

TSG Foundation Annual Report

2023

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About the TSG Foundation

We firmly believe in the potential of every individual to make a positive contribution to the world.

TSG Foundation was launched in 2022 with a commitment to donate a portion of each year's annual profits to support good causes that **unlock opportunities in the digital world**.

Through the TSG Foundation, we aim to effect meaningful change and brighten the future for those in need around the UK.



Outcomes

- *I have a better digital awareness (to access services and information I need to succeed and have a better life)*
- *I have improved skills and confidence (to make the most of the opportunities I am presented with and thrive)*
- *I have safe access to the digital world (to navigate safely and confidently)*

Introduction from our CEO

Rory McKeand



At the **TSG Foundation**, we're able to drive innovation with technology in local communities by empowering charities with grants that give people in need access to resources and technologies that enable communities to grow and build.

The foundation is a systematic way of tackling the digital divide, and it's something that a lot of charities need help with.

There's a whole range of people across the UK, especially young people, who need help, and through the TSG Foundation, **we aim to do just that.**



In our everyday business, we're a trusted advisor and through the foundation we can become a trusted advisor to people beyond business diameters.

Not only does the foundation help bridge the digital divide, but the grants from the TSG Foundation are **employee led**, meaning employees nominate UK charities and causes that are close to them. The TSG Foundation rewards their efforts in helping their communities and ultimately gives them, as a team, the control over where that foundation money is spent.

To further lend a helping hand to the communities around us, we give our employees the opportunity to volunteer within our local communities. Each employee can take two charity days a year to support a cause they're enthusiastic about. We're leading the way, and I hope that other tech partners will do something similar in the future and think about the wider communities and how we all collectively can make a difference to people's lives and create a **brighter future through technology.**

Rory McKeand



2023 Summary in Numbers

£67,350 awarded

Grants presented to **8 charities**

More than **5,000 people** have benefited directly



**Who We've
Helped So Far...**

Percy Hedley Foundation

The Percy Hedley Foundation is a disability charity based in the North East of England that supports people with complex learning difficulties, disabilities, and additional communication needs.

The foundation's mission is to inspire positive change, and it achieves this by providing special education, care, support, accommodation, and lifelong learning opportunities in its two schools, college, homes, and Horizons lifelong learning service.

TSG Foundation awarded the Percy Hedley Foundation £3,200 in April, helping to fund the Living Skills Room Project. Hedley's College and Hedley's Horizons support adults aged 19+ and provide a range of activities to aid them in becoming independent and enabling them to live full, happy lives.

The grant was used to purchase 4 iPads which are now permanently based in the two independent living skills rooms.

The iPads help users use and access various home appliances and develop skill leading to more independence, improved well-being, and confidence.



Percy Hedley Foundation

Grant Impact

Approx. 80 people per week access the independent living rooms on both sites, and the foundation's feedback confirms that independence has increased and decreased dependence on staff intervention. Staff have reported that there is a willingness to try new things.

"It's really good when I have to do something. I can use the iPad and listen to what it says to do, and then I can do it. If I forget, I can tap it and it tells me again."

Megan, a young person PHF helps.



Royal Air Force Air Cadets

The Royal Air Force Air Cadets offer young people across the UK exciting personal and professional development opportunities.

Opportunities include UK and overseas camps, leadership courses, air experience flights, and pilot training.

43,000 air cadets and 10,000 volunteer staff annually participate in exciting events over 1,000 squadrons across the UK.

The TSG Foundation awarded £3,500 to the Royal Air Force Cadets in August. With the grant, the cadets from 2229 (Loughborough) Squadron Royal Air Force Cadets have been able to purchase **high-specification laptops, virtual reality headsets, control columns, and software** to be able to provide the Virtual Principles of Flight training syllabus to the Cadets.

With this equipment, the Cadets can learn the basic of flight controls before they progress and get an opportunity to fly in a Glider or Powered Aircraft—thus earning their Aviation Wings award.



Royal Air Force Air Cadets

Grant Impact

The feedback received from the Royal Air Force Cadets:

One of the aims of the Air Cadets is to promote and encourage a practical interest in aviation and the RAF, the foundation support goes a long way to helping us with this and is appreciated.



St Oswald's Hospice

The St Oswald's Hospice is a charitable hospice rooted in the North East.

The hospice provides outstanding specialist and expert care to adults and children with life-limiting conditions. The charity has supported local people and their families for over 36 years.

St Oswald's mission is to make the most of time and improve the quality of life for the people they help, including offering family support.



The TSG Foundation awarded St Oswald's Hospice £10,000 in June. The grant was used to install **laptops and other ITG equipment** in 11 Hospice shops, giving volunteers the opportunity to build their IT skills and knowledge.

All volunteers are now registered with St Oswald's online training academy. The online training has been adapted to ensure it is relevant for retail volunteers and clear and easy to understand for people who are not confident readers or who do not speak English as their first language.

For younger volunteers it is useful experience for future employment. For older, retired volunteers they can use their **improved digital skills** helpful for everyday activities such as paying an online bill and getting started with emails.

St Oswald's Hospice



Grant Impact

We've had **positive feedback**, with the volunteers telling us that the training has been helpful and that they have felt so well-supported as they learn to use the equipment and work through their training. Shop Managers are also very grateful for the equipment provided by the TSG grant as they no longer feel 'torn in two' as they can undertake pricing, stock management, etc, on the fixed PC within the shop whilst volunteers are well supported to **develop their skills** and complete their training on the new, TSG funded laptops.

513 volunteers have registered with the online training academy, and since January, 58% of them (297 individuals) have already completed training in GDPR awareness, information governance, safeguarding, radicalisation, and EDI. 61% (312 people) have completed their Health & Safety Training.

Embells CIC Community Support Project

The Embells CIC Community Support Project helps make everyday life easier for individuals and families in need throughout Gateshead.

Embells CIC Community Support is based in Gateshead and provides support with food parcels, clothing packs, and free community courses to help people gain new skills and make new friends.

Every Friday, the charity hosts a community pop-up market and food pantry, which raises funds for its support services and provides low-cost essentials to the local community.

Throughout school holidays, the charity provides free family fundays.



TSG Foundation awarded Embells CIC Community Support Project £2,000 in March, which was used to fund a drop-in project. A place where the local community could drop-in and receive help and support with help with form filling, making calls, signposting to relevant support organisations, and CAP came along to provide debt advice.

Through setting up this project the need was identified for support services and people in the community who needed to access these services to be increased, so changed their support day to a Friday, and support services now come directly into their community to offer direct support.

Embells CIC Community Support Project



Grant Impact

Thanks to the **Grant** the Embells CIC Community Support drop-in project was set up and proven to be a much-needed community support. In addition, after receiving feedback from local parents who came along to the drop-in sessions it was established that there were not enough free after school activities local for children, so with the remaining grant money a **Fitkids4life drop-in session** was set up and ran for 6 months.

In the 6 months of the Community drop-in project, **589 people** accessed support services.



Hull & East Yorkshire Children's University

The Hull & East Yorkshire Children's University is a charity that works with children in disadvantaged areas of Hull and East Yorkshire who may not have had the same opportunities as others.

The charity helps ignite dreams for underprivileged children by providing experiences that broaden horizons and raise aspirations.

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The TSG Foundation awarded Hull & East Yorkshire Children's University a grant of **£5,500**, and it was used to provide **Audio guide sets** for the KCOM Learning Zone, supplementing the "Ambassadors of Hull" and "Trawling from Hull" experiences.

The children use the headsets as part of both tours to learn about the experiences. The headsets have helped to engage the children – they can now hear the lead speaker without issue, even if they are at the back of the group.

A group of children wearing bright yellow high-visibility vests and black headsets. One vest has 'BAY PRIMARY' printed on it. They are standing outdoors in front of a stone building. The image is part of a presentation slide with a purple background.

Hull & East Yorkshire Children's University

Grant Impact

The feedback we received from the charity was that the technology was easy to set up, volunteers and children were less likely to lose their voices from shouting, and, more importantly, how much easier it is to engage the children.

800 children will benefit from the headsets in the summer term alone.

Royal Grammar School (RGS Partnerships)

The RGS Partnership aims to change lives through education. It works with schools, businesses, and other local and national educational umbrella organisations to establish ways in which it can share expertise, support, and experience where it can make the greatest impact.

As part of the support, they're developing a CPD training profile in areas where they have expertise. RGS is currently working with 10 state senior schools on a math project that takes students beyond the specifications and provides them with a wider understanding of the subject.



TSG awarded RGS £15,000 in August, and the grant was used to significantly impact in STEM* Outcomes and Teacher development in STEM subjects.

With the grant, RGS employed a specialist Computer Science and Robotics partnership teacher (match funded with British Engines). Digital School house sessions to partner Primary schools have been delivered – this is a nationally accredited and evaluated scheme – thanks to TSG funding programmes being delivered are Digital schoolhouse, computing with Indi, Sphero robots, LEGO essential kits and Factory robots.

*Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.



A photograph showing several children's hands holding small, glowing, spherical objects. The spheres have a blue and white pattern, resembling a stylized globe or a digital design. The children are standing on a dark surface, and the lighting is dim, making the glowing spheres stand out.

Royal Grammar School (RGS Partnerships)

Grant Impact

So far, **2,500 children** have benefited from the grant in regular school-based sessions – additional students will be reached through workshops and events (circa 2,000 per year).

RGS delivered a range of computer programmes in state Primary and Secondary schools. In the 2nd term of 2023-24, the programme reached over **1500 children across the North East.**



Camphill Wellbeing Trust

The Camphill Wellbeing Trust is a Scottish charity that supports the well-being of patients and their families through an integrated, person-centred approach to health, education, and social care.

Their AnthroHealth approach uses individualised therapeutic programmes to address illness, build resilience and maintain well-being.

The Trust's aims are to promote innovative approaches to health, education, and social care, provide education and training, promote related research, offer equality of access to their services, and raise funds to support their aims.

The **TSG Foundation** awarded **£8,150** to the Camphill Wellbeing Trust in December. The grant was used to purchase IT equipment, such as **2 laptops** and **5 iPads**, for use on the Compass Project in Aberdeen. The new equipment will help support the first zero-waste, healthy cooking class and give volunteers visual support in designing and painting signs for the organic garden.

The equipment enables the trust to record activities and development of project—some used are their Duke of Edinburgh award for 6 students with learning disabilities.



Camphill Wellbeing Trust

Grant Impact

The grant has helped the Compass project in achieve its aims, which include **expanding participants' experience and knowledge** of outdoor activities through access to training and online tools, offering employability skills and enhancing their experience and knowledge of secondary food processing.

60+ have benefited from this equipment so far, and some funds are left to purchase more.



Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK (PWSA)

The Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK is a small charity that provides lifelong support to people who are affected by Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS).

They provide a dedicated helpline, a comprehensive information hub, a regional network of peer support groups with a varied programme of community events, training for professionals who work with individuals with PWS, and support for vital research.

The charities aim to help their fantastic community to overcome challenges and live life fully.

We awarded PWSA £10,000 in December, and it helped fund the New Diagnosis leads. This allows them to provide quarterly online sessions for parents/carers to meet up and **share experienced and skills**, reducing social anxiety. Siblings can also attend online groups, where they can **have fun being children again** rather than in their caring roles.

Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK (PWSA)

pwsa.co.uk

Grant Impact

We received such positive feedback from PWSA:

"We are most grateful to TSG for their support; it has enabled the New Diagnosis Lead to visit families as well as meeting online – something that they did not have funding for in the past".

The grant so far has supported **10 families** spending many hours on the helpline guiding them through their diagnosis – which, if assumed the PWS child has two parents and one sibling – **40 people in total**.

Closing statement from our Chairman
(now retired)

David Stonehouse



We were very keen that we set up **the TSG Foundation** in 2022 to enable TSG to give something back to the communities throughout the UK. Everyone in TSG now has the ability to improve the lives of those less fortunate wherever they are based.

Progress for the TSG Foundation was slow as we found our feet. However, as employees have shared causes close to their hearts, we have been able to provide 8 grants during 2023 totalling £67,350, as well as carrying forward a healthy bank balance into 2024 to support future needs.



As TSG profits continue to grow

due to the efforts of all our staff, funding into the Foundation should increase proportionately.

The TSG Foundation is something all employees should be proud to be associated with and it's important you think of organisations (formal charities or community interest groups) you care about and how TSG could assist them and improve their digital usage & skills.

However, do not get too hung up about a direct fit or project, to the Foundation's stated objectives – most entities are heavy digital users, so we ought to be able to find a 'project' to support the right cause!

It's truly heartening for me to see that the Foundation, which was once just an idea, is now not only established but also delivering on the purposes we set out to achieve.

David Stonehouse

**Thank you
#TeamTSG**

