



## Major UK funder says charities are innovating in their local communities to meet high levels of social need

### The Garfield Weston Foundation more than doubles its £5m anniversary fund to over £11m to support over 150 charities after overwhelming demand

One of the UK's largest charitable funders says small community charities are rising to the challenges of unprecedented demand for their services by being proactive and innovative. The Garfield Weston Foundation says it has more than doubled its £5m capital fund to **over £11m** so it can support over 150 charities and community organisations across the UK.

The [Weston Anniversary Fund](#) was launched earlier this year to provide funding to charities to improve their existing facilities or provide new ones as part of the Foundation's 60<sup>th</sup> year. The Trustees took the decision to more than double the fund after receiving over 2,300 applications, with over 60% from charities that have never applied to them before.

#### The Garfield Weston Foundation's Director, Philippa Charles, says:

*"What really impressed our Trustees is the amount of volunteering and community involvement that's going on across the UK. We heard about so many amazing projects involving local people who are helping their communities thrive - regardless of cuts, Brexit debates and other challenges.*

*The response from charities to this new fund clearly demonstrates the voluntary sector is proactive and energetic; far from the complacency it is sometimes accused of.*

*Yet we can also see the level of need that exists in our local communities and how much the services charities provide are so desperately needed. The impact of these grants will be significant, with benefits for many people lasting years."*

From community centres providing services for isolated older people to organisations tackling youth and gang crime, the funding from the Weston Anniversary Fund will help charities from across the UK provide more and better services in their communities. A recent survey by the Foundation found that two-thirds (66%) of small charities<sup>1</sup> expect their income to stay the same or decline this year, yet over half (55%) expect to be delivering more services. Getting help with refurbishments or a new building has been highlighted by charities as important as it helps them earn new income.

[The Clock Tower Sanctuary](#) in Brighton, offers a safe space for homeless young people aged 16-25 years and gives them the support they need to get their lives back on track. It is the only

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<sup>1</sup> Charities with an annual income of less than £500,000. The survey is based on responses from 149 small charity leaders.

day centre specifically for homeless young people in the city and faces high demand for its services. The charity will receive £110,000 from the Foundation to refurbish their building so they can support more young people.

**Frances Duncan, Chief Executive of The Clock Tower Sanctuary, says:**

*“We are seeing younger, more vulnerable homeless people in critical states of crisis than ever before. So we were over the moon when we heard our application to the Weston Anniversary Fund had been successful. This grant will be life-changing for our charity, which receives no statutory funding and relies entirely on grants and donations to operate. The outstanding generosity of the Garfield Weston Foundation will help us to ensure that many more homeless young people are encouraged, supported, challenged and inspired to develop their full potential and transform their lives.”*

**Dandi** was 21 years old and living with her mum when their relationship deteriorated, and she was told to move out. She started visiting The Clock Tower Sanctuary and with the charity’s help, Dandi secured a job working with young people in a language school. *“There’s nothing worse than being homeless and alone. With The Sanctuary’s support, I’ve got a home and a job. I would really like to become a youth worker one day and give back the help I’ve been given.”*

– ENDS –

**Notes to Editor:**

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**Garfield Weston Foundation**

Celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, the [Garfield Weston Foundation](#) is a family-founded charitable grant-making foundation which supports causes across the UK with grants totalling over £60million each year. 2018 also marks its £1billionth donation since it was established.

One of the largest and most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and they take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation’s funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason amongst others - a successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown so too have the charitable donations.

From small community organisations to large national institutions, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities and activities that make a positive impact in the communities in which they work. Over 1,500 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation’s grants.