

# The Henry Smith Charity

founded in 1628

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## **Main Grants Strategy 2017**

# Introduction

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The Henry Smith Charity was established in 1628 by Henry Smith, a businessman working in the City of London. Since then, the charity has honoured the spirit of Henry Smith's will, working to combat disadvantage and meet the challenges and opportunities facing people in need throughout the UK. Today, The Henry Smith Charity is amongst the largest independent grant makers in the UK, distributing £28m in 2016.

Over the years our grant making has evolved. This strategy is the latest stage in that evolution and sets out a framework for how we plan to use our resources over the next five years. It lays out the long term priorities for our funding and the purpose and values that underpin them.

At the heart of what we do is a desire to make a difference to people's lives. This strategy is designed to maximise the impact of the grants we make, while remaining responsive to the ever-changing needs of society. It explains how we structure our grant making, focusing on the challenges and opportunities facing people in the greatest social and financial need throughout the UK.

Our grantees are at the core of our mission and work. For us, achieving results depends on their work and, as a grant making trust, we can only be as effective as the organisations that we fund. We are careful not to lose sight of this and hope that this strategy provides a clear overview of our funding priorities.

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# 1. Purpose

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**The Henry Smith Charity aims to bring about lasting change in people's lives, helping them to benefit from and contribute to society. We achieve this by funding organisations that work with people to reduce social and economic disadvantage.**

# 2. Key Values

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We want to help people for whom other sources of support have failed, been inappropriate or are simply not available. To achieve this we aim to make grants that work towards one or more of our key values.

## **Increasing resilience**

Empowering people, encouraging integration and personal independence, helping people to recover and move on.

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## **Creating opportunities and life chances**

Raising aspiration - equipping people with new skills, unlocking and enabling potential, and providing the means to improve life circumstances.

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## **Empowering communities**

Strengthening and connecting communities and making people feel valued, providing opportunities for social connections and relationships, encouraging participation and inclusion.

These key values express the change we want to make and are embedded across all of our funding priorities.

### 3. What we look for in Organisations & Services

Across all of our funding there are some overarching characteristics we think are vital when deciding which organisations and services to support. We are looking for these characteristics **in all** of the organisations and services that we fund.

We aim to fund organisations that are:	We aim to fund services that are:
<p><b>True to their mission</b> Organisations that are clear and consistent about what they aim to achieve. This is demonstrated through their actions and practice.</p>	<p><b>Working to create lasting change</b> Having a positive impact on people and where possible, creating enduring, sustainable improvement in circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Responsive to need and well placed to deliver</b> Well placed to deliver services and aware of what is going on around them.</p>	<p><b>Delivering holistic support</b> Taking a positive approach to the whole person, often addressing multiple issues, with those who are in some way excluded or vulnerable.</p>
<p><b>Person centred</b> The interests of the individual are at the heart of what the organisation does. People are meaningfully involved in developing solutions to the issues they face.</p>	<p><b>Providing direct service delivery</b> Engaging directly with people to help them to build their capabilities and tackle the root causes of problems.</p>
<p><b>Using resources well</b> High quality, well run organisations that have the skills and capabilities to make proper and effective use of their resources.</p>	<p><b>Monitored and evaluated</b> Information is appropriately collected and analysed with successes or failures used to understand and improve services.</p>

## 4. Funding Programmes

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Under the Main Grants strategy we have two separate grant programmes. Each of these programmes has a separate set of priorities and guidelines.

### Improving Lives

Through the Improving Lives grant programme we support charitable organisations across the UK to help people for whom other sources of support have failed, been inappropriate or are simply not available.

This is our largest funding programme, through which we distribute the majority of our funds. We have six funding priorities, which describe the work that we want to fund and how we want to bring about change for the most disadvantaged people in the greatest need. Each of our funding priorities are described in detail in section 5.

### Strengthening Communities

The Strengthening Communities grant programme supports small organisations working in the most disadvantaged and deprived areas of the UK. We know that smaller organisations rooted in their communities play a vital role in supporting people to make positive changes. We want to support these organisations to create lasting solutions to local needs. A more detailed overview of our Strengthening Communities funding priorities is available in section 6.

### Other Grants Programmes

It is worth noting that we have a number of other grant programmes, including our Kindred, Holiday, Christian and County Grants. These programmes are not covered by our Main Grants strategy although in the case of the County Grants there are many similarities. Guidelines outlining what we fund under these programmes and how to apply can be found in the What we fund section of our website.

## 5. Improving Lives Funding Priorities

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This section gives a more detailed overview of the six Improving Lives funding priorities . Each area has been selected in response to the external environment in which our grantees are working and the current needs, issues and challenges facing people in the UK. We realise that times are very tough for many of the people we wish to help and the organisations striving to help them. We hope that by laying out these priorities we can be as effective as possible in allocating our resources.

Our priorities will run for the lifetime of this Strategy. However, we also aim to adapt to changing circumstances. Therefore the way that we address each area and allocate resources may evolve as we learn and refine our grant making.

In each priority area we have stated the outcomes that we would like grantees to be working to deliver. We have also identified ‘high need groups’ that we are interested in working with. These groups are included as illustrations of people we are particularly keen to help, but they are not meant to be exhaustive. Ultimately, it is up to the applicant to explain the needs of the people they are working with and the outcomes that they will achieve.

## Outcomes Framework

The outcomes framework below sets out what we are looking for in each priority area. When applying to The Henry Smith Charity organisations must demonstrate they are working to achieve one or more of these outcomes. Some organisations will meet multiple outcomes across different priority areas.

Priorities	Outcomes		
 <b>Help at a Critical Moment</b> Helping people to rebuild their lives following a crisis, critical moment, trauma or abuse	People are supported at a time of crisis, critical moment, trauma or abuse, and helped to move on positively with their lives	There is an improvement in how people feel about themselves (e.g. improved confidence, self-esteem, resilience, or well-being)	People have improved mental health and/or ability to cope
 <b>Positive Choices</b> Helping people, whose actions or behaviours have led to negative consequences for themselves and others, to make positive choices	People have access to quality specialist rehabilitation services that enable them to move on positively with their lives	There is a change in people's ability to cope that results in them being less likely to engage in harmful behaviours.	A reduction in harmful behaviours over time (e.g. a reduction in offending or alcohol/drug consumption)
 <b>Accommodation / Housing Support</b> Enabling people work towards or maintain accommodation	People have access to support enabling them to gain and/or sustain stable accommodation	People have gained the skills needed to live independently and maintain a home	Vulnerable people in need of housing are given support to remain safe and gain the skills to live with greater independence
 <b>Employment and Training</b> Supporting people to move towards or gain employment	People have improved soft skills, are moving towards employment and/or being work ready	People have developed appropriate technical skills (including literacy, numeracy and job-specific qualifications) and are more likely to gain employment as a result	People have engaged in training to reach their personal potential to work or volunteer
 <b>Financial Inclusion, Rights &amp; Entitlements</b> Supporting people to overcome their financial problems and ensure that they are able to claim their rights and entitlements	People have the support, information and advice to address their financial issues	People are able to navigate the benefits, migration and asylum systems and claim their rights and entitlements	People have improved financial literacy, are more able to understand their finances, and have greater confidence when budgeting and managing their money
 <b>Support Networks &amp; Family</b> Working with people to develop improved support networks and family relationships	An individual and/or family enjoys positive and constructive relationships with others; feeling and being socially connected	An individual and/or family has the skills, understanding and emotional capacity to maintain and manage positive relationships	An individual, family or carer receives support that increases their resilience, independence and/or reduces mental health issues and isolation

Some organisations may be applying for a service that works towards one (or more) of the listed outcomes but also delivers services that are outside of our priorities. In this case the charity would be eligible to apply to The Henry Smith Charity, but must clearly state how they are using our funding to work towards the outcomes above.



## Priority 1 - Help at a Critical Moment

### Helping people to rebuild their lives following a crisis, critical moment, trauma or abuse

A crisis point, trauma or abuse can have profound consequences for individuals. People who have been through, or are in the middle of this type of life event may need support to overcome the difficult circumstances they are facing.

We want to fund services that work with people at a point of crisis, critical moment, trauma or abuse and help them to move on with their lives. Work may help people to live free of abuse and/or provide a way out of difficult circumstances. Services may include: advocacy, and practical and emotional support to enable people to make positive changes. Work that we support in this area is likely to be holistic and reasonably intensive. It may involve helping people to explore their options and make the right choices, but also to reduce risk and minimise the chances of ongoing problems or repeat victimisation.

#### Outcomes

- People are supported at a time of crisis, critical moment, trauma or abuse, and helped to move on positively with their lives.
- There is an improvement in how people feel about themselves e.g. improved confidence, self-esteem, resilience, or well-being.
- People have improved mental health and/or ability to cope.

#### High need groups

- victims/survivors of domestic abuse
- refugees and asylum seekers
- children who have been sexually exploited
- those in mental health crisis
- those involved in sex work and those who are victims of trafficking
- victims of hate crime
- people experiencing homelessness

#### Examples of current grants

- Specialist one-to-one support and advocacy for people who have been victims/survivors of domestic and/or sexual abuse.
- A recovery and support service for families where a parent has experienced a mental health crisis.
- Counselling and psychotherapy service for refugee and asylum-seeking women.
- An arts based mentoring programme working with offenders in the run up to release from prison.





## Priority 2 - Positive Choices

### **Helping people, whose actions or behaviours have led to negative consequences for themselves and others, to make positive choices**

Crime and substance misuse have a damaging effect on the lives of individuals, their families and communities.

We want to fund services that work to reduce harmful behaviours such as offending and/or drug/alcohol misuse and that help people to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society. Offenders typically have multiple and complex needs. These might include family breakdown, mental health problems, unemployment, homelessness and poverty. Long-term substance misuse is also often intertwined with similar issues and multiple, complex needs. The complexity of these issues means we are looking to support interventions that are relatively intensive and treat individuals holistically while challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours. We also want to support preventative work with those who are at high risk of drug or alcohol dependency or offending.

#### **Outcomes**

- People have access to quality specialist rehabilitation services that enable them to move on positively with their lives.
- There is a change in people's ability to cope that results in them being less likely to engage in harmful behaviours.
- A reduction in harmful behaviours over time (e.g. a reduction in offending or alcohol/drug consumption).

#### **High need groups**

- young people at risk of offending
- substance misusers
- perpetrators of domestic abuse
- prisoners and ex-offenders

#### **Examples of current grants**

- A treatment centre providing a structured rehabilitation programme for people with alcohol and/or drug abuse issues.
- A perpetrator programme working to reduce sex offending.
- An early intervention programme working with disaffected young people displaying antisocial behaviour.
- A programme working with both victims and perpetrators to address domestic abuse.



## Priority 3 - Accommodation / Housing Support

### Enabling people to work towards or maintain accommodation

Everyone has a right to adequate housing and shelter. Safe, stable and affordable housing is a foundation from which to tackle other social issues. There has been a sharp rise in the number of people who are homeless or vulnerably housed in recent years and routes to finding independent housing are getting more complex, taking longer and becoming harder to navigate.

We want to help people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or who are vulnerably housed. We fund work that helps people stabilise their situation and move towards sustainable accommodation. We also support work that helps people make informed decisions around their housing and take steps to improve their housing circumstances. Finally, we want to assist vulnerable people to access (or maintain) accommodation where they can be safe and achieve their personal potential to live independently.

#### Outcomes

- People have access to support enabling them to gain and/or sustain stable accommodation.
- People have gained the skills needed to live independently and maintain a home.
- Vulnerable people in need of housing are given support to remain safe and gain the skills to live with greater independence.

### High need groups

- refugees and asylum seekers
- young people
- victims/survivors of domestic abuse
- people with substance misuse issues
- people with mental health issues

### Examples of current grants

- Advice and advocacy for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed.
- Life skills training to help homeless or vulnerably housed young people move towards independence.
- Practical support and maintenance that helps older people to live safely in their own homes.

A significant proportion of our work in this area is with people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. Many organisations working with this client group will also address the underlying reasons for homelessness (e.g. mental health crisis, lack of employment, lack of support networks, lack of financial understanding, substance misuse) and are therefore likely to meet outcomes in a number of priority areas.



## Priority 4 - Employment & Training

### Supporting people to move towards or gain employment

Unemployment– particularly over long periods – has substantial social and financial costs and is often associated with wider disadvantage. Being unemployed can impact on a person’s mental health and can lead to social exclusion for individuals and their dependents.

We want to support services that improve people’s employability and lead to more people being meaningfully employed. We wish to fund support and training for those who are the furthest from the job market giving them the opportunity to build their confidence, identity and self-worth and reach their personal potential to work. We are interested in services working with people who are currently unemployed or are likely to struggle to find work in the future by removing barriers to employment and moving people closer to the workplace. Services could include structured volunteering and placement in a work environment.

#### Outcomes

- People have improved soft skills, are moving towards employment and/or being work ready.
- People have developed appropriate technical skills (including literacy, numeracy and job-specific qualifications) and are more likely to gain employment as a result.
- People have engaged in training to reach their personal potential to work or volunteer.

#### High need groups

- young people
- ex-offenders
- people experiencing homelessness
- people with a disability
- refugees

#### Examples of current grants

- Career coaching and employability support for young care leavers.
- ESOL and IT classes for unemployed people who have recently arrived in the UK.
- Supported work experience for ex-offenders.
- Café providing volunteering placements for people experiencing mental health problems.



## Priority 5 - Financial Inclusion, Rights & Entitlements

### **Supporting people to overcome their financial problems and ensure that they are able to claim their rights and entitlements**

Financial exclusion unduly affects the poorest in society. Financial pressures exacerbate poverty and are a key factor in wider social exclusion. Life is more expensive and unstable for people who do not have access to appropriate financial services. Many people are not aware of their rights and are not able to receive the support that they are entitled to. Being in financial difficulty can have an adverse impact on a person's mental health and wellbeing.

We want to fund work that helps people to make the right choices about financial issues. Being informed about financial options, money management, debt repayment and saving money all contribute to stable living arrangements and an ability to plan ahead. We also want to help people to access mainstream services and navigate systems (e.g. the benefits, immigration and asylum systems) to ensure they receive the support they are entitled to. Finally we want to fund services that help people to develop the knowledge and ability to understand and manage their own finances. These services may improve financial literacy or work to improve an individual's attitude towards financial matters.

#### **Outcomes**

- People have the support, information and advice to address their financial issues.
- People are able to navigate the benefits, migration and asylum systems and claim their rights and entitlements.
- People have improved financial literacy, are more able to understand their finances and have greater confidence when budgeting and managing their money.

#### **High need groups**

- low income households
- people experiencing homelessness
- people with disabilities
- refugees and asylum seekers

#### **Examples of current grants**

- Specialist advice on claiming financial entitlements and on navigating the asylum process for recently arrived asylum seekers.
- Tailored financial literacy, debt counselling and budgeting services for those in need.
- Financial advice service offering guidance on debt, financial management and benefits entitlements, for disadvantaged local communities.
- Unified advice and counselling service dealing with debt among people with mental health issues.



## Priority 6 - Support Networks & Family

### Working with people to develop improved support networks and family relationships

Good quality relationships are important. A wealth of evidence shows that social relationships with family, friends and peers improve mental wellbeing, resilience and longevity. On the other hand social isolation and a lack of relationships are associated with a diminished quality of life.

We want to fund work that helps people to develop positive social networks and/or family relationships. We want to help people cultivate relationships that provide emotional and practical support, increase resilience and foster a sense of connectedness. This includes early years work with families - helping parents to cope with the challenges they face and improving the health and development of children - as well as social support for older people to feel connected and protect against loneliness and isolation.

#### Outcomes

- An individual and/or family enjoys positive and constructive relationships with others; feeling and being socially connected.
- An individual and/or family has the skills, understanding and emotional capacity to maintain and manage positive relationships.
- An individual, family or carer receives support that increases their resilience, independence and/or reduces mental health issues and isolation

#### High need groups

- early years work with parents and children
- older people
- learning disability
- care leavers
- people with mental health issues
- carers

#### Examples of current grants

- A befriending service to reduce loneliness among older people.
- An early years support service for families in difficult circumstances providing practical assistance, facilitating a positive home environment and functional family relationships.
- Group activities and training for young carers.
- Family and parenting programmes to help prisoners maintain positive relationships.
- A mentoring programme for young people identified as at risk.
- A peer support group for people with mental health issues.

## 6. Strengthening Communities Funding Priorities

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Strong communities are ones whose members have a sense of belonging, connect with one another and can participate in communal life, making use of local resources to improve their opportunities, skills education and wellbeing. Cohesive communities create strong support networks in which people feel invested and integrated. We know that smaller organisations rooted in their communities play a vital role in supporting people to make positive changes in their lives. We want to support these organisations to create lasting solutions to local needs.

The Strengthening Communities grant programme aims to support and strengthen the most disadvantaged and deprived communities across the UK.

Through this grant programme we provide grants for general running costs, rather than funding for specific projects to organisations with annual incomes of up to £500k. Grants can be used for any purpose the organisation sees fit including rent, overheads and salaries.

We want to make sure that our funding reaches the most disadvantaged communities, targeting areas that are economically marginalised and affected by poverty.

### **We want to fund grants that allow:**

- People from across the community to participate in activities which improve connectedness, opportunities and wellbeing.
- People who are excluded, vulnerable, or facing other forms of hardship have access to community based services that support positive and lasting change.
- A stronger, active, more engaged community.

### **Examples of current grants**

- A community centre offering a wide range of services including; youth activities, craft and exercise classes, library and IT service, job club, food co-operative, volunteering opportunities and community events.
- Youth club providing life skills, sports activities, work experience, training courses, and advice to young people.
- Centre offering culturally appropriate services for women and girls from BAME and migrant communities, including social activities and integration support.