Postcode Society Trust
Funding Strategy 2025-2030

Postcode Society Trust

Trust Vision

Postcode Society Trust's vision is for strong and resilient communities across the South of England, where residents live happy, healthy, and fulfilled lives in a thriving and protected natural world.

Trust Mission

Postcode Society Trust's mission is to support charities and local good causes in the South of England, through grant funding, to make a difference in their communities.

Supporting good causes

Supported organisations must align with the Trust's charitable objectives and meet the criteria of the specific grant programme they are applying to. However, we recognise that good causes are the true experts and trust them to use the funding how it is most needed. We understand that multi-year, flexible funding best meets the needs of charities and will continue to offer unrestricted funding and increase opportunities for longer-term support.

Our trust-based and flexible approach enables good causes to maximise their positive impact. This approach is backed up by a growing body of academic research demonstrating that (multi-year) unrestricted funding:

- Makes social initiatives financially stronger, because the funds serve as a catalyst to secure other sources of financial support
- Allows nonprofits the time to develop, evaluate, and improve programmes which address systemic and complex social issues
- Enables grantees to re-allocate money in response to changing needs
- Encourages innovation
- Supports investment in research and development

Appeer Community Interest Company, awarded £25,000 by Postcode Society Trust

Sunnyside Community Gardens is a small charity that operates one of the few community garden sites open all the time. They provide a "back garden" for residents living in neighbouring flats in an area with high levels of deprivation and limited or no garden space. The charity offers opportunities for local people to garden and enjoy the outdoors, fostering community building and engagement to combat loneliness, isolation, and social exclusion. Sunnyside Community Gardens was awarded £25,000 by Postcode Society Trust.

Sunnyside
Community Gardens

> " *We're beginning to see evidence of a shift from a culture of compliance and philanthropic control toward collaboration and grantmaking practices that recognize nonprofit leadership and expertise.*"
>
> The Trust-Based Philanthropy Conundrum: Towards Donor-Doer Relationships That Drive Impact, April 2024

Appeer Community Interest Company

Refugee Radio supports refugees, asylum seekers, and new migrant communities within Brighton and across East and West Sussex. They advocate on behalf of clients to ensure their safety and wellbeing as they navigate through the Home Office processes to acquire the relevant status to remain in the UK. Additionally, they provide weekly Mental Health Support Group sessions, befriending services, and an Advice and Casework Support Service to help clients access and obtain entitlements related to benefits, housing, education, training, employment, and health services. Refugee Radio was awarded £25,000 by Postcode Society Trust.

REFUGEE RADIO

Hammersley Homes provides ongoing long-term support to vulnerable adults who live with enduring mental health challenges and psychotic illnesses, and who struggle with living independently. Their outreach programme was established to support these individuals in their own homes or in the community, with regular visits or remote support to build confidence and trust, assist with daily tasks, or simply offer companionship and a listening ear. They encourage hobbies and engagement in community activities and accompany clients to events or activities that might be of interest, helping to build confidence towards becoming contributing members of society. Hammersley Homes was awarded £25,000 by Postcode Society Trust.

Hammersley Homes

Sailing Therapy received £3,600 from the Postcode Society Trust

Types of grant

Players' funds are awarded to support good causes in communities across the South of England.

- Community grants to charities and other good causes. These grants are unrestricted and focused on the South of England.
- Awards to strategic partners who can expand our reach into communities.
- One-off awards to good causes, for example, to support the wider charity sector.

The funder-grantee relationship

We are committed to being a responsible and responsive funder. We realise how uneven power dynamics can be between the funder and those applying for support.

Our team is trained to be open, friendly and provide realistic expectations around the application process and timing. We value equality and transparency in all relationships. We are committed to establishing and maintaining effective relationships with all our supported good causes.

Our teams are guided by the following principles:

- We respect the expertise and time of all partner organisations that apply for funding.
- We engage in open, two-way dialogue with all charity organisations and encourage feedback to improve what we do.
- We only ask for the information needed for our decision-making. Because we believe in unrestricted funding, we primarily rely on publicly available information for our due diligence process, utilising information from Charity and Company Regulators, Governing and Accounts Documents, and the organisations online presence.
- We give clear information on our criteria, decision processes and timelines.
- We respond to all questions as soon as possible and can be reached in person during working hours.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

We promote open communication, personal contact, and minimal bureaucracy. We champion diversity, and human rights and promote inclusion, fairness, and opportunities for all.

We are committed to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and strive to support a range of good causes where everyone can see themselves represented in the work that our players support.

We use the following definitions of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

Equity: Striving for fair opportunities and outcomes for the people we work with and their communities.

Diversity: Valuing and welcoming different identities, experiences and perspectives.

Inclusion: Building a culture of belonging by ensuring that our work, language, and activities are open and accessible to all.

In order to deliver on our EDI commitments, while supporting the most vulnerable groups in society through the organisations we fund, we continuously look for ways to improve our understanding and practice.

Evaluation

In order to understand the impact of player support in funded communities we undertake a number of monitoring and evaluation activities. These visits and end of funding reports allow us to see and hear first-hand the impact of our awards on furthering the Trust's mission, and helps us understand the challenges, recognise progress towards their goals, and learn from the expertise and experience of the sector.

As a collaborative funder we aim to share good practice with other funders and raise awareness of the work of our supported good causes. We share stories with People's Postcode Lottery to engage their players, for example through social media channels.

We trust good causes to let us know what is most needed in their communities and are committed to mirroring this approach in our reporting by being light touch, supportive, and proportionate, always placing relationships at the centre of our funding model. We are part of the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR)'s 'Open and Trusting' grant-making community. 'Open and Trusting' funders sign up to eight commitments to manage grants and relationships in a way that reflects their confidence in and respect for the organisations they fund and we participate in regular meetings to reflect on and develop our practice.