



Forvis Mazars Foundation UK

2026 Impact Report

**forvis
mazars**

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Welcome to our 2026 Impact Report

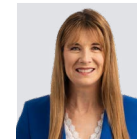
It has been a privilege to support the Forvis Mazars Foundation UK over the past year, and to see first-hand the impact made possible through the commitment of our partners, team members and charity partners.

We are deeply grateful to the partners of the firm for their continued financial support, and to our trustees, grant assessors and volunteers whose time and expertise ensure the Foundation operates with integrity and purpose.

Across the UK, our community partners continue to deliver extraordinary work, supporting young people facing significant barriers to develop the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to thrive. This

report reflects both the scale of that impact and the dedication of those delivering it.

Forvis Mazars has long been committed to giving back to the communities we serve, and the Foundation provides a focused and strategic way to deepen that impact. By working alongside organisations addressing inequality and expanding opportunity, we are helping to create a more equitable future and demonstrating the difference that can be made when purpose and partnership come together.



Lesley Fox
Office Managing Partner,
Chair of Trustees



James Gilbey
CEO Forvis Mazars in the UK,
Trustee



Our purpose, outcomes and values

Every young person deserves the chance to shape their own future, yet across the UK too many still find that their starting point determines their destination, regardless of talent or ambition.

For thousands of children, disadvantage shows up early and deepens over time: only 51% of pupils eligible for free school meals reach a good level of development at age five, compared with 72% of their peers.

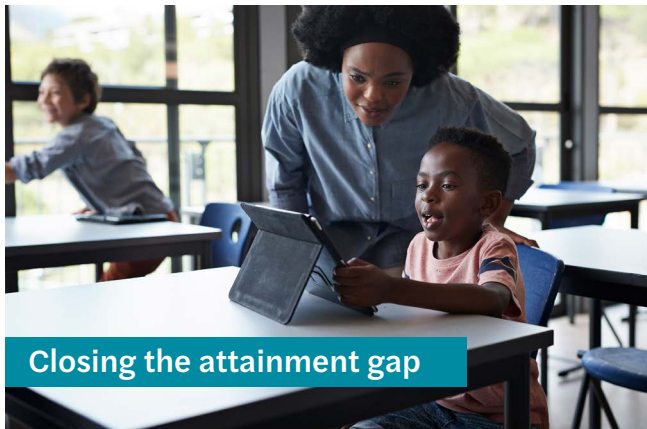
These inequalities also vary starkly by region, with some areas making real progress while others fall further behind. At the same time, young people face one of the toughest labour markets in over a decade, with youth unemployment standing at 16% – its highest level since 2014.

For the Forvis Mazars Foundation UK, this makes social mobility not just an area of focus, but a responsibility grounded in our values. Doing the right thing means confronting these disparities head-on; taking responsibility means investing in the communities and young people who face the steepest hurdles; and acting with respect means recognising the talent, ambition and potential that exist everywhere, even where opportunity does not.

“Our purpose is to support under resourced young people to achieve their potential and feel positive about their future.”



Graeme Marsh,
Foundation Manager



Closing the attainment gap



Equal access to essential life skills



Reducing NEET* young people

*not in education, employment or training.

Our year in numbers

159 grants awarded, disbursing over

£885,000

our largest annual amount since the charity was first formed in 1983.



7 key charity partnerships established, awarding

over **£430,000**

of which almost 60% was given as unrestricted funding.



Over **100**

team members supported with their personal fundraising efforts.



22 community partners supported with over

£307,000

of funding awarded to charities across England, Wales and Scotland.



20 charities local to our offices supported as part of our Christmas Giving campaign, awarding over

£70,000



7 volunteer trustees attended

6 board meetings across the year,

supported by 21 volunteer grant assessors from across the firm.



Operating costs of

9%

of total charitable expenditure.





We fund what works on the ground, backing programmes that turn aspiration into outcomes for under resourced young people, or those facing disadvantage.

Our key partners are part of a strategic portfolio that is driving social mobility across the country.

Over the year the Foundation awarded £430,000 in funding to seven charities, amplified by skills-based volunteering and pro bono support from Forvis Mazars team members.

This support enabled our partners to increase capacity, scale projects and respond to the rising need in our society to better bring together talent and opportunity.

We partner with **IntoUniversity**, a network of local learning centres that helps young people break cycles of disadvantage and progress to positive destinations.

IntoUniversity now operates 46 centres, supporting over 60,000 students annually. Last year 60% progressed to higher education (vs 29% from similar backgrounds nationally) and 88% moved into a positive destination (HE, FE, employment or apprenticeships).

Our grant backed Business in FOCUS and Careers in FOCUS programmes in Bristol, Coventry, Oxford and Weston-super-Mare, directly aligning with our social mobility focus and supported by Forvis Mazars team members through skills-based volunteering and pro bono work.

283 students supported across five centres.

77% of students improved at least one core soft skill and

81% felt more likely to achieve their future goals.



“For many young people in the UK today, opportunities are limited by circumstances beyond their control, making this support vital in opening pathways to education, training and employment. Thank you, from everyone at **IntoUniversity**, for helping young people reach their full potential.”

Dr Rachel Carr, Chief Executive and Co-founder of **IntoUniversity**



“This grant is helping us tackle the structural barriers young carers face every day. Too many of these young people have their education and future opportunities limited by circumstances beyond their control. The Equity for Young Carers Project is about changing that trajectory.”

Krista Cartlidge, CEO



Our funding enabled MYTIME Young Carers to work with Social Finance UK and a leading researcher to run Equity for Young Carers, a systems-change initiative to improve early identification and coordinated support for young carers across education, health and local authority partners.

Launched in December 2025, two initial partner organisations were selected - Newcastle Carers and Romsey Young Carers - each receiving support with the costs of taking part.

- Addresses a national need affecting an estimated 1 million young carers, of whom only ~10% currently access formal support.
- Enables faster identification, clearer pathways and fewer hand-offs, particularly for the most marginalised young carers.
- Targets a high-risk group more likely to be eligible for free school meals, have SEND needs, and face double the school suspension rate, strengthening long-term education and life chances.

LTSB

We funded LTSB to support 350 disadvantaged young people into work, launch the Glasgow Business Programme, and roll out Future You in schools, directly aligned to our goal of reducing NEET young people.

In Glasgow, our firm's support has been hands-on and transformative: the Forvis Mazars Glasgow office hosted five skills sessions with our volunteers on professional communication, leadership and teamwork, and our backing helped unlock co-funding and job opportunities building a stronger local employer pipeline for participants.

85% of programme completers in Glasgow secured roles.

Delivery now spans **7** UK locations, securing **132** placements with 61 employers.

Overall, a **90%** programme completion rate with ~65% progressing into entry-level roles or apprenticeships.



“Together we’ve been able to transform the lives of young people, helping them to secure high quality jobs based on their talents and not their postcode. Alongside investing in us, Forvis Mazars team members have continually gone above and beyond for our young people and with youth unemployment at an 11 year high, our partnership is more important than ever. Thank you.”

Martin Talbot, CEO



EVERY YOUTH

Funding focused on job coaching, the EveryYouth Boost Fund, and Project Flourish to remove practical barriers and fast-track young people, experiencing or at risk of homelessness, into education, employment or training.

As a result, Every Youth's delivery partners across the country can now offer wrap-around support to young people moving into sustained work.

“Partnering with the Foundation has been a great experience. Graeme and the team are helpful, friendly and open minded, and we are truly grateful of the opportunity to leverage Forvis Mazars’ professional expertise and wonderful facilities.”

Nicholas Connolly, CEO

93 young people progressed into EET, with a further 265 accessing support for the first time, exceeding end-of-year targets through funded job coaching.

79 Boost Fund grants, enabling 65 young people to achieve positive outcomes.

40 young people supported through Project Flourish, with 18 new jobs secured and 26 sustained through increased staff capacity.



Our funding helped Get Further to build their organisational capacity and strengthen delivery to under resourced young people resitting GCSE English and Maths, gateway qualifications that unlock access to further education and employment.

Our grant supported the expansion and retention of Get Further's salaried tutor team and the integration of its quality and impact function into programme delivery, alongside participation in a major independent evaluation with the Education Endowment Foundation and the University of Warwick.

1,874 GCSE resit students supported through 6,000+ tuition sessions.

Students made almost **5×** the national average progress across GCSE English and Maths.

Tutor retention increased from 20% to **66%**, enabling scalable growth towards reaching 4,000 students annually by 2029.



“One in two students from disadvantaged backgrounds leave school without a pass in GCSE English and Maths locking them out of further education and career opportunities. By providing support that builds confidence, strengthens skills and helps young people reach their full potential, we are proud to be narrowing the attainment gap in partnership with Forvis Mazars Foundation UK.”

Sarah Waite, CEO and Founder



We funded Learning with Parents to help families build everyday habits of talk, play and exploration at home, closing the gap for children who face additional barriers to learning.

Our flexible funding backed the charity's three priorities of capacity, scale and impact, including the launch of the Ready Teddy school-readiness pilot, expansion of the team and systems (ahead of a first charity audit), and continued development of its mobile-first programmes that connect classroom learning with simple, child-led activities at home.

“The Foundation’s support has enabled us to achieve our most successful year to date. We have reached 26,000 families, recorded 1.5 million reading sessions and successfully piloted two new programmes addressing critical gaps in school readiness and financial literacy.

Tom Harbour, CEO and Founder

Network growth from 170 to **277** partner schools, with 90% choosing to renew.

Families completed **90,000+** learning activities and logged 1.5m+ home reading sessions, with 72% returning to favourite activities.

84% of teachers report that activities help children embed learning.



We funded Future First to pilot an Alumni Fast Track Programme so 30 state secondary schools in the West Midlands and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough could connect young people with relatable role models through sustainable alumni networks, ensuring schools serving low-income communities were not left behind.

Our grant provided intensive training, 12 months of Future First Connect membership, a dedicated School Membership Coordinator, and a secure platform and tools to build sustainable alumni systems.

352 alumni onboarded with **13** alumni-supported careers activities delivered.

100% of participating staff reported increased confidence and clearer understanding of how to use alumni strategically.

80% of schools completed tailored action plans, to sustain careers provision beyond the grant.



“The support from the Foundation has enabled schools in high-deprivation areas to build sustainable alumni networks for the first time. This grant has helped schools create those connections in a strategic, sustainable way – broadening horizons and raising aspirations where it matters most.”

Sarah-Jane Freni, Interim CEO.



Through our Community Grants programme, we back grassroots charities that widen opportunity for under-resourced young people in the places we live and work.

We awarded just over £307,000 to 22 organisations across England, Wales and Scotland, supporting both core costs and programmes ranging from mentoring and literacy to digital skills, outdoor adventure and employability coaching.

Awards were shortlisted and reviewed by a panel of 22 team members from across the firm, then approved by our trustee board, ensuring decisions blend local insight with robust governance.

Together, these grants convert community energy into practical support that builds skills, confidence, and routes into education, training and work. The following are some examples of our community partners.

Our community partners – Closing the attainment gap



Our grant enabled Literacy Pirates to pilot delivery in Cornwall and Yorkshire reaching 84 children in areas with high educational disadvantage and limited specialist literacy support.

It supported 1,000+ hours of learning via 100+ trained volunteers and strengthened the systems needed to coordinate delivery and track progress, with 84% of children improving on at least one literacy measure.

It also reduced access barriers by providing devices and connectivity to around half of participants, helping ensure consistent participation and safeguarding.

Funding enabled delivery of Reading Lab programmes across five primary schools in the St Barts Multi Academy Trust in Stoke-on-Trent, Crewe, Cannock and Newcastle-under-Lyme reaching children in communities experiencing high economic deprivation and educational disadvantage.

The grant supported intensive, targeted support for 90 pupils with significant barriers to learning.

Children made an average of seven months' progress in ten weeks, helping them catch up with peers, rebuild confidence and re-engage with learning.



“We have been delighted to have the support of the Forvis Mazars Foundation UK this year in helping us to close the literacy gap for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Enabling those who need the most help to catch up and engage with their education is central to our specialist literacy intervention ethos and it has been great to work in close partnership with the Foundation to achieve our goals.”

The Children's Literacy Charity

Our community partners – Equal access to opportunities



Kids Kabin

Our funding enabled Kids Kabin to expand and sustain high-quality, hands-on youth provision across the North East of England, reaching 1,268 young people (ages 7-16) across 11 low-income neighbourhoods in Newcastle and Middlesbrough, alongside new collaborations in East County Durham.

36 youth leaders took on leadership roles, and community and international volunteers helped deliver sessions and build community cohesion.

Our grant helped Basecamp to deliver and strengthen its core programme in Leeds, supporting 60 young people through a year of outdoor and personal development activity (with 88% attendance), including 24 skills workshops and 19 adventure days per participant.

This helped young people build the life skills they need to thrive, with outcomes including improved confidence (88%), communication (90%), and increased aspiration and learning.



Basecamp Adventure Trust



Bright Futures UK

Our support helped the UK's only charity supporting children and young people missing education due to long-term illness, to scale sustainably, significantly increasing delivery capacity through its volunteer-led model.

This made it possible to support 2,000+ young people, more than halve the waiting list and expand in-hospital skills workshops.

Outcomes include improved confidence, learning and wellbeing, with 100% of surveyed participants saying they would recommend the programmes to other young people.

Our community partners – Equal access to opportunities

Funding enabled Children Heard and Seen to deliver tailored support, for children affected by parental imprisonment, an often-hidden group with no formal mechanism for identification.

In 2025/26 the charity supported 686 children from 312 families across 60 counties in England and Wales, helping reduce isolation through safe peer connection and strengthening wellbeing, confidence and emotional expression.



Children Heard and Seen



MyBigCareer

Funding extended careers support across the North East of England, reaching 2,900+ young people in 15 schools and building more consistent, long-term engagement from Year 7 to Year 13.

It supported a package of classroom workshops, 1:1 career coaching and employer workplace experiences.

88% of young people felt more confident to make career plans, 87% said the support will help them achieve future goals, and 94% agreed they benefited from taking part.

“Forvis Mazars Foundation UK’s support is so important as it has helped us deliver and expand our programme across the North East of England - reaching over 2,900 under-represented young people since September 2025.

What’s made this partnership stand out is a funder who has challenged us to think harder about our impact, kept the process simple, and kept the focus where it belongs on delivering for young people.”

MyBigCareer

Our community partners – Reducing NEET* young people



Blackburn Rovers Community Trust

Our support funded the launch of Kickstart Futures in Darwen, a relationship-led employability programme delivered locally to re-engage young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET, removing the barriers that previously limited access to opportunities.

The grant supported a flexible, rolling model of small-group delivery combining employability and life-skills sessions, English and Maths, mentoring, and a volunteering pathway linked to King's Trust qualifications.



Sport 4 Life

Our support backed Sport 4 Life UK to deliver tailored employability and wellbeing support for disadvantaged NEET young people across the West Midlands,

Over the grant period, 724 young people engaged in support, 166 accredited qualifications were delivered and 324 completed the full programme, helping 144 young people progress into education, employment or training.

Our support helped Move On deliver intensive, flexible employability support for 52 young people in Glasgow facing multiple barriers to work.

Over the grant period, 25 young people moved into employment (and 3 into Modern Apprenticeships and 49 achieved SQA Employability/Core Skills awards. Others also progressed into further/higher education or re engaged with school.



Move On

*not in education, employment or training.



Throughout the year Forvis Mazars team members can access support for their own charity fundraising, with £500 available for individuals and £1,000 for office initiatives. An additional £5,000 was awarded for each office to support a local charity at Christmas.

With over 100 grants and more than £148,000 awarded through this programme, the following pages give just a few examples of some of the inspirational stories of our team members and the causes they have supported.

Our thanks and congratulations go to all those who gave their time and talent to support such a diverse range of charities across the year, you truly are inspirational.

Supporting our teams



Lucy Welford – 1st West Moor Guides

“Receiving Team Member Funding from the Forvis Mazars Foundation UK will enable us to continue providing inspiring experiences to our members that are accessible to all in the light of rising costs.”

“Hospices across the UK do not benefit from significant Government funding and rely on the kindness of supporters and whilst I will continue to fundraise for them, the additional support from the Foundation this year has been really appreciated and made a significant difference.”



Rebecca Hill – Wisdom Hospice Charity



Paul Rouse – Havens Hospices

“To celebrate my birthday, I decided to embark on a personal challenge to support Havens Hospices, an Essex-based charity, dedicated to providing specialist care for individuals of all ages living with incurable conditions.

We managed to raise £10,070 in total which is enough to run the whole hospice for a day, and I am pleased to report I broke all three PBs in the events I completed.”

Supporting our teams



“I had the pleasure of completing the final stretch of “Ken’s Walk” - a 5-day 100-mile walk started by my partner’s family in aid of Parkinson’s UK.

In 2025, including the donation from the Foundation, we have managed to raise upwards of £10,000 and counting.”

Chris joined a team taking on Helvellyn a total of 85 times in a day in support of Kidney Care UK and Candlelighters.

“It rained 100% of the day and the winds were battering. However, the weather was met with resilience and the slow trudge to the top (for me at least) allowed some time to reflect on why we were there in the first place. Thank you to all that have donated, your support means a lot.”



Supporting our teams



Ishika Srivastava – Water Aid

“I wanted to raise money for WaterAid for the important work they do in increasing access to water and sanitation in the Global South. I know their work makes a real difference on the ground, so any help goes a long way.”



Thershini Pather – Harry's HAT

“While cancer statistics are shocking, it became much more tangible for me in 2024 when my Dad (pictured with Ryan) was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Reflecting on the care he received, I am certain that he benefitted from the incredible work of Prostate Cancer UK.”



Ryan Humphrey – Prostate Cancer UK

“As a parent of a child with this condition, I’ve experienced first-hand the confusion, fear and uncertainty that come with it. Harry’s HAT has been a lifeline, providing clear, compassionate information, connecting me with others in similar situations, and offering emotional support when I needed it most. I’m proud to stand behind their mission.”

Supporting our teams

Christmas Grants – Nominated by our office team members



The Music Works – Gloucester

“At The Music Works, we believe music has the power to change life trajectories. Funding from the Forvis Mazars Foundation UK has allowed us to work alongside some of the most marginalised young people in Gloucestershire, as individuals with real strengths and real futures.”

“This money will provide 33 brand new beds and bundles to children currently living without. The impact of this is transformative and long-lasting, allowing children a good night’s sleep and the chance to thrive at school.”



Zarach – Leeds



Base 51 – Nottingham

“The funding provided by the Foundation has helped us to provide free counselling sessions and youth club activities for 11-24 year olds across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire - helping to improve mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation for the area’s most vulnerable young people.”



Our first year was focused on continuity in charitable giving, underpinned by a new purpose and strategy. Alongside this, new governance processes and systems operating were put in place that will support the Foundation into the future.

Now, as we look ahead to our second year, the focus is on consolidation, learning, and working closely with the firm to set our course for the longer term. We will be continuing to work with many of our first-year partners and looking for more opportunities to support them through pro bono work and skills-based volunteering.

Over the coming months we will start to evaluate our initial strategy and look for opportunities to develop it as our understanding of the complex social mobility landscape evolves. At the heart of our work is understanding where the funds donated to our Foundation by the Forvis Mazars partnership, guided by our purpose, can make the greatest impact.

For more information on how you can get involved, contact our Foundation Manager graeme.marsh@mazars.co.uk

Forvis Mazars Foundation UK

Our thanks to the partners of Forvis Mazars in the UK,
whose kind donations made this work possible.

Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1150459

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