

# Leeds Building Society Foundation 2023 Review

Registered Company Number: 03724612  
Registered Charity Number: 1074429

# A year in review

The Leeds Building Society Foundation is a grant-making charity, funded by Leeds Building Society and its members. We provide funding, in the form of grants, to UK registered charities that support people in need of a safe and secure home. Since 1999, we've donated more than **£3 million** to local projects and good causes.

In 2023, we awarded **£339,486** in grants and supported **46** charities nationwide.

We have a large and small grant scheme, with our large grants scheme having launched in November 2022. Last year our trustees visited five charities in Yorkshire funded through the first large grant round.

Leeds Building Society Foundation's purpose:

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Supporting those in need  
of a **safe and secure home**

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# A note from our Chair

I am proud to take on the role of Chair after six years on the board, at this exciting time in the Foundation's history.

This year marks the end of the first full year of large grant making. Myself and other trustees were able to see first-hand the impact of our funding on the charities we support, by personally visiting some of them to hear about their work.

As a charity that provides funding to other charities supporting those in need of a safe and secure home, it would be easy to feel distanced from the people we help. We try to create strong relationships with the charities we fund to understand the challenges they face, and what is going on in the sector, to inform our future funding decisions.

This year we held a charity networking event to bring some of the charities we support together to encourage collaboration, sharing of knowledge and identifying other ways we can support them, such as volunteering. It was wonderful to see the buzz in the room and hear their enthusiastic conversations!

Funding for smaller charities is becoming increasingly harder to come by, and so this year we have changed our large grant criteria to support charities with a turnover of less than £5 million, which will remain a focus in 2024.

**Carla Marshall**  
*Chair*



# Large grants

Our large grants are multi-year grants of between 1-3 years. Charities can apply for a grant between **£25,000 to £100,000** for core, project or capital costs that support those in need of a safe and secure home.

Multi-year grants allow us to offer charities more sustainable support and to develop relationships with grantees that extend beyond funding.

## Who our large grants supported

Youth homelessness	1
Homelessness	6
Female ex-offenders	1
Refugees and asylum seekers	2
Families in poverty	1
Survivors of modern slavery	1

In 2023 we funded:

# 12 charities

7 new charities and 5 in their second year of multi-year funding

# £46,771

average grant size

# £306,718

in large grants

Our full Annual Accounts for 2023 can be found [here](#)

# Large grant case study: Bradford Night Stop



Location: Bradford

Grant amount: £49,900

Grant period: 2 years

**'Homeless to Home' is a project funded through the Leeds Building Society Foundation.**

In the first year the grant has helped to deliver **482 bed nights** to homeless young people through their shelter and in volunteers' homes. This means young people have a bed to sleep in for the night, instead of sofa surfing or rough sleeping.

This funding has helped young people facing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness, including rough sleepers and asylum seekers. 119 young people have been supported over the first year of this grant.

Alongside the immediate support of bed space for vulnerable young people in Bradford, our support has also been able to achieve the following:

- Recruit, train and support 46 operational volunteers who are essential to the delivery of the emergency accommodation
- Set up and run a new Friday Specialist Housing Advice Drop-In in partnership with Bradford College. This helps young people understand their entitlements around benefits and housing
- Build a range of referral partners in the community.

On a site visit to Bradford Night Stop, our trustee Susan Moreland was able to meet with a young person who had been supported through our grant.

He had been homeless and sleeping rough in woods for two months.

He arrived at the Night Stop exhausted and staff supported him to find a secure and safe place to live.

He is now training to join the police, volunteering in his free time at the Night Stop and is passionate about helping other young people experiencing homelessness.



# Location based approach

The Foundation awards large grants to charities who work in Yorkshire and the North East to support those in need of a safe and secure home.

This allows us to streamline our grant funding, to support areas close to Leeds Building Society's core locations and connect colleagues based there with volunteering opportunities.

The majority of our trustees live and work within the areas we support and have an understanding of the needs and demands of each place.

These areas also include multiple areas of deprivation, with the North East being rated by the Office for National Statistics as having the highest proportion of deprived households in England.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>(ONS), released 2 November 2022, ONS website, Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021

# Large grant case study: Shiloh Rotherham

Location: Rotherham  
Grant amount: £36,000  
Grant period: 3 years

Funding is being used to employ support staff who work with homeless adults in Rotherham.

Over the last year, staff have supported **620** guests. **447** of these were homeless and **164** of these were at risk of homelessness.

Outcomes:

Increased access to external services	338
Improved resilience	112
Improved health/wellbeing	47
Improved skills/knowledge	37
Improved housing status	73

Staff work towards achieving progression outcomes with clients, with the number of clients engaging with those outcomes outlined in the table below.

Support services to achieve those outcomes include providing emergency dental care at their multi-agency drop-in sessions and longer-term educational support, including their 'moving on' tenancy course.



## Paul's Story

Paul came to Shiloh after sleeping rough on and off for a year.

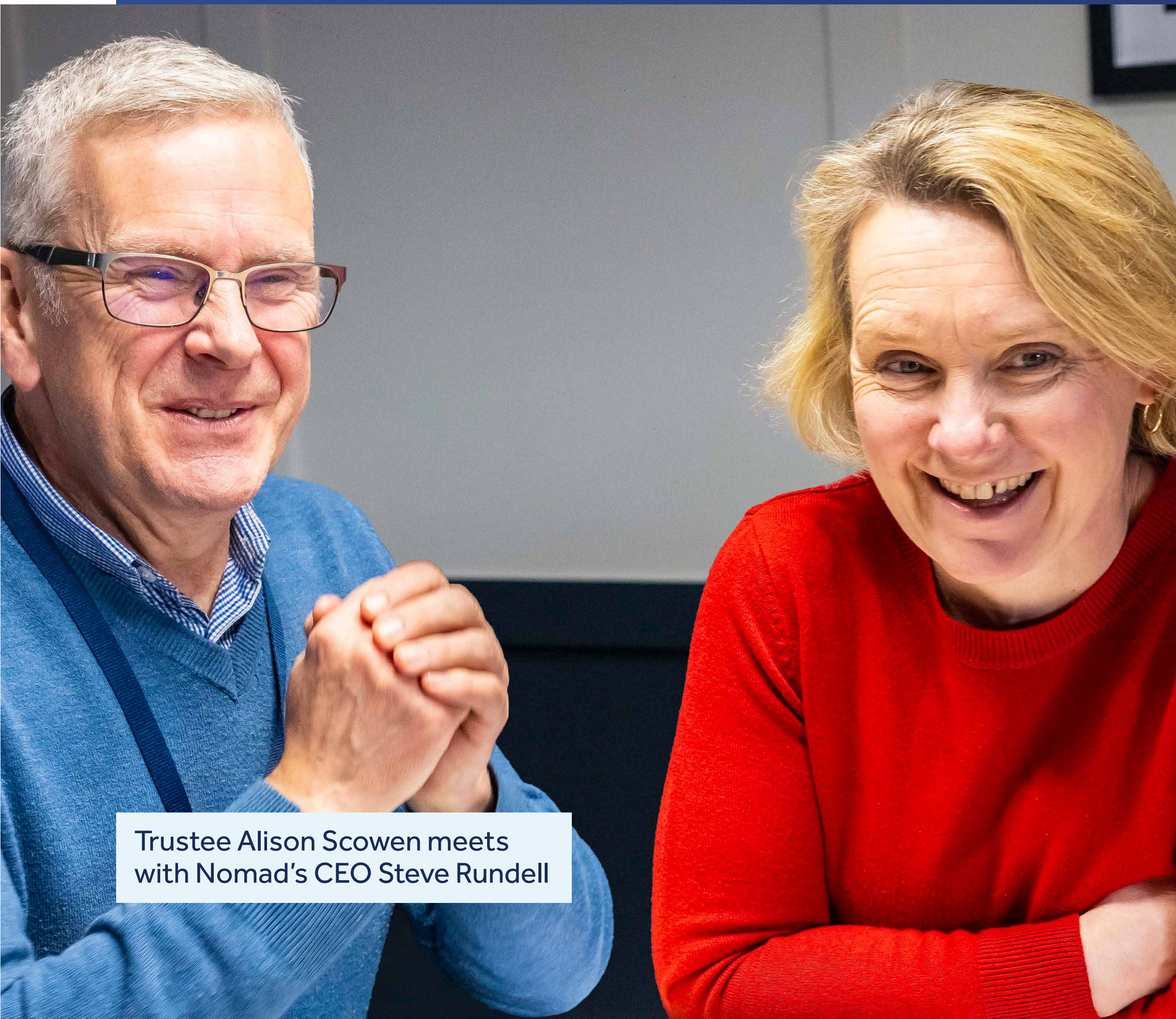
He had ongoing health issues and a lack of support to help him find and maintain a tenancy.

Shiloh spent time building a trusting relationship, at first

providing him with practical support of food, clothing and temporary housing.

With Shiloh's staff and services, Paul was provided with the skills and advice needed to eventually move into a permanent, safe home of his own and was provided with a home start pack and financial assistance to help him settle.

## Large grant case study: Nomad Opening Doors



Trustee Alison Scowen meets  
with Nomad's CEO Steve Rundell

Location: Sheffield  
Grant amount: £89,900  
Grant period: 3 years

The Foundation's grant helps to fund the salaries of Nomad's Housing and Progression Officers, who provide housing, financial and personal support to clients.

We're also contributing to the rent for their head office, providing a vital space for the team and a base for housing assessments.

Over the last year, the Nomad team have worked with and housed 372 people who are the 'hidden homeless' of Sheffield and often slip under the radar of other support.

In 2023, our grant directly contributed to around 42 people being housed and 140 people being signposted to further support. The charity also said the grant has provided security to the charity and reduced the risk of redundancies.

“

The amount of work you do is really appreciated.  
I'd be on the street if it wasn't for Nomad.

”

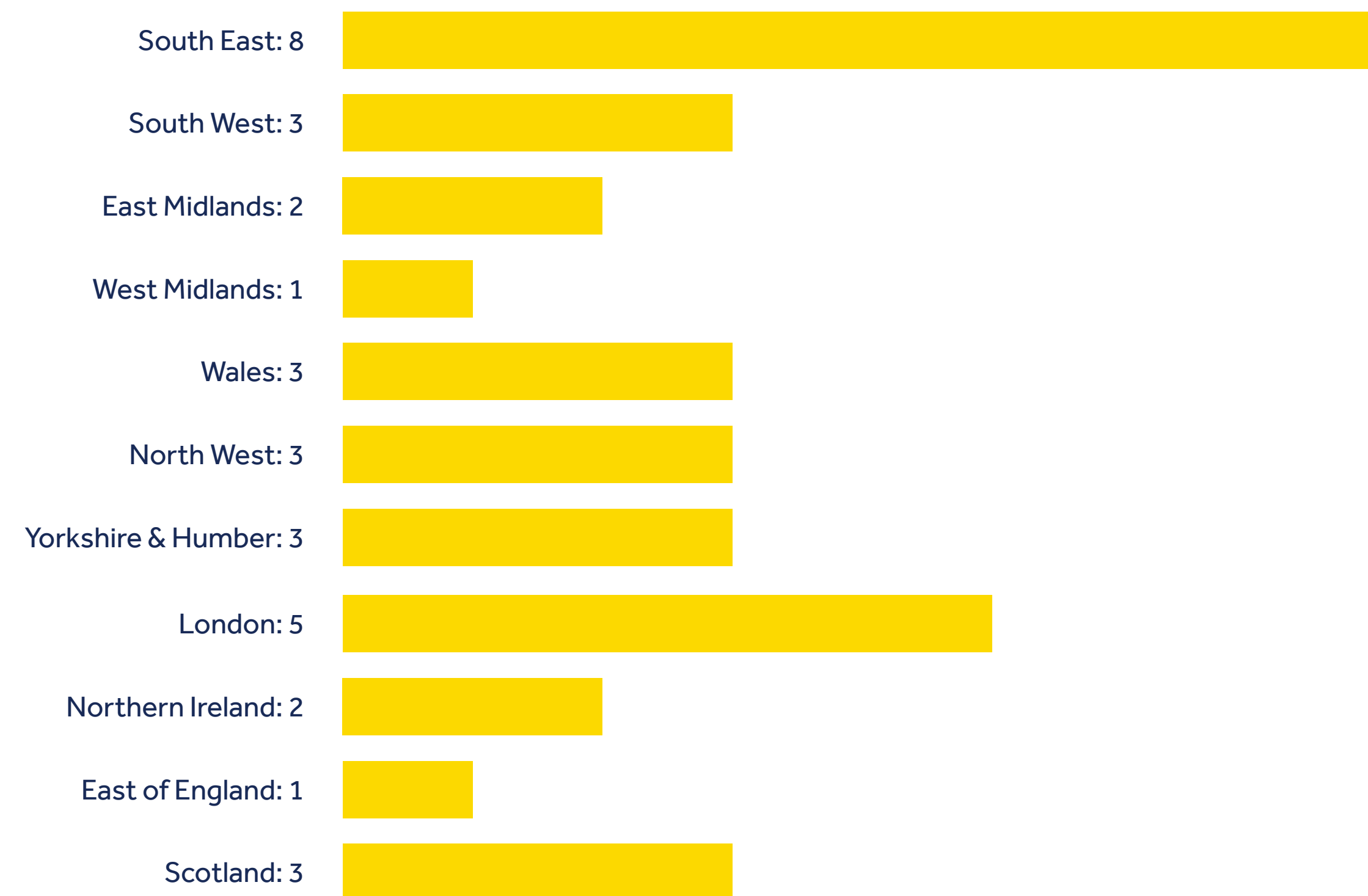
Jamie - Tenant for five months with Nomad



# Small grants

Our small grants programme supports projects across the UK with grants of up to **£1,000** for practical items and equipment. In 2023 we funded **£32,768** in small grants and supported **34 charities**.

**This chart shows the areas our small grants funded:**



Small grant case study:

## St Anne's Hostel

Location: Birmingham  
Grant amount: £879

This organisation's grant purchased a Smart TV that was used to deliver group sessions to residents at their hostel supporting homeless men aged 25 and over.

Sessions on the TV have been delivered to 51 men and included topics such as cooking on a budget and other financial capabilities training.

The sessions are part of wider programme of work that breaks down the barriers homeless men face and help them move on from supported accommodation to their own tenancy.

Small grant case study:

## Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

Location: Gatwick  
Grant amount: £1,000

Through our grant, the organisation purchased monthly phone top-ups for people released from immigration detention.

People leaving detention are seeking safety in the UK and often on release find themselves in challenging situations with poor insecure housing. Our grant enabled 50 people to receive phone credit for two months after their release.

This allowed them to keep in contact with support organisations, family and legal representatives to help them build a network and increase agency to help them move forward.

# The future

The Board of Trustees is committed to improving our grant-making to ensure we fulfil our purpose of supporting those in need of a safe and secure home.

Following training from Homeless Link and a strategic review, the trustees decided to make the following changes to our grant giving:

## Improving charities' success rate

In 2023, we were only able to fund 1 in 10 applications and decision making around funding is always a challenging conversation for trustees, with a high demand for funding, high quality applications and charities struggling in the current socioeconomic environment.

Previously, our funding criteria welcomed applications from charities based in any area, as long as the funding was for a project or service delivered in Yorkshire and/or the North East. We had no limit on the size or turnover of the charity.

A strategic review showed that the average turnover of charities we supported was £1.2 million and that all grants went to charities operating locally or regionally in Yorkshire and the North East.

Therefore in 2024, trustees will only fund applications from charities with a turnover of less than £5 million based in Yorkshire and/or the North East. Narrowing our funding criteria in this way will help improve the application success rate, as it means charities unlikely to receive funding do not spend time submitting an application.

## Best practice in the housing and homelessness sector

In 2024 we are interested in funding charities that take a Housing First and/or relationship-based approach. In applications we will be looking for evidence of:

- Strength-based practice
- Trauma-informed care
- Psychologically-informed environments

## Change in criteria themes

A review of previous themes also allowed trustees to narrow the types of projects we fund, again giving those who apply a better chance of receiving funding.

### The new funding themes for 2024 are:

- Financial stress
- Security and refuge
- Quality and suitability of housing
- Health and wellbeing support for those experiencing homelessness



# Our Board

The Foundation is run independently from Leeds Building Society by a Board of eight trustees, who review applications every three months.

We have five external trustees and three internal trustees, who are colleagues of the Society. After nine years, Gary Hetherington stepped down as Chair in March 2023. Carla Marshall was then appointed as Chair after six years as a trustee and Emma Woods-Bolger as Vice Chair, following one year on the Board.

## Our current trustees are:

Carla Marshall (Chair)  
Emma Woods-Bolger (Vice Chair)  
Alison Scowen  
Chris Bell  
Dominic Charkin  
Nicola Glover  
Susan Moreland  
Tim Steere

