

The scope of our grants

We will have made over 5,000 grants worth £10million from seventy different funds to individuals and community/voluntary groups predominantly living and working in County Durham and Darlington by the end of 2005/06. A small proportion of funding has been awarded outside these areas.

The largest grant we have given is £250,000 and our smallest grant is £10. Our average size grant is £1,700 and we achieve a success rate of 68% - or more than one-in-two applicants are successful. We boost this rate by encouraging people and groups to talk to us before they submit an application form and by giving advice and referring them to local voluntary sector support organisations.

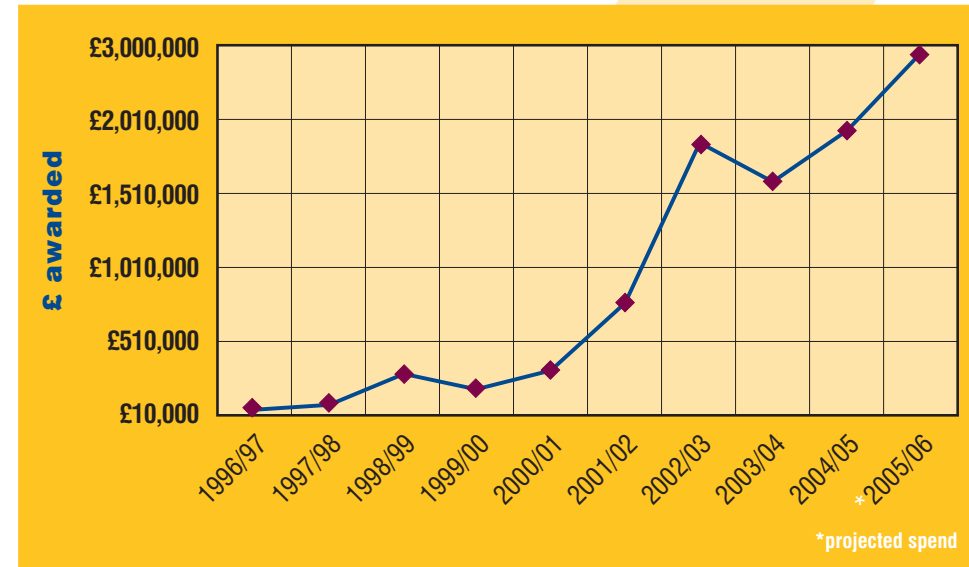
Although the majority of our grants come from public sources (80%), our private funders play a vital and complementary role in our programmes and the Foundation's development as:

- They are often willing to support more innovative grants.
- Their criteria for funding is often more targeted geographically or by focus/theme but without the restrictions that government funds have, such as matching key indicators or fitting with other priorities or targets.
- They have the ability to commit longer-term through endowed funds whereas many of the other programmes we administer are time limited or geared towards the electoral cycle.
- Their grants can be used as matched funding for other grant schemes (such as the European Social Fund Global Grants programme).
- They are often directly involved in their grant-making and therefore have a more direct connection to the projects/people they support.

Our grants often contain contributions from more than one fund (both private and public) and we mix-and-match behind the scenes. Most applicants apply on our standard application form, but we also use bespoke forms for some partnership or more specialist fund holders.

The following graph maps the Foundation's growth in terms of grant distribution (£) since 1996. The first year's grant-making equates to just 1.8% of the total grants distributed in 2004-2005. Our grants budget for 2005/06 is £3million.

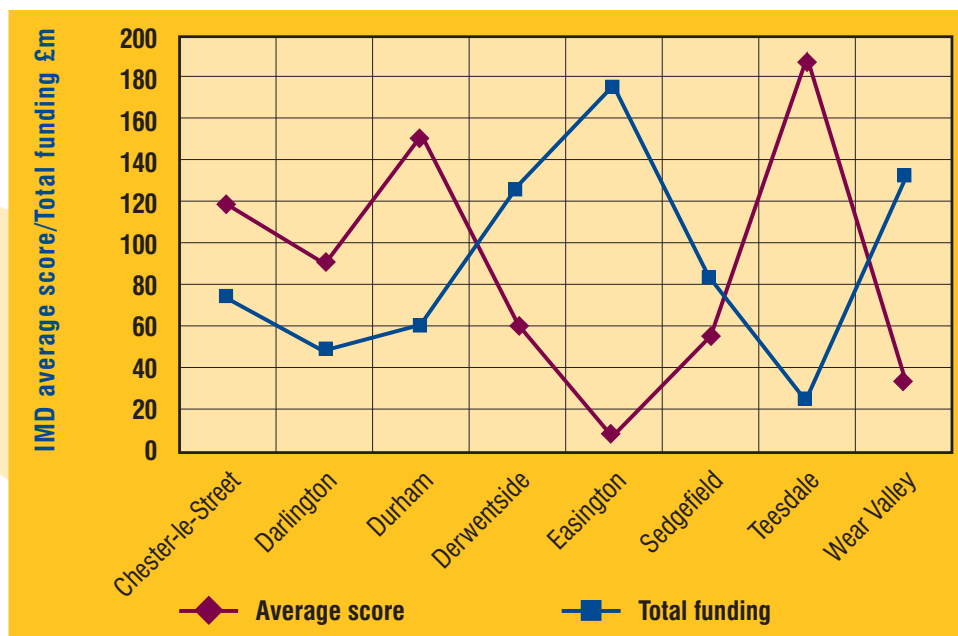
Grants awarded (£) 1996-2005



"Individuals, families and groups can be said to be in poverty if they lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved in the societies to which they belong."
(Townsend, 1979, p31)

The majority of our funding is targeted at the most deprived areas of Easington, Derwentside, Sedgefield and Wear Valley. County Durham Foundation administers a number of government grant programmes in conjunction with the local communities that target money specifically to these areas.

National Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Average Score (out of 345)/Total Funding £m



Both Teesdale and Wear Valley are rural communities that face their own form of deprivation including lack of facilities and access to them, struggling rural economies and isolation for many of its more vulnerable residents. We have used our unrestricted endowment-based funding to help these areas and have introduced specific programmes to target local need, such as the Countryside Relief Fund set up in response to the foot and mouth crisis in 2001-2002. Other partners such as the Big Lottery Fund on the Fairshare programme have worked with us to support a ten-year community development and regeneration programme in the Central and Northgate wards of Darlington. Our two Millennium Award schemes have also worked at ward level with key individuals in deprived areas by offering training and mentoring programmes to help them achieve their goals.

The majority of projects funded benefit a cross section of the communities targeted and help to increase the range of facilities, activities and services available. In particular we have helped support community development projects, groups looking to improve facilities and in particular buildings, capacity building and skills development training, community sports and health related projects. Most of our grants also support disadvantaged and isolated people including those living in rural communities, people with a disability and vulnerable elderly people.

The Foundation has consistently funded projects that benefit children and young people and this accounts for the highest proportion of our grants (35%). In 2001 we started to administer the Local Network Fund for Children and Young People, which target's projects specifically for this age group.

Although County Durham and Darlington only has a small percentage of black and minority ethnic communities we have worked closely with groups supporting these communities.

Donnini House Social Club Easington Colliery, Peterlee

“Just a quick note to let you know how proud myself and all our members are of our communal garden. Without your help this would not have been possible and I cannot put in words the difference it has made to all our quality of lives. We gather each morning with our coffee and have a general chitchat and we are now operating as a big happy family as we have our own piece of paradise. You will never know how much you have changed this community, we now sit enjoying ourselves with smiles on our faces. A very very BIG thank you from every one of us to you for making our dream come true.”