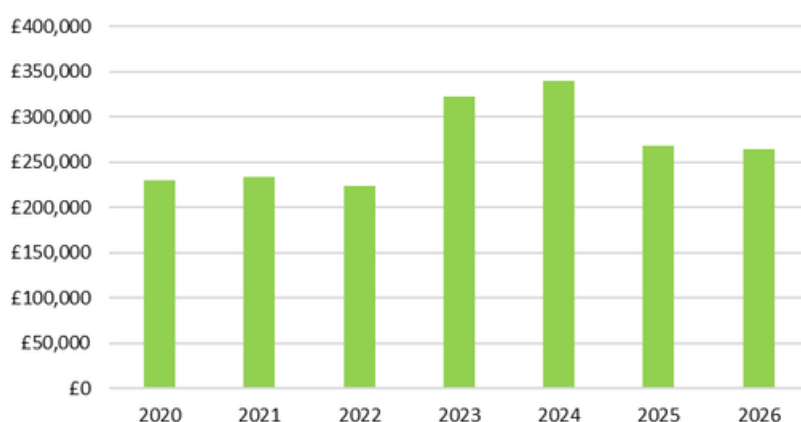
Number of Grants



Demand for the Trust's funds continued to be high, but with the tighter grantmaking criteria established in March 2024 and the two stage application process on our new online grant management system, the Trust managed to maintain its 50% success rate for applicants, giving quality charities and churches a strong chance of getting a grant. 90 grants were awarded in 2025/26 compared with 92 in 2024/25.

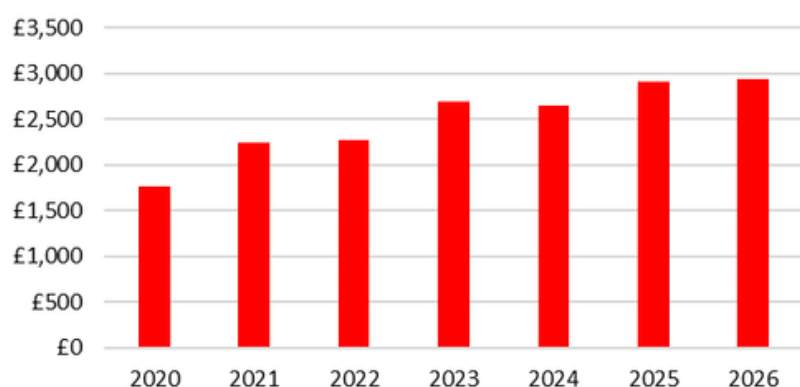
2025-26 sadly saw austerity, cost of living and global instability continue, whilst there was also less government funding available for charities and more competition for trust and foundation grants. The Trust continued to support a wide range of economically and socially disadvantaged West Yorkshire people and funded mainly small, locally-based charities which have their administration address in West Yorkshire and have an income of £1m or lower. The trustees were also keen to fund organisations which are committed to ensuring a safe culture for its staff, volunteers and beneficiaries and so this was added to the Trust's grantmaking criteria.

Annual Grants £



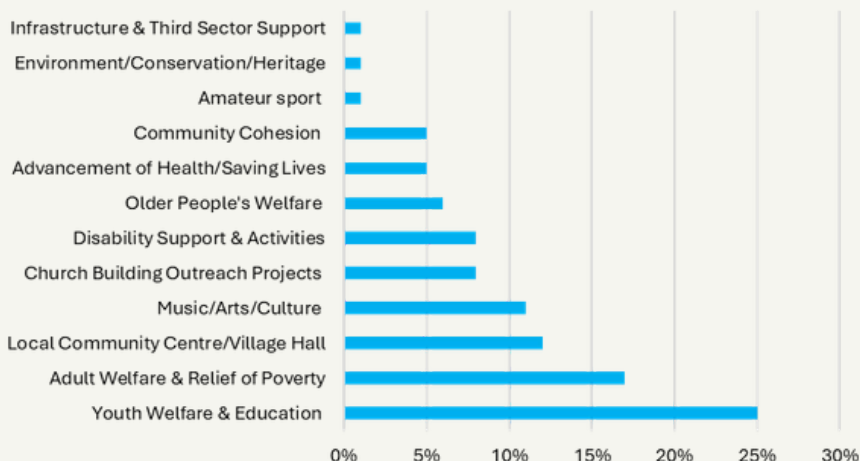
The Trust's total monetary amount of grants awarded remained steady during 2025-26, with a total of £264,994, compared with £267,481 in 2024-25. The Trust Manager and trustees worked hard to ensure the average grant amount continued to rise and this rose slightly from £2,907 to £2,944. The Trust continued its flexible and helpful funding approach and found that most applicants needed core funding to pay their staff and other running costs. Core cost grants increased from 67% in 2024/25 to 76% in 2025/26.

Average Grant Amount £



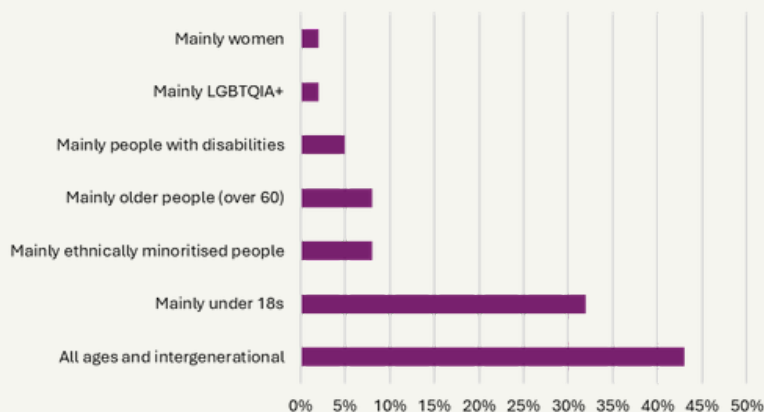
Who and what we supported

2025/26

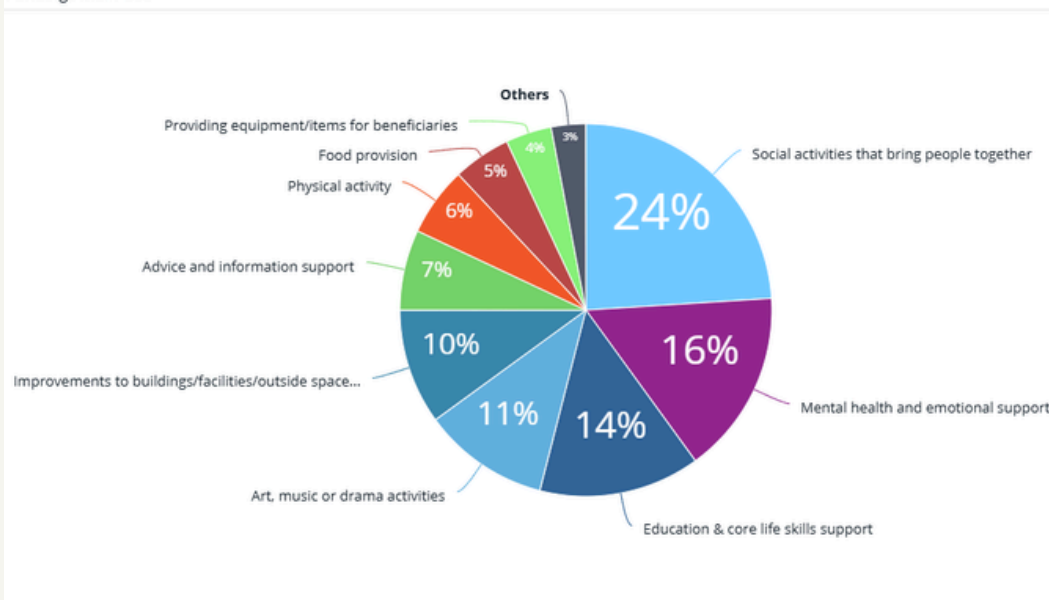


A quarter of all the Trust's 2025/26 grants went to charities that described themselves as a Youth Welfare & Education organisation and this category remained in the number one spot as it has for many years. Advancement of Health/Saving Lives went down from 19% to just 5%, but this was the first year that applicants selected their best aligned category when applying, rather than the Trust Manager choosing it for them after the grant was awarded so this could have affected the figures. Organisation's selecting Music/Arts/Culture increased from 6% to 11% over the last year which reflects the Trust's aim to support more of this type of work as Sir George was a big fan of the arts.

A major project for 2025 was the introduction of the Trust's new online grant management system, SmartyGrants, in June 2025. We updated our application and grant report forms to be able to capture more data and increase our learning about our grant holders and beneficiaries. It is important that funders are regularly reviewing their grant classifications so that data is as accurate as possible, so for the first time we specifically asked applicants to tell us who the funding will help. Almost half of all our grants went to work supporting people of all ages, followed by almost a third of funds going to mainly under 18s. As we are a very inclusive grantmaker, we also felt it was important to ensure we monitor the level of LGBTQIA+ and ethnically minoritised people-focused charities we are supporting.



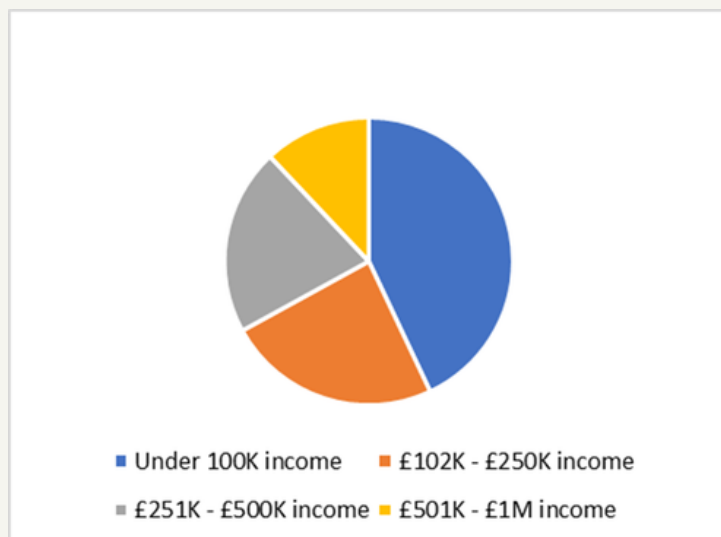
Fundings Main Use



In order to enhance our understanding of the main use of our grant for each organisation, we asked each applicant completing our second stage, full application form to select the category best aligned to their funding request. Almost a quarter chose Social activities that bring people together, followed by Mental health and emotional support and then in third place was Education and core life skills support.

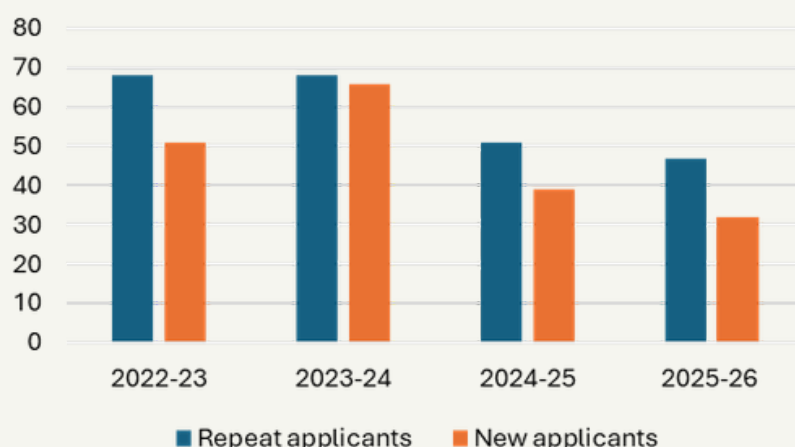
Learning & evolving to be a 'better' grantmaker

The Trust is constantly learning and evolving thanks to its strong relationships and participation in training, learning and networking sessions with infrastructure support organisations including Yorkshire Funders and IVAR.



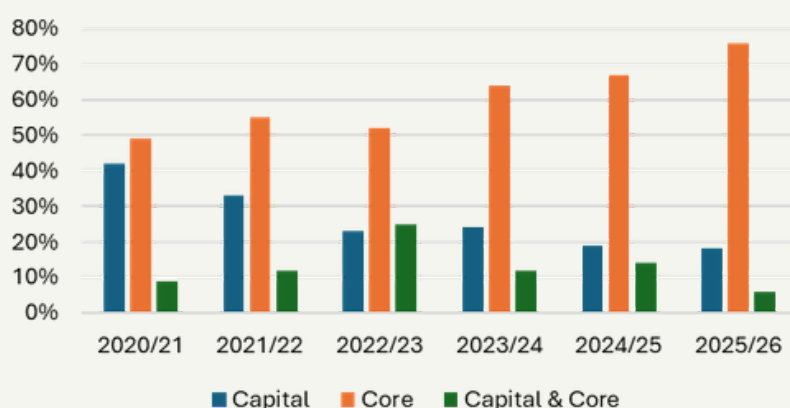
The more we know about the organisations we support, the more this helps the trustees and Trust Manager to decide on any changes to make to the Trust's grantmaking strategy. As we introduced a £1m income cap for all applicants in March 2024, we now monitor the size of the organisations we are funding. In 2025/26, almost half of all the Trust's grant recipients had an income of under £100K, demonstrating our commitment to smaller charities who often find securing grants more challenging due to less capacity.

Repeat vs. New Applicants



The Trust keeps a close eye on the number of applicants which are 'repeat' (i.e. have had a grant from the Trust before) and 'new' (i.e. are a new organisation to the Trust). This is an important factor to review as it is very easy for funders to keep supporting the same charities year after year and we want to ensure that we give new charities to the sector and to the Trust a chance. And as core funding is so vital, we keep giving out more and more.

Type of Grant



Bringing isolated people together in Castleford & Leeds

The Sir George Martin Trust purposely wants to support West Yorkshire people of all ages and all backgrounds. From talking to frontline charities on a weekly basis, we hear that many organisations like funders which don't have strict priorities and areas of focus so that applicants aren't trying to fit a square peg in a round hole and have plenty of funders they can approach. We like to fund activities and support which help economically and socially disadvantaged people to be happier and healthier. Bringing people together, who are often older and isolated, is what we funded most in 2025/26.

CARING TOGETHER IN WOODHOUSE & LITTLE LONDON

"The £3,000 grant contributed to the Winter Support & Community Wellbeing Programme, ensuring more than 400 vulnerable, older residents could access social, physical, and practical support during winter. The flexibility of the grant was particularly valuable and it allowed the organisation to adapt activities and support to meet emerging needs during the winter months. The experience of working with the Trust was highly supportive, enabling, and impactful, and we would welcome the opportunity to collaborate again in the future."

CASTLEFORD HERITAGE TRUST

"The £4,000 of funding from SGMT has enabled key staff to strengthen and expand relationships and partnerships with Primary Care Networks in the area to deliver monthly dementia-friendly and well-being cafes at Queen's Mill and Stop Smoking Support Clinics. It has also led to an increase in room bookings which has helped us to increase our income. Without the funding, the charity would not function."



Caring Together in Woodhouse & Little London



Castleford Heritage Trust

Mental health & practical support in Dewsbury & Halifax

During the 2025/26 period, the Trust continued its Extended Funding Partner initiative which was launched in 2024/25 and focuses on giving a few charities a multi-year grant, plus support from our Trust Manager with ideas for fundraising, improved governance and marketing. 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 and Halifax-based Arch-Way Project was one of the three recipients this year.

ARCHWAY PROJECT

"The £5,000 x3 years funding received will be used to contribute towards monthly overheads such as energy, rent, wages contributions and general outgoings. Research delivered by the Research Dept of Huddersfield University concluded that our interventions and activities benefitted service users physically, mentally and emotionally, with over 87% of those regularly attending the Arch-Way Project saying their mental health and overall wellbeing had improved. The Trust has been nothing but supportive and helpful throughout the past 12 months and the application process simple and straightforward which makes our experience uncomplicated and trouble-free."

One-off grants for capital needs are still also important for many small charities.

DEWSBURY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"Our old boiler had reached the end of its life and needed to be replaced. The £3,000 grant enabled us to continue providing our hot meals and shower facility which many of our beneficiaries rely on to get through the week. The Trust has been exceptional to work with and the process is very friendly and straightforward compared to other funders."



Arch-Way Project



Dewsbury Community Outreach

Supporting young people to thrive

Helping young people to thrive and lead happier lives has been a top priority for the Trust for decades. These are some of the charities we supported in 2025/26.

AFRIKINDNESS - LEEDS

"The Trust was one of our very first funders and supported our Neurodiversity Community Programme which is dedicated to raising awareness, fostering inclusion, and providing essential support for neurodiverse children and families, particularly within African and minority communities. The Trust's £2,000 support gave life to a movement that has stirred vital conversations in communities, empowered families, and inspired real change."

HAPPY VALLEY PRIDE - CALDERDALE

"The Trust's £3,000 grant allowed us to access 15 schools in Calderdale and reach more than 2,500 young people through our educational programme. The school sessions promote a more positive sense of self for young people to help to eliminate the bases of bullying in peer groups whilst also offering a foundation for greater inclusivity and representation for all identities."

KINGDOM WRESTLING - BRADFORD

"The £2,000 grant went towards the purchase of a professional wrestling ring, allowing us to create a dedicated training space in Shipley. We use our wrestling ring to provide a space where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can connect with the world of pro wrestling. We have seen improvements in all areas of our beneficiaries health, including but not limited to: physical, emotional, relational, mental and spiritual health. We have seen behavioural improvements in kids who are excluded from mainstream education, neurodivergent students thriving alongside their peers and a real community feel in the groups. The support of the Trust has opened up a range of opportunities."



Afrikindness



Happy Valley Pride



Kingdom Wrestling

Disability and music charities working across West Yorkshire

An increasing number of charities are working across multiple West Yorkshire districts, providing emotional support and joy to thousands of people. Two excellent examples are:

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

Sir George was a supporter of this charity back in the 1960s when the competition was first set up. Now, it is one of the top 5 piano competitions in the world! The charity also runs an excellent community music programme which brings piano to the streets for everyday people.

"The £3,000 grant enabled us to continue turning public places into creative spaces across our cities, giving people of all ages and backgrounds opportunities to explore and share their own creativity. The funds supported our public and free to access activities and events on the Leeds and Bradford Piano Trails, which included Monthly Days of Play across the 15 pianos, with performances by a wide variety of local musicians including British Youth Music Theatre and University of Leeds Brass Band. We estimate 5,521,824 engagements across the 15 pianos during July - December 2025. We really appreciated the help and support we received from the Trust Manager before and during the application process, and we were delighted when that resulted in a successful application."

SNAPS

"We support children with additional needs and their families through physiotherapy, leisure services and a supportive environment. These experiences can be life changing, helping the whole family relax and enjoy time together. Our aim is for SNAPS to be an inspirational place, providing opportunities for children and families to meet, learn, play, and build relationships. The £3,200 grant we received from the Trust funded 2 months of our family support service, which provides practical and emotional support for parent/carers of children with additional needs. By supporting parent/carers during challenging times and enabling them with the tools to better support themselves, this creates healthier, happier families who are better able to cope with what life throws at them. Receiving these funds has made a huge difference to SNAPS."



Leeds International Piano Competition



SNAPS



More than grants

Supporting charities & the third sector in other ways

The Trust does much more than just give grants and works hard to help charity applicants, grant holders and other funders. In 2025/26 the Trust Manager:

- Took part in dozens of charity visits and Teams meetings to share insights and intelligence (when needed) on good governance, fundraising, finance and communications which she has learnt from other frontline charities and funders.
- Led the Yorkshire Funders' Common Report Form Task Force to develop a simple report form which can be used by many funders and will save grant holders time and energy.
- Chaired the Yorkshire Funders' Aligned Working Network which includes updating and promoting the Yorkshire Funders' Common Application Form.
- Through the Yorkshire Funders' network maintained relationships and shared information with many local funders and infrastructure organisations.
- Attended funding events in Leeds, Calderdale and Kirklees to ensure a strong profile amongst frontline charities in these areas.
- Organised and ran a Strategy Day for grant holder, Involve Leeds, to help the trustees prepare for the departure of their longstanding Manager.



Trustees Sarah Blenkinsop, Aki Siddique and Andrew Wriglesworth at CATCH Leeds



Trust Manager, Carla Marshall with Leeds Building Society Foundation Trustee, Nicola Glover and Foundation Manager, Imogen Graham

Leeds City College Awards

For a fifth 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.



The Sir George Martin Trust team



Morven Whyte - Chair



Haqueq Siddique - Trustee



Sarah Blenkinsop - Vice Chair



Janet Martin - Trustee



Ailsa Rhodes MBE - Trustee



Andrew Wrigglesworth - Trustee



Liam Jagger - Trustee



Carla Marshall - Trust Manager



Jason Kirk - Trustee