

London Array Offshore Wind Farm Community Fund

Impact Report 2025



Introduction from KCF



At Kent Community Foundation we set great stock by really understanding the difference our grants make and the impact they have on people's lives. You'll see in this report stories of individual impact, from organisations supported by the London Array Offshore Wind Farm Community Fund and the onward benefit to the communities they work with. Thank you for your support – it makes a real difference to those living across the county.

- Natalie Smith, Director of Grants & Impact.

List of Grants Awarded

APPLICANT

AMOUNT

2024

Windmill Community Gardens Margate East	£4,900
Kent Rape Crisis Centre	£1,800
Broadstairs Lifeguard and Swimming Club	£2,000
Dentaid The Dental Charity	£1,475
Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ltd	£3,000
Discovery Planet CIC	£3,500
The Zone Youth Club, Broadstairs	£3,000
Westgate Youth Project	£3,000
1 st St Lawrence Scouts & 6 th Ramsgate Guides	£2,000
Sunken Garden Society	£3,000
Thanet Foodlink Ltd	£4,000
RNLI Ramsgate Lifeboat Station	£1,000
Salvation Army, Ramsgate	£489
Age UK Thanet Ltd	£1,630
RNLI Ramsgate Lifeboat Station	£489
Thanet Foodlink Ltd	£1,467
Mama to Mama	£1,500

Key Statistics



30,518 beneficiaries supported



£38,250 given out in grants



17 organisations supported

Sustainable Development Goals

As an environmentally mindful funder we are also measuring our impact against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These are international targets for social and environmental justice, which many countries are working towards achieving by 2030. We have chosen nine of the 17 goals which are particularly relevant to Kent and are capturing our grant-making against them. Relating to your fund we have selected the top three goals your grant-making has met.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Windmill Community Gardens Margate

Windmill Community Gardens Margate (WCGM) aims to create a thriving Thanet where people feel connected to their community and environment. The organisation co-produces outdoor learning, training and social opportunities with the community to build skills, knowledge and confidence that improve economic, physical and emotional wellbeing.

The grant - £4,900 was used to purchase and install a second-hand log cabin, alongside improvements including a roof extension with guttering for rainwater harvesting, hard standing, a hot water cabinet, a stove, built-in storage and outdoor shade tarps.

The impact - This funding has transformed WCGM's site into a much more welcoming, functional and resilient space. Where there was previously no shelter, participants and volunteers now have indoor and outdoor areas where they can rest, cook, clean and store belongings in comfort. The new facilities have created a safe and supportive environment, particularly valuable for individuals facing complex life challenges who need one-to-one support and respite from demanding physical tasks. As a result, 36 people accessed learning that increased their skills, 17 experienced improvements to health and wellbeing, 16 reported increased confidence, 6 moved into employment and 4 became volunteers. The project has provided both practical and emotional benefits, enabling participants to develop life skills while feeling respected, supported and part of a community.



Mama to Mama

Mama to Mama is the only baby bank in Thanet, providing essential newborn items to vulnerable families through high-quality, preloved donations. Working through referrals from maternity, social, and care workers, they offer bespoke care packages that restore dignity and build trust. Their support reaches those facing poverty, domestic abuse, mental health challenges, homelessness and more.

The grant - £1,500 helped cover warehouse rent and utility bills, allowing the charity to remain operational and continue offering vital services.

The impact - Between April and December 2024, the charity supported 126 families with items worth over £85,000. The funding enabled them to secure a larger warehouse, boosting their capacity to store and distribute essential items like prams and mattresses. It also improved their efficiency through better storage systems and allowed referral partners to tailor support to each family's needs.

Additional services like wellbeing workshops, a signposting service and upcoming infant feeding and baby massage groups have enhanced longer-term support for families. The warehouse remains the hub of their operations, making this funding essential in continuing to provide a lifeline for local families in crisis.

Dentaid the Dental Charity

Dentaid is committed to making dentistry accessible to those who need it most by providing essential care to underserved communities, promoting oral health education and increasing access to services in areas facing health inequalities. The organisation takes a compassionate approach that restores dignity, confidence and wellbeing.

The grant - £1,475 was used to support outreach dental clinics for vulnerable adults in Thanet through the Rough Sleeper Information Support Empowerment programme, providing 178 different forms of urgent free dental care.

The impact - Between April 2024 and January 2025, Dentaid ran six clinics and supported 43 individuals with oral assessments, cancer screenings, hygiene instruction and treatments including x-rays, fillings, extractions and scale and polish. Five patients were referred to secondary care, highlighting the importance of early detection in preventing serious illness. The clinics prevented repeat A&E visits for unmanaged dental pain and improved patients' quality of life by enabling them to eat, work and engage more fully. Every patient also received tailored oral health advice and a hygiene pack, with feedback showing how valuable this support was. The grant ensured continuity of access to this vital service and made a lasting difference to some of the most vulnerable people in the community.



Case Study:

"I have been very unhappy with my teeth for so long now. My mum never encouraged me to brush or look after my teeth. I have not seen a dentist in over 4 years, when I last had four injections. That experience left me traumatised and screaming in agony. I had to be put to sleep for my wisdom tooth extraction. My general health is not good and this has been deteriorating since becoming homeless. Just three weeks ago I had a mini heart attack and told I have an arrhythmia.

I feel very lucky to have seen the dentist today. Not having a home, somewhere to keep all my belongings, and feel safe, has made it hard to do simple things like brush my teeth twice a day. I need the majority of my teeth and many roots removed and thank the team for their help today."

Outcome:

Our clinical team are supporting with a referral to his local hospital for a full clearance of the remaining roots.

Discovery Planet CIC

Discovery Planet was established in 2013 to bring enriching educational experiences into the heart of disadvantaged communities. By making learning accessible and animating public spaces, the organisation creates opportunities for people to connect and for partners to strengthen the area as a better place to live.

The grant - £3,500 was used to support staff costs and venue rental, enabling Discovery Planet to deliver a broad and exciting programme of workshops.

The impact - As a result, over 5,000 children and family members engaged in high-quality learning experiences they would otherwise have faced barriers to accessing. Workshops ranged from STEM subjects such as meteorites, materials science and light, to creative writing, graphic novels and health-based learning.

Partnerships with local organisations and businesses linked scientific research to real-world applications, inspiring young people about future careers. Quiet sessions ensured inclusion for children with special educational needs, while at least ten local students gained valuable skills through work experience and volunteering. Feedback highlighted increased confidence, improved public speaking and a stronger sense of belonging, while events like Refugee Week created opportunities for the community to come together over shared positive experiences. The grant not only supported Discovery Planet to deliver inspiring education but also strengthened collaboration with other organisations and extended their reach into the community.

“One moment in particular comes to mind from the Christmas session. Three boys attended and I noticed their parents were not there with them like all the other children. They explained to me that they had been hanging around in town, noticed Discovery Planet and came in from the street.

They were very engaged in the activities, enjoying making a light-up Christmas card and making slime. I was based on the Christmas card table and I noticed one of the boys had written in his card 'Dear Mum and Dad, I know I'm a pain in the ass sometimes, but I don't really mean it. Love you, [name].' This really touched me.

Then I realised the true impact of community based projects. They had come off the street into the warm, been given some free popcorn to eat, learnt something new and had made connections with people and I felt proud of the impact Discovery Planet had made on the community that day."



1st St Lawrence Scouts & 6th Ramsgate Guides

1st St Lawrence Scout Group was established in 1909 and is based in Ramsgate, Kent. The group has over 150 young people taking part in Scouts, developing skills for life and building a strong reputation across the county.

The grant - £2,000 was used to replace the existing doors at the Scout hut with new insulated doors.

The impact - This improvement has significantly increased the energy efficiency of the building, ensuring that heat is retained and draughts are eliminated. The hut is now warmer and more comfortable for the young people and volunteers who use it regularly, especially during the colder months. By making the space more welcoming and reducing energy loss, the grant has helped the group save on running costs while creating a better environment for meetings, activities and community events.

The old doors were difficult to operate and in emergency situations children might struggle to open them. The new doors have made the hut safer, warmer and a nicer place to be.

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Less maintenance required and more secure, a perfect addition to the hut!

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Great to have the hut more secure and that suitable doors are fitted in case of emergency and to meet fire regulations.

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Thanet Foodlink Ltd

Thanet Foodlink Ltd provides food parcels for people in need across Thanet, Kent. By supplementing donated goods with purchased food, it ensures parcels are well-balanced and able to meet the needs of local families and individuals facing hardship.

The grant - £4,000, plus the additional £1,467, was used entirely to purchase food, with a focus on fresh fruit and vegetables that are rarely donated but essential for a healthy diet.

The impact - This funding enabled the organisation to continue meeting consistently high demand during a time of rising living costs and reduced donations. Over the past ten months, many households struggling with soaring heating bills relied on food parcels to make ends meet and the inclusion of fresh produce significantly improved the nutritional quality of support offered.

Alongside the emergency provision, the organisation introduced new measures to reduce long-term reliance, including a system where those reaching their sixth parcel are invited to meet with a specialist advisor for financial and benefits guidance.

This approach ensures that people not only receive vital food during times of crisis but are also supported to build resilience and reduce dependency in the future.



Case Study

An elderly man started using us about a year ago. On his first visit he said that he had been told to come by the police who had stopped him jumping into the sea the previous night. His wife had just died and he didn't want to continue to live.

One of our volunteers, an ex military man like he was, spoke for a long time with him, and put him into contact with a veterans organisation. This gentleman continued coming, and then became ill himself. He was refusing treatment, but kept coming to us - just popping in to chat even when he had had his full quota of bags.

He has had his treatment and is doing well. Sometimes, it is not just the food that is important - it is the hope and message that someone cares that makes such a huge difference.

Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ltd

Thanet Wanderers aims to be recognised as a centre for the provision and appreciation of rugby in the community. The club seeks to develop players both physically and mentally in a safe environment, fostering teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship.

The grant - £3,000 was used to provide fully qualified and DBS-accredited rugby coaches to deliver free coaching through the Schools and Community Programme and SEND Initiative.

The impact - As a result, more children in junior and primary schools were able to experience rugby, many for the first time. Coaching sessions during school hours gave young people the chance to take part in physical activity not otherwise available in their curriculum, while also introducing them to the values of teamwork, fair play and respect. The programme proved particularly valuable in encouraging girls to take part in the sport, aligning with the excitement around the Women's Rugby World Cup taking place in Britain. The grant enabled Thanet Wanderers to widen access to rugby, helping more young people build confidence, enjoy sport and become part of a supportive community.



Age UK Thanet Ltd

Age UK Thanet supports people over 50 who are struggling with isolation, health, finances and their home environment. The charity's aim is to improve later life through tailored wraparound services delivered both in the community and at its Margate Community Hub.

The grant - £1,630 was used to host a Valentine's event at the Hub, including music, dancing and shared food and to provide 36 free hot meals for older people living alone and facing the cost-of-living crisis.

The impact - This funding came at an especially important time, as Valentine's Day can be difficult for those who have lost partners or friends, compounding feelings of loneliness during the cold winter months. The event created a warm, welcoming space where clients could come together to celebrate, reminisce and share stories, while enjoying a wholesome meal. For many, it provided not only companionship but also an opportunity to talk about their worries and find reassurance and support. The grant helped reduce isolation, lift spirits and ensure that vulnerable older people in Thanet felt valued and cared for.

Westgate Youth Project

Westgate Youth Project runs The Umbrella Club, a targeted youth provision for young people aged 10 to 19 with hidden disabilities. The project was launched in May 2017 to address barriers to participation and provide a safe space where young people can connect, belong and grow.

The grant - £3,000 was used to cover essential core costs over the year including staff costs, rent, insurance and accounting fees.

The impact - The grant made it possible for The Umbrella Club to run consistently throughout the year, including school holidays, which meant more young people across Thanet and the surrounding areas were able to benefit from the service. They joined a welcoming community where they could take part in sports, arts and crafts, cooking, team games and other engaging activities suited to their individual needs. They also had access to information, advice and signposting to additional services for themselves and their families. By helping young people feel included and valued, the project strengthened their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing, boosted their resilience and encouraged greater aspirations for the future. Without this support, the project would not have been able to continue making such a positive difference.



"I have a young person who we have fostered since he was 4 and he is now 12. He has hidden disabilities and has literally struggled in school with his peers since he started, even though he is in small classes and specialist schools.

We have been attending the Umbrella Ulub for a few years now and it is the only time that I do not have to worry about him.

He can be totally himself. All the young people that attend seem happy and have fun. There are lots of activities that they can participate in or walk away in the middle of it and do something else. There is no pressure and when he is here he is not anxious or hyper vigilant because he feels safe and there are no people looking down at him or leaving him out because he doesn't fit in.

The fact that it runs all year is excellent and we would really miss it if it wasn't here.

The staff are fantastic and we appreciate all the time and effort they put in working around their day jobs.

I cannot praise this wonderful club enough. Without it our son would have nowhere to go to be around like minded young children. It has helped him to improve his social skills and it's great because likeminded children do not notice other children's hidden disabilities and this is why it works.

Paula has worked tirelessly to keep this club going through the years and that is why it is successful.

Our son is not really aware that he is different to main stream children because that is his hidden disability but all I know is when he is at the Umbrella Club he can be himself and that is so important."

Sunken Garden Society

The Sunken Garden Society is a community group working to revive and improve the Sunken Garden in Westbrook, Margate, which had been neglected for many years. The group aims to restore features such as benches, pathways and stonework so the space can be enjoyed by local people of all ages, including families, those with accessibility needs and individuals at risk of isolation.

The grant - £3,000 was used to support the organisation's Eco Fair, which brought together experts, community groups and local residents to share knowledge and celebrate the environment.

The impact - The event featured talks from national speakers including Frances Tophill from BBC Gardeners' World, Hugh Warwick and others who inspired audiences about gardening, wildlife and sustainability. More than 30 organisations hosted information points covering themes from careers in horticulture and plant health to pollination and conservation, while local makers and growers raised additional funds for the garden. Workshops and activities engaged children and families in foraging, composting, planting, bookmaking and nature walks, while artist Louis Michel created a striking bee sculpture to highlight the importance of pollinators.

The Eco Fair created an inclusive and lively space where multiple generations came together to learn, connect and celebrate the natural world. Feedback showed that both visitors and the 30 participating organisations benefitted from the opportunity to share eco-focused knowledge and strengthen community ties, making the event a catalyst for positive environmental action in Thanet.

Broadstairs Lifeguard and Swimming Club

Broadstairs Lifeguard and Swimming Club aims to introduce and develop water confidence and swimming skills in young people at affordable prices. It also provides personal survival training and supports the next generation of swimming teachers and lifeguards.

The grant - £2,000 was used to fund two young adults, both under 21, to complete their Level 1 and Level 2 coaching courses, enabling them to qualify as swimming teachers within the club.

The impact - As a result of this funding, the club has been able to increase its capacity and offer more young people the chance to learn to swim and feel safe in the water at an affordable cost. The two newly qualified teachers have quickly grown in confidence and now lead their own lanes, teaching swimmers of all abilities and delivering high-quality sessions every week. The grant also made it possible to run a recruitment campaign in January, bringing membership back up to full capacity and expanding opportunities for young people in the community. By investing in the training of young volunteers, the project not only strengthened the club's teaching team but also provided life-changing skills and experiences that will continue to benefit both the volunteers and the wider community for years to come.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to train as a swim teacher, thanks to the generous funding provided by London Array."

The swimming course has been truly invaluable—not only has it equipped me with the best techniques to teach young people how to swim, but it has also boosted my confidence in everyday life. I absolutely love being part of the team that organises the swim sessions, and I'm excited to continue making a positive impact."



