



Quartet
Community
Foundation

Bristol
North Somerset
Bath & NE Somerset
South Gloucestershire

Local philanthropy for
the West of England

Insights Report 2026

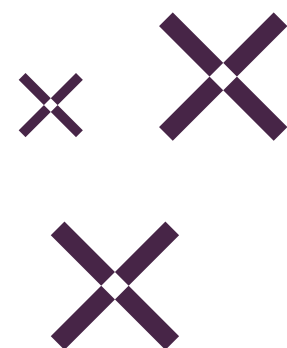
In View

Poverty



Est. 1986

Setting the scene for local charitable giving



Contents

03	04	06
About In View and Quartet	Introduction	Poverty in context
11	14	17
Children and young people	Income and employment	Housing and homelessness
20	23	
How to get involved	References	



Celebrating 40 years of matching local giving to meet local need.

About In View



In View reports contain up-to-date information and reflections on social needs in our area. We produce them to share learning, help guide local giving and showcase ways that philanthropy can help.

This year's publication explores poverty across our region, highlighting the diverse ways it is experienced within our communities and examining the underlying factors that contribute to it. While poverty remains a widespread national

challenge, its effects are felt in distinct and often disproportionate ways across communities in the West of England.

In View was researched and written by Lucy Gilbert, Head of Research and Learning. If you have any questions or feedback on this report, please get in touch at lucy.gilbert@quartetcf.org.uk.

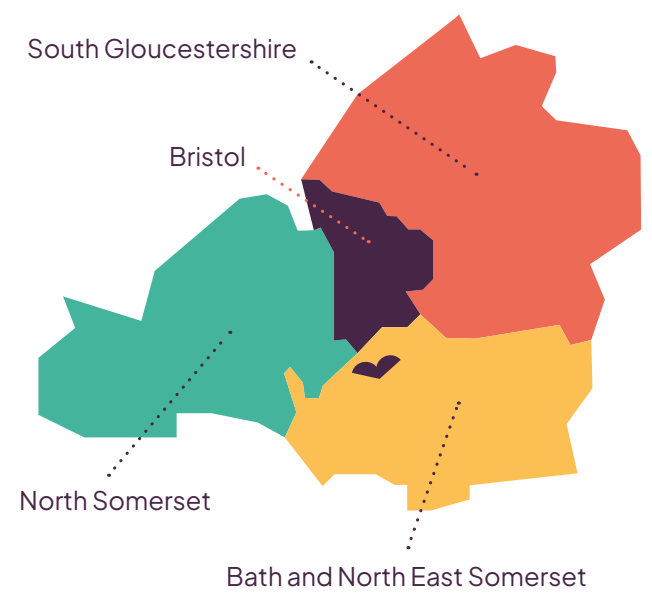
About Quartet

Quartet is the local community foundation for the West of England, helping drive lasting, positive change in our communities. We are one of 47 community foundations that cover the UK, offering an expert philanthropy advice service to those who want to give and providing accessible grant funding to local charitable causes. Using our local knowledge and insight, our purpose is to match local giving with local need.

Our grants help grassroots charitable organisations continue their vital work, whether they're addressing local issues, improving local places or providing essential support and opportunities to people most in need. Through the generosity of our donors, we are proud that last year we awarded **over 900 grants** to voluntary and community sector organisations worth **over £4 million**.

It is now 40 years since Quartet was founded. That's 40 years of witnessing the power of philanthropy to transform local lives. In response to the increased need for funding our voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector is facing,

Quartet's new strategy focuses us on growing our endowment fund – built from the contributions of hundreds of local donors – and expanding the donors we connect with and partnerships we forge. We will ensure that areas of unmet need, like rural areas or under-served communities, receive their fair share of our focus and support.



Introduction to poverty

The West of England is a vibrant, prosperous region, but there are also people who can't afford to meet their most basic needs. And while poverty and inequality are not new problems, there's no doubt that escalating prices are pushing more of our residents into struggle and debt. Cost of living and energy crises have seen UK prices rise by 27% since 2021 and are expected to increase further, as the latest local consequence of global instability.¹

People experiencing poverty are unable to afford the basics they need to get by, like rent or mortgage payments, electricity, water, furniture or food. This lack of resource, and the exclusion which follows, causes damaging stress, affecting people's health, happiness, opportunities and achievements.

In our rural areas, and in urban areas with few services, residents face additional barriers to meeting their needs. In these under-served areas, availability can be limited and extra transport costs raise the price of goods and services even further. In Quartet's new strategy for 2026-29, we commit to doing more to address poverty and disadvantage in these areas.

Philanthropy has always been concerned with improving the lives of people experiencing poverty, and so it is today. Come rain or shine, the West of England's charity and community sector – powered by generous local giving – provides essential, dignified support that keeps families going. This might be help with food and essential items, free holiday activities for children or debt support services.

But even more important is the role philanthropy can play in preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place. For example, advice services help people to proactively

manage challenges and increase their incomes. Educational programmes, housing and employment support services, all help prevent poverty from taking hold. It's a profoundly valuable focus for philanthropy that changes lives, builds community and lifts our whole region.

In the following pages we highlight the latest data on poverty, areas of concern in our region, and some of the many ways that philanthropy can help.



As a single working parent, it's tough to manage my limited income, so I'm skipping multiple meals every month so my daughter can eat normally. This family shop has really helped me to eat and have a balanced diet."

**Attendee at St Luke's Church
Free Family Food Shop, Barton
Hill, Bristol**



Britain is still experiencing a cost-of-living crisis, with high levels of food poverty. B&NES contains pockets of significant deprivation, with Twerton in the bottom 15% of highly deprived areas. We provide a warm space where people can come and eat a hot meal, addressing both fuel and food poverty, as well as reducing food waste. This is the only one of its kind in this area."

Bath Community Kitchen



Poverty in context

Despite policy-makers' efforts, there's been little change in the UK's poverty rate over the last ten years, with around a fifth (currently 21%) of the UK experiencing poverty each year.² What has changed is that poverty is deepening, as households fall further below the poverty line.

People already facing disadvantage are more likely to experience poverty. This includes disabled people, lone-parent households, large families, some racially minoritised groups, children, and people who are out of work. The number of people who are working but still find themselves in poverty is rising, driven in part by rises in housing costs.³

Anyone living here knows that there is high inequality in the West of England, with areas of real affluence sitting next to deep deprivation. The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Mayor's recent Child Poverty Strategy⁴ outlines some of the drivers of this difference: poor or unaffordable housing, patchy access to childcare, and inadequate transport to reach job opportunities, especially for our rural communities. Rural poverty is usually hidden in statistics due to smaller numbers overall. But people experiencing poverty in rural areas have fewer job opportunities or services to support them and higher transport costs to reach help.

Latest figures saw 6.8 million people, a record number, living in very deep poverty.²



Towards the end of 2025:



51%

of low-income households reported skipping meals or reducing their shop²



40%

reported going hungry²

Defining poverty

Have you ever felt confused by poverty stats cited by politicians or in the media? If so, you'd have good reason: in the UK we have a number of different ways of calculating poverty.

1

'Relative poverty' describes households with a net household income of 60% of the national average (median) in any given year. This means that the threshold for meeting the definition of poverty changes year-on-year as average income changes.

2

'Absolute poverty' has described households with incomes less than 60% of the average (median) net household income in 2010/11, but this reference year recently changed to 2024/25. This method provides a static threshold for defining poverty, which can give a clearer sense of a household's actual material conditions.

3

Both relative and absolute poverty figures can be reported by counting the households that meet the threshold 'before housing costs' (BHC) are taken into account. This means that the cost of rents and mortgages – which vary significantly across the country – do not factor into the calculation.

4

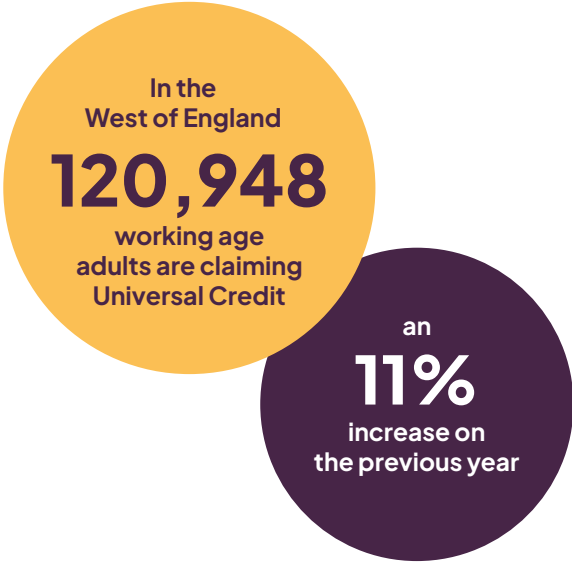
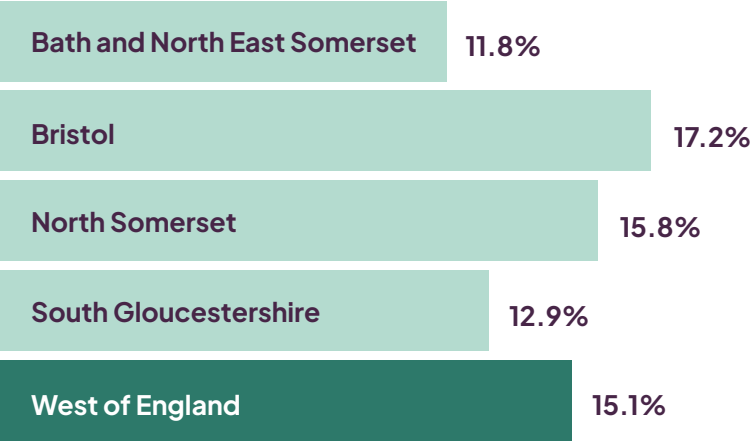
Finally, both relative and absolute poverty figures can be reported 'after housing costs' (AHC). This takes into account average housing costs across the country, giving a clearer picture of where households may struggle due to living in areas with high housing costs, like the West of England.

5

When we talk about 'deep poverty', this is defined as a household with an income of less than 40% of the national median, after housing costs.

Universal Credit is the government benefit available to people who are out of work and people who are working but on a low income. There are nearly **121,000 adults on Universal Credit in our region, an 11% increase on the same time the previous year.** The averages hide very high rates in some areas. These include Weston-super-Mare South ward in North Somerset, where 44% of residents receive Universal Credit; Hartcliffe and Withywood in Bristol, at 43% of residents; and 31% of residents in Twerton, B&NES.⁵

Universal Credit claimants (% of working age adults)



60,040
food parcels



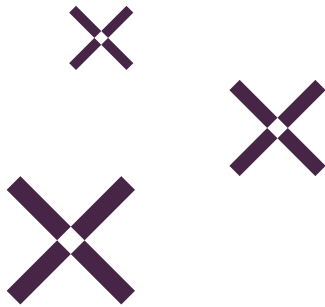
Figures from foodbank charity Trussell show that their foodbanks alone, not counting the many independent foodbanks in our area, gave out **60,040 food parcels in the West of England last year.** Over a third of these were for children. While numbers have reduced since their peak in 2023, this is still a 53% increase on pre-pandemic figures.⁶

Since 2021, UK food prices have risen by

38%



Neither benefits nor wages have kept pace, and families on low incomes are now unable to afford the basics.²



SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire

“The cost-of-living crisis has had a devastating impact on communities in South Gloucestershire, particularly those facing the most disadvantage such as disabled people and those living with long-term health conditions, those living in poverty, single-parent families, and minoritised groups. Demand for our services, particularly for cost-of-living issues, has continued to increase disproportionately in recent years.”

A grant of £5,000 from Quartet has contributed to a new foodbank advice project in Yate and Patchway, in partnership with North Bristol and South Gloucestershire foodbanks and Trussell.

This funding enabled a part-time debt caseworker to provide highly specialist debt support to 320 clients.

“This advice has resulted in over £300,000 in debt written-off or payments rescheduled, a source of great anxiety for clients. We also secured an extra £397,000 for these clients through new income or income maximisation. All of the people we helped were foodbank users who were experiencing acute poverty and disadvantage. Showing them how they can improve their lives and manage better was empowering and gave them confidence in the future to deal with their problems head-on.”



A grant of
£5,000

from Quartet has contributed to a new foodbank advice project in Yate and Patchway

NORTH SOMERSET Aishah's Food Charity

Aishah's Food Charity offers food distribution and outreach to families who are struggling to afford decent food in Weston-super-Mare. The town has areas in the most deprived 1% in the country, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. A grant of £15,000 from the North Somerset Community Partnership Fund has strengthened the organisation and helped them meet increased demand.

"Regular deliveries help families manage rising living costs and reduce anxiety around putting food on the table. For many, this support represents more than food, it represents dignity, care, and community connection."



A grant of
£15,000
through Quartet from the North Somerset Community Partnership Fund has helped them meet increased demand



Before this support, there were days we didn't know how we would manage. The food deliveries have taken a huge weight off our shoulders. It's not just the food; it's knowing that someone cares and hasn't forgotten about us. This help has truly made a difference to my family's life."

Mohammad



About 18 months ago my husband had an accident where he fell from a roof at work. He was injured and was unable to work for weeks. Being self-employed this left us with no income. Aishah came to our rescue with extra food deliveries. She made sure my children had a hot meal every day. I am forever grateful for that."

Emma

Children and young people

Children are consistently most likely to be in poverty. Since 2025 the government has released a strategy to reduce child poverty, scrapped the two-child benefit limit that restricted support for larger families, increased the rate of welfare benefits, and more.

While these are positive steps, the anti-poverty charity Joseph Rowntree Foundation still predicts that without more radical action, by the end of the government's term little will have changed for the four million children who will still live in poverty.⁷

Local, trusted services are critical for the wellbeing, development and life chances of children facing poverty and disadvantage. Our VCSE sector is expert at offering timely support for children and young people who might otherwise slip through the net.

A grant of
£15,000
through Quartet from the Jackson Family Fund has supported their mentoring programmes

B&NES

Young Carers Development Trust

Young Carers Development Trust (YCDDT) supports young people aged 14-19 who provide care for a family member who is ill or disabled. Many face isolation, financial hardship and significant barriers to education as a result of their caring responsibilities. Young carers are three times more likely to be outside education, employment or training than their peers.¹³

"YCDDT provides long-term mentoring which helps young carers achieve their educational potential and realise their ambitions. Our volunteer mentors offer a trusted relationship, giving young people the time and space to think about their future, explore their options

and understand that they have choices beyond their caring role. Alongside mentoring, we provide practical support such as tuition, laptops and travel costs, helping to remove barriers to education. The support is long term, and the results speak for themselves: 100% of young carers completing our programme progress into education, employment or training."

Quartet awarded a grant of £15,000 from the Jackson Family Fund last year to support the core running costs of their mentoring programmes, helping ensure continuity of support for 170 young carers.

53,000+

children in the West of England live in low-income households.⁸

Addressing child poverty in our region is a current priority for WECA. WECA's child poverty action plan reports that due to high housing, childcare and other costs in our area, **a single parent with two children needs to earn an estimated £65,000 a year to meet the household's basic needs.**⁴



Qualifications are crucial for young people's future prospects. But there are areas in our region with some of the lowest levels in the country of young people going on to higher education. **In Weston-super-Mare, only 20% of young people are in higher education at age 18, compared with 36.3% nationally.** In Bristol South the figure has been improving in recent years and is now up to 23.3%.¹⁰

722,064

with no recourse to public funds

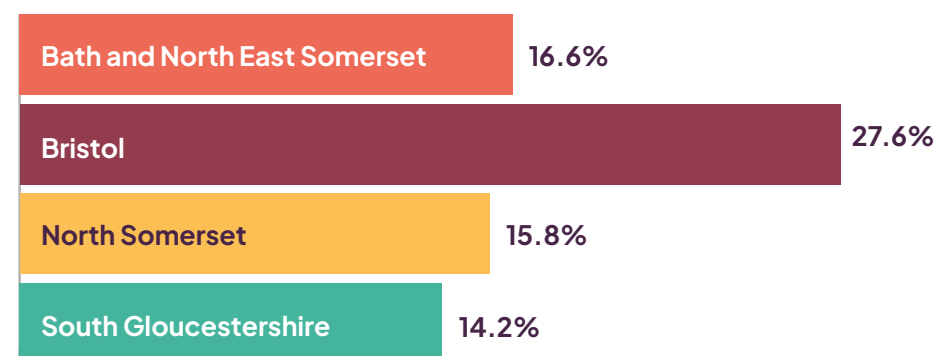
Children living in households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) – a policy which prevents some migrant households from accessing government support – are not currently counted in child poverty statistics. **But there are an estimated 722,064 children nationally with NRPF**, and these children are at high risk of being in poverty.⁹



Youth unemployment (ages 18–24) is an issue in our area, with some West of England areas having very high rates of young people who are out of work, well above the national average of 6%. **These include parts of Weston-super-Mare (14%), parts of Bristol South (10%) and Yate in South Gloucestershire (9%).**¹¹

Entitlement to free school meals indicates children in households facing significant disadvantage. Latest figures – collected for pupils in state primary schools only – show that **nearly 17,500 children in our area meet the criteria for free school meals.**¹²

Free school meals eligible pupils (state schools only)



BRISTOL

Creative Youth Network

Bristol youth work charity Creative Youth Network works with young people facing multiple disadvantages such as poverty, discrimination or being in the care system. A grant of £5,000 through Quartet from the Tap for Bristol Fund has helped them establish a hardship fund for the young people they work with, providing immediate support when it is most needed.

“This hardship and emergency fund is a lifeline for young people in central Bristol at risk of homelessness. Many of those we support are refugees or asylum-seeking young people, including unaccompanied minors, who often arrive in the UK with no family, no safety net, and no access to public funds.

Others are young people facing crisis situations such as unsafe housing, family breakdown, or mental health emergencies.

This funding means we can respond swiftly to crisis situations, ensuring no young person slips through the cracks. The hardship fund also links into long-term support: young people are connected with trusted youth workers who help them navigate housing applications, education, legal processes, and mental health services. This funding is protecting the safety and wellbeing of some of Bristol's most vulnerable young people.”

Funding in action



A grant of
£5,000
through Quartet from
the Tap for Bristol Fund
has helped establish a
hardship fund

Income and employment

Being out of work is very strongly linked to poverty, and so access to decent, secure jobs plays a key part in tackling poverty and improving people’s life chances. Analysis by The Work Foundation shows the rise of jobs that are insecure, though, such as freelancing, temporary roles or zero-hours contracts. More than three out of five new workers in insecure jobs are women, and young people are twice as likely to be in insecure work as the general population.¹⁴

With a strong professional economy, unemployment is relatively low in the West of England, with rates ranging from 1.9% in B&NES to 3.7% in Bristol, compared with the UK average of 4.1%.¹⁵ But analysis shows that access to decent work is extremely variable across our region, with Bristol and South Gloucestershire doing well on measures of access to good work, B&NES having a mixed performance in recent years, and North Somerset lagging behind.¹⁶

Funding in action

NORTH SOMERSET XTND – Improving Futures

XTND – Improving Futures is a small, community-rooted charity on the Bournville estate, Weston-super-Mare. They support children and families through parenting groups, family activities and targeted support. Grants of £15,000 from Quartet’s Resilience grant programme are helping them invest in local parents’ confidence and skills.

“The Bournville estate faces high levels of poverty, unemployment and poor mental health. Many families experience isolation and lack access to supportive networks. But when parents are given the opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together, the impact on family wellbeing is profound.

We run successful parent groups that have become a lifeline for many. Through these groups, we’ve seen parents grow

in confidence and express a desire to give back through volunteering. When parents are empowered to lead, services become more sustainable and impactful. However, without structured support and training, these aspirations could be lost.

This funding has created a structured pathway for parents to develop skills, gain confidence, and take on leadership roles as volunteers. This not only strengthens our provision but has helped break cycles of poverty by opening up routes into employment and education.”

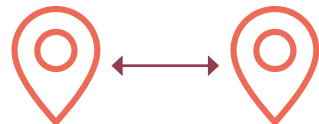
Grants of **£15,000** from Quartet’s Resilience grant programme are helping them invest in local parents



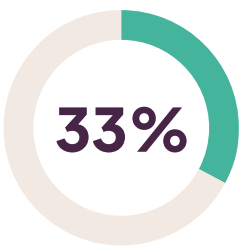
The ‘minimum income standard’ (MIS) describes the basics the British public thinks everyone should have in order to reach a modest, but decent, standard of living. But a single person on out-of-work benefits is very far from meeting this standard, with their **income providing just 27% of what would be needed**. Even a single person employed full time on the **national living wage only reaches 76% of this minimum standard**.¹⁷



There is marked inequality of household incomes in our area. **Figures for Bristol suggest a difference of £26,900 per year in disposable household income** between equivalent households in Withywood and Henleaze.¹⁹



Measures of job density highlight areas with fewer jobs than the number of workers living there. **This helps identify places where working age adults would likely need to travel to reach work**. Unsurprisingly, our most job-dense areas are Bristol and Bath city centres, and Patchway, South Gloucestershire. The areas with fewest jobs relative to the working-age population, where people may face travel or other barriers to finding work, include south Keynsham (B&NES), Southdown (B&NES) and Dodington (South Gloucestershire).²¹



Poverty rate for disabled adults of working age

Latest figures show that **1.45m disabled workers are in severely insecure work**, a record number.¹⁴ **The poverty rate for disabled adults of working age is 33%**, compared with 17% of the working-age population more generally.¹⁸



Increasing numbers of households are in negative budgets, where regular income isn’t enough to cover essential needs. One out of every 9 private renters and **1 in 7 lone parent households was in a negative budget in 2025**.²⁰



Pension Credit is a benefit providing financial support to people aged 60+ whose income falls below a certain level. The rates of recipients can be used to indicate the number of pensioners in poverty locally. Nationally, 11% of pensioners receive Pension Credit but in Bristol’s Lawrence Hill, more than half (55%) do. High rates are also found in Weston-super-Mare South (27%), Ashley in Bristol (26%) and Twerton in Bath (25%).²²



BRISTOL

Smart Works Bristol

Smart Works Bristol is a women's employment charity that provides specialist support to help women into work, particularly those facing the greatest barriers to fair and secure employment. They help women aged 16 and over who are unemployed or struggling to access opportunities. Many of the women are young people, care-experienced, refugees and asylum seekers, single parents, or living in areas of Bristol with high levels of income deprivation. A grant of £3,269 from the Bristol Temple Quarter grant programme is supporting their outreach work.

"Our model combines practical support with confidence-building. Each woman receives a two-hour appointment including one-to-one interview coaching delivered by trained volunteers and a high-quality interview outfit that is hers to keep. For women who are not yet ready for interview, we provide career coaching to clarify goals, build job-search skills, and strengthen self-belief. After securing employment, women return to receive further workwear that will see them through to their first pay cheque. These services work together to create a clear, empowering pathway into work and financial independence."



Because of my disability, it was important for me to come and see you to build my confidence. The clothes made me feel more confident. They made me believe in myself in a way I didn't before."

Sophie

A grant of
£3,269

through Quartet from the Bristol Temple Quarter grant programme is supporting their outreach work



Housing and homelessness

Extremely high housing costs are one of the key drivers of poverty in our region, as an increasing share of residents' incomes are spent keeping a roof over their head. This is also a key cause of homelessness locally, with few affordable alternatives to private renting available.

According to WECA, there are **2,000 children living in temporary accommodation** in our region, with 35,000 families on the waiting list for social housing.²³

The Renters' Rights Act 2025, which came into force in May 2026, is a significant national policy response. The Act introduces new protections for tenants including abolishing 'no fault' evictions. This should affect around 280,000 private renters across the West of England²⁹, but housing supply and affordability remain acute challenges for the region.

B&NES

Genesis Trust

Last year the Genesis Trust received a grant of £5,000 through Quartet from the Bath & West Community Energy Fund Programme to cover the cost of essential items for people experiencing homelessness and fuel poverty in B&NES.

"This funding has supported some of the most disadvantaged people in B&NES. Without exception, they are affected by poverty and complex disadvantages like mental ill health and social isolation. Waterproof items ensured those who were sleeping rough were kept as physically well as possible. Thermal items were used to keep people warm whether they were sleeping rough or housed but struggling to heat their homes. The power banks helped people to charge devices

when they didn't have access to power or couldn't afford their electricity. This meant they had a phone to use in cases of emergencies, could keep in touch with support workers, friends, and family, could attend appointments, or search and apply for employment. The thermos flasks gave people a hot drink supply, but also when they visited our projects for a refill, we used the opportunity to help them access advice, professional support, clothing and food."

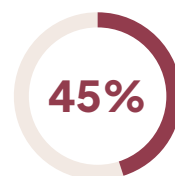
A grant of
£5,000
through Quartet from Bath & West Community Energy Fund Programme to cover the cost of essential items



Measures of housing affordability show how expensive housing costs are in the West of England. **Nationally, an average house price is 8 times the average salary. In B&NES this rises to nearly 10 times, making buying properties unaffordable for many.**²⁴



Lack of access to affordable housing can result in homelessness, poverty and insecurity. **Last financial year in Bristol, 6,000 households asked the council for help with homelessness and over 1,600 households were in temporary accommodation.**²⁵



Bristol and Bath are among the most expensive areas in the country for private renting, too, with **Bristol properties costing renters around 45% of their income.** Only London is more expensive.²⁶



High energy prices mean that there are

47,544

households struggling with fuel poverty across the West of England.²⁷

Households in fuel poverty



8,503 households
B&NES



21,394 households
Bristol



8,453 households
North Somerset



9,194 households
South Gloucestershire

91%

of frontline workers in rural areas have seen an increase in rural homelessness according to a national study.

Researchers found that people sleeping rough in rural areas are missed out of official statistics and can struggle to access any support. Sleeping rough in farmland or woodland, these people are invisible to support services which, in rural areas, are underfunded to manage the issue.²⁸



SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Helping Homeless Believe

Funding in action



Based in Kingswood, Helping Homeless Believe provides a space where homeless people can visit to shower, wash clothing, use the internet, and receive hot meals and support. They help homeless people to access services and run an outreach service to engage people sleeping outside, building long-term trusted relationships. Quartet awarded a grant of £5,000 last year towards rental and utility costs for the building, during which time they supported around 100 people.

“We had someone visit the drop in space. This person told us they’d been homeless for eight weeks – they’d been to the council but were not deemed to be a priority. We meet people all the time who are vulnerable and told they are not owed a duty from the council, when in reality they are. We took some basic information and made contact with the council. Within five days the person was housed in emergency accommodation. I truly believe if it wasn’t for our charity that person would still be sleeping outside.”



100

people supported

A grant of

£5,000

from Quartet was awarded towards rental and utility costs for the building

How to **get involved**

Some of the drivers of poverty in the West of England will require large-scale action to solve. We're talking to regional organisations like WECA and the West of England Rural Network about how philanthropic funding can best support their goals, especially addressing disadvantage through services and support for rural and under-served areas.

And the Government's new Pride in Place funding programme has chosen Bournville in Weston-super-Mare, Twerton and Whiteway in Bath, and Hartcliffe and Withywood in Bristol – areas where residents face acute poverty – to each receive investment of £2 million a year for ten years. This is a fantastic development for our communities, and we're liaising with the relevant bodies on ways that we can help.

But for many of the people experiencing poverty, only a small amount of support is needed to lift them out of harm's way. Local VCSE sector organisations are expert at providing such support – timely interventions that prevent homelessness, provide a warm meal, or help someone improve their financial position so that they no longer need help.

Critical in this is our local advice sector, which helps people access help and navigate complex processes they couldn't manage on their own. The support they provide is transformational, with profound impacts on local lives. But local research shows that advice agency staff are spending increasing amounts of time fundraising for short-term philanthropic funds, placing uncertainty and an administrative burden on already overstretched teams.

Our charity and community sector organisations need to be able to offer consistent, long-term support to people experiencing poverty. This is how trust is built and change is made. And so they need consistent, longer-term resourcing. Many organisations are seeing rising demand and shrinking budgets, and they need our help.



Our support helps people stabilise their finances, and negotiate with creditors to have debts written off, reduced, or made manageable. The impact is both immediate and lasting. For every £1 invested, clients are £13.83 better off. Just as importantly, our service improves wellbeing: 90% of beneficiaries find a positive way forward, 89% feel less anxious or depressed, and 70% report better physical health. Your funding empowers vulnerable people to move beyond crisis towards stability, resilience, and a healthier future."

Citizens Advice Bristol



Listening to our VCSE sector

Local organisations working to address poverty and disadvantage have shared with us three major challenges they are facing.

Demand exceeding capacity

Organisations tell us they are struggling to meet the level of demand they are seeing with the resources they have. This is the case for a wide variety of organisations supporting people experiencing poverty including foodbanks, holiday clubs, advice services and drop-ins.

The benefits system

Advice sector workers point to systemic issues that trap local people in poverty and keep them from getting support. These include complex and inaccessible application processes, long decision times, or levels of financial help that fall short of meeting people's basic needs.

Complex, overlapping needs

Funded organisations report that the people they work with are often navigating simultaneous crises across housing, health, immigration and finance. This means the support they need can be more complex and time-consuming, and therefore more resource-intensive for them.

All of these challenges point to **the need for more resources, both for local people experiencing poverty and the VCSE sector organisations** working to support them.

What next



For philanthropists: Philanthropy helps the most marginalised people in society, and now is a critical time. If you want to get involved in tackling poverty in our region, speak to us and find out how you can support the local VCSE sector. **Please contact Sabita Ravi for more information.**



For businesses: Help drive lasting change in the communities where your employees live and work. Speak to us about sharing your expertise through our skilled volunteering service or directing your charitable giving towards local organisations working to address poverty and disadvantage. **Please contact John Stienlet for more information.**



For the VCSE sector: Our skilled volunteering service, ProHelp, may be able to help you access free professional advice and support to strengthen your organisation. Please talk to John Stienlet if you'd like to find out more. If you are looking for funding to support the work you deliver, then we may be able to help. Please talk to us or look at our current grant programmes on our website - www.quartetcf.org.uk.



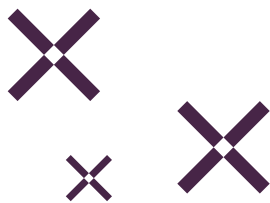
Partner organisations: Keep working collaboratively with us and let us know if there are other ways that you think philanthropy can help tackle poverty in the West of England. **Please contact Anna Smith or Lucy Saunders if you'd like to find out more.**

Contact us

CEO	Anna Smith	07795 924040	anna.smith@quartetcf.org.uk
Director of Development	Lucy Saunders	07386 443669	lucy.saunders@quartetcf.org.uk
Head of Philanthropy	Sabita Ravi	07443 646296	sabita.ravi@quartetcf.org.uk
Pro Bono Manager, ProHelp	John Stienlet	07884 053413	john.stienlet@quartetcf.org.uk

For all other team members and general enquiries, please email info@quartetcf.org.uk or call **0117 989 7700**.
Visit or write to us at:
Quartet Community Foundation, Royal Oak House, Royal Oak Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4GB.

References



- Francis-Devine, B. 15 May 2026. High cost of living: Impact on households. House of Commons Library
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation. 2026. UK Poverty 2026 – the essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK. JRF
- Cribb, J., Waters, T. and Xu, X. 12 November 2025. Why has in-work poverty risen? IFS.org.uk
- West of England Combined Authority. 2026. The West of England Child Poverty Action Plan. WECA
- Dept. for Work and Pensions. Mar 2026. Universal Credit. Accessed via Local Insight on 25/05/26
- Trussell. End of year foodbank stats. Accessed at <https://www.trussell.org.uk/> on 10/4/26
- Belfield, C. Matejic, P. Tims, S. Wenham, A. 27 Jan 2026. This isn't what change feels like. Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Dept. for Work and Pensions. 2026. Children Aged 0–19 in Relative Low Income, After Housing Costs 2024/25. Accessed via Local Insight 2/6/26
- End Child Poverty/Centre for Research in Social Policy. 2025. Local Numbers, National Crisis: Child Poverty Across the UK
- UCAS. 'Westminster Parliamentary Constituency dashboard end of cycle 2025'. Accessed at ucas.com on 26/5/26
- Dept of Work and Pensions. Apr 2026. Youth unemployment (Ages 18–24 receiving JSA or Universal Credit). Accessed via Local Insight on 25/5/26
- Dept for Education (DfE). Jan 2025. Proportion of FSM-eligible Primary School pupils. Accessed via Local Insight 26/5/26
- Learning and Work Institute. Sept 2023. Young adult carers and the 21 hour rule – policy briefing
- Florisson, R. and Navani, A. 2025. The UK Insecure Work Index. The Work Foundation
- Dept for Work and Pensions (DWP). April 2026. Unemployment benefit claimants (Jobseekers Allowance and out of work Universal Credit claimants). Accessed via Local Insight 27/5/26
- Whittard, D. et al. 19 March 2026. 'The shape of work in the West of England', accessed at www.thebrunelcentre.co.uk on 27/5/26
- Stone, J. and Padley, M. 2025. A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom in 2025. Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation. 2026. UK Poverty 2026 – the essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK. JRF. NB: the poverty measure referenced here is after housing costs, and excluding disability benefits
- Bristol City Council/NHS BNSSG ICB. 2026. JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26
- Citizens Advice. 21 Oct 2025. The National Red Index 2025: negative budget households face a debt crisis like quicksand. Accessed at www.citizensadvice.org.uk on 8/7/26
- Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). 2024. Jobs density (jobs as a ratio of the working age population). Accessed via Local Insight 26/5/26.
- Dept for Work and Pensions. Nov 2025. Pension Credit claimants (% of all pensioners). Accessed via Local Insight on 8/7/25
- WECA. 21 January 2026. '£6.55 million boost for housing in West'. Accessed at <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/news/6-55-million-boost-for-housing-in-west/> on 27/5/26
24. Office for National Statistics (ONS). 2024. Housing affordability ratio. Accessed via Local Insight on 13/04/26
- Bristol City Council. 2025. Bristol Key Facts 2025: November 2025 update
- ONS. 18 Aug 2025. Private rental affordability, England, Wales and Northern Ireland: 2024
- Dept for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. 2024. Households in fuel poverty. Accessed via Local Insight 2.6.26
- Tunaker, C. et al. 2023. Homelessness in the Countryside: A hidden crisis. University of Kent, University of Southampton
- Estimated figure calculated by local housing charity, Housing Matters



Quartet
Community
Foundation

Bristol
North Somerset
Bath & NE Somerset
South Gloucestershire

Insights Report 2026

In View

Poverty

There are many ways you can keep up to date with our work and learn more about ways to support:

Visit our website – www.quartetcf.org.uk – where you will find lots of information about Quartet and stories about the impact of grants we make. You'll also be able to sign up to our newsletter to receive our latest news direct to your inbox.

If you'd like a more detailed conversation with us to discuss ways that you can support communities in the West of England, please get in touch with our CEO, Anna Smith, at anna.smith@quartetcf.org.uk or 0117 989 7700.



Follow us on social media to keep up to date.