



# Surrey Young People's Fund

Helping young people gain access to training and employment



**Annual Report 2021**

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## A note from the Chair

Disadvantaged young people in Surrey deserve their opportunity to shine and have a real chance to fulfil their dreams. Here at the Surrey Young People's Fund (SYPF) we provide them with just that opportunity – to make the most of themselves and of what society can offer. As you will see later in this report, since we started our work at the end of 2014, we have dealt with more than 800 applicants for grants to help young people to improve their life prospects, and have awarded more than 500 grants, but there are many more who still require our assistance.

2021 represented a continuation of a uniquely challenging period for young people in Surrey and across the country as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Continued financial hardship, school and college lives were disrupted, the significant increases in mental health and wellbeing issues persisted, and social opportunities massively reduced all led to the increased pressures on young people in 2020 continuing throughout 2021. Whilst there are promising signs of improvements through vaccination programmes and return to more conventional school and college routines, the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups we support remain disproportionately affected by the pandemic and their needs are wide-ranging.

We are seeing more young people experiencing disadvantage. Sometimes this is because of family circumstances; sometimes because of bullying at school or via social media; from mental health difficulties; or from disabilities. But what we also see is a spirit in these young people to overcome their issues. The SYPF team nurtures and grows this spirit and provides financial support and other guidance that makes a difference to their life opportunities. As a result, the young people benefit, and everyone involved in the programme should be immensely proud of their and our achievements.

Since the Fund's creation it has been a pleasure to work together with our talented team of panel members and CFS support staff. They have dedicated much time, effort, and commitment to ensuring the best for the young people we assist. My thanks go to each and every one.

We also receive significant support from a range of Surrey agencies and organisations, without which we could not identify all the young people in need. Many of these also help us to assist the young people on their SYPF journeys, providing additional support in so many important and different ways. To each of these agencies and organisations I also add my thanks.

At the heart of our work are our Donors, without whom the Fund would not exist and the young people in Surrey could not benefit. A huge "THANK YOU" to them for their on-going support, belief in our goals and generosity, which is making such an impact to the young people we help.

To each reader of this report, I hope you will enjoy learning more from the following pages about the SYPF journey so far. To those of you already part of the team, I hope you will continue to lend us your support. And to those who are not yet engaged with our work, I hope you will consider supporting us too.

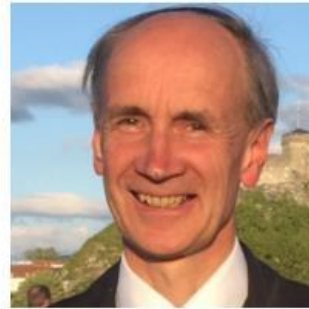
**Nick Brooks**  
Chairman, Surrey Young People's Fund



**Nick Brooks**  
Chairman and Assessor



**Anna Briggs**  
Vice Chair and Assessor



**Simon Cox**  
Assessor



**Tim Foster**  
Assessor



**Jonathan Hayward**  
Assessor



**Sally Knight**  
Assessor



**Lesley Machin**  
Panel Member



**Catherine Schille-Fuchs**  
Assessor



**Andrew Whitby-Collins**  
Assessor

The Panel is supported by the Community Foundation for Surrey.

# Fund Overview

The Surrey Young People's Fund (SYPF) was created at the end of 2014 when the Foundation brought together four initial Donors to support young people experiencing disadvantage in Surrey to gain access to training and employment. Since start-up until the end of 2021 the Fund received donations totalling over £191,000 and supported 504 determined young people who wanted to improve their prospects, awarding a total of over £130,300.

We are delighted to work alongside and channel funds from the Surrey Supported Employment Fund for a third year running, to enable young people with a disability to move towards work and training.

In 2021, the average grant size was £299 showing that just a small amount can result in a life-changing opportunity.

## Fund Priorities

SYPF supports individuals aged 16-25 at the time of application who are resident in Surrey and show the motivation to achieve their goals to gain access to training and employment.

Applicants tend to be in one of the following groups:

- People who are not in full time (16+ hours pw) employment
- People with disabilities or restricted by health conditions
- People with mental health conditions
- People in or leaving care
- Carers (including Surrey Young Carers)
- Offenders or ex-offenders
- People who are or have been in receipt of free school meals, and/or are in receipt of college bursaries.

Grants from SYPF are typically between £50 and £300 and can fund items directly related to enhancing the young person's employability skills, including through:

- Qualifications, certificates, or licences
- Vocational or technical skills
- Self-development opportunities which improve social skills, motivation, and confidence

Requests typically fall into one of the following categories:

- Course fees
- Travel costs (for education, training, or employment)
- Childcare (for short term education, or training)
- Equipment, materials, or tools
- Work or training-related clothing
- Volunteering/work placement costs
- Online learning

# Fund Activity

## Donations Received

Six individual Donors, three companies and nine charitable trusts currently support the Fund, and we of course hope to see this Donor family grow in the future.

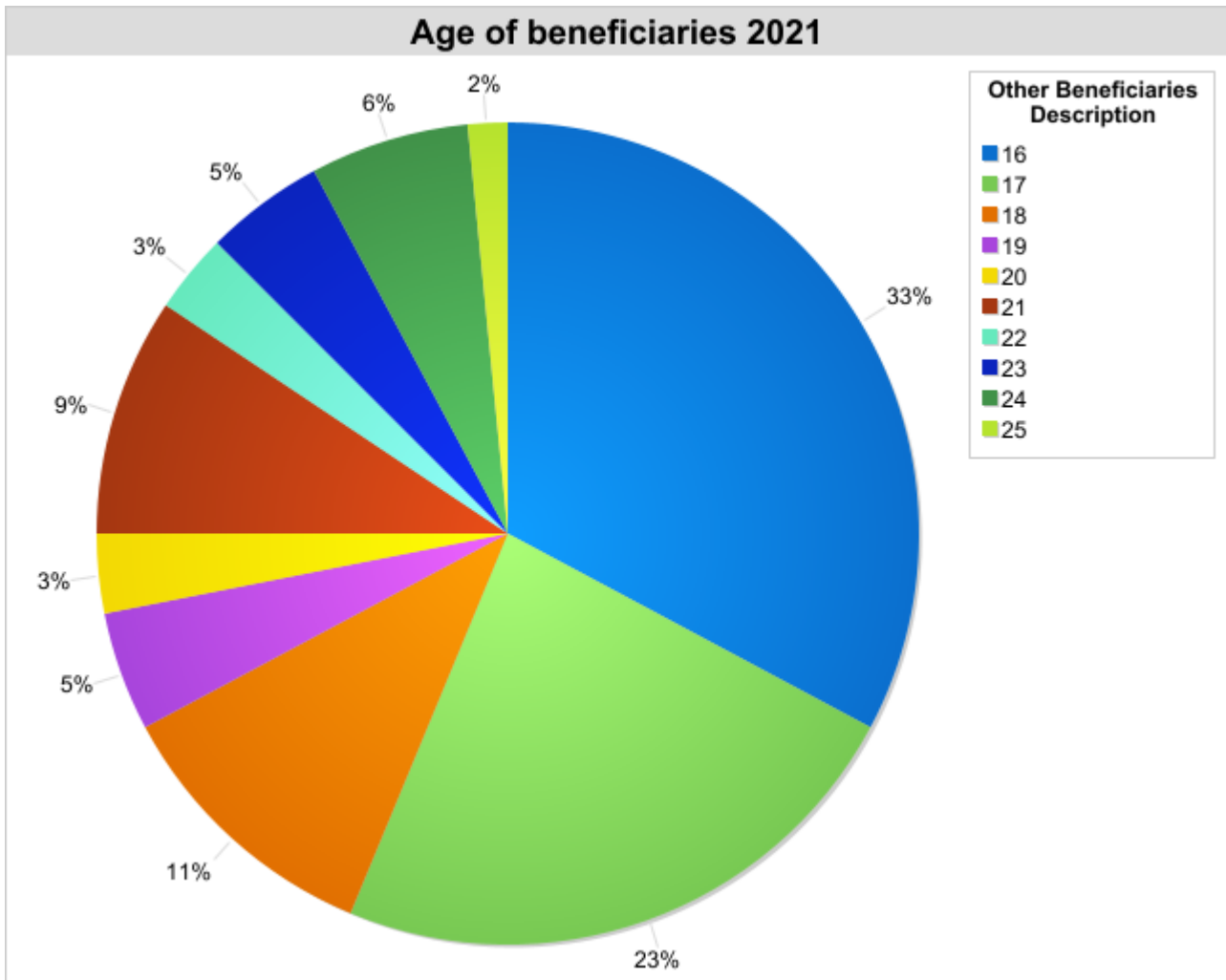
Since establishment SYPF Donors have played a crucial role in supporting disadvantaged young people across Surrey, providing the Fund with a total of £191,864 in donations, for which we are most appreciative. In 2021, donations were received to the value of £25,669. It goes without saying that the generosity of our Donors enables SYPF to continue to support more young people year on year.

## Applicants the Fund has supported in 2021

Analysis of grant recipients during 2021 indicates the following spread of representation across our primary areas of focus; 47% of grantees identified a combination of these categories, demonstrating the depth of the needs we deal with.

- **50%** of applications included the category '**Educational under-achievers**'.
- **3%** of applications included the category '**Unemployed (or working less than 16 hours per week)**'.
- **69%** of applications included the category '**Aged 16 -18 and not in full-time or part time school or college education or work-based learning, such as an apprenticeship**'.
- **6%** of grantees were **offenders/ ex-offenders**.
- **22%** of grantees were **in or leaving care**.
- **13%** of grantees identified as having a **disability**.
- **41%** of grantees identified as having a **mental-health condition**.

Below is a pie chart displaying the age range of those applicants who were awarded grants in 2021. Accounting for 33% of successful grant applicants were those aged 16, the second largest age group were 17-year-olds at 23%. 28% of successful applicants were aged 20 or over.



## Nature of Grants Awarded

The average size of grant provided was £299. The widespread nature of the support which this level of funding has provided for individuals across the county is outlined below.

- **Course fees**

The Fund has supported young people to study various courses, including football coaching qualifications, CSCS Cards, and a cake decorating course.

- **Equipment, materials, and tools**

The largest proportion of grant awards were made under this category. Items which have been funded include laptops with Microsoft Office software, catering course equipment, photography equipment, and hairdressing equipment.

- **Online learning**

Grants generally supported online GCSE courses. One grant supported a young person who experienced severe depression and bouts of addiction which led to homelessness, to complete a Health and Social Care qualification via distance learning.

- **Travel costs (for education, training, or employment)**

Travel costs can be supported where there is a barrier for a young person to access training, volunteering opportunities, work experience placements and employment. The Fund has contributed towards travel cards as well as proving bikes to enable young people to access college and work placements.

One grant supported a young person with a learning disability from a financially disadvantaged background with the purchase of a Metro travel pass to enable her to access a work placement.

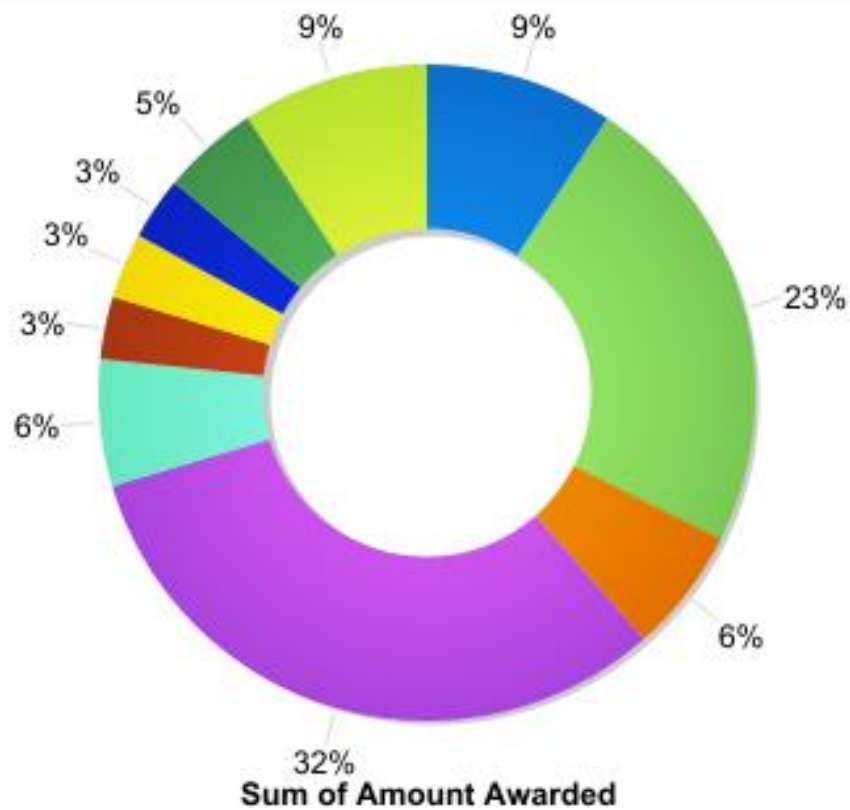
- **Work or training related clothing**

These grants have included smart clothing such as shirts and ties for interviews and office-based or similar roles, as well as suitable work boots and safety clothing for the construction industry for example.

Several grants have enabled a young person from a significantly disadvantaged background to purchase suitable clothing for training courses in construction.



## Breakdown of nature of support 2021



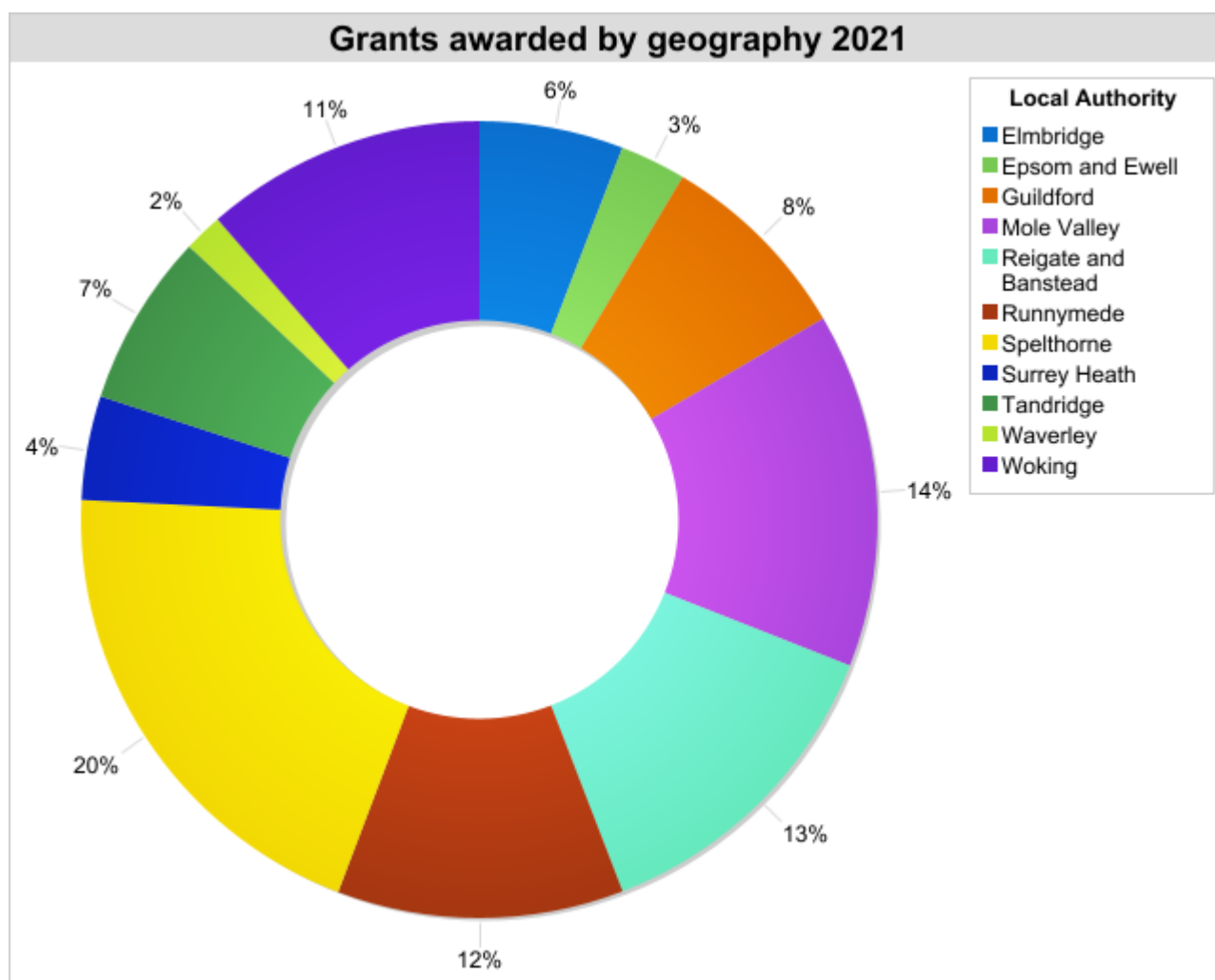
### What is the need & how was it identified

- Course fees
- Equipment, materials or tools
- Equipment, materials or tools Course fees
- Equipment, materials or tools Work or training related clothing
- Online learning
- Online learning Course fees
- Online learning Equipment, materials or tools
- Travel costs (for education, training or employment)
- Work or training related clothing
- Other

## Geographic Spread of Grants Awarded

Individuals in each of the 11 Districts and Boroughs have been supported through SYPF. As shown on the graph below, the two areas in which the highest proportion of grant funding has been made to date are Spelthorne (20% of grants awarded) and Mole Valley (15% of grants awarded).

Waverley received the smallest amount this calendar year (2% of grant funding awarded), followed by Epsom and Ewell (3% of grant funding awarded) and Surrey Heath (4% of grant funding awarded).



## Grants Awarded

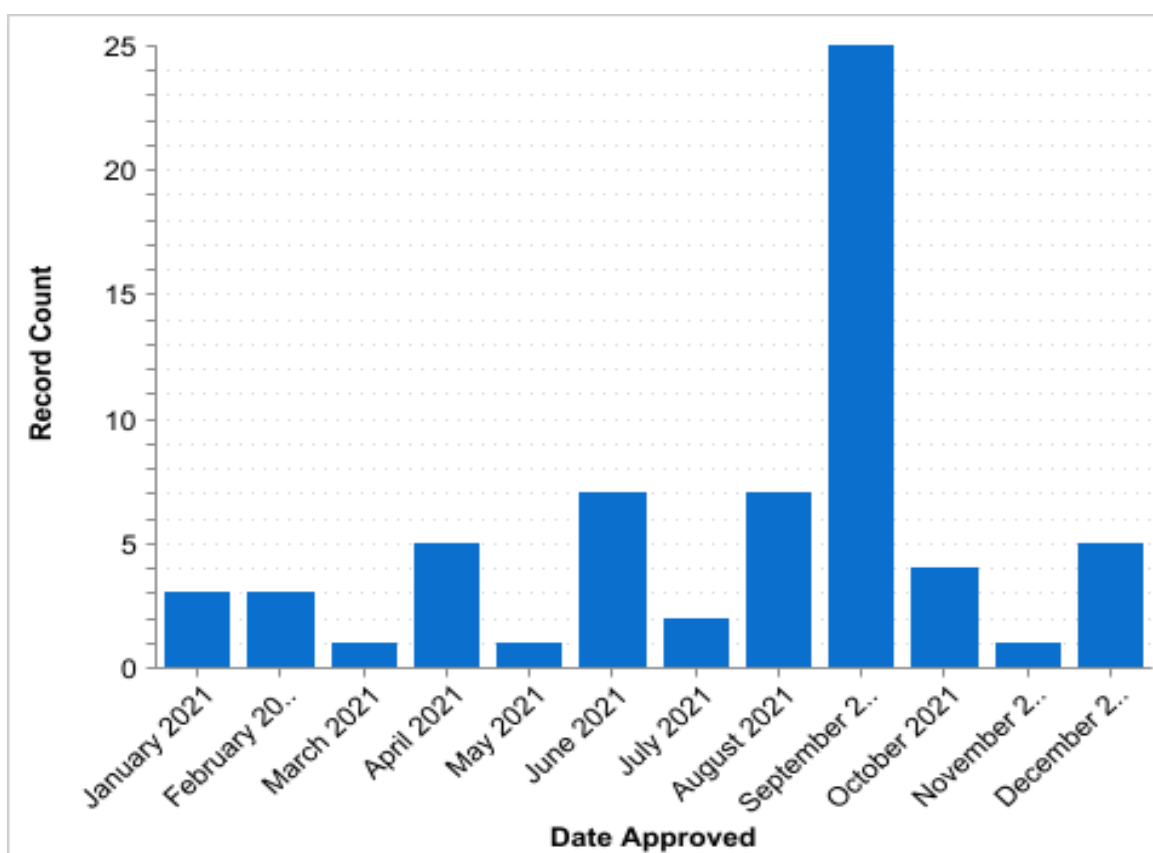
From the time of establishment to year end 2021, 504 grants have been awarded to over the value of just over £130,300. The maximum grant award was £1,000, and the minimum was £15.

The Fund has increased at a significant pace from its time of establishment. The total grant-making in Year One was £2,356.86, and this has grown through the generosity of our Donors each year; the grant-making in 2021 totalled £19,145.11.

In 2021 the grant application pattern returned to more 'normal' years as colleges and institutions adapted to dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The spike in applications encountered in Q2 2020 caused by the moves to home learning had diminished quite rapidly by the beginning of Q3 2020 when colleges and the Government started creating solutions themselves, and fortunately these solutions have continued through 2021.

In September we saw the normal seasonal spike as young people began college courses and required kit and uniform to be able to take part in their chosen speciality.

The Fund initiated a trial during 2021 into 2022 to reach out to disadvantaged young people seeking to study at L4 and above and determine levels of need. This trial is on-going and will be reviewed at the end of Q2 2022 to determine whether to move on a permanent basis to include L4 and above courses as eligible for young people to seek grant applications for associated costs.

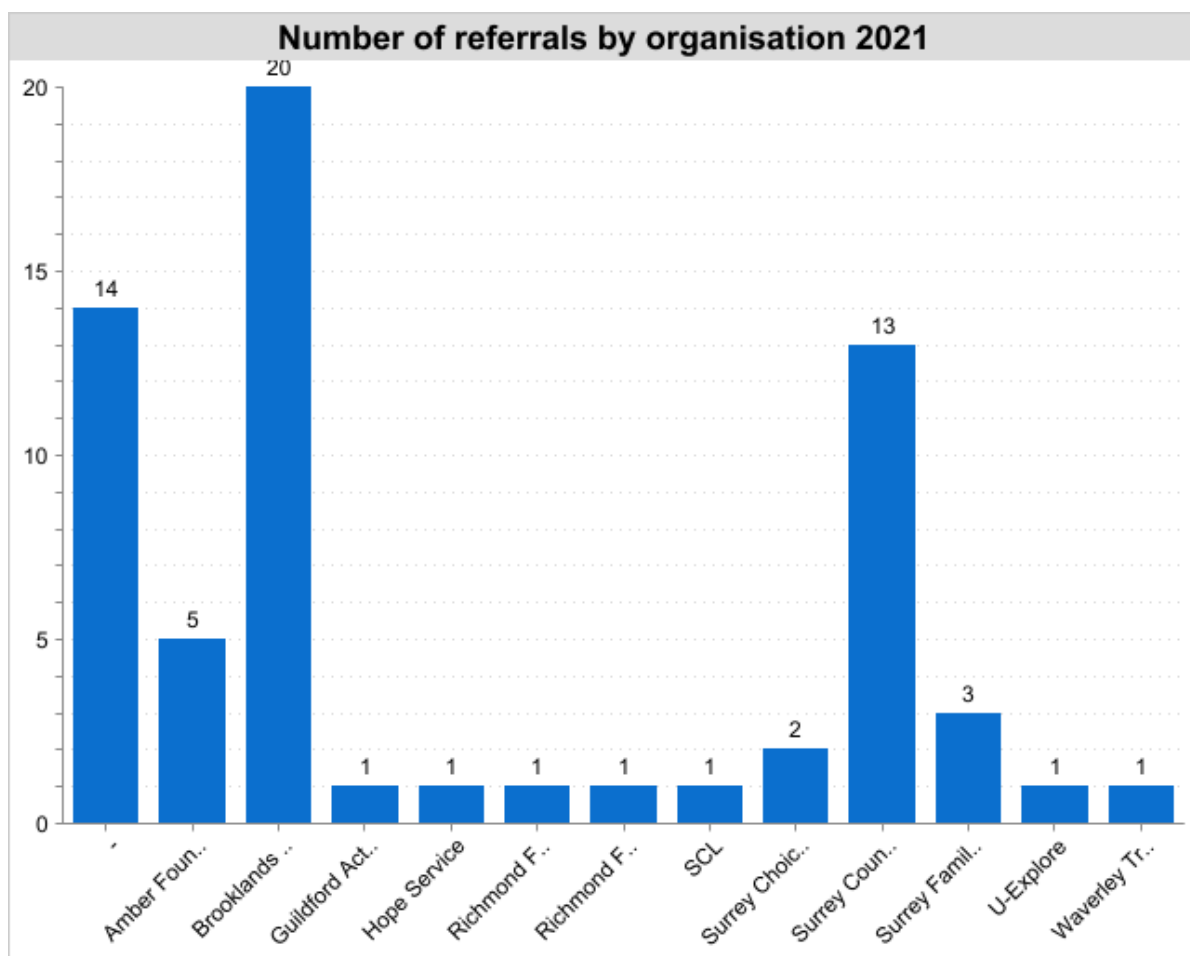


## Referral organisations

SYPF works with a wide range of referral organisations to support as many disadvantaged young people as possible. The bar graph below provides a breakdown of the number of referrals each organisation has made in the calendar year 2021. Referrals made from Surrey County Council included those from SE Looked After Children's Team, Surrey Virtual School for Looked After Children and other teams like these.

Brooklands were the highest referrer outside of the County Council bodies and it is also interesting to note there were 14 parent/self-referrals.

A focus point for the Fund's work moving forward will be to maintain the strong relationship with Surrey Family Services and the County Council but also to increase our outreach to other organisations



Amber Foundation  
Brooklands College  
Guildford Action for Families  
Hope Service  
Richmond Fellowship  
Richmond Fellowship Mid-Surrey

SCL  
Surrey Choices Employability  
Surrey County Council  
Surrey Family Services  
U-Explore  
Waverley Training Service

## End of Grant Case Studies

### Case 1

A young man who was unable to complete conventional schooling due to his complex conditions. Having undertaken supported learning at Brooklands he enrolled on a L1 catering course to pursue his passion for cooking and needed catering uniform and equipment to undertake the course, but family circumstances made the purchase of these very difficult. SYPF were delighted to fund this grant, and he successfully completed his L1 course and has moved onto L2, keeping his dream of moving into a catering job very much alive.

### Case 2

A young carer for her mother; she also had a number of mental health issues to deal with. As with many young carers, school was a struggle; however, thanks to her efforts and some great support she managed to achieve several GCSEs. Her passion for the beauty sector led her to study for L1 and L2 Beauty in order to work towards her objective of running her own beauty business whilst continuing to care for her mother. SYPF were able to help her by contributing to her course costs, and she is now well on the way to achieving her ambition.

### Case 3

This young person had a number of mental health concerns and struggled in conventional education, so was supported to attend the Therapy Garden, where he thrived and discovered a passion for gardening and horticulture. He received guidance and support whilst at Therapy Garden and displayed significant personal development whilst there. He has now successfully applied to attend Merrist Wood College to move towards obtaining a qualification in either landscape gardening or horticulture.

### Case 4

This young person experienced homelessness and mental health challenges, as well as physical injuries. He was determined to move into health and social care and was supported by SYPF into an online training course. He successfully completed the course and has now moved into work in a care home.

## Testimonials from applicants

'I have been working but since coronavirus I stopped for a bit, but back to work next month so it has been good thanks – appreciate the help.'

'Thank you and your helpful team very much for helping me to progress and do my work with this precious laptop. I really appreciate it. God bless you and your team.'

'I'm doing good thanks. I'm planning on finding a full-time job in a salon and then hopefully move on to starting up my own business sometime in the future.'

'Had nearly a year out because of Covid, but back now, can't thank you people enough for the grant, feel like part of the team now.'

'My laptop has been a tremendous help, especially since having to do college work online. In my progress meeting with my teachers, they tell me I'm a top student and all my coursework meets the standard. I couldn't have done this well if I hadn't received a laptop because it would have been impossible to do my course work on my phone.'

'Course is going very well, and I am planning to work in a local spa where I am currently gaining work experience. Thank you!'

'Doing very well on my L1 Catering course and looking forward to L2 Catering and Hospitality next year.'

# FUND STATEMENT

## Grants Fund Statement

<b>Opening Balance at 01 January 2021</b>			<b>£61,096.04</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	
Donations	£22,669.50		
Gift Aid	£1,750		
Grant from Surrey Supported Employment Fund	£3,000.00		
Contribution to Community Foundation		£2,441.65	
Grant Payments		£18,107.11	
Grant Payments Returns	£1,136.12		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£20,548.76</b>	
<b>Balance available for grant-making at 31 December 2021</b>			<b>£69,102.90</b>

## Statement of Grants Given 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Date	Applicant	Amount	Note
22/01/2021	SYP716	£400.00	Funding for a disadvantaged young person to attend weekly training at a Therapy Garden for a term
22/01/2021	SYP723	£229.00	Funding towards clothing, travel costs and an online course for a disadvantaged young person
22/01/2021	SYP719	£271.98	Funding for a disadvantaged young person to purchase equipment for a college course
22/02/2021	SYP728	£195.00	Funding towards the cost of an online course for a disadvantaged young person
22/02/2021	SYP718	£319.78	Funding for a disadvantaged young person to attend an online course, exam fees and protective clothing
22/02/2021	SYP727	£298.99	Funding toward a laptop and online course fee for a disadvantaged young person
18/03/2021	SYP732	£513.00	Funding toward the course and exam fees for a disadvantaged young person to study Maths and English GCSEs

07/04/2021	SYP739	£298.99	Funding for a laptop to enable a disadvantaged young person to access online training and seek employment
07/04/2021	SYP742	£114.27	Funding to enable a disadvantaged young person to complete Maths and English qualifications
14/04/2021	SYP740	£330.00	Funding towards GCSE Maths and Physics tutoring for a disadvantaged young person
27/04/2021	SYP745	£300.00	Funding towards clothing, kit and construction card for a disadvantaged young person
27/04/2021	SYP747	£354.69	Funding toward uniform and travel for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
07/05/2021	SYP713	£249.00	Funding for a laptop for a disadvantaged young person to access online training for a career in social care
02/06/2021	SYP749	£328.99	Funding for a laptop and software for a disadvantaged young person to access online training
08/06/2021	SYP746	£211.00	Funding towards studying mechanics and equipment for a disadvantaged young person
22/06/2021	SYP754	£310.00	Funding towards workwear for a disadvantaged young person
22/06/2021	SYP755	£160.00	Funding towards course fees for a disadvantaged young
22/06/2021	SYP757	£350.00	Funding toward course fees and tools for a disadvantaged young person
24/06/2021	SYP751	£328.99	Funding towards the purchase of a laptop to access online learning for a disadvantaged young person
29/06/2021	SYP759	£260.00	Funding towards kit so that a disadvantaged young person can attend a training course
20/07/2021	SYP762	£500.00	Funding towards the cost of a moped so a disadvantaged young person to travel to work
20/07/2021	SYP765	£188.98	Funding towards revision materials and test fees for a disadvantaged young person to help find employment



11/08/2021	SYP758	£325.00	Funding towards course fees and kit for a disadvantaged young person to complete a beauty course
12/08/2021	SYP763	£172.00	Funding towards a bus pass for a disadvantaged young person to travel to community-based volunteering roles
13/08/2021	SYP764	£300.00	Funding towards CBT training, a helmet and partial costs towards a moped for a disadvantaged young person
23/08/2021	SYP770	£400.00	Funding towards the purchase of barbering equipment for a disadvantaged young person so that they can seek employment as a barber
23/08/2021	SYP773	£293.49	Funding to purchase clothing for a disadvantaged young person to attend fitness instructor training
23/08/2021	SYP772	£219.99	Funding towards equipment and a construction course for a disadvantaged young person so that they can seek employment as a labourer
27/08/2021	SYP775	£60.00	Funding towards safety clothing so a disadvantaged young person can attend a college course
09/09/2021	SYP774	£284.00	Funding towards travel expenses and the cost of a provisional driving licence for a disadvantaged young person
09/09/2021	SYP790	£155.17	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
09/09/2021	SYP787	£277.59	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
09/09/2021	SYP785	£247.70	Funding toward kit for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
09/09/2021	SYP784	£155.17	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
09/09/2021	SYP783	£46.68	Funding toward uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend a college training course
09/09/2021	SYP781	£319.95	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
09/09/2021	SYP780	£29.89	Funding toward uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend a college training course

10/09/2021	SYP791	£348.56	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
10/09/2021	SYP792	£277.59	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
14/09/2021	SYP794	£320.80	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
14/09/2021	SYP800	£319.95	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
14/09/2021	SYP798	£348.56	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
14/09/2021	SYP796	£348.56	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
14/09/2021	SYP797	£348.56	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend college
17/09/2021	SYP801	£277.59	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend a Level 2 Hairdressing course at college
21/09/2021	SYP789	£350.00	Funding toward barbering kit for a disadvantaged young person to seek work as a barber
21/09/2021	SYP805	£277.59	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend a Level 2 Hair course at college
21/09/2021	SYP799	£348.56	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend a Level 1 Catering course at college
21/09/2021	SYP806	£172.00	Funding towards travel costs for a disadvantaged young person to get to college
21/09/2021	SYP803	£277.59	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend Level 2 Hair course at college
23/09/2021	SYP760	£1,000.00	Funding towards course fees so a disadvantaged young person can attend a Masters Degree course ( <i>L4 Trail</i> )
27/09/2021	SYP776	£299.99	Funding towards a laptop for a disadvantaged young person to use on their studies of a Level 2 childcare course

29/09/2021	SYP809	£177.98	Funding towards work clothing for a disadvantaged young person
29/09/2021	SYP808	£201.72	Funding towards equipment and football coaching courses for a disadvantaged young person
01/10/2021	SYP810	£319.95	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend a Level 2 Beauty Course at college
01/10/2021	SYP813	£319.95	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend a level 2 beauty course at college
07/10/2021	SYP812	£429.00	Funding toward a laptop and clothing to help a disadvantaged young person to study L1 Construction, Maths and English at college
22/10/2021	SYP816	£299.00	Funding toward a laptop for a disadvantaged young person to attend online panels and participation groups
17/12/2021	SYP826	£279.00	Funding toward the purchase of a laptop for a disadvantaged young person to complete college coursework
17/12/2021	SYP804	£54.46	Funding towards work safety wear for a disadvantaged young person to attend a community gardening project
17/12/2021	SYP825	£335.86	Funding toward kit and uniform for a disadvantaged young person to attend a level 1 catering course at college
17/12/2021	SYP824	£325.00	Funding towards a the cost of a cake decoration course so a disadvantaged young person can learn new skills that may lead to employment
24/12/2021	SYP819	£250.00	Funding towards travel costs so a disadvantaged young person can attend college

*The variance in grants paid out to grants awarded is accounted for in a number of grants which are being paid in instalments, and will be shown as expenditure in the following year.*