



Weston Charity

AWARDS

19 charities win grant and strategic planning support from Weston Charity Awards

A group of 19 frontline charities from the North of England, the Midlands and Wales have been announced as winners of the 2020 Weston Charity Awards, which received a record number of entries in its seventh year.

The charities, who submitted their entries in January to the Garfield Weston Foundation and leadership charity Pilotlight, will receive a core grant of £6,500 on top of a year of tailored strategic planning support from a dedicated team of four senior business and charity leaders.

Between them the winners provide services to 62,777 people and range in size from £100,000 to nearly £2 million annual income. The people they support cope with a range of issues such as domestic abuse, caring responsibilities and the risks of working in the sex industry.

Every one of the selected charities (listed below) say their jobs have been made more difficult by the impact of coronavirus on their beneficiaries or their ability to deliver services. Thirteen of the nineteen Weston Charity Awards 2020 cohort have continued to provide some socially distanced face-to-face services. Five of the charities have moved services entirely online and one charity has been unable to offer services to the public. This compounds an already tough climate for small charities - more than 70% of respondents to the Weston Charity Awards' [Small Charity Leaders Insight Report](#) in late 2019 reported an increased level of uncertainty in their operating environment.

Philippa Charles, director of the Garfield Weston Foundation said:

“The Covid-19 pandemic has hit the most vulnerable in our communities hard - frontline charities in England are addressing increasing demands for their services with innovation, professionalism and determination; and they are doing so despite serious threats to their finances and operating models.”

“As a Foundation we’ve needed to act swiftly to support frontline activities in the short term, but we continue to champion long-term planning for charities. The support and experience of the Weston Charity Awards puts charities in a really strong position to survive, adapt and thrive into the future.”

Since March, **James Lewis, CEO of Action for Elders** has overseen the introduction of online exercise and wellbeing programmes for preventative health and social connectedness support to both existing and new service users. On receiving a Weston Charity Award, he said:

“Our participants are among those most vulnerable to the Covid-19 pandemic: older people who have life-limiting health conditions. Our urgent and primary concern has been to transform our delivery model. Our selection by the Weston Charity Awards recognises our ultimate goal of helping those in later life by building and developing our Balanced Lives programmes, taking them to all areas of the UK, and building the long term sustainability of the organisation.”

Another recipient, **Mike Seaton, CEO of Carers Support South Lakes** said:

“We will seize this amazing opportunity to help us achieve our goals to extend the charity’s reach and accessibility; grow our unrestricted income through the development of social enterprise initiatives; raise our profile; and improve our monitoring and evaluation so we can keep making a difference and enhance the lives and well-being of unpaid carers for many years to come.”

Catrin Evans, Manager of Plant Dewi which runs family support projects and community activities in South West Wales said:

“We are overjoyed to be given this chance to guide us through an exciting time of change. We are excited to plan our way forward, to strengthen our governance and structure and to ensure we can develop the support available to the families we support.”

Over the past two decades, Pilotlight has helped nearly 1,000 charities to strengthen leadership and become more resilient through facilitated coaching programmes with teams of business leaders bringing diverse skills and approaches.

Bruce McCombie, interim chief executive of Pilotlight, said: “Weston Charity Award recipients are selected on the strength of their ambitions and their openness to external perspectives - attributes that will help them benefit most from working with our Pilotlighters.

“Success looks different for each charity we work with, be it in the Weston Charity Awards or through our other programmes. On average, our charity partners typically increase both their reach and income by more than a third within two years of the programme. But those figures only tell part of the story - digging down into individual charities’ experience, it’s not just about growth, we also see more focused services, increased confidence of the charity leaders and sustainable innovations benefitting communities across the UK.”

Notes to editors

1. For **photography** of the winning charities in action, **interviews** with the charities or with spokespeople from the Garfield Weston Foundation and Pilotlight, **please contact Julie Kangisser on 07711 818496 or Sam Burne James on 07848 380 394.**
2. A full list of Weston Charity Awards 2020 winners and cause areas:
 1. [Grace House North East](#) – respite care for young people
 2. [darts](#) - activities for people with disabilities and mental health conditions
 3. [Manchester Action on Street Health \(MASH\)](#) – Female sex workers
 4. [Rochdale Connections Trust](#) – Domestic Abuse
 5. [Carer Support South Lakes](#) – Support for carers
 6. [Action for Elders](#) – Elderly
 7. [The Brick \(Queen’s Hall Action on Poverty\)](#) - Homelessness
 8. [Ravenscliffe Community Association](#) – Community support
 9. [Plant Dewi](#) – Family support
 10. [Positive Action in the Community \(PAC\)](#) – Homelessness

11. [The Venus Charity](#) – Family support
12. [Shropshire RCC](#) – Rural stimulation
13. [Worcester Community Trust](#) – Community Hubs
14. [Music Action International](#) – Community engagement
15. [Groundwork West Midlands](#) – Community support
16. [Meadow Well Connected](#) – Local support
17. [Eagle's Nest Project](#) – Alternative education provision
18. [The Enthusiasm Trust](#) – Youth behaviour
19. [Dangerpoint](#) – Safety education

3. **About the Weston Charity Awards:** The Awards celebrate and support great frontline charities working in the fields of community, welfare and youth. Run by the Garfield Weston Foundation with Pilotlight, charities with incomes under £5 million in the North of England, the Midlands and in Wales can apply. Initially launched in the North East of England in 2014, the Weston Charity Awards quickly expanded to the North West, the Midlands and, in 2018, Wales - areas identified by the Foundation as having the greatest need.

www.westoncharityawards.org

4. **About the Garfield Weston Foundation:**

Established over 60 years ago in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK. It has donated over £1billion to charities since it was established and in the last financial year gave over £88million to charities large and small across the country.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others – a successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown so too have the charitable donations.

From small community organisations to large national institutions, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities and activities that make a positive impact in the communities in which they work. Around 2,000 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants.

<https://garfieldweston.org/>

5. **About Pilotlight:** Pilotlight is an award-winning social enterprise that connects Pilotlighters (its business members) with charitable organisations, to unlock solutions that help charities become more effective and sustainable. Since 2003 Pilotlight has supported nearly 1,000 charities and social enterprises tackling social disadvantage in the UK. Pilotlight's impact report 2020 shows that two years after completing the Pilotlight Programme, on average, charities have increased their turnover by 40% and are reaching 36% more people. For more information please visit: www.pilotlight.org.uk