Working to make a difference

Social Impact Report 2021 Summary

Our Social Impact Report is focused on our lending activity in 2020 and 2021 and demonstrates how saving and investing with Charity Bank makes a positive difference in society by supporting, strengthening, and furthering the work of social purpose organisations.

We’re not just an ‘ethical bank’, we are a socially conscious, mission driven, values-based bank. We don’t just avoid doing harm, we actively use finance to do good.

Vision
A society that fosters vibrant communities and a healthy planet, giving every individual the opportunity to thrive.

Mission
To support and strengthen impact driven organisations that improve people’s lives whilst empowering savers and investors to put their money to work for positive social change.

Values

Working in harmony
We are all part of a whole, one community working together and depending on one another to deliver our shared mission and vision.

Mutual respect
We are an organisation that understands, values, and encourages difference. That means respecting the values, ideas and beliefs of our customers and colleagues.

Being the change
Through our choices and actions, we are being the change – empowering charities and social enterprises to make UK society a better place.
Since 2002 we have made over 1,100 loans worth over £400m across a wide range of sectors and causes.

At Charity Bank we’re focused on facilitating social impact through loan finance.

With the help of a Charity Bank loan, our borrowers are able to improve their financial position, improve the quality and reach of their services and are left in a better position to deliver their mission.

Charity Bank loan either indirectly or directly led to a % increase in the following:

- 93% Facilities / Assets  
- 30% No. of volunteers  
- 50% No. of employees

Of our lending was directed towards organisations operating in the most disadvantaged areas of the UK.

- 100% Contributed towards mission
- 84% Increased what they could offer beneficiaries
- 70% Financed activities that grant funders would not
- 70% Improved financial planning

51%
Reaching people and communities

We have made over 1,100 loans totalling over £400m to charities and social enterprises located from the Highlands of Scotland to the furthest tip of Cornwall.

Equality, diversity, equity and inclusion

We are committed to finding ways to extend the reach of our lending to a diverse range of borrowers, including communities and groups that have previously been excluded from mainstream and social investment.

Our impact report sheds light on the diversity of the organisations we work with and the characteristics of their leadership teams and beneficiaries that are currently measured, providing a benchmark for us to measure our progress against in future years.

Lending where it’s needed most

During 2020-2021 we lent over £95.4 million to 132 different charities and social enterprises. Our borrowers work with some of the most disadvantaged people in the UK, from vulnerable children and abuse survivors to people living with disabilities. Support is targeted to beneficiaries’ individual needs, and ranges across the sectors shown below.

Key

- Housing & local facilities
- Employment, training & education
- Mental health & wellbeing
- Citizenship & community
- Physical health & wellbeing
- Income & financial inclusion
- Family, friends & relationships
- Other
- Arts, heritage, sports & faith
- Conservation of the natural

[Map showing lending distribution by region and sector]
In the early stages of the pandemic, we were quick to adapt to the needs of our borrowers granting those that needed it some form of repayment forbearance.

We supported the quick roll-out of the Resilience and Recovery Loan Fund (RRLF) run by the Social Investment Business. As the most active intermediary in the programme, we helped to secure approval for 27 emergency loans and small grants of £12 million.

**Foresight**

On 17 March 2020, Foresight’s new housing development was subject to an arson attack. Three days later the first lockdown was announced. With support from Charity Bank, the charity has overcome these difficulties and is feeling excited for the future again.

We could have coped if it had just been COVID-19. But the fire and building issues on top of that could have brought our whole organisation down. The relationship we’ve built with Charity Bank over the years is just fantastic and once more their support has been invaluable.

Paul Silvester
Chief Executive, Foresight

I suffer with anxiety and depression and, if it wasn’t for Foresight, I’d be stuck at home, festering in my flat, struggling. Foresight has been here for me and Paul has done a brilliant job keeping the centre open. If it hadn’t been open over this period I don’t even know where I’d be. We need support and this place has been brilliant for me.

Thomas
Foresight service user

Download the full Social Impact Report: [www.charitybank.org/impactreport](http://www.charitybank.org/impactreport)

**Report Methodology**

This report is focused on our lending activity in 2020 and 2021. We use the standardised social impact monitoring categories widely adopted by UK social investors and promoted by Big Society Capital and follow accounting methodology where each part of a loan is attributed to the year that it was drawn by the borrower. Every loan application is assessed for both its creditworthiness and its social impact. The majority of the data for this report is gathered from our ongoing tracking of social and financial data and our impact survey conducted in July and August 2021.

*Good Finance (2016), The outcomes matrix https://www.goodfinance.org.uk/measuring-social-impact*

**Important information**

Nothing within this document should be deemed to constitute advice or recommendations. If you are in any doubt, please seek professional advice before any course of action is taken.

Registered Office: The Charity Bank Limited, Fosse House, 182 High Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1BE. Company registered in England and Wales No. 4330018. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Financial Services Register No. 207701. Member of the Financial Services Compensations Scheme (FSCS).