



THE
IRELAND
FUNDS
GREAT BRITAIN



2025 Impact in Action





Making a real difference to people and communities is central to the work of The Ireland Funds, a network of friends of Ireland dedicated to creating a positive social impact worldwide. As a proud chapter of The Ireland Funds worldwide network for over 35 years, The Ireland Funds Great Britain raises funds to support community, culture, education, and peace on the island of Ireland and across Great Britain.

We
Change
Lives



We
Channel
Support



We
Connect
People



The Ireland Funds Great Britain Board of Directors

Bridget Walsh *Chair*
Declan Tiernan *Vice Chair*
Ruairí Conneely *Treasurer*
Eoin Bastible
Sean Doyle *Appt. Sep 2025*

Emer Finnan
Rory Godson
Garrett Hayes
Conor Hillery
Padraig Moore

Rachel Naughton
Sue O'Brien OBE
Zachary Webb
Susan Whelan OBE

Grants Committee

Rachel Naughton *Chair*
Ruairí Conneely
Ruairí Cullen

Michael Keaveney
Eileen Kelliher *Ret. Sep 2025*
Gemma Moynihan

Victoria Wallace
Majella Walsh *Appt. Sep 2025*
Susan Whelan OBE

Thank you

2025 marked a step change for The Ireland Funds Great Britain — one defined by ambition, scale and deepened impact.

Across the year, we responded to growing need with bold action, significantly expanding our reach and the depth of our support for communities across Great Britain and the island of Ireland. Through 2025, we were able to distribute over £1.8 million in grants to more than 50 organisations – an increase of £1 million on the previous year, representing a significant growth in our grant making. This step change reflects not only increased demand, but the extraordinary generosity of our supporters, who continue to stand with communities facing poverty, hardship, exclusion and limited access to opportunity.

Alongside this growth in funding, we reached several important organisational milestones. In 2025, we launched our new Flagship Grants, designed to strengthen long term impact in key priority areas.

Our Northern Ireland initiative continued to grow, reinforcing meaningful connections between the diaspora and vital community-led work at home. We also deepened our partnerships with outstanding Irish organisations and businesses, collaborating on standout events with Business Post and Irish Film Institute – each reflecting the best of Irish leadership, creativity and community.

Our flagship events, including the Women in Business & Philanthropy Lunch and the London City Lunch, remained central to this momentum. These gatherings brought together our community of supporters with purpose and intent, creating the platform for meaningful philanthropy and shared commitment to change.

What truly defines 2025, however, is not statistics or milestones, but what they made possible: organisations better resourced to serve, communities better supported, and futures strengthened through timely intervention and care. Your generosity underpins every grant, every partnership and every moment of impact outlined in this report. Thank you for your continued belief in our mission and for the trust you place in us to steward that support wisely. Together, we are building lasting change – grounded in compassion, driven by connection and carried forward by community.

Kind regards,

Katie Jemmett, Executive Director

Bridget Walsh, Chair, The Ireland Funds Great Britain



Delivering for communities

Your generosity allowed us to double our grant support in 2025 as we awarded £1.8m to over 50 hard-working organisations. This helped thousands of people across Great Britain and the island of Ireland.

The Ireland Funds Great Britain supports charities and not-for-profit organisations in six key ways:



Curating a Powerful Network of Support



Supporting the Irish Diaspora



Giving Visibility to Charitable Causes



Donor Advised Grants



Connecting Donors with Charities



Community Impact Fund

THE IRELAND FUNDS SUPPORTS ORGANISATIONS ACROSS 4 PILLARS



EDUCATION



ARTS & CULTURE



COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



PEACE &
RECONCILIATION

Tackling
deprivation

Promoting
art and
culture

Fostering
friendships

Dementia
support

Helping
homeless
communities

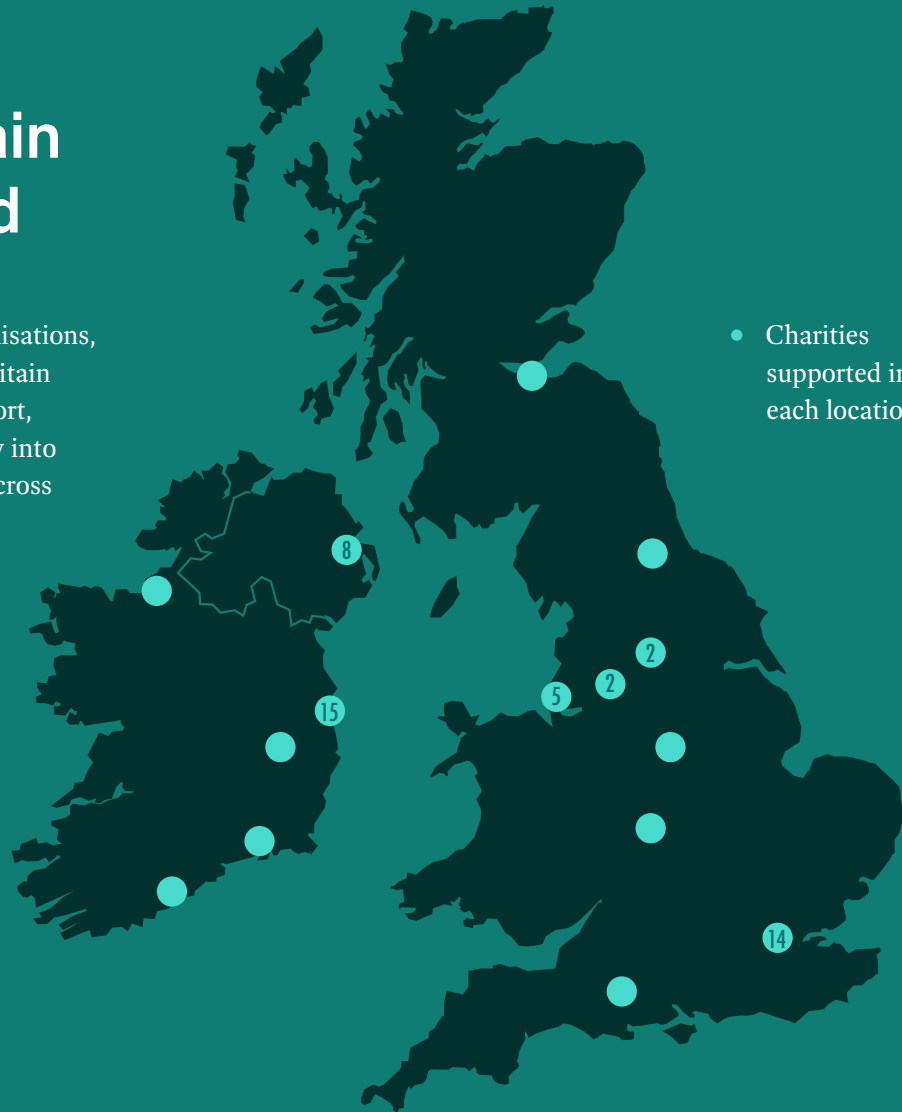
Reducing
isolation

Alleviating
poverty

Shaping Great Britain and Ireland

Working with trusted organisations, The Ireland Funds Great Britain delivers wide ranging support, funding and impact directly into the heart of communities across Great Britain and Ireland.

From Cork to Belfast, Liverpool to London, The Ireland Funds is there.



Supporting the vulnerable

Celebrating our older Irish community

Empowering inclusivity

Helping families

Supporting refugee and migrant communities

Driving access to education





Impactful change together

Remarkable things happen when passionate people unite. Your generosity raised vital funds to power our mission through donations, our dedicated 100 Club, fundraising events, and our stellar Young Leaders Society.

Throughout the year, you gathered to show your unwavering generosity and support. Your deep love for Ireland, and belief in our mission, make transformative change not only possible, but powerful. Together, we're building a brighter future.



Strength in numbers



600

Irish elders participated in health, wellbeing and cultural activities including storytelling and live music. | [Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith](#)



370

People received vital specialist advice on welfare benefits, housing, and debt. | [Luton Irish Forum](#)

20,000

People from all corners of our community benefitted from [The Ireland Funds Great Britain's](#) support



500

Young people in semi-independent foster care received essential care packages. | [MyBag](#)



82

Women and children benefitted from emotional health and wellbeing support. | [HEReNI](#)

Stories of Impact

IMMIGRANT COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY (icap)

icap is the only British-based counselling and psychotherapy service for those in the Irish community experiencing mental health difficulties.

Our impact: A one-of-a-kind art therapy group for Irish adults in Britain offered space to talk and explore emotions thanks to the support of The Ireland Funds. Grant funding supports this weekly, online session that allows group members to make art as a means of expressing their thoughts.

BLACKWATER VALLEY OPERA FESTIVAL

“Your wonderful support has created memorable musical experiences for more than 2,000 young people and provided professional employment for more than 100 artists. It has also enabled a new €5,000 bursary, helping us invest directly in the next generation of operatic talent.”

- Eamonn Carroll, Festival Director

IRISH COMMUNITY CARE MERSEYSIDE

Irish Community Care provides dedicated support to more than 1,000 people annually facing poverty, isolation and crisis across Merseyside, Cheshire and Wigan.

Our impact: Vulnerable Irish community members in crisis received critical support to help them stay safe, healthy and connected to others. Grant support allowed ICC to develop wellbeing activities, as well as provide support through food, vouchers and accommodation.



Photo: Frances Marshall (MSND Lismore Castle) and John . Kelly (Actis and Galatea, St Carthage's Cathedral)



IRISH MUSIC & DANCE IN LONDON

Irish Music & Dance in London promotes traditional Irish arts to help foster positive Irish identity in the capital.

Our impact: Grant funding benefitted more than 70 young Irish musicians aged 11 to 25. Professional musicians supported them through dedicated rehearsals, music education, development and performance.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND

National College of Ireland in Dublin offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses in business, computing, psychology and education.

Our impact: More than 1,500 mature students now receive dedicated support to alleviate isolation while in college. Grant support has helped to meet the complex needs of mature students through outreach, one-to-one meetings and social initiatives.

THE PARENT ROOMS

“Support from The Ireland Funds Great Britain enabled us to make a meaningful difference to parents experiencing mental health challenges. One-to-one support helped rebuild their confidence, strengthen their wellbeing, and alleviate isolation in their parenting journey.”

- Michelle Bradley, CEO

SPINAL INJURIES IRELAND

Spinal Injuries Ireland is Ireland’s only dedicated support service for people living with a spinal cord injury and their family members.

Our impact: A peer-to-peer programme was made possible by grant support. It saw 64 people - with the lived experience of a spinal cord injury - receive training to support newly injured patients.





BRENT IRISH ADVISORY SERVICE

Brent Irish Advisory Service supports England's largest Irish community, with the mission of improving their health, welfare and social engagement.

Our impact: Grant support has provided a lifeline to the most disadvantaged members of the Irish community, hardest hit by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Through the employment of a senior welfare adviser, more than £1.5 million of additional income has been generated for those in need, including through the provision of critical housing and welfare supports.



BLOOMSBURY FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

Bloomsbury Football Foundation provides high quality football sessions for young people in London, regardless of background and ability.

Our impact: 120 young refugees and asylum seekers built confidence, friendships and a sense of belonging through football. Grant support allowed Bloomsbury Football to strengthen its refugee and asylum seeker programme across four London boroughs by providing an inclusive environment.



COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

Coventry Irish Society provides a wide range of health, welfare, and cultural services in Coventry and Warwickshire, their main focus being the vulnerable Irish.

Our impact: Betty's Friends, a much-loved culturally sensitive dementia support group, was re-established in 2025 thanks to grant support. Funding allowed a coordinator to tailor reminiscence work to help connect carers and patients, creating a weekly session to lift the spirits of all.



Cruse Bereavement Support

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

“The Ireland Funds grant has helped us increase our capacity and reduce waiting times. This has reduced pressure on our services and means that we can support more bereaved people through one of the most difficult times in their lives.”

- Natasha Moore, Partnerships Officer



LEEDS IRISH ARTS FOUNDATION

Leeds Irish Arts Foundation provides access to Irish music and arts, as well as celebrating the many contributions that Irish people have made to life across Leeds and West Yorkshire.

Our impact: 'Side By Side', a new project documenting the shared experiences of two immigrant communities in inner Leeds, was funded by The Ireland Funds Great Britain. The project captures the similarities between the Leeds Irish "Remittance Generation" and the Leeds West Indian "Windrush Generation" of the 1950s and 1960s.

COMMUNITY SPORTS NETWORK

Community Sports Network uses sport to develop communities and engage with everyone, from young people, OAPs and disability groups to former prisoners and the homeless community.

Our impact: Residents of Centenary Men's Homeless shelter benefitted from a physical activity programme designed to help them focus on healthy living and a positive routine away from addiction and anti-social behaviour.





VIA WINGS

Via Wings empowers families and individuals to address the root causes of poverty through a range of practical, emotional and developmental supports.

Our impact: Free counselling, fresh food packages and Christmas hampers for disadvantaged families and individuals experiencing food poverty were just some of the practical supports made possible due to grant funding.

ABBEY THEATRE

As Ireland's national theatre, the Abbey Theatre's ambition is to enrich the cultural lives of everyone with an interest in Irish theatre, stories, artists and culture.

Our impact: Funding supported the theatre's outreach programmes to groups who have had limited access to theatre. Through drama initiatives, workshops were provided to community groups, culminating in performances on the Peacock Theatre stage.



WOMEN FOR ELECTION

"The Ireland Funds grant enables us to support women in national politics. Their success encourages more women to enter politics, building a better, fairer, gender-balanced democracy."

- Brian Sheehan, CEO

ALLFM

ALLFM provides a voice for those who are least heard and at risk of social and economic exclusion by using radio and technology to improve their communication skills.

Our impact: Grant support helped 20 older people from the Greater Manchester Irish community develop the skills to present their own live radio show. The initiative boosts the self-confidence of elderly people who are isolated and/or have mental health issues.



Flagship Grants

Our flagship grants initiative is aimed at funding aspirational projects. It gives organisations an opportunity to partner with The Ireland Funds Great Britain to do something unique, beyond their everyday work.

Women'sTEC and Institute of Irish Studies at The University of Liverpool were each awarded a grant of £50,000 to fund an initial two-year project.



WOMEN'STEC

Women'sTEC supports vulnerable women and girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to improve their life opportunities. It reduces barriers for participation in education, training and employment for these women.

Our impact: 80 primary school girls from Derry-Londonderry, are taking part in The Girl Power project, an initiative to increase female representation in male-dominated sectors like construction. The girls learn to saw, drill and bricklay, with the project aiming to challenge stereotypes and increase the earning potential of young women.

INSTITUTE OF IRISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

The Institute of Irish Studies is one of a kind and the leading centre of excellence for the study of the Irish in Britain.

Our impact: The overlooked voices of Irish migrant construction workers in post-war Britain have been captured as part of an oral history project called 'Men We Seldom See: Irish Migrant Legacies and the British Construction Industry'. Through 20 interviews, the project uncovers powerful stories of migration, labour, identity, and resilience and will form a lasting public archive for generations.



Northern Ireland Initiative

Our Northern Ireland Initiative continued to grow in 2025, supporting education, training and community development while strengthening links with the London-based diaspora.

Thanks to donor support, the first funded projects helped to expand a youth club Peer Educator Programme and supported the development of a Community Hub in Belfast.

Over £200,000 was raised for No Mind Left Behind scholarships, providing access to higher education where financial barriers exist.

Committee members visited Belfast to see the impact of support first hand, and to learn more about the challenges and opportunities facing Northern Ireland's communities.

Two special events were hosted during the year, a private dinner with former President of Ireland, Dr Mary McAleese in February and in May, His Excellency Ambassador Fraser hosted 100 diaspora friends at the Embassy of Ireland, with special guest, Patrick Kiely.

The progress continues in 2026 with the launch of a new vocational training partnership with BCT NI.



No Mind Left Behind Scholarship Programme

No Mind Left Behind is an initiative that provides financial support to promising young people from areas of social disadvantage so they can access, and stay in, third-level education. Recipients of a No Mind Left Behind scholarship receive €4,000/£4,000 for each year of their undergraduate degree to help cover the cost of books, accommodation, and other living expenses. In 2025, we continued our expansion into Northern Ireland and reached the milestone of partnering with over 100 schools to provide scholarships.

2025 / 2026 Academic Year



456 Students

↑ **20% increase**

Received a No Mind Left Behind scholarship



34 Third-Level Institutions

Represented across the island of Ireland and the UK



298 Continuing Students

↑ **23% increase**

Supported to return to year 2,3, 4 or 5 of undergraduate study



158 New Students

↑ **15% increase**

Supported to commence the first year of undergraduate study



103 Schools

↑ **27% increase**

Identified students to receive scholarships



€1,525,000

↑ **25% from 2023**

Awarded in scholarships €9.1M+ & £204,000 awarded to date



23 Counties Represented

↑ **54% on 2023**

Antrim

Armagh

Cavan

Cork

Derry

Donegal

Down

Dublin

Fermanagh

Galway

Kerry

Kildare

Kilkenny

Limerick

Louth

Mayo

Monaghan

Offaly


Roscommon

Sligo

Tipperary

Tyrone

Waterford



This scholarship has had a massive impact on both me and my family. As the first in my family to attend university, it represents more than just financial support—it symbolises opportunity and progress. It has eased the financial pressure on my family and allowed me to focus on my studies and personal growth without constant worry about costs.”

- Lucy, a No Mind Left Behind Scholar studying Sociology at Queen’s University Belfast

The Young Leaders

Young, dedicated and charitable - our Young Leaders are central to the future success of The Ireland Funds. The membership network cultivates an emerging generation of philanthropists by attracting young, early career professionals. All this, whilst providing a networking forum and hosting vibrant events throughout the year.



“Reflecting on 2025, I am incredibly proud of everything the Young Leaders have achieved. It has been an extraordinary year, we’ve seen our membership grow significantly, and the momentum within our Steering Committee has been fantastic to witness. By delivering our most ambitious calendar of events to date, we’ve created more opportunities than ever for our members to build lasting friendships, expand their professional networks, and—most importantly—drive real impact through the vital work of The Ireland Funds.

I’m extremely grateful for the commitment everyone has shown already this year, and I can’t wait to see what we can accomplish together in the year ahead.”

- Emer Tiernan, Chair of the Young Leaders Committee



Join the Young
Leaders today
by scanning
the QR code





2025: A Year of Momentum for Young Leaders

Opportunities for connection and collaboration were many in a year that saw our London Young Leaders network increase its membership by 30 per cent.

Some of the lively events hosted in 2025 included:

- **Leadership Sessions** with influential industry leaders such as:
 - **Kevin Daly OBE**, Co-Head of CEEMEA Economics at Goldman Sachs
 - **Conor Hillery**, Co-Chief Executive across EMEA at J.P. Morgan
 - **Niamh O'Donoghue**, Global Head of Social at Stella McCartney
 - **Roisin Scanlan**, Operations Director at Ireland Fashion Week
 - **Shana Chu**, Founder and CEO at Tailr
 - **Deborah Veale**, Fashion Designer
- **Wine tasting** at London Cru Urban Winery
- **Houses of Parliament Tour**
- **Winter and Summer Socials**
- **Presentation Skills Workshop** with Award Winning Speech Coach, **Dallas Leigh-Martene**

Thank you to the dedicated Young Leaders Committee for their time and support:

Emer Tiernan Chair
Reilly Liotta Co-Vice Chair
Hugh MacDonagh Co-Vice Chair
Henry Godson
Alba Mullen
Andrew Murphy

Brendan McDonnell
Paul McNally
Cormac McGrady
Kate Kennedy
Elisabeth-Sarah Moloney
Dale McDermott

100 Club

Members of the 100 Club donate £100 per month - 100% of which goes towards our Community Impact Fund. This provides much needed funding to community and cultural organisations.



“Support from The Ireland Funds Great Britain has strengthened our ability to reach those most in need and provide meaningful, accessible support within our community.”

- Shauna Mulligan,
Executive Director, Irish
Community Services

Making a difference

The 100 Club made a significant impact in South East London as grant support enabled Irish Community Services to raise the spirits of the elderly and alleviate financial stress.

More than 115 people received free welfare advice and support, 27 people saw their financial situation improve, while 125 elderly people enjoyed vital social connections at weekly lunch clubs. Such impact reduces loneliness, changes lives and offers hope.

Join the 100
Club today
by scanning
the QR code



Thank you



Bank of Ireland

Supporter Spotlight



“ Our partnership with The Ireland Funds reflects our commitment to acting as a responsible business and builds on our Bank’s rich history and heritage of supporting the communities we serve across the UK and Ireland. For generations, we have played a role in driving economic and social progress, and working with a trusted, purpose-driven organisation allows us to further support initiatives that create lasting opportunity, strengthen communities, and deliver meaningful impact.

2025 in Events

Women in Business & Philanthropy Lunch

More than 280 business leaders celebrated female leadership and raised funds for women-focused and women-led organisations, with a special focus on National College of Ireland. Much inspiration was drawn from our most honourable guest speaker, Dr. Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland.

An Evening with Irish Film Institute

1926 classic *The Cohens & Kellys* filled the screen at the iconic British Film Institute (BFI) as we partnered with Irish Film Institute (IFI) for a one-off cine-concert experience. A post-screening reception saw IFI highlight their vital work in preserving Ireland's moving image heritage on a night that celebrated the best of Irish arts.

London City Lunch

Friendship and philanthropy drew 250 guests together at our flagship fundraising event. Guest of honour Bob Geldof KBE took part in a fireside chat with broadcaster and journalist Mariella Frostrup, while guests heard how The Ireland Funds Great Britain support the needs of the older Irish community in Britain, many of whom now face financial hardship, loneliness and isolation.





Ambassador's Annual Dinner

Ambassador Martin Fraser and Mrs Deirdre Fraser kindly hosted an evening at the Embassy of Ireland to showcase the work of The Ireland Funds. The great and the good of the Irish in Britain convened as we thanked them for their unwavering support.

Business Breakfast with Business Post

Held in partnership with Business Post and sponsored by Stripe, this ministerial breakfast briefing with James Browne TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, was a timely conversation on housing and infrastructure in the week that the Irish Government launched its new housing plan.

Christmas Reception

We rounded off the year with the annual Christmas celebration, gathering donors, supporters and friends from London and Dublin in the elegant Music Room at Killik & Co. A raffle and auction raised funds to support The Ireland Funds, and live traditional music added to the festive spirit.





Every donation to The Ireland Funds Great Britain is more than a gift - it's a catalyst for real, lasting change. Your generosity fuels life-changing initiatives. It empowers communities Britain and the island of Ireland. We are proud to stand alongside the inspiring organisations we support and are grateful to our donors. Their unwavering commitment makes this vital work possible. Together, we are transforming lives.

The work continues. In March 2026 we awarded £200,000 in grants from our Community Impact Fund.


[Read about these organisations delivering impact in 2026](#)

Helping your donations go further

The Ireland Funds works with donors to channel support to causes they are passionate about. Donations made to The Ireland Funds Great Britain may be eligible for Gift Aid. This adds a valuable boost to your donation and offers tax relief to higher rate taxpayers. Contact **Katie Jemmett** to request a Gift Aid declaration, and to discuss your charitable objectives for the coming year.

giftaid it





“The Ireland Funds’ support has made an immediate impact, giving powerful credibility and momentum to our vision for the future of Irish sailing.”

- Catherine Tempany, Executive Director at Irish Sailing Foundation

“Your support means so much. As older Irish people living in London, our choir gives us friendship, purpose and a wonderful connection to the culture we grew up with. You ensure that we continue to have a place to laugh, sing and support one another.”

- Nola Marriott, Chair and Choir Member at Irish Pensioners Choir

“The support of The Ireland Funds has been key in helping us make a positive difference to the lives of the most vulnerable in our community, ensuring that no-one gets left behind.”

- Suzanne Boraston, Head of Operations at Brent Irish Advisory Service

“The Ireland Funds’ belief in our work makes a difference every day - from the stories we tell on stage to the workshops that spark imagination and the projects that bring communities together.”

- Marie Lawlor, Head of Corporate Partnerships and Philanthropy at Abbey Theatre

“This investment has been truly transformational for HERe NI, enabling us to sustain life-saving and life-affirming support for LGBTQIA+ women who are often most in need, yet too frequently overlooked.”

- Cara McCann, Director at HERe NI

“The Ireland Funds Great Britain funding is invaluable. It allows us to maintain and strengthen the crucial services we deliver.”

- Martin Moran, Director of Operations at Irish Community Care Manchester



Organisations funded in 2025

Abbey Theatre | Aisling Project | All Arts & Media t/a ALL FM | Blackrock College
Blackwater Valley Opera Festival | Bloomsbury Football Foundation | Brent Irish Advisory Service
Clongowes Wood College Foundation | Community Sports Network | Corby Young at Heart Lunch Club
Coventry Irish Society | Cruse Bereavement Support | Early Learning Initiative (NCI)
Emerald Circle Lunch Club | GAA | HERe NI | Holy Trinity Youth Centre
Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy | Irish Community Care Mersyside
Irish Community Care Manchester | Irish Community Services | Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith
Irish Elderly Advice Network | Irish Film Institute | Irish Film London
Irish Heritage Irish Music and Dance in London | Irish Sailing Foundation | Kilcooley Women's Centre
Leeds Irish Arts Foundation | Leeds Irish Health & Homes | Lewisham Irish Community Centre
Liverpool Irish Centre | London Irish Pensioners Choir | Luton Irish Forum | Munster Rugby
MyBag Charity | National College of Ireland | Nottingham St Patrick's Irish Festival | Parallel Histories
Phoenix Education Centre | Royal Irish Academy of Music | Social Entrepreneurs Ireland
Spinal Injuries Ireland | St. Michael's College | Summerhill College | The Blackmore Vale Charity
The Institute for Irish Studies at University of Liverpool | The Parent Rooms
Trinity Foundation - DU Ladies Boat Club | Via Wings | Women for Election | Women'sTEC