

# Annual Review

2022 - 2023



## Page

- 2**     **About Lingleigh**  
The grant-making partner for the social housing sector
- 2**     **A Message from Our Chair**  
Fiona Ellison, Chair, Lingleigh Foundation
- 3**     **Individual Grants**  
Meeting immediate need
- 5**     **Project Grants**  
Wrap-around support
- 5**     **Research Grants**  
Tackling issues at source
- 5**     **Financial Information**  
Income and expenditure
- 6**     **Looking to the Future**  
Aileen Edmunds, Chief Executive, Lingleigh Foundation



## About Longleigh

The grant-making partner for the social housing sector

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**Longleigh is a grant-making charitable foundation, dedicated to supporting the individuals and communities served by the social housing sector.**

Our programme of grant making, aims to improve quality of life for social housing sector residents and includes:

- Providing individual grants, to directly help with meeting immediate needs.
- Funding organisations to offer ongoing wrap-around support to mitigate the need for future individual grant support.
- Investing in research to exact change at a wider societal level, for the issues we see presented through our grant making programmes.



## A Message From Our Chair

Fiona Ellison, Chair, Longleigh Foundation

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**This last year has been tough for many, with the cost of living crisis putting real pressure on households. In reflecting on my first year as Longleigh's Chair, I continue to be proud of the support we provide to individuals served by the social housing sector and want to ensure going forward we continue to deliver support that creates positive change for those most in need.**

Longleigh's support has offered a lifeline to people who are struggling and I know that the support we have been able to give through our grants programmes creates a tangible difference for residents.

The support and partnership we have with Stonewater continues to ensure that

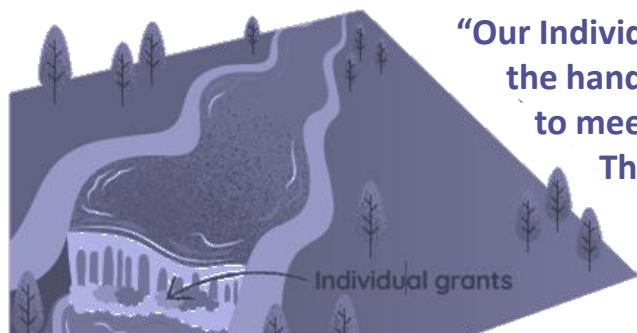
we can provide both immediate help to social housing residents as well as looking at some of the longer term reasons as to why some residents need greater support. Together we are determined to create opportunities for all people living in social housing to thrive.

**“Longleigh's support has offered a lifeline to people who are struggling”**



# Individual Grants

## Meeting immediate need



“Our Individual Grants put resources directly into the hands of those in need. They are designed to meet immediate issues in the short-term. They play a vital role in preventing crisis situations from escalating - giving people a chance to rebuild.”

Aileen Edmunds  
CEO, Longleigh Foundation

The focus of Longleigh’s Individual Grants typically prioritises short-term practical interventions which enable a better quality of life. These include:

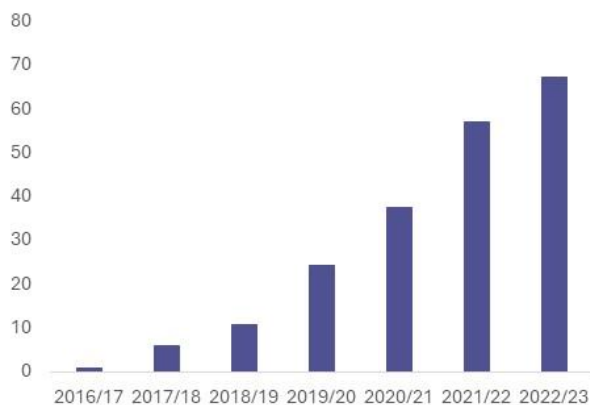
- Essential white goods, so people can store fresh food and prepare meals.
- Essential household items, to make a house a home and prevent debt.
- Floor coverings, to make a property safe for households with young children.

The financial value of the funding that we distributed via our individual grants during the year was £615,300 - an increase of 5% from last year, for 746 approved applications - 11% more than the previous year.

This year, we have seen the cost-of-living crisis brought to bear in the lives of people and families already struggling to make ends meet, most evidenced in the increase in requests for food and utility vouchers.

We have dedicated an increasing proportion of our available funds to supporting individuals with grants, as we have seen alternative sources of direct help become increasingly difficult to obtain.

% grant making dedicated to Individual Grants p.a.



In response to need in 2022/23 we:

- Broadened our support offer to individuals to include more ongoing support across several months, to assist people with food and energy bills.
- Implemented a ‘Financial Hardship’ grants programme to help families struggling with the cost-of-living increase.
- Fine-tuned our criteria to ensure our limited resources are targeted to those most in need, such as prioritising people fleeing domestic violence.

# Individual Grants

## Jenny's story

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Jenny\*, 37, and her daughter, 2,, were living in a refuge having fled domestic abuse. Thanks to Longleigh she was able to move out of the refuge and set up a safe and welcoming home for her daughter and complete a course in project management to help build a brighter future for her family.



After escaping her abusive relationship, Jenny and her daughter were living in a refuge. She was eventually fortunate to secure a social housing tenancy, but had little to make her house a home.

Staff at the refuge helped her to apply for a Longleigh grant which paid for essential furniture such as new beds and mattresses, as well as the cost of the van to help her move in. Jenny was determined to do what she could to create a better life for her family, and signed up to complete a project management course, as she had enjoyed a previous management role and wanted the qualifications to back it up. Longleigh also funded a desk, chair, monitor and printer so she had space to dedicate to her studies.

**“Longleigh has helped me improve my quality of life”**

She is now settled in her new home, passed her course, and has revamped her CV. She's now looking for work and having recently secured an interview is feeling hopeful.

As Jenny says: “Longleigh has helped me improve my quality of life by providing items that I otherwise would not have been able to buy. To know that my daughter and I were getting beds was a such a relief. Also being granted the IT equipment to complete my course has helped. Once I've finished the course and got a job, I'll even be able to hybrid work!”

\*To protect her identity, Jenny's name and certain identifying details have been changed, and the photo has been posed by an actor.

## **Project Grants** Wrap-around support

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**The focus of our project grants is to provide wrap around support to mitigate the risk of people needing an individual grant in the future.**

Given the increase in complex needs seen in the communities served by the social housing sector, we recognise that additional support services are vital for our beneficiaries. However, statutory, community and charity services are under increasing pressure from rising needs and costs, and lack of funding. Therefore, if additional support is needed, we need to invest in providing it.

This year we funded 11 projects totalling £486,622 – focused on building resilience through financial, mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Our project grants increase the impact of our Housing Association partner(s) reach:

- Through Circles of Support: we fund specialist independent organisations to meet the needs of the communities our Housing Association partner(s) serve, with specialisms from mental health to financial wellbeing.
- Through bolstering Housing Association partner(s) internal capacity: we fund pilot programmes delivered within our partner organisation(s) dedicated to improving resident wellbeing.

## **Research Grants** Tackling issues at source

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**Recognising the systemic issues impacting wellbeing, poverty and inequality in social housing communities – we recognise that in order to exact change, we need to tackle issues at source. This commitment to transforming lives inspired us to develop our research grants programme.**

Inspired by the TPAS Cymru/Tai Pawb ‘Floored’ report, we commissioned Altair to investigate the impact on residents of not having suitable flooring and to seek solutions that could be financially and operationally realistic for social housing providers. In May 2023, we published our first of five Learning Reports, and we are excited to see this project develop in coming months.





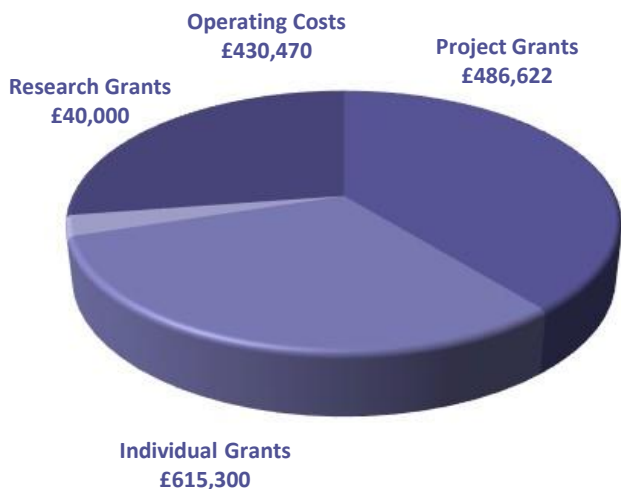
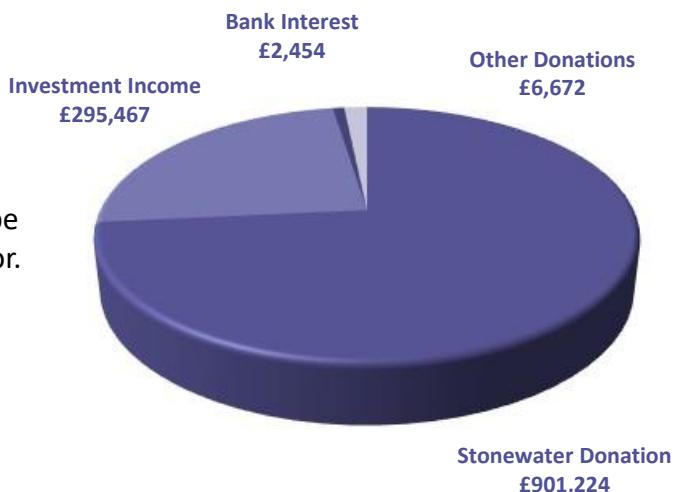
# Financial Information

## Income and expenditure

### Our Income

Our total income for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023: **£1,205,817** (previous year was £2,413,424)

Our main source of income continues to be from Stonewater Ltd, our originating donor.



### Our Expenditure

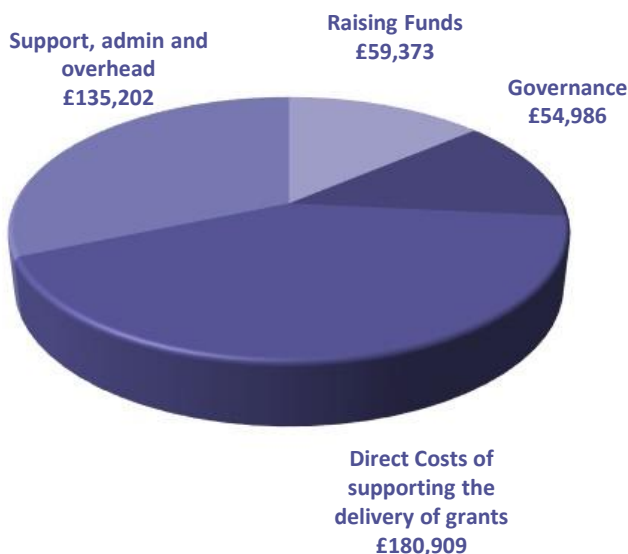
Our total expenditure for the year amounted to **£1,572,392** (previous year was £1,458,337)

Of this, £615,300 was spent on individual grants (2022: £584,765); £486,622 was for project grants (2022: £358,778) and £40,000 was spent on research grants (2022: £83,238).

### Operating Costs Expenditure

Our total operating costs (direct overheads, support and governance costs) amounted to **£430,470** for the year (2022: £431,556).

As a charitable foundation we pay careful attention to our total operating costs. We use benchmarking information (such as ACF's Foundation Operating Costs Guide) to help us ensure that we meet all our responsibilities as an independent charity. Our total operating costs in the year were 27% of our total budget with 73% of funds directly provided in grants.





# Looking to the Future

Aileen Edmunds, Chief Executive, Longleigh Foundation

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ing partnerships to enable growth and  
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leigh Foundation is uniquely placed to  
the social housing sector in its  
onse to creating opportunities for  
ents to thrive. We bring expertise in  
ents to thrive. We bring expertise in  
practice in supporting resident  
eering, which is rooted in our knowledge  
ed honed through our direct support  
enhanced by research into innovative  
ions. We bring together compassion  
grantmaking to bring hope and support  
ose who need us most.

e you will join me in our mission to  
a difference.

*Aileen Edmunds*





# Longleigh Foundation

A grant-making partner for the social housing sector



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