

BETTYS & TAYLORS GROUP

A GREAT YORKSHIRE FAMILY BUSINESS



15

grants awarded



£126,770

total grants awarded



£8,451

average grant



1,212

people supported



Bettys & Taylors Group Community Fund
Impact Report 2025

Bettys & Taylors Group Community Fund

An introduction

The Bettys and Taylors Group Community Fund has been developed as part of the Group's community support activity. The fund supports community activity that centres on employability and skills development for local people who live approximately within 15 miles of Bettys Café Tea Rooms and the Bettys & Taylors Group head office: Harrogate, Northallerton, Ilkley and York.

The projects funded help to develop people's life skills onto a pathway of employability, such as cookery, literacy, communication and IT. They also offer formal skills, training and education to enhance people's employability.

Groups supported demonstrate a clear understanding of the needs they are addressing, and are often based in an area of deprivation or work with a community disadvantaged for another reason. All groups supported have an annual income of under £500k.

The groups & people supported

In 2025, 15 groups received funding with a total of £126,770 distributed.

Four groups were first-time applicants and eleven groups have applied for funding previously. All the groups are small local charitable organisations with on average two full time staff members, six part time staff and 26 volunteers.



Supported organisations at a glance:

Harrogate:

Claro Enterprises: £10,000

Inspire Youth Yorkshire: £10,000

Lifeline Harrogate: £5,000

Mind in Harrogate District: £5,014

Orb Community Enterprise: £9,720

Ilkley:

Harehills English Language Project:
£8,800

The Learning Legends Club: £10,000

The Neighbourhood Project CIC: £7,885

Northallerton:

Colburn Hub and Cafe C.I.C: £9,120

Hambleton Community Action: £10,000

Three13 Training and Enterprise Ltd
£9,805

York:

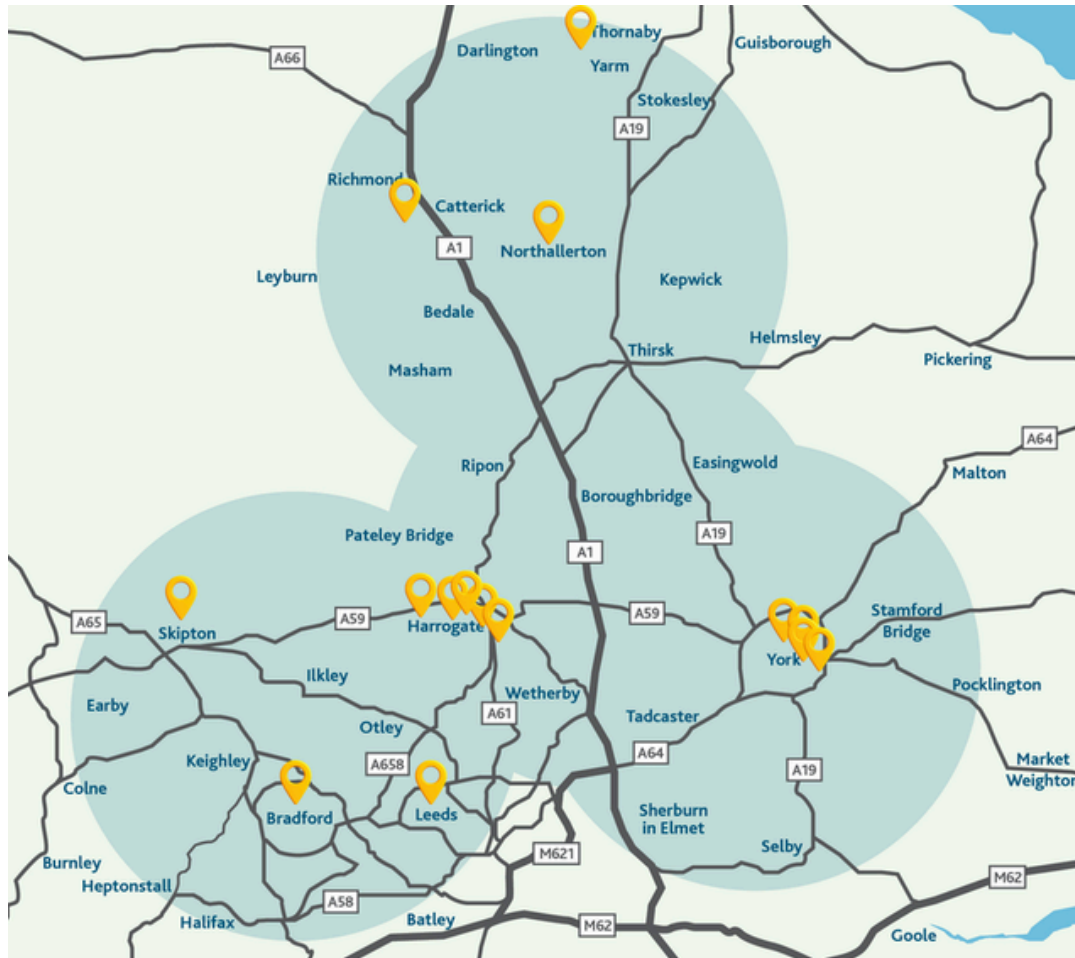
Chocolate & Co: £7,820

Kyra Women's Project: £8,606

My Life: £5,000

Snappy: £10,000

Geographical spread of the fund (within 15 miles of Bettys Tearoom)



Grants awarded by Bettys Tearoom

Harrogate
5 grants | £39,734

Ilkley
3 grants | £26,685

Northallerton
3 grants | 28,925

York
4 grants | £31,426

The size and staffing of the organisations supported

Average staffing



2

full time

6

part time

Average number of volunteers



26

volunteers

Annual Income of groups supported



6

under
£100k

3

£100k
-£250k

6

£250k
-£500k

Funded organisations in 2025

PROJECTS around HARROGATE:

Claro Enterprises: Claro Enterprises is a mental health charity in the Harrogate District providing supported work, training and creative activities for people with long-term mental health issues, socially isolated older adults and those newly experiencing difficulties. Their workshop and the Starbeck Men’s Shed offer safe, practical environments where people can build skills, confidence and social connection.

With this funding they want to expand their education and training offer: adding a second daytime course for people with complex needs, running evening and weekend woodworking and craft sessions for those in work, and delivering additional six-week courses in rural communities such as Boroughbridge and Masham. The grant would cover tutor costs and essential management overheads.

These programmes help people improve wellbeing, develop practical skills and, where possible, move closer to employment. As an approved education provider, Claro offer formal qualifications, and their supported work already contributes to commercial projects, including producing floral decorations for all Bettys Cafés. Impact will be measured through attendance, qualifications achieved, wellbeing assessments and participant feedback. **£10,000**



Lifeline Harrogate: Lifeline Harrogate supports people who are homeless or vulnerably housed by providing safe, supported accommodation across seven shared homes for 21 residents. They focus on helping people make a sustainable transition into fully independent living.

Their funding will be used to support the salary of a Housing and Support Officer who delivers the core life-skills training, employability support, and weekly guidance that residents rely on. This includes helping people become work-ready and tenancy-ready, providing tailored education plans, and facilitating access to accredited courses, volunteering, and training opportunities. The grant will also contribute to essential resources such as course materials, travel to interviews, and appropriate workwear or interview clothing. **£5,000**

Mind in Harrogate: Mind in Harrogate District is a long-established local charity with over 40 years of experience supporting the mental health and wellbeing of people across the area. Their services are open to everyone in the community and are shaped around local needs, with a mission to champion mental health awareness, offer early support, and deliver specialist wellbeing services.

The funding will enable Mind to deliver a structured 36-week programme made up of three 12-week life-skills and employability courses. These sessions have been designed directly in response to what service users say they need, and will be delivered from the familiar and welcoming Acorn Centre. The grant will cover staffing, skilled external facilitators, volunteers, room costs and essential materials—everything required to run safe, engaging and practical sessions on communication, budgeting, cooking, problem-solving, confidence-building and more.

This funding will make a meaningful difference to nearly 200 people who face significant barriers to returning to work, volunteering or training due to mental health challenges. **£5,014**

Inspire Youth Yorkshire, Starbeck : Inspire Youth Yorkshire offers a safe space, trusted adults, and practical learning opportunities for young people aged 11+ enabling them to access positive activities and informal education.

Many of the young people they work with face challenges such as reduced school timetables, low school attendance, limited access to healthy meals, household financial pressures, and a lack of practical opportunities to prepare for adult life or employment.

After consulting local secondary students through the Knaresborough Youth Voice survey, the charity identified a clear need for life skills, cooking, financial knowledge, and employability support. In response, they created two new programmes shaped directly by young people's feedback.

Their funding will deliver a 10 week cooking and life skills course for up to 10 people and two series of eight employability skills workshops, each supporting up to 20 learners.

These programmes give young people a place where they feel heard, supported and able to build confidence while gaining practical skills and qualifications that open up future opportunities. Most importantly, the sessions offer barrier-free learning in a safe, informal space where those who struggle in traditional education can thrive. **£10,000**



Orb Community Enterprises, Knaresborough: Orb Community Arts is a creative health charity that supports people experiencing poor mental health to build confidence, connection and wellbeing through arts, learning and progression activities. Each year they work with around 200 adults of all ages, many of whom face complex challenges such as long-term mental health conditions, disability, trauma, unemployment or insecure housing. Orb's approach is grounded in the Five Ways to Wellbeing, helping people feel less isolated, more empowered and better able to manage their mental health.

The funding will support Orb's Plot to Plate project, delivered in partnership with the social enterprise Season Well. This year-long programme offers weekly hands-on training in horticulture, growing seasonal food in Orb's garden, and developing practical cooking skills. Alongside this, people participating will help run monthly community cooking sessions and contribute to catering at Orb's events, sharing their new skills with the wider community.

The grant will cover the specialist delivery costs of Season Well staff, as well as Orb's creative facilitators and keyworkers who provide one-to-one support, help participants build confidence, and assist with CV writing, interview preparation and applications for volunteering, training or employment. It will also fund essential materials such as seeds, plants, compost, ingredients and cooking equipment, ensuring sessions are accessible, engaging and hands-on.

This project will have a positive and lasting impact by helping people develop practical horticulture, cookery and hospitality skills, increase their employability, and move closer to volunteering, formal learning or work. Just as importantly, it will help those participating feel more connected, less isolated and part of a supportive community. People will gain confidence, teamwork experience and valuable life skills—from growing food at home to budgeting and preparing low-cost meals—creating benefits that extend well beyond the programme itself.

£9,720

PROJECTS around ILKLEY:

Harehills English Language Project (HELP), Leeds:

HELP is a long-running community organisation offering free English lessons and social support to asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants in Harehills, Leeds. Their aim is to help people feel valued, confident and connected as they build their language skills and settle into life in the UK. With learners from more than 40 countries, HELP creates a safe, welcoming space where people can reduce isolation and take steps toward greater independence.

Alongside twice-weekly classes and one-to-one online lessons, HELP provides essential pastoral support, helping people navigate housing, healthcare, welfare and employment systems. Their website and online learning zones have become an important resource, offering study materials and clear signposting to trusted local services.

The funding will cover two key areas: crèche staffing, which enables parents -especially women- to attend classes, and IT support to maintain the website and Zoom access.

The Neighbourhood Project CIC:

The Neighbourhood Project CIC works with people in some of Skipton's most disadvantaged areas, helping them build stronger, more confident communities through informal training, coaching and hands-on support to set up local initiatives. They also run a digital inclusion service for older and vulnerable adults, ensuring people who are often excluded can access essential online skills and support.

These elements remove major barriers to participation, ensuring people can study consistently, teachers can share resources easily and trustees can meet remotely when needed.

With these supports in place, HELP can continue enabling over 100 people each year to improve their English, build confidence and progress into training, volunteering or work. The project strengthens community cohesion in one of Leeds' most diverse and disadvantaged areas, helping people feel less isolated and more able to contribute to local life. **£8,800**



The funding will be used to deliver work-focused digital skills sessions, provide one-to-one coaching, purchase refurbished tablets for learners, and train local residents to eventually run their own informal classes. This investment will boost digital confidence, improve employability and create community-led projects that benefit both participants and the wider voluntary sector. **£7,885**

The Learning Legends Club, Bradford:

The Learning Legends Club is a parent-led community group that has created a Community Empowerment Hub to support disadvantaged families. Formed by 22 local parents who were frustrated by the high cost of tuition and the barriers they faced in finding work, the group now provides free academic support for children and practical employability resources for parents. Their mission is to build a cycle of learning, confidence and opportunity that strengthens the whole community.

This Funding will allow the hub to bring in external trainers, offer essential skills workshops, and provide enrichment outings for both children and parents. This includes training in first aid, safeguarding, digital skills, communication, financial literacy and wellbeing —areas that directly improve parents' employability and independence. The grant will also help broaden children's experiences and aspirations through activities that extend learning beyond the classroom.

By investing in this project, funders will help break the cycle of disadvantage by giving families the tools they need to progress. Children will receive the academic support they cannot otherwise afford, while parents gain the confidence, skills and qualifications needed to move closer to work. The hub offers a cost-effective, community-driven solution that empowers families, strengthens local networks and creates long-term social mobility. **£10,000**

PROJECTS around NORTHALLERTON

Colburn Hub and Café C.I.C: Colburn Hub and Café CIC has grown since 2017 from a small community café into a vital one-stop hub offering daily drop-ins, mental health groups, veterans’ meals, over-55s sessions, stay-and-play groups, cooking classes and more. It provides a safe, welcoming space where people can meet others, reduce loneliness and feel supported—something that has become a lifeline in an area facing high levels of deprivation and limited opportunities.

The funding will enable the Hub to deliver accredited Level 2 Food Hygiene training and practical cooking sessions, helping local people gain the basic qualifications and skills needed for entry-level jobs in the service and catering industries.

It will cover essential equipment, ingredients and instructor costs, allowing at least 20 people over six months to learn to cook safely, confidently and affordably. These skills also help families reduce food costs and prepare healthier meals at home.

By building confidence, self-esteem and practical abilities, the project will open up real employment pathways for people who often feel left behind. Many clients struggle with low confidence, limited digital access and few qualifications, and this training gives them a chance to succeed—sometimes for the first time. The Hub’s wider ambition to expand digital access and continue upskilling residents will further strengthen the community, helping people of all ages believe in their potential and move towards work, education and greater independence. **£9,120**



Hambleton Community Action: Hambleton Community Action is a long-established charity supporting people across Northallerton, Bedale and surrounding areas by strengthening local voluntary services and providing practical, inclusive support that improves wellbeing, confidence and community connection.

The grant will fund an expanded programme of life-skills sessions at their UpFront community hub, covering tutor costs, materials, volunteer expenses, marketing and essential overheads. This will allow them to run free, welcoming workshops—from cookery and sewing to Makaton, sighted-guiding, bus-confidence trips and informal IT help—giving people the practical skills, confidence and independence they need to feel more resilient, connected and ready to take positive steps forward. **£10,000**

Three13 Training and Enterprise Ltd:

Three13 offer practice training and support for those who feel they are some distance from the job market. Their funding provided people who are long-term unemployed in Northallerton with skills and a qualification in horticulture. Of the 13 people on the course, 12 achieved a Level 1 qualification, 82% reported an increase in confidence, 94% reported better understanding their next steps (and two have already moved into work, and one into further training!). For those with previous convictions or seeking asylum, the social side was very important, and 94% of people said they had made friends by doing the course. **£9,805**

Building skills and confidence

Keane* (24), a member of the Traveller Community, joined the Three13 project with strong practical skills but no formal qualifications and low confidence due to difficulties with communication. He quickly took to the hands-on carpentry training, learning new techniques and helping to build custom planters for the garden. As his skills grew, so did his confidence, and lunchtime wordle games helped him form friendships and feel part of the team. This sense of belonging shifted how he saw himself and his future. With support from staff, Keane applied for a job and successfully navigated the interview and acceptance process.

**real name not used*

PROJECTS around YORK

Chocolate & Co: Chocolate & Co supports people in long-term recovery from addiction, homelessness and offending by offering structured work opportunities, personal development and a safe, nurturing environment in their York café. Many of the people they help have no family network to fall back on and face real fear and stigma when trying to move into mainstream employment. Chocolate & Co bridges that gap by giving people purpose, routine and the chance to rebuild confidence while preparing for work.

With their funding they provide the hands-on help needed to make each transition successful; building relationships with employers, coaching people through interviews, accompanying them on first shifts, covering initial wages to reduce employer risk, and offering practical essentials like clothing and travel. **£7,820**



“I arrived unsure of herself, but over twelve months she grew in confidence, learnt new skills and began to believe in her own potential—so much so that she’s now thriving in her first job, adapting brilliantly and proving to herself just how capable she really is.”

My Life: Unlock My Life is a project run by the mental-health charity My Life, providing bespoke mental-health training and peer-support programmes in prisons across the UK. Through workshops and ambassador training, prisoners learn how to support their own wellbeing and offer relatable, peer-led help to others—filling a major gap in mental-health provision and creating safer, more supportive prison communities.

The organisation now plans to bring this work to HMP Askham Grange in York, developing a new training package specifically for women. Female prisoners experience higher levels of mental-ill health and often face additional pressures such as separation from children and being held far from home. By equipping women with emotional regulation tools, confidence and coping strategies, the project will help them engage more fully in education, training and employment opportunities both inside prison and after release.

Kyra Women’s Project: Over ten months, Kyra will run four small, supportive blocks of Diverse-Aware for 60 women, including one block for staff and volunteers so they can better guide members through change. Sessions will be led by a trained in-house facilitator, with specialist input available when needed and volunteers on hand to offer gentle one-to-one support.

The programme helps women understand their own neurodiversity, break down long-held fears, and build confidence in a safe, welcoming space. Many women arrive believing something is “wrong” with them; Diverse-Aware helps them unlearn that, connect with others, and begin to thrive—over a simple shared lunch in a safe space. **£8,606**

Funding will cover staff time, training materials and travel costs, enabling Unlock My Life to deliver structured workshops and one-to-one support within the prison. This will help women build resilience, improve wellbeing and develop the soft skills needed to sustain work, volunteering or further training on release. It will also support the creation of peer-support networks that continue beyond the workshops.

The project’s impact will be measured through pre- and post-training assessments, behavioural indicators and participant feedback, with early results from other prisons showing significant improvements in confidence and emotional awareness. By strengthening mental health and supporting women into positive next steps, this work will contribute to safer communities, lower reoffending and more successful reintegration after prison. **£5,000**



Snappy: Snappy has been a vital part of the York community for four decades, offering play, recreation, and social opportunities to children and young people with a wide range of disabilities for nearly 300 families. They are using their funding for skills development and employability support building future prospects for young people (aged 19-25) with physical disabilities in York including technical and soft skills, job hunting skills, and a work placement. **£10,000**



Dylan's Story

Dylan lives in Acomb, York. He knows the anxiety that comes accompanied with the fact he is not employed, training or in education. This project provided Dylan with the opportunity to explore what brings him down and what lifts him up via art. He discovered creative talents he didn't know he had, which led to the confidence to work with local light artist Nick Walters on designing and illuminating performances of Blood Brothers on Dalton Terrace, York.

He enjoyed his time so much that he was confident enough to attend an interview for Art Club Teaching Assistant, a role he secured with a successful, stress free interview. He is now at York College studying Business BTech and works for Art Club in Half Terms, Christmas, Easter, and Summer Holidays.

2024 IMPACT New Visuality, York

New Visuality used its funding to deliver a ten-month introduction to creative-arts careers for young people currently not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in York. The programme offered taster sessions, supported work placements, and guidance toward next steps, strengthened by new links with York College Art & Design, All Saints 6th Form, Guiseley AFC, and four community centres.

Twenty participants took up volunteering or work-experience roles in areas such as wedding photography, digital marketing, community events, charity work, and summer art clubs. Confidence-building and CV workshops helped them present themselves more strongly and feel prepared for interviews and future opportunities.

Many continue to stay involved locally—dropping into libraries and community centres, supporting events, or joining partner organisations like Guiseley AFC. Eight participants have now moved into sustained creative or community-focused roles, including three employed in wedding photography, four working with an Art Club, and one selling artwork through a popular gallery's online shop.