



Surrey Young People's Fund

Helping young people gain access to training and employment



Annual Report Jan 2022 - March 2023

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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 900 applicants for grants to help young people to improve their life prospects, and have awarded more than 580 grants, but there are many more who still require our assistance.

2022 represented a more complex period for young people in Surrey; dealing with the emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic; war in Europe and elsewhere leading to increasing numbers of refugees in the county; whilst increasing economic hardship as the year progressed impacted disadvantaged young people disproportionately. This shows no sign of abating as we move through the early part of 2023, resulting in major increases in mental health and wellbeing issues occurring.

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.

A major new venture for us in 2022 has been the creation of an SYPF endowment fund in addition to our normal funding pathway, enabling Donors who wish to provide a longer-term support mechanism to be able to do so.

Since the Fund's creation it has been a pleasure to work together with our talented team of panel members and CFS 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. These also help us to assist the young people on their 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

The Surrey Young People's Fund Panel



Nick Brooks: Chair



Andrew Whitby-Collins: Vice-Chair



Anna Briggs



Clive Strong



Jonathan Hayward



Lesley Machin



Nishi Singh



Rebecca Smith



Sally Knight



Tim Foster

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 March 2023 the Fund received donations totalling over £231,000 and supported 589 determined young people who wanted to improve their prospects, awarding a total of over £160,000.

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

In the 15 months to March 2023, the average grant size was £369.31 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 achieved, or are likely to achieve, less than 5 GCSEs at grades 4-9
- People who are not in full time (16+ hours pw) employment or occupy low paid roles
- People with disabilities or restricted by physical or mental health conditions
- People in or leaving care
- Carers (including Surrey Young Carers)
- People with criminal convictions
- People who are or have been in receipt of free school meals, and/or are in receipt of college bursaries.
- Refugees

Grants from SYPF are typically between £100 and £400 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 to improve social skills, motivation, and confidence

Requests typically fall into one of the following categories:

- Course fees and examination costs
- Travel costs for education, training, or employment
- Equipment, materials, or tools
- Work- or training-related clothing
- Volunteering/work placement costs
- Online learning

Fund Activity

Donations received

Seven individual Donors, three companies, three local lotteries, 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 £231,443 in donations, for which we are most appreciative. From January 2022 to March 2023, donations were received to the value of £47,579. It goes without saying that the generosity of our Donors enables SYPF to continue to support more young people year on year.

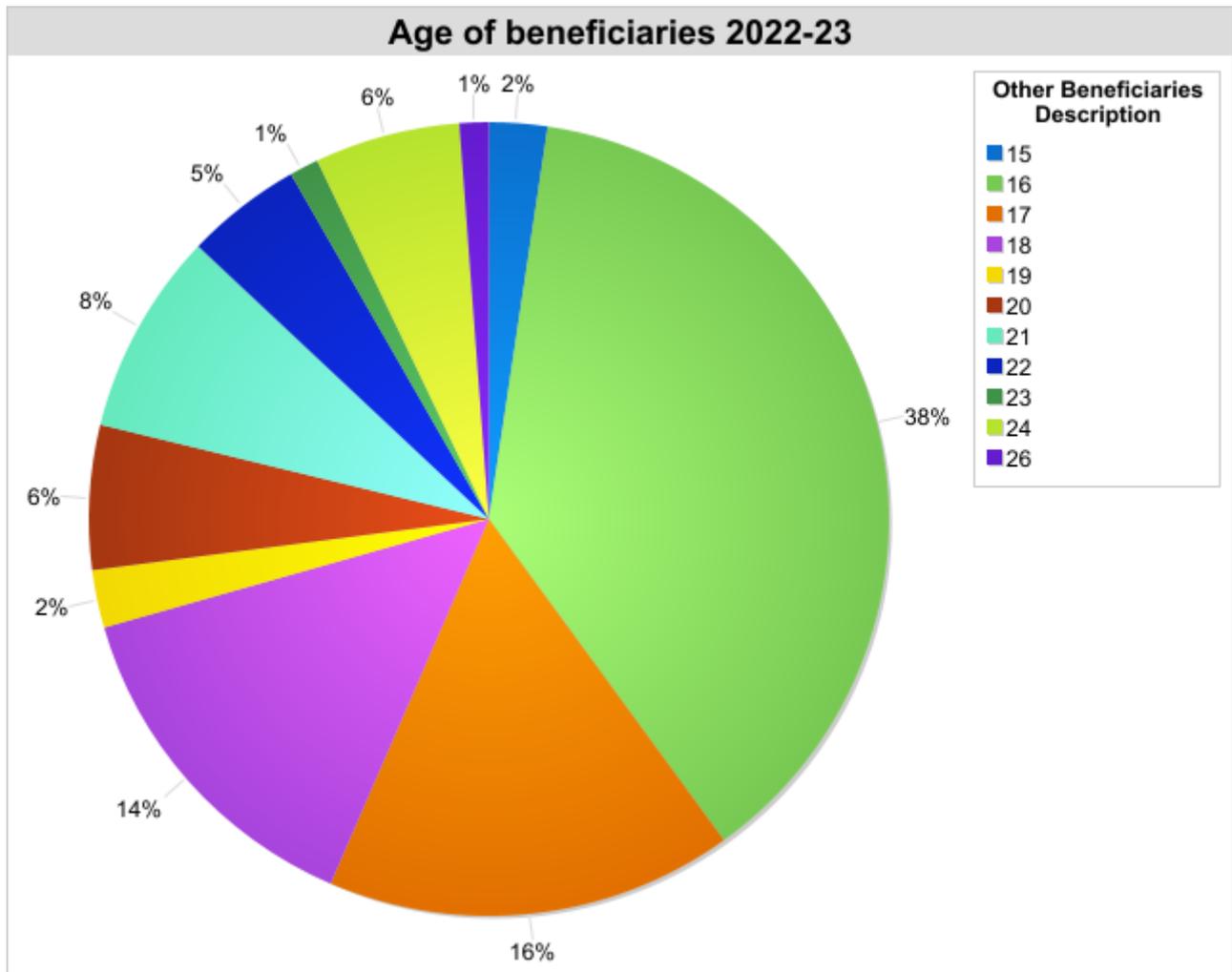
Applicants the Fund has supported in the 15 months to March 2023

Analysis of grant recipients indicates the following spread of representation across our primary areas of focus; 52% of grantees identified a combination of these categories, demonstrating the depth of the needs we deal with.

- **64% of grantees had not achieved, or were unlikely to achieve, 5 GCSEs grades 4 and above.**
- **39% of grantees included the category 'People who are not in full time (16+ hours pw) employment'.**
- **6% of grantees were reported having criminal convictions.**
- **17% of grantees were in or leaving care.**
- **25% of grantees identified as having a disability.**
- **29% 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 the 15 months to March 2023. Accounting for 38% of successful grant applicants were those aged 16, the second largest age group were 17-year-olds at 16%. 27% of successful applicants were aged 20 or over.

This year, we accepted applications for young people slightly outside of our age typical range. This is occasionally considered when exceptional circumstances exist, and when the young person is very close to either a 16th or 26th birthday.



Nature of grants awarded

The average size of grant provided was £369. 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 Health and Social care, CBT bike training, Psychology, and a Gold DofE 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 a number of challenges including mental health conditions and enabled the completion of an introductory Teaching Assistant qualification.

- **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 providing bikes to enable young people to access college and work placements.

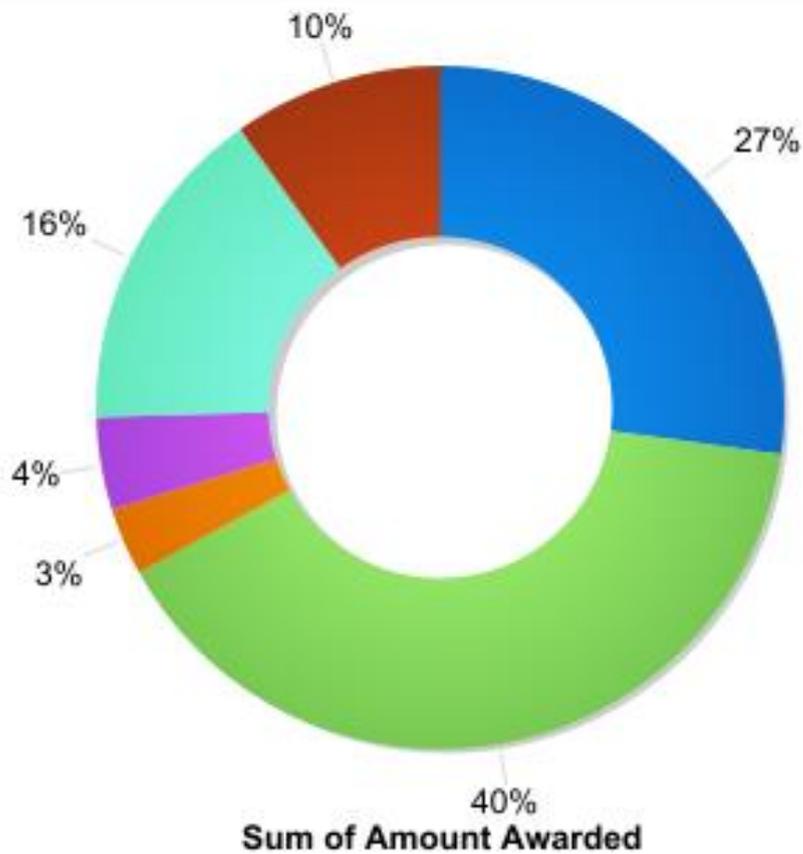
One grant supported a young person who had anxiety from extreme bullying at school, and was from a significantly financially disadvantaged background, to access a travel pass in order to attend college.

- **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 2022



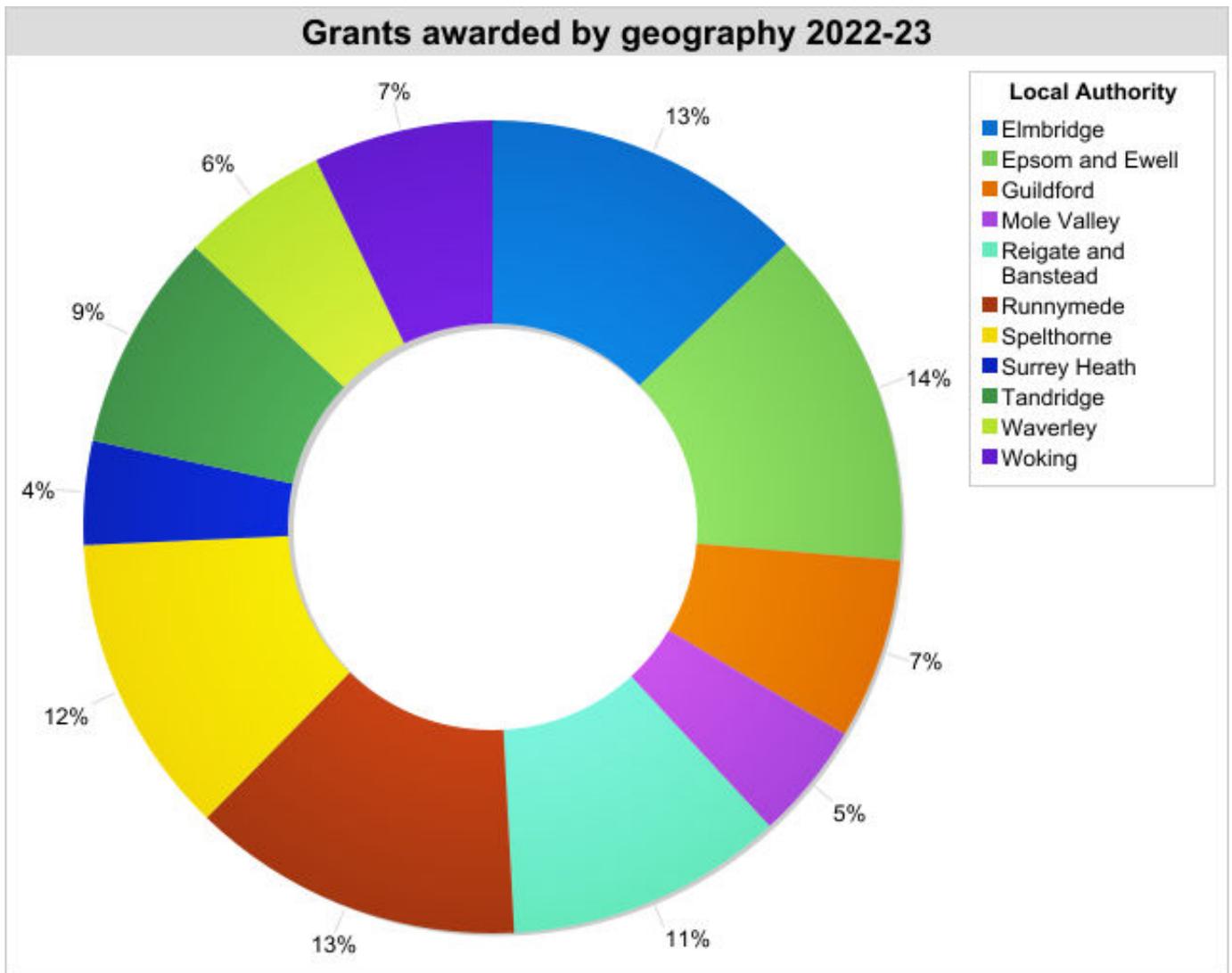
What is the need & how was it identified

- Course fees
- Equipment, materials or tools
- Equipment, materials or tools Course fees
- Equipment, materials or tools Work or training related clothing
- Travel costs (for education, training or employment)
- 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 value of grant funding during this period were made were Epsom and Ewell with 14%, closely followed by Elmbridge and Runnymede, both with 13%.

Surrey Heath received the smallest amount this year (4% of grant funding awarded), followed by Mole Valley (5% of grant funding awarded) and Waverley (6% of grant funding awarded).



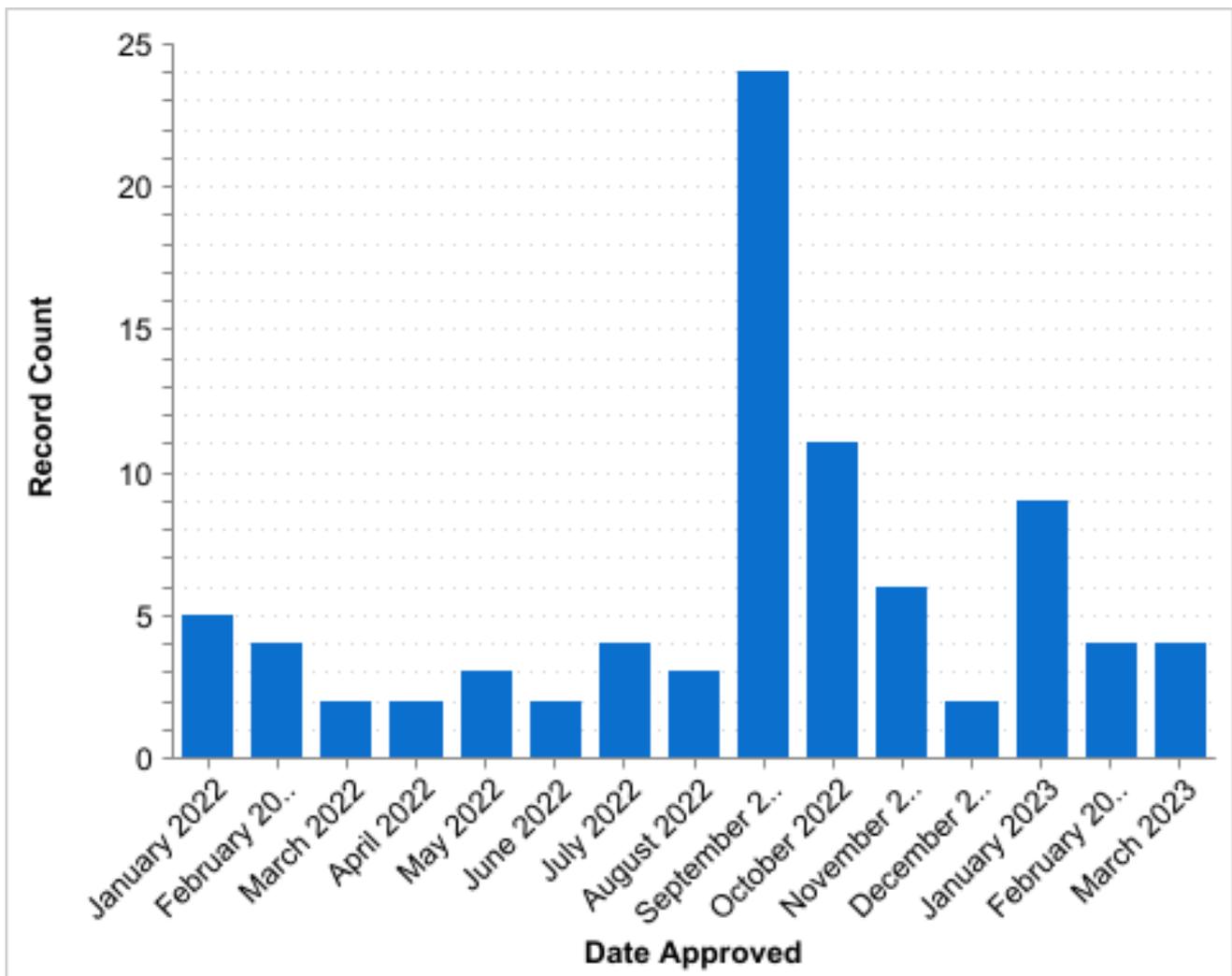
Grants awarded

From the time of establishment to March 2023, 589 grants have been awarded to the value of just over £160,666. The maximum grant award was £1,440, 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 2022 totalled £22,987. (The total for the 15 month period to April 2023 was £31,391.)

In 2022/23 the grant application pattern returned to more 'normal' years as colleges and institutions adapted to dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 Level 4 and above and determine levels of need. The trial was a success, and we are now able to include L4 and above courses as eligible for young people to seek grant applications for associated costs.

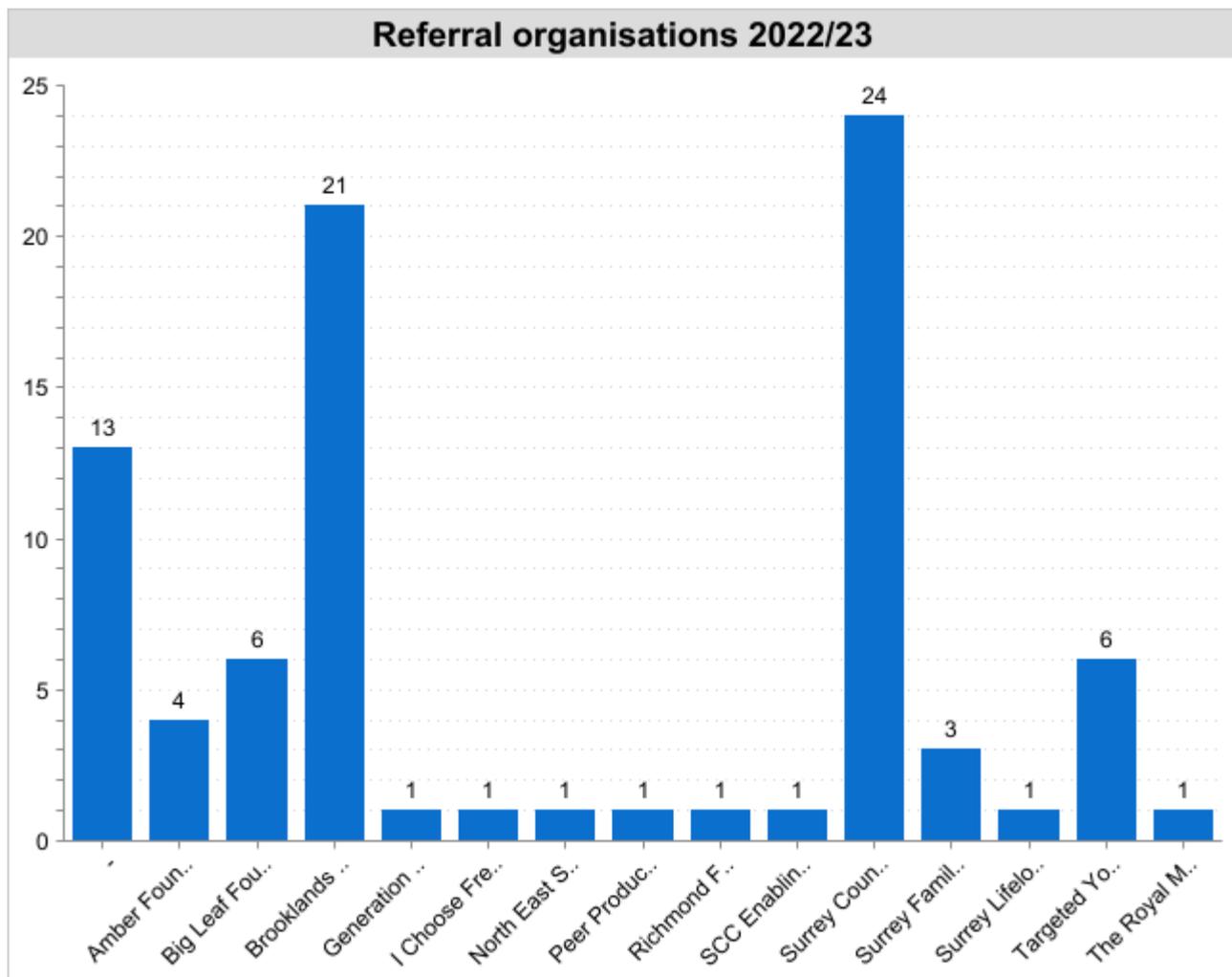


Referral organisations

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 2022/23. 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 13 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
 Big Leaf Foundation
 Brooklands College
 Generation Church
 I Choose Freedom
 North East Surrey Stay School
 Peer Productions

Richmond Fellowship Mid-Surrey
 SCC Enabling Independence Service
 Surrey County Council
 Surrey Family Services
 Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership
 Targeted Youth Support North Surrey
 The Royal Marsden Hospital

End of Grant Case Studies

Case 1

Having been a carer for his mother, under Surrey Young Carers, since he was 12, this very responsible young man, a leader at his local youth club, did not settle in schools and had false starts with courses for work he decided was not for him. He is now set on a career as a fully trained paramedic, and the Fund paid for him to complete a course for First Response Emergency Care (FREC) as the first step in his qualifications for the ambulance service. He is now progressing his plan with experience as a First aid responder, with a view to taking the next level FREC course as soon as appropriate.

Case 2

This young man was in the care system from the age of 11, living in various homes around the country. His teens had been chaotic and with no direction and little engagement in education. With mentoring and support from Surrey Care Leavers service, he secured work experience as a plasterer. The Fund was pleased to fund the purchase of specialist tools to help him progress his career. Passionate about his work and developing his career, he has since secured a formal apprenticeship, as a specialist plasterer in the entertainment industry.

Testimonials from applicants and referrers

Below are just some examples of the feedback we have received from young people, their families and their referring agencies. Please note, names have been changed, to protect the young people's identities.

"Both students are doing great. It has made such a huge difference to both families. Emily's attendance is excellent and I know it has made things much easier for mum (financially and time wise) and Sarah has just settled in brilliantly and her attendance has increased a great deal and she rarely misses college days after a rocky start (she'd been out of education a long time so took her a while to settle in). Both students are set to gain their qualifications at the end of the year, have grown in confidence, and we are only halfway through the academic year, so I am sure they will continue to grow. They are like different young people since attending our setting and if they did not have access to the taxi service I believe they would still be spending a lot of time at home doing very little and not having the positive interactions they are having now – the funding they received made all of that possible!!! Thank you!"

Case worker for two young people

"I wanted to thank-you again for the grant you gave me to support with my A-Level studies. The grant enabled me to study for two A-Levels which will, hopefully, get me onto a science foundation year at university. This, in turn, will enable me to gain enough UCAS points to then take a degree (at the moment I am considering Palaeontology). In addition to opening up future prospects for me, the grant meant that my parents didn't have to pay for the A-Levels themselves and, instead, they were able to pay for more regular counselling for me. This really helped with my anxiety and I am learning coping strategies that help me deal with it better. It is a long process, but the grant has helped me begin that process, and I am starting to believe in a future with university in it. I did not feel like that before the grant, so thank-you again."

A young person who received a grant award

"Hello Anna, the travel grant money helped me a lot, including the boots and jacket, they have been really useful as well! The money I received from you helped me and my Dad a lot, especially with the cost-of-living crisis, and the winter months! I am still studying at College doing Animal Care, but in recent months it's been a nightmare due to rail strikes, but I have persevered! Sometimes it'll take me up to 4 hours to actually get there! We're very grateful to people like you, thank you so much! Take care, God bless."

A young person who received a grant award

"Hi, I just want to say what an amazing organisation you are and I want to say thank you to the team and especially Andrew for supplying me with an iPad for my tattoo apprenticeship. It has been a tough few months for me and you have brought me so much joy from doing this. You have unlocked endless amounts of doors for me, and I couldn't be more appreciative. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you."

A young person who received a grant award

"Hi - Just to let u know the laptop came and we are both so grateful it's going to make such a difference to Lucy's education."

Parent of a young person who received a grant award

Epsom & Ewell Hub @EpsomEwellHub · Feb 9

...

The team at @EpsomEwellHub wanted to extend a huge THANK YOU to @CFSurrey for awarding one of our participants over £700 from the Surrey Young People's Fund, to get her crafts business off the ground. We're all so excited to see what the future holds....



Hi Claudia,
I have received all the equipment for my small business and have double checked that everything is working properly.
I am very excited and pleased with my equipment and looking forward to starting my small business.

Eleanor

Epsom & Ewell Hub
Participant

