

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1181180

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-12-14

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Po Box 1655
Guildford
GU1 9JS

Phone 07464386874

Email contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

Website www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:1) THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AMONG DISPLACED YOUNG PEOPLE IN SURREY WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION BY PROVIDING:A) EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND VOCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS;B) OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL, RECREATIONAL, SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS INVOLVING THE WIDER COMMUNITY THAT BUILD CONFIDENCE AND SELF ESTEEM AND IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS CLAUSE DISPLACED YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DEFINED AS:• UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC) (UNDER 18) LIVING IN SURREY EITHER IN FOSTER CARE OR SUPPORTED HOUSING (E.G., YOUTH HOSTELS) INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARRIVED AS UASC BUT HAVE SINCE BEEN GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS.A UASC IS DEFINED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS "AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS UNDER 18, HAS ARRIVED IN THE UK WITHOUT A RESPONSIBLE ADULT, IS NOT BEING CARED FOR BY AN ADULT WHO BY LAW OR CUSTOM HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO, IS SEPARATED FROM BOTH PARENTS AND HAS APPLIED FOR ASYLUM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN HIS/HER OWN RIGHT."• DISPLACED YOUNG PEOPLE (UP TO 21 YEARS) IN THE UK UNDER THE VPRS (VULNERABLE PERSON RESETTLEMENT SCHEME).THE GOVERNMENT DEFINES 'DISPLACED YOUNG PERSONS UNDER VPRS' AS "AT RISK CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA RESETTLED TO THE UK BY THE GOVERNMENT."• UASC/REFUGEE CARE LEAVERS (18 – 25 YEARS) UNDER THE CARE OF SURREY SOCIAL SERVICE.'A CARE LEAVER' IS DEFINED AS "A YOUNG PERSON OVER THE AGE OF 16 WHO HAS BEEN IN CARE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND/OR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST FOR AT LEAST 13 WEEKS SINCE THE AGE OF 14."2) THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY: (A) THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE AND RELIGION;(B) PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS; AND(C) CULTIVATING A SENTIMENT IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY.

Activities: Big Leaf Foundation aims to provide a nurturing programme of activities, projects and events, that focus on combating social isolation for displaced young people in Surrey.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£336,626	£295,425	-	-
2024-03-31	£324,819	£289,112	-	-
2023-03-31	£226,256	£208,024	-	-
2022-03-31	£255,640	£191,897	-	-
2021-03-31	£93,066	£92,707	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Sally Heather Bagwell	Chair	2025-01-17
Caroline Sophia Kerenhappuch Parkes		2025-01-17
James Venables		2025-11-06
Nicholas Matthew Early		2024-12-20
Shazma Roshan		2026-01-30

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1181180

Accounts

annual review april 2025



Big Leaf Foundation

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welcome

It hardly seems possible that another year has passed. But when we look back on all that we have achieved in that time – the many young people we've supported and the new projects and partnerships we've built – it's no wonder the time has flown.

We have celebrated remarkable milestones. We were honoured with the King's Award for Voluntary Service, a testament to the incredible dedication of our volunteers who work tirelessly to support our young people in so many ways. We graduated new Young Leaders and created formal ambassador roles within Big Leaf. We saw young people pass GCSEs, an extraordinary achievement when you consider the additional challenges displaced young people face in education. We watched them step into employment and higher education, and use their voice to speak up on the issues that matter to them. But equally, we have cherished the smaller, quieter moments – the courage of a young person speaking in public for the first time; the continued success of our sports projects, including those we've run with community partners; and the many new friendships formed.

Of course, there have also been considerable challenges. Last year we spoke about the increase in hostility towards migrant communities and people seeking asylum and this has continued and intensified. Organised far-right agitation in the form of direct threats to non-white communities, rioting and prolonged "protests" outside hotels have become commonplace, while the values of tolerance, fairness and acceptance that we took for granted as a bedrock of our society feel far less solid than they once were.

Too often public debate has ignored the human stories of those seeking sanctuary and failed to reflect the true facts of forced displacement. Instead we've seen an almost endless outpouring of dis- and misinformation on both social media and in mainstream outlets, with little challenge from those in authority. This lack of humanity and truth has left young people feeling misunderstood, unwanted and unsure of their place here.

At the same time, conflicts in other parts of the world have also intensified, leaving young people desperate for reliable news about their families and communities back home.

But they never give up. Despite everything they have lived through, and the challenges and uncertainty that lie ahead, these young people continue to show up, ready to study, to play, to create, or simply to be together. They share their food and music with us, tell us stories of where they come from and what they hope to become. Their resilience, curiosity, determination to move forward, and their hope for the future inspires us every day.

These young people are not a burden on our society. They are an essential part of the strong and connected communities we need and want. Communities that choose compassion over fear, solidarity over division, and humanity over hostility.

This is the community we see around us every day in Surrey.

It is reflected in our partners, funders, volunteers and supporters who stand alongside young people with generosity and care. It is reflected in the schools, universities, sports clubs and local organisations who open their doors. And it is reflected in the many individuals who believe that young people seeking safety here deserve opportunity, dignity and belonging.

This is the community that will stand strong in the face of division. We are proud to be part of it. We hope this review shows just how much you have helped us achieve and how grateful we are to you all for standing so firmly alongside us.

Thank you to all of you.

Kayte & Vicki
Big Leaf Foundation Founders



Image © Vicki Felgate / Big Leaf Foundation

about us

Our vision is of a community where displaced young people are valued, supported and given the opportunity to create better outcomes for themselves.

Big Leaf Foundation is an award-winning charity working with displaced young people aged 15-25 across Surrey.

Our aim is to provide a nurturing programme of activities, projects and events that focus on combating social isolation and improving wellbeing for the young people we support.

Our work starts from the knowledge that displaced young people are so much more than the status they have been given. They come with hopes, talents, determination and strength. For us, it's not about proving their worth, but about creating spaces where others can recognise it too.

Through our programmes, we provide opportunities for people to connect across communities and for the young people we support to build skills and a sense of belonging that can sustain them into the future.

Our projects range from sports, music and creative arts to full-day English language schools, specialised casework and residential workshops, alongside leadership programmes, summer schools and progression opportunities.

All of our projects are built with the focus of helping young people feel more empowered within their own lives, their local communities and Big Leaf itself.

“

I don't know how to thank Big Leaf enough – just saying thanks doesn't feel like enough. I hope we all do our best to become better people and help the world, just like Big Leaf helps us grow and improve.” M

our approach

We're a growing team of passionate individuals, determined to support and empower displaced young people to know they are more than their status, and help them find their place within their local community.

We believe meaningful change begins with listening and we work with our young people to create spaces where they feel safe, heard and supported.

We stand with them as they navigate their life in a new place and help build communities that recognise their strengths, talents and potential.

Our values

Trust & transparency

Nothing is more important to us than trust, because so many of the young people we support have experienced a world in which they can trust no one. It's essential that we build trusted relationships with our young people, and that they have confidence that we will always act in their best interests. We do this through maintaining high standards of openness, honesty and transparency.

Equality

We want everyone to feel welcome at our projects. We approach everything we do with empathy and compassion. We strive to create a sense of community to which we all belong, on equal footing and to create a safe, secure and non-judgemental space for young people to engage and build new friendships, explore new activities, and uncover their talents and passions.

Growth

Everything we do is focused on promoting the personal growth of our young people – growth that builds confidence, nurtures self-belief and reminds them that they are valued for who they are. Growth is also at the heart of our approach to governance. We prioritise learning, work to embody best practice and aim to make each project better than the last.

Working in partnership

To achieve our vision of a community where displaced young people are valued and supported, strong connections are essential. Our partnerships with local organisations, agencies and businesses are the foundation of a community that is open, welcoming and resilient.

Over the last six years we have built a network of more than 70 community and multi-agency partners. These relationships bring valuable skills, knowledge and opportunities and help create the trust and understanding that allows young people to feel part of the place they now call home.

Youth leadership

Listening is the starting point for all of our work. Through open dialogue, trust and collaboration, we learn from their experiences, ideas and feedback, and shape our work around what matters most to them.

Our Young Leaders and Ambassadors programmes build on this foundation, creating spaces for young people to take the lead. We support them to build skills and confidence, to share their knowledge with partners and peers, and to play an active role in shaping their own futures, their communities and Big Leaf itself.

Sharing our approach

Over the last six years we've learnt so much from working alongside our young people and partners. We're still learning. But we also recognise the value of our approach and its relevance to others. We now share our work with a wider range of people – from local charities and community organisations to businesses and anyone who wants to listen and learn. Through these conversations we hope to increase understanding of the realities facing displaced young people and encourage more communities to create spaces of welcome and belonging.

“

I came to this country to feel safe... but that did not mean that I didn't have dreams and aspirations in life... Being listened to, taken into account and recognised feels incredibly rewarding, especially during difficult times when there is a lot of uncertainty for us.” R

about our young people

The young people we support have all been forced to leave their homes. Many fled conflict, political or religious persecution. Some were trafficked, others were kidnapped from their families and forced to train as child soldiers, and some were promised the dream of a better life and smuggled to the UK at huge cost. Most arrive with little or no support network and face the challenge of rebuilding their lives in an unfamiliar country.

Surrey is home to a significant number of displaced young people. There are currently 165¹ Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) under 18 living in care, alongside many care leavers who continue to need support. Others have been resettled in Surrey with their families through government resettlement schemes, while some have arrived independently post-18 and been placed in asylum hotels.

Separated children often arrive alone, in shock and without language or cultural understanding. They must navigate a new country and a complex asylum system without the support of family or friends. Even those who come with family or through resettlement schemes find the experience overwhelming and uncertain. Cut off from everything familiar, displaced young people are especially vulnerable to loneliness, isolation and anxiety, and face major barriers to accessing legal support, education, employment and, above all, community.

Over the past year, national policy has continued to create uncertainty and strain for young people seeking safety. While the Rwanda plan remained in the headlines, it was the Supreme Court ruling against it that brought real relief. For most young people, the policy quickly felt unlikely ever to be implemented, and their concerns shifted elsewhere.

The biggest change has been around citizenship eligibility. For those who entered the UK through irregular routes to claim asylum, new barriers to citizenship have caused significant worry about their future. At the same time, an increase in asylum decisions, coupled with higher refusal rates, has led to long delays for appeals. Many of the young people we support have waited months for outcomes, with a clear impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

Hostile rhetoric has also taken its toll. The government's "Stop the Boats" slogan has been widely understood by young people as "you are not welcome here". This message has eroded trust in UK systems and led many to rely on one another for support and solidarity rather than the state.

In this climate, Big Leaf's role could not be more vital. Young people need safe, stable spaces where they can learn, grow and connect. Over the past year, many have passed their GCSEs, enrolled in college or training, and started shaping their futures with confidence. These successes reach far beyond the individuals involved – they strengthen schools, workplaces and neighbourhoods, helping to build a community that is more tolerant, welcoming and resilient.

“

The word refugee to me means determination; it means allowing yourself to feel sadness but not giving up; it means resilience and that you are equal.” Randy

205

young people accessing our services

64

of whom were new to us this year

5%

girls & women

73%

aged 15-18

1. Data from Surrey Virtual School, June 2025

Hi, I passed the exam! Finally, my efforts paid off. Thank you for all the hard work you did for me. This happiness is thanks to you. I'm very happy. 09:40

I also wanted to check in after the earthquake on Monday... hoping your family are all ok and not affected? It's difficult to see these th...

It was terrible... I've got my friend his family and died still with him it's too hard I can't believe that's happened and how can i explain to u how difficult is my life I'm struggling with all this but i still have hope it means I'm alive just because of my mum waiting me to see...

Football means a lot to me. I have been playing it since I was young. It is a safe haven for me. It is the place where I release all my negative energy, stress, and boredom, and charge myself with positive energy by talking more with friends, bonding more, and making new friends.

18:13

...the entire internet has been shut down in Iran, and I can't contact my family. I'm really worried – until I hear my mother's voice, I just can't focus on anything...

21:11

Is there a reason you haven't been going to college?

All I think about is my family
19:26

Literally they mean everything for me
19:26

Couldn't imagine my self without them
19:27

That's understandable. Have you talked to anyone at college... to tell them what is happening?
19:27

All they want is me going to college
no matter what.
19:28

How was your first week at work?

Hi. I was very nervous at first, but it got better every day... I have kind colleagues and one of them is also from my country and she helped me a lot.
17:53

Hi how are you doing, they accept my age today I am so happy
12:19

This issue was exactly the biggest challenge we faced during our time as asylum seekers. I'm really glad it's going to be brought up. If I had been able to start working earlier, or if anyone else could start working just three months after arriving – it would have made a big difference. It would have reduced the financial pressure on the government to support asylum seekers, and it would have helped people integrate into society more easily. I'd be happy to share the things I've experienced – through a video call or any other way...
21:55

I read it, and I really love the idea of participating as the narrator in this program. It was very powerful and heartbreaking, especially the last part, which made me to tears.
15:27

Never give up
First of all i wanted to say thank you to Big leaf foundation they gave me hope not to give up on something I really want to see or to do and with their help I have never given up to find my dreams and finally it came true I have found my family. Just never stop trying, never stop believing, never give up on someone or something that really matters to you. At the end of the day your day will come I know it take a lot of courage to push through hard time however, the only thing that you can do keep going and never give up and good things are coming your way
22:52



KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE | celebrating the dedication of our volunteers

This year we were honoured to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service – the highest award given to voluntary groups in the UK. It celebrates the hard work and dedication of all of our volunteers, whose commitment makes a huge impact in the lives of displaced young people in Surrey.

Over the past six years our volunteers have given so much of their time to Big Leaf – through casework, teaching English, mentoring, running activities at our youth hubs and even helping fundraise behind the scenes. Their commitment goes far beyond simple acts of kindness – creating stability, trust and community in a world that often feels uncertain for the young people we support.

This award belongs to each of them.

We know that without our volunteers we would not have the same impact in the lives of the young people we support. To all of the volunteers who have made this recognition possible – thank you. This award is a testament to the lasting impact you make every day.

We asked our community what this award means to them.

“

We've had the privilege of working with Big Leaf since 2020. We have witnessed first-hand their exceptional dedication to supporting displaced young people and in recognition of this, the Law School nominated Big Leaf for the King's Award. Their unwavering care and commitment are both inspiring and transformative.”

Elizabeth Williams, Professor in Law, Surrey University



he King's Award
for Voluntary Service



“

... [this award] confirms that Big Leaf's work is valued and recognised as important and worthwhile. It's wonderful to be a volunteer - the work is interesting and rewarding.”

Annabel, ESOL Volunteer

“

I realised that all of us in the team of dedicated volunteers play a big part in Big Leaf's work and how appreciated we all are. My badge has pride of place on display at home.” Jessica, Projects Volunteer

“

This award is for all those who give their time, energy, humour and compassion – week in, week out, and often in between. It's for the people who play football, teach English and maths, play table tennis, cook meals, mentor and help find work experience. It's for the people who keep showing up.” Kayte Cable, Big Leaf Co-founder &

Programmes Manager

86

volunteers over the last 6 years

more than

2000

hours volunteered each year



Image © Vicki Falgout / Big Leaf Foundation

“

This recognition means a lot to me. Being part of Big Leaf feels like being surrounded by family and friends who genuinely care. Your support has instilled in me a sense of love, respect, and inspiration that drives me to aim for greater achievements.”

Sabir, Sports Ambassador.

The award was presented to our co-founders, Vicki and Kayte, by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux, at a special ceremony in Volunteers Week and with funders, partners and (of course) our fabulous volunteers, all joining us to celebrate.

“

What an incredible job you do for young people... Many congratulations on this award, so richly deserved.” Michael More-Molyneux,

Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, presenting the award.

“

You all really deserve this recognition. Well done to you and all your volunteers. Amazing and much-needed work.” Neelam Devasher, Chair,

Community Foundation for Surrey

Thank you

We remain entirely and endlessly grateful to the many, many people who work alongside us with kindness, compassion and a shared determination to give the young people the opportunities and the future that they deserve.

CASEWORK | providing steady support in an unstable system

It's been a year of change for our casework team, supporting displaced young people through new challenges in the asylum system, rising housing pressures and the transition to adulthood.

Sudden shifts in Home Office policy under the new government reshaped the asylum process, while global instability affected our young people both online and in their daily lives. Many of the young people we've seen grow up alongside Big Leaf started to reach the difficult age of young adulthood and looked to our support where other services tailed off.

Over the last year our casework team supported 66 young people and achieved a positive outcome in 92 per cent of cases. But numbers only tell part of the story. It's the defining themes and issues that show what it means to walk alongside these incredible young people at a time when hostile policies continue to threaten their very right to exist in this space.

Home Office backlogs and refusals

After years of delays that left thousands of people living in limbo, the Home Office made significant changes to the rate it processed asylum claims. The average wait for a substantive interview fell from over a year to less than six months. For many of our young people, this was a huge relief. Receiving refugee status quickly meant security and stability at last. For others, seeing recently arrived friends get decisions so fast when they'd been waiting for years was a frustrating and destabilising experience. But this increase in pace also led to rushed and poor decision making, resulting in more refusals and pushing more people through the appeals process. Many young people were left waiting for appeal dates and desperately in need of support from our caseworkers to help find solicitors or collect supporting evidence.

66

young people supported through casework

92%

positive outcome

Housing and homelessness

Our largest area of work has been around housing and homelessness, accounting for 36 per cent of all cases.

This increase was a result of the 28-day limit on Home Office support, which makes it almost impossible to find move-on accommodation after being granted refugee status; and the lack of funding for supported lodgings for care leavers.

With all of the barriers displaced young people face, and the chronic shortfall of local government funding, the housing crisis saw many young people need more help than ever. In East Surrey there wasn't a single week for an entire six months where we weren't supporting at least one homeless young person.

From helping young people make homelessness applications, finding temporary accommodation, or advocating to funding panels for care leavers to retain accommodation funding, our caseworkers have supported young people every step of the way.

Often the only options are outside of statutory support, and we worked hard to ensure young people learnt the skills necessary to maintain secure accommodation and avoid falling through the cracks in the system in future.

“

I had been struggling to look for accommodation. Sleeping on the street is not easy or safe... It would be good to find a place for the people before leaving current [accommodation] because most of the organisations are getting hard on this point. The one important thing... is to make a good relationship with landlords, organisations and people around us.” A

36%

of cases were for housing issues

21%

related to asylum cases/legal support

23%

were for emotional support



GUEST EDIT | RO

Ro joined Big Leaf in 2023 as a Caseworker, bringing several years of experience supporting displaced young people in other charities. Their thoughtful and empathetic approach quickly became an integral part of our work. Here, Ro reflects on their first year with Big Leaf, what made it different from previous roles, and what community truly means in practice.

When I started at Big Leaf, I had about five years' experience as a caseworker in the charity sector, with plenty of the scar tissue that comes with this kind of work. Working in overstretched services where you are constantly engaged with the worst that the asylum system has to offer, from age assessments to detention, it becomes all too easy to close yourself off just to be able to keep functioning.

I found my first year with Big Leaf incredibly challenging. Not because of the technical aspects of the job, but because of how much I had come to rely on distance as a defence mechanism. When you work with vulnerable people experiencing horrific situations, allowing yourself to be emotionally connected can feel like too much of a risk when you know how bad the outcomes can be. That emotional connection – a real and genuine care – is core to everything Big Leaf does, and it took me a really long time to feel comfortable with it.

The most important part of that process was learning what a genuine community focus meant for casework. I had been used to fixing problems and advocating for isolated people where my relationship to them was an individual one, and all I had to offer was the resolution to a problem. Big Leaf doesn't work like that.

“

The community of young people in and around our projects isn't one we're helping, but one we are a part of.”

When young people come to me with problems, we find solutions that include and rely on that community, not just my work with them. It is hard to articulate how rare this is in this area of work, and I cannot express how lucky I feel to be slowly getting used to it.

Thank you

With huge thanks to Tresanton Trust for their continued and vital support for our casework service and to our long-term casework volunteer Alison for the commitment and experience you bring to this role.



Image © Vicki Felgate / Big Leaf Foundation

“

Every dish tells a story of culture and care, reminding [us] that the best meals are those shared with others.” RM

YOUTH HUBS | providing a safe and welcoming space

Our youth hubs offer a safe and welcoming community for displaced young people in Surrey – providing a space for young people to meet, play games, share music and eat together.

Our hubs run once a week during term time in both Guildford and Redhill and were one of the first projects we launched over five years ago. These spaces have grown and changed over time as young people who have settled in the community help plan activities and welcome and support the new arrivals.

The impact of having a consistent, sustainable space to build connections cannot be overstated and seeing the vibrant community that has grown in and around our hubs is one of the most rewarding aspects of this work.

“

The hub is important because it gives people a place to gather, make friends and feel part of something larger. It’s an inclusive environment where people are free to come as they are and be treated with respect... and where everyone can hold a sense of belonging.” RM

Food is an important part of our hubs and young people are invited to come with recipes and ideas and cook alongside our hub team.

72

hub sessions this year

28

young people (average) at hub a week

8

dedicated hub volunteers

In 2024 we saw conflicts in Sudan, Yemen, Palestine and Ukraine continue and escalate. Despite the distance, these conflicts felt close to home for many of our young people, connected through family, nationality, race or religion.

Whether the relative media silence on Sudan or the bias and Islamophobia present in much of the reporting on Gaza¹, many of our young people struggled with how social media and news reporting depicted their communities. Despite the election, we also saw more anti-migrant policies that had a huge impact on the young people.

With our young people confronted on all sides, we put extra focus into building community resilience. We were open. We talked about what was happening and the impact of events. We discussed laws around digital hate speech, talked about how to avoid triggering content on social media, and explained the implications of government policies. But above all we made sure that in the hub space, they felt listened to, supported, well informed, connected and safe.

Thank you

With thanks to our funders, Tresanton Trust; our hub volunteers, Alison, Sofia, Jess, Alfie, Richard, Hannah and Ella; and our hub chefs Ash, Ro and all of the young people who cook alongside them.

1. 'Media Bias in Gaza 2023-24' report, Centre for Media Monitoring, March 2024



Image © Vicki Felton / Big Leap Foundation

“

I learned a lot about how to work in the garden, how to work with animals and tree pruning and scrub clearance. Before, people said that living in a city was better than living in a village, but now I say that a village is better than a city because you have gardens and animals.” H

GARDEN PROJECT | growing together and connecting to home

Our gardening project brings young people together to transform disused land into shared growing spaces for fruit, vegetables and flowers. It provides an opportunity to build new skills and reconnect with those learnt from home while also supporting wellbeing.

We set up three new gardens in Guildford this year, bringing the total number of shared growing spaces to eight. Every space is different but the sense of pride and joy in growing and harvesting vegetables connects them all.

We also continued to develop our community garden at St Mary’s Church with our ESOL group helping to prepare the ground and plant vegetables. During the summer holidays the keenest gardeners kept the vegetables watered and enjoyed eating the tomatoes and, in the autumn, we harvested salad and vegetables to share at our Guildford hub.

Growing with RHS Wisley

Chris, from the RHS Community Outreach team visited our gardens in the summer, and in spring he ran a seed workshop at our youth hub alongside our gardening ambassador, H.

RHS Wisley is an incredible garden and it’s on our doorstep but for the young people we support both cost and location can make it hard to access. Thanks to the Community Outreach team we were able to organise two trips to the gardens – with guided tours of the grounds and glasshouses and conversations with an MSc student exploring how to involve refugees in community gardens.

My Green Future

In September we were invited to put forward participants for a new three-month environmental training programme for young people, My Green Future. We knew just the person. H had been part of our gardening project from the start and he spoke often about how important gardening and nature are for his mental and physical health. We encouraged him to apply and he was accepted.

Finding meaningful work experience and training opportunities for the young people we support can be hard and we’re incredibly grateful to project coordinator, Jo Woodhams and Air Time CIC, for giving H this opportunity.

“

H has been an absolute star... always the first to lend a hand and a natural at all the practical tasks... his compassion towards both wildlife and people is something really special. It’s been amazing to see his confidence grow and leadership skills shine.” Jo Woodhams, MGF Coordinator

Thank you

With thanks to our gardening volunteers, Alison, Alex and H; to Chris and RHS Wisley for your continued support; and to Jo Woodhams from Air Time CIC.



Image © Vicki Falgater / Big Leaf Foundation

“

The football sessions mean a great deal to me. It’s not just a chance to play the sport I enjoy but to connect with others in a positive, supportive environment. I look forward to each session because it brings a sense of community, encouragement and personal growth.” AA

SPORTS | improving health and connecting through sport

Sport plays a central role in how we build trust with young people. Regular sessions, familiar coaches and friendly faces give them a stable space to join in at their own pace, especially when new to Surrey.

More than 115 young people joined our weekly sports sessions this year and these continue to be one of the first places where young people meet us, find community and feel welcome. Many come through friends or local partners and quickly settle into a space that is consistent and supportive.

Our football sessions in Redhill and Guildford remain our busiest, with the pitch providing space to relax, play and get to know one another. The commitment of our coaches shapes the atmosphere, and small adjustments, such as introducing smaller side games, created more chances to play, build confidence and connect this year.

Fair Shot with the Refugee Council

Three of our young people were selected for the Refugee Council’s Fair Shot FC – a team of refugees and people seeking asylum. During their first season they played alongside iconic football clubs and fans across the country to show how a shared love of football can bring people together. This has never felt more important and we’re incredibly proud of the young people who continue to play for the team.

When one project ends another begins

Our basketball project, first funded through Active Surrey’s Together Fund, grew into more than 50 sessions across two years thanks to the generosity of our partners, Basketball4All. It became a space where young people learnt new skills, tried something different and took pride in their progress. Our boxing project at Redhill Amateur Boxing Club also wrapped up after 25 sessions that challenged young people to build discipline and focus.

With both projects ending, we took the chance to reflect on what young people were asking for. While these sessions offered a chance to connect and try new sports, the moments that made the biggest difference were the ones that brought different parts of the community together. This felt especially important in a year of rising hate and division. These reflections set the foundation for Sports for Connection, our new programme using community sports events to bring people together (see p.15).

Thank you

With thanks to our funders BBC Children in Need and Active Surrey; our sports volunteers Nikki, Anto, James, Henry, Abdulsalam and Sab; our football coaches, Rob Wright (Chelsea Foundation) and Martin King (PMAActive); Coach Creon, Bridget and Amelia from Basketball4All; the WP team and sports ambassadors at Surrey University.

115

displaced young people joining sports sessions

for 35

of these young people it was their first introduction to Big Leaf



Image © Vicki Felgate / Big Leaf Foundation

“

It was another lovely event, and all of our players thoroughly enjoyed it. Gaining the trust of the young people and showing them that we love our sport and enjoy the engagement with them is really important to us.”

Surrey Police, Sports for Connection partner

SPORTS FOR CONNECTION | building stronger communities, one game at a time

Sports for Connection uses community sports events to create inclusive spaces where young people can meet and connect with partners and local communities.

We’ve seen time and again the power of sport to create positive connections across communities and language and cultural divides. In a year of growing hostility and division in our communities, we wanted to bring people together through a shared love of sport.

Previous events, including our football tournament at Chelsea FC’s training ground, showed the value of these activities in helping young people meet others outside of their usual circles and engage with local community members in a relaxed and open environment.

This helped shape the design of our new Sports for Connection programme.

Launched late in 2024 with support from the Wisley Foundation, our Sports for Connection programme aims to reduce isolation, strengthen communities and create opportunities for young people to build confidence through regular contact with local partners and community members.

Our first event was a community basketball session that brought together young people from Big Leaf, friends from Aristar Consulting and others from our local networks. The session was warm and relaxed, and young people spoke about how much they valued the chance to meet new people outside of their peer networks. For some, it offered space to practise English through real conversations. For others, it created opportunities to challenge assumptions

and form impressions based on genuine encounters rather than distant narratives.

This work has taken on added significance following the rise in hate incidents into 2025 and as the programme develops we will continue to build relationships and create safe and active spaces that help rebuild confidence, increase understanding of the experiences of displaced young people and support more connected communities.

Our coaches and community partners remain central to this work and continue to shape environments where young people feel welcomed, supported and seen.

“

I enjoyed playing basketball, meeting new people and making friends with people from diverse and different backgrounds.” N

Thank you

With thanks to our funders the Wisley Foundation; our volunteers and young people for their participation; to our project partner Basketball4All; and all of the community partners who joined us for this first Sports for Connection event.



Image © Kayle Cable / Big Leaf Foundation

“

I'm so excited and I am proud of myself. I feel I can achieve my dreams like anyone else.” K

EDUCATION | supporting learning at every stage

The young people we support are determined to build independent and fulfilling lives here and recognise that learning English is essential to achieving this. We provide both structured and informal opportunities to learn English through our programmes.

Our weekly English classes focus on literacy, grammar and communication skills, alongside learning about life in the UK and 50 young people joined our classes this year.

We worked with the Guildford School of Acting to bring storytelling to life through shadow puppetry. We welcomed Surrey Police officers to discuss personal safety and policing; and we launched a new programme with Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development that combined climbing, outdoor activities, teamwork and language sessions and enabled participants to gain AQA qualifications.

GCSE support

The GCSE English exam, designed for native speakers, is an unfair barrier to further education and employment. But with no alternative available, our focus is on giving students the best possible chance of success. We offer small group classes for both English and Maths. These sessions are hugely popular and we're incredibly proud of the four young people who worked so hard to pass their exams this year.

Sexual health

Most young people arriving in the UK are placed in ESOL classes in college, which focus on English and functional

maths and miss the PSHE learning provided in mainstream schools.

Working with Surrey County Council's Public Health team and the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, we explored how we could plug this gap and provide sexual health information for displaced communities that was both culturally sensitive, language appropriate and acknowledged the prevalence of sexual violence on migration routes. Through a series of workshops, we created a safe and open space for conversations around sexual health and healthy relationships including legality and consent.

Access to higher education

For the third year running, we joined the Surrey Higher Education Outreach Network to learn about pathways into higher education and explore course options. We visited four universities, meeting students and tutors, and exploring foundation courses, apprenticeships and blended learning.

For many of the young people we support, higher education can often feel out of reach, but opportunities like this, combined with structured opportunities for learning and growth can help make it feel a little closer.

50

young people attending ESOL

8

young people gaining AQAs

14

young people getting support with GCSEs

17

participating in sexual health workshops

18

attending Access to Higher Education sessions

GUEST EDIT | Naoe

Naoe has been part of Big Leaf since its earliest days, joining when the charity was just taking shape. A qualified secondary school English teacher, she has taught English to our young people in both paid and voluntary roles, while also giving her time to support other Big Leaf activities.

Finding inspiration through teaching

I started working with Big Leaf in 2018 when the charity was just taking shape. Since then, I've taught in huge echoey halls, cosy coffee shops, on Zoom screens and in modern classrooms. One thing has remained the same: the inspiration these young people bring.

In the autumn of 2021, I joined Kayte, one of Big Leaf's co-founders, to teach Afghan refugees, newly arrived from Kabul. I remember the sheer chaos of the hotel dining room, where dozens of children of all ages poured in, some shouting and others looking stunned. We did what we could to provide lessons that they could focus on, something that distracted them from recent events. These language classes hopefully provided a few hours of fun in their recently shattered world.

Since then, I've taught outdoors at summer camps, in beautiful school and university grounds, and more recently in the Big Leaf house.



I've met so many people who give generously of their time and money, and I've seen the gratitude from the young people who know that learning English is key to building their future here.



Image © Naoe Takenaka

I am particularly proud of my GCSE group, who, over the course of two years, have gone from stumbling over words to mastering the language to 'create mood' and 'persuade' in order to pass their GCSE English. And pass they did!

These young people embody the word resilient.

In a world that is becoming more divisive, Big Leaf leads the way in building connections, sharing love and looking towards a brighter future. I hold onto the words of one of our students: "As long as we have life, we have hope."

Thank you

With thanks to our brilliant English and Maths teachers Naoe, Daud, Annabel and Chris; to our partners in education Thamsin Young and Joe Hickenbottom from the Widening Participation (WP) team at Surrey University; Chris Dexter and the HEON team; the WP teams from UCA and RHUL; Nadia Mughal and Surrey Virtual School; Kate Crockatt from SCC and Ian Cole, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust; PCSO Chris Moyes and PC Laura Madgwick-Smith from Surrey Police; Fatima and Amy from GSC; Ben Raynor from SOLD.



Image © Kayle Cable / Big Leaf Foundation

“

...seeing the work that's being done here to support those who have endured hardship and oppression, and bringing together people of such diverse backgrounds... increases my own faith... when I see compassion, justice, and humanity lived out so sincerely, it strengthens me and reminds me why gatherings like this are so important.”

Sajid Hussain, Seek2Change partner

SUMMER PROGRAMME | strengthening language and community

Our summer programme is designed to respond to the challenges many young people experience in the long summer break – isolation, lack of routine and boredom.

The long summer can leave young people feeling abruptly cut off, and for those carrying traumatic experiences, this can have a serious impact on wellbeing. Young people who arrive in summer also wait months before they can learn English or make friends. This year, far-right riots targeting displaced communities added further anxiety, making a safe and structured programme even more important.

Our summer school is more than just an English language programme – it's about history, culture and life in the UK, connecting with people, gaining new skills and above all getting out of their rooms and having fun.

Working with our ambassadors and partners, we co-created a summer of activities that built skills, encouraged friendships and supported wellbeing.

We spent time with sixth formers at St George's College – playing games, baking and creating art together. Planned by young ambassadors from St George's and Big Leaf, the camp ended with a huge water fight – a joyful close to an unforgettable three days.

We went to the Paradox Museum in London, enjoyed a picnic in Hyde Park, explored the Serpentine on pedalos and visited the city's landmarks. This sparked conversations about UK democracy, history and culture – and reminded everyone how welcoming people could be, despite the anti-immigration riots happening at the time.

Next came two days of camping and water-based activities – canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding and raft building – new experiences for most of the young people.

We held a community cricket match at Guildford Cricket Club, full of joy and connection and providing another much-needed break from the hateful rhetoric taking over so many UK streets.

The final three days were spent at Surrey University - learning about the law with Surrey police, and exploring different religions with local faith leaders, including beliefs shared by all faiths and what tolerance really means.

We finished with a workshop on identity and self-expression and young people created and shared beautiful prose and poetry and drawings of maps, flags and memories of home.

50

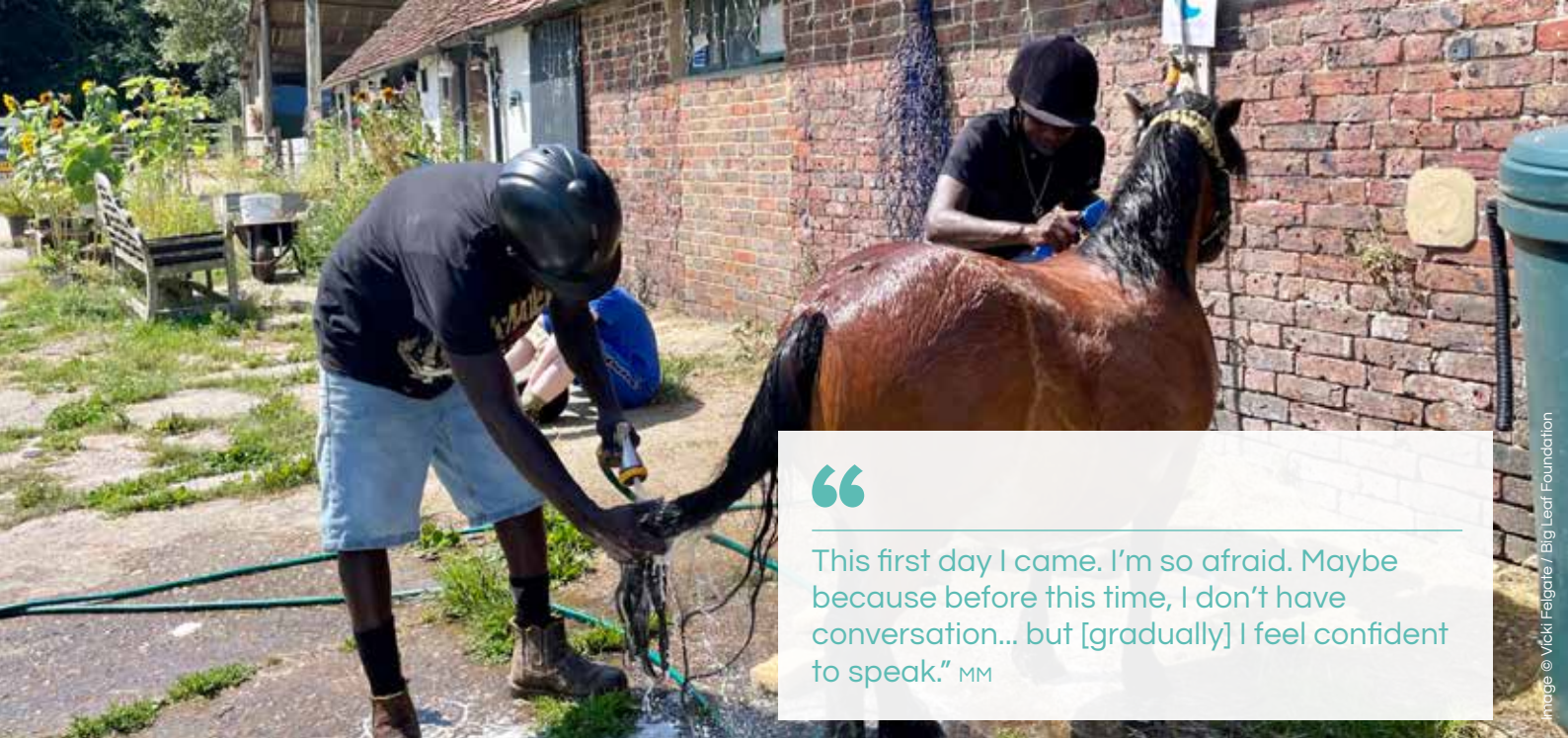
young people

1994

individual learning hours

Thank you

With thanks to the High Sheriff Youth Awards, staff and students from St George's College, Surrey Police staff, and the community faith leaders for being generous with their time; and to the wonderful Thamsin Young and the Widening Participation team at Surrey University.



“

This first day I came. I'm so afraid. Maybe because before this time, I don't have conversation... but [gradually] I feel confident to speak.” MM

SUMMER CAMP | turning strangers into a community

Each summer, we take a group of young people to a farm for a week, and it continues to be one of the most important things we do. Big Leaf started with a summer camp, and knowing the impact it has, we're determined to keep it at the heart of our work.

Our Summer Camp offers a chance to pause and reconnect. For the young people, it means time outdoors, rest, new friendships and new experiences. It's a chance to slow down and an escape from some of the daily worries that come from living in the asylum system. For us, it's an opportunity to build trust and get to know each young person so that we can better support them in the months and years ahead.

For the last five years, we've held our camp at Jamie's Farm, a working farm designed to help young people build confidence, resilience and positive relationships. Days are spent feeding animals, working in the gardens, cooking and exploring the countryside. Evenings are filled with games, laughter and shared meals that quickly turn strangers into a community.

“

Every morning, they tell us about new things, about life... they're always happy for us.” AR

The daily check-ins each morning and evening, are always special. They're simple but powerful moments where everyone pauses to talk about how they're feeling and reflect on the day. Each person also gives a shout-out to someone else in the group – recognising moments of kindness, teamwork, or even just that someone's presence made their day better.

For young people who have faced constant change and uncertainty, this space of trust and belonging is rare. Jamie's Farm offers it in abundance – a place where every young person is seen, heard and appreciated. By the end of the week, there is always a noticeable shift: more smiles, more confidence, and the knowledge that they are valued and supported, not just here, but long after they return home.

“

Jamie's Farm is the best place, if you come and get away from the crowded cities and calm your mind and clean your mind from all the stresses.” M

Thank you

With thanks to Surrey Virtual School for funding our Summer Camp and to the amazing team at Jamie's Farm in Lewes for always making us feel welcome and valued and supported.



CREATIVE ARTS | celebrating creativity and community

We want to raise awareness of the issues faced by displaced young people and encourage connection and cohesion in our communities. Our music and creative arts programmes help achieve this – bringing young people from displaced and host communities together through music and using art and theatre as a platform to showcase creativity and share powerful stories of displacement.

Music Connects

Thanks to funding from Youth Music and the Arts Council England we're able to run our Music Connects project for another two years with our fantastic partners at Surrey Arts.

Since launching in 2020, young people have been at the heart of this project – writing and recording songs, performing at London's Union Chapel, co-writing with Mother Mother and, most importantly, forming lasting friendships.

This year, we reflected on the core purpose of the project, to build connection and understanding across communities through music, and how this feels more important than ever right now.

We listened to what previous participants told us – how special it was to spend time with people they would never otherwise have met, how much fun and learning came from it, and that they wished it could happen more often – and used this to shape the programme.

We held the first in our new series of Open Mic nights, led by our Music Connects alumni and open to the community. Thanks to the wonderful Boileroom, we had an incredible venue, and a stage that has hosted some big names over the years. The evenings were an explosion of music from around the world with everything from Persian folk songs, classic rock, jazz and blues to Sudanese disco hits, Ethiopian rap and original Eritrean poetry. But as ever, our favourite moments were when local and displaced young people were up on stage together and all differences fell aside and everyone was united in the music.

“

It was brilliant. I thought the language difference would make it difficult, but it didn't, not at all. I loved meeting new people and singing together.” Hannah

48

young people

400+

community attendees
and partners



Celebrating creativity and resilience during Refugee Week

Refugee Week is a chance to celebrate our young people through recognition of stories, truth and the real contribution people bring to our communities when they have been forced to leave their own. The theme for 2024 was Our Home and we worked with Iraqi photojournalist and filmmaker, Ali Arkady, to create an exhibition with young people exploring this.

Ali developed a unique technique of printing photographs onto blasted sandstone, describing it as a “process of transferring the heaviness of my memories onto the stone”.

We invited 15 young people to choose images that evoke thoughts of home and spent the day with Ali printing these onto stone. The stunning and thought-provoking pieces were displayed at St Mary’s Church in Guildford in an open exhibition during Refugee Week, attracting more than 200 visitors.

For the young people it was a chance to learn a new skill, but also to feel their work and their experiences are valued within the community.

“

It was a spectacular and unforgettable experience with Ali... something I never knew before and it sparked a new creativity that I want to practice.” AD

“

Such a powerful, moving exhibition. Thank you for sharing your stories with us.” Rosamund

Sharing journeys to safety

We recognise the power of storytelling and wanted to explore this – using music as a soundtrack to the story of a journey, told through shadow puppetry.

Five young people worked alongside a scriptwriter, puppeteer and a set designer to create a story that blended their memories of leaving home to find safety.

Told through shadow puppetry, it reflected real events – some horrific and others showing the incredible kindness of strangers – and included words of strength and courage from a mother saying goodbye to her child. But most of all it showed the resilience and determination of so many young people to survive desperate and perilous events and still to look forward to a safe and hopeful future.

With so much misinformation blurring simple facts of journeys to safety, the space to share the real stories and experiences of our young people is precious, and we were delighted to perform in front of more than 200 people at the Mayor of Guildford’s Diversity Show.

Our Music Connects performers created an original soundscape and score with instruments reflecting the nationalities represented in the story. The standing ovation that followed the performance showed just how powerful a simple story can be when told with honesty and authenticity.



“

It was an absolute honour to be part of such a powerful and meaningful project... Knowing it touched people and helped raise awareness is more than I could have hoped for.” M

Thank you

With thanks to Youth Music, Arts Council England, Guildford Philanthropy and Tides Foundation for supporting these programmes; and to our partners at Surrey Arts, the Boilerroom, Ali Arkady, St Mary’s & Holy Trinity Church, scriptwriter Denise Cassar, puppeteer Emily Hembrow and set designer Jane Wardle. We couldn’t have done without you.



Images © Adi Delempo / Big Leaf

YOUNG LEADERS | empowering young people to lead

For the last four years we've been supporting young people to build leadership skills, confidence and knowledge through our Young Leaders programme. This year we graduated another 12 young people and created formal ambassador roles within Big Leaf.

Our Young Leaders programme brings young people together to learn about leadership, legal rights, how to create change and support others, helping them to feel more empowered within themselves, their local community and Big Leaf itself.

We work with some incredible partners to bring this programme to life – from the team at Jamie's Farm who give us the space and support to get to know each other and build trust at the start of the programme; and the law students at Surrey University School of Law who lead the human rights and democracy sessions; to Guildford Shakespeare Company who work with us to build confidence in public speaking.

The programme is continually evolving as past graduates bring new ideas and help to shape the sessions for the next group.

But it's not just the young people who learn. Each conversation and every experience shared teaches us something new as well.

We've worked with the School of Law since the first Young Leaders programme and the law students tell us just how much they learn from the group – explaining that they had no idea this was the experience displaced young people have in this country, of their rights not being upheld, and that this knowledge and understanding will influence their work in the future.

This is one of the most exciting things about the programme – seeing the young people realise the impact that sharing their experience can have on those around them. Realising their voice is important, and just how much knowledge and wisdom they already have. It's this shift in confidence and self-belief that makes this programme so special...

...and it's this newfound confidence that has seen them advocate for themselves in pursuit of their education and career goals; step into leadership roles in their communities; share their stories through media and film; take up speaking opportunities or offer gentle but determined support to other young people who have just arrived.

[Read more about Youth Leadership in Action on p24.](#)

We come together at the end of each programme to celebrate the young people. Graduation is one of our favourite events of the year. It's a chance for us to celebrate their incredible achievements and for our community to hear first-hand what this programme means to them.

“

One of my favourite parts of the programme was Jamie's Farm... working together, eating together and sleeping under the same roof. As someone who grew up in a really large community who does everything together... those three days gave me the closest feeling I have felt of being home in a very long time. It was a reminder that no matter where you are, or how far you are away from home, those feelings can be recreated.”

“

My journey to the UK has not been easy but I am grateful that I am here. I am glad that I chose to do the Young Leaders programme... because I have learned so much, not just about leadership, but about myself and the world around me.”



“

I came from a country where there are not many opportunities or respect for human rights... However, since I have arrived and joined with Big Leaf, I've realised that [we have many rights]. These protect us and allow us to live freely... and with rights come responsibilities. It's so important for all of us to understand them and practice them to live in harmony in a new community.”



“

I hope to use what I have learned through this programme to help others, as so many others have helped me before.”

“

I am so proud of all of the graduates. I am always so in awe of what they can achieve when they believe in themselves a bit more – Big Leaf does that for them.” Jessica, key worker

You can listen to a few of the graduation speeches in full at www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/young-leaders-speeches

Thank you

With thanks to The Listening Fund for supporting this programme; to our wonderful programme partners Jamie's Farm, Surrey University School of Law and Guildford Shakespeare Company; our mentors, Denise, Jessica, Abby and Martin who helped the young people practice their speeches ahead of graduation and/or supported with progression routes from the programme.



“

We live in a world where the value of human dignity and freedom is sometimes taken for granted... But throughout history, we've seen how easily [people's rights] can be denied. People have faced violence, oppression, and injustice because their fundamental rights were ignored. That's why human rights are not just ideals – they are a call to action for each and every one of us.” M

YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN ACTION | shaping our work and speaking out

Our leadership programmes support young people to speak out on the issues that matter to them and ensure collaboration and youth listening sit at the heart of our work.

Building on the success of our Young Leaders programme we created formal ambassador roles for young people keen to influence policy and public attitudes towards asylum and those wanting to work with us to support their peers.

Our ambassadors have stepped into leadership roles, shared stories through local media and film, contributed to policy work and taken up speaking opportunities. Just as important is the internal ambassador work – from co-creating projects to supporting other young people who have just arrived. Here are a few highlights from the year.

Leading within Refugee Week

Our ambassadors played a central role in Refugee Week – leading the vision and planning and taking charge of the cooking component to create an inclusive and welcoming community event called 'Our Home' with food from around the world.

“

It was a good experience for me. I enjoyed meeting everyone who came to the event and seeing them speaking to different people. I was proud that it was like my home.”

Ahmed, youth ambassador

Policy and advocacy work

Our ambassadors contributed to Surrey County Council's new migration policy – with their feedback on housing, employment challenges, and social isolation incorporated into the proposed policy, highlighting the importance of youth voices in shaping local strategies.

“

It was good to feel listened to... that our bad experiences will mean that no one else has to have a bad experience like this again... that we're helping to make Surrey better for all displaced people.” Randy, youth ambassador

M spoke at the annual Toulson Lecture at Surrey University with guests including lawyers, barristers, alumni, charity partners, and Supreme Court judge, Lord Hodge. He talked about how, as a displaced person, understanding his human rights in the UK has helped him feel safer and more confident.

Thank you

Huge thanks to all of our leaders and ambassadors for your passion and determination to advocate for displaced young people in Surrey and beyond. We're incredibly proud of you all.

6

external ambassadors

6

internal ambassadors

5

young people engaged in policy conversations

6

raising awareness through media/comms/public speaking

Randy has been part of Big Leaf since 2021, first joining our ESOL programme and later becoming an ambassador. Here, Randy reflects on his journey and what the charity means to him.

Another year has passed, and it makes me realise that more than three years have gone by since I received a text message that changed my life. Back then, I was an asylum seeker, and now I'm a refugee. I had no idea that message would open the door to opportunities that helped me grow as a person and, for a moment, forget that I had to leave my country at such a young age.

If I had to describe Big Leaf in one word, it would be 'change'. I'm not sure the team realise how much they have changed, and continue to change, the lives of young displaced people. They give us a new chance to dream in a place that once felt unknown.

This happens through fun activities and opportunities for personal growth, like the Young Leaders Programme. From learning how the UK government works to developing leadership and professional skills, the programme has been so rewarding.

I remember how nervous I was at my first public speaking event, but Big Leaf doesn't just teach you how to do it. They stand beside you, and that is something special. Since then, I've spoken to audiences of more than 200 people about my life and dreams.

When I think about it, all these skills I've developed are because of Big Leaf. I'm now studying at university to become a physiotherapist, a goal I've had since I arrived here.

“

I know I'm here because they believed in me, just as they believe in all of us. That is why I use the word change. They changed my life.



Even now, far from Surrey, I still feel their support and call them my family. As an ambassador, I've spoken at the national conference for Child Services and recorded films for Surrey Police, secondary school students and BBC Radio. I will carry these achievements with me forever.

I know the future will bring more successes for young displaced people and for Big Leaf. They do everything for us... at no cost to us. I still get excited whenever I'm contacted to take part in something, and I hope that one day I can give back even a little of the love they've shown me.

Last year, Randy was on set with the multi-award winning TrueTube – discussing his life in Nicaragua, his reasons for leaving and his experience settling into life here. The film was part of new series for secondary schools to mark Refugee Week. You can watch at www.truetube.co.uk/resource/refugee-stories-randy/



“

...we all enjoyed your inspiring talk. It gave us a great deal of food for thought and we'll be discussing it further at our next trustee meeting.” London Luminaries

SHARING OUR APPROACH | increasing support for displaced young people

This year we've worked with partners and young people to share our learning with more people than ever before – helping to raise awareness, connect across communities and ideas, and build support for displaced young people both in Surrey and beyond.

The young people we support often tell us how much Big Leaf means to them. We've learnt a lot about what works and what doesn't. We've listened to our young people and collaborated with partners to develop projects that help meet the changing needs of displaced young people in our community, and we've explored how we can best advocate for them.

We're still learning. But we recognise our experience has potential for broader application. We also know that with the rise in mis- and disinformation targeting displaced communities and promoting hate, division and even violence, it's never been more important to speak up and provide truthful and human-centred narratives around displacement.

We've been invited to speak at events and join conversations around immigration and asylum rights – sharing the realities and voices of the young people we support alongside our own experiences working in the sector.

We're not there to change people's political views, we simply want to show the truth of our work and the challenges the young people face.

We've welcomed discussion and time and again, we've been met with respectful questions, compassionate responses and people expressing surprise at the real statistics and the human stories behind the numbers. Conversation between people who might not naturally agree is more important than ever at this time, and we're grateful to all of the audiences who have listened with such attention and empathy.

We also want to support the organisations and communities who already welcome people seeking sanctuary in the UK and we joined forces with the International Rescue Committee to run a Healing Spaces workshop. Open to partners, local organisations and statutory agencies working with displaced communities, more than 30 people came together to explore what it means to be trauma-informed and how to work together to build resilience and hope based on truth, acceptance and respect for everyone.

“

It was so interesting to hear more about the work you do and hear from other practitioners and organisations... truly inspiring. I really appreciated the opportunity to learn, share and connect with everyone involved.”

Dom, community partner and IRC training attendee

9

speaking events

300+

partners and community attendees



Images © Pixabay (main) and ©TFA events (below)

“

Day 2 complete... the hills were real and the wind was a bit unfriendly but we got through it. Incredible experience thanks again to you all for your support!” TR, London to IoW Challenge participant

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING | changing the lives of young people one mile at a time

We have an incredible network of supporters who give regularly to support our work. These donations are vital. But like all charities we need to consider new and creative fundraising ideas to ensure we can continue our work. Our community has risen to the challenge – taking part in another sponsored bike ride.

For the second year running, staff from Salesforce UK took to their bikes to raise money for Big Leaf – this time cycling from London to the Isle of Wight (and completing a loop of the island while they were there).

Seventeen riders covered almost 150 miles to raise money for our regular English language sessions – in a ride that was at times challenging but always joyous.

Our Co-founder and Programmes Manager, Kayte, and one of our trustees, Jocelyn, joined the support team – keeping the riders fuelled with snacks and sharing stories of what their fundraising efforts would help achieve as a motivator to keep on pedalling.

“

I enjoyed learning about Big Leaf and fundraising as part of the Salesforce charity ride. Hope I can help to raise awareness of the great work you're doing.” EA

One of the most significant barriers for young people arriving in the UK is a good understanding of English. They often arrive as beginners in English speaking and reading and those arriving after the start of the academic year can wait months for college places to become available. With little or no English, it can be incredibly difficult to find their feet in their new communities. This is where we come in. We run regular English sessions during term time for young people with limited or no access to college.

Each year we support around 50 young people through our full-day English language sessions. Thanks to all of the riders who completed the London to Isle of Wight Cycling Challenge, and to Salesforce UK who matched all donations, we have been able to run our English language sessions for another academic year.

If you're interested in organising your own challenge event to support Big Leaf you can fundraise and collect donations through our JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/charity/bigleaffoundation



17

riders

£15,000

raised

150

miles covered

50

young people supported to learn English

priorities for the year ahead

Our priorities for the coming year reflect what we have heard from listening to our young people and partners, and the realities of the context we are working in. They focus on strengthening community, supporting youth leadership, and ensuring Big Leaf remains responsive, sustainable and grounded in the voices of the young people we support.

Over the past year, our work has taken place against a backdrop of growing hostility towards displaced communities, alongside increasing pressure on local services and support systems. For the young people we work with, this has often meant greater isolation, uncertainty and a need for spaces where they feel safe, listened to and supported.

Our priorities for the year ahead are shaped by these realities. They reflect a commitment to building strong, connected communities, creating meaningful opportunities for young people to lead and influence, and ensuring Big Leaf continues to grow in a way that is thoughtful, accountable and rooted in lived experience.

“

I had no idea what was happening in Darfur. Talking to E taught me a lot. I can't stop thinking about what life would be like in their shoes... We're good friends now.”

St. George's College Sixth Former

Strengthening community connections

We know that strong and connected communities are the most resilient to division and deliberate agitation. Building supportive communities has been at the heart of our work since the start, but it's never felt more important. Connecting people and making space for conversations helps dispel the myths around migration and rehumanises a debate that has, for too long, ignored the experiences of real people seeking sanctuary here. Over the next year we will look to strengthen existing partnerships and build new ones. We'll create even more opportunities for young people from both local and displaced communities to connect and collaborate, particularly through sports, creative arts and education. In doing so, we hope to continue building communities where young people feel a sense of belonging, shared responsibility and confidence in one another.

Youth leadership

Our priority remains to ensure the voices and experiences of displaced young people continue to shape everything we do. We recognise a culture of listening and meaningful opportunities for youth leadership, where young people are empowered to lead and have the support they need to succeed, are vital for building confidence, strengthening agency and ensuring our work remains relevant and grounded in lived experience.

Through our leadership programmes we're already supporting young people to take an active role in the development of Big Leaf and this year we created our first formal ambassador roles. Over the coming year, we'll create more opportunities for social action both as ambassadors, shaping and leading projects and influencing policy and public attitudes towards asylum, and as community caseworkers (more on this below).

“

Being listened to, taken into account and recognised feels incredibly rewarding, especially during difficult times when there is a lot of uncertainty for us.”

Randy, Youth Ambassador

“

“The most important reason to do a project like Community Casework is to help people who need support in their daily lives. It gives us the chance to understand real problems in our community and work together to make a difference.”

ES

Community casework

Most of our casework comes through our activities, where it is integrated into the spaces young people meet and connect with one another. Over the last year, we've seen more settled young people step in to support those who have just arrived – encouraging them to talk to us about their problems, helping to translate and even working with us to resolve the simpler issues. We believe that casework should help to build this kind of community agency. But we want to ensure that young people offering support remain safe and boundaried.

This year we will test a new Community Casework programme with training and support to help them understand the context and requirements of formal casework and decentralising the role of 'advice giver' to build a more resilient community.

Sharing our approach and speaking out

Over the past seven years we've listened to our young people and collaborated with partners to develop programmes that meet the changing needs of displaced young people and we know that so much of this has the potential for success in other parts of Surrey and beyond. We will work together with our partners and our youth ambassadors to share our experience - connecting with organisations who are looking to develop opportunities in their own settings, and sharing our approach, knowledge and experience to increase opportunities for displaced young people more broadly.

But it's not just about working with like-minded organisations. In the current climate where hate and division and the deliberate targeting of displaced communities has become the norm, we also need to step into new spaces and have brave conversations that challenge mis- and disinformation and raise awareness of the real issues.

“

...as I spoke I felt a deep connection with the people listening. I realised the power of sharing my story - it wasn't just about me it was about showing that hope and change are possible.”

Mohi, Youth Ambassador

Priorities for the year ahead

Strategic transformation

Last year we talked about reviewing our governance model to ensure we have the right structures in place for a growing and maturing organisation, operating in an increasingly difficult space. This year has been about strengthening our board to meet these needs – welcoming new trustees with experience in governance, policy, fundraising, evaluation and reporting, and strategic planning and change management. We also brought our financial admin into the staff team and transitioned to a new accounting package – all with a view to supporting greater organisational oversight and strategic development.

Over the coming year we'll take time as a team and with our young people to pause and reflect and to build our organisational strategy for the next three years. Our plan will focus on what young people need and want, giving them space to share their experience and ideas. It will consider the environment we're operating in and the challenges we face; and build on the incredible knowledge within our staff team. But above all it will capture what makes Big Leaf special and ensure this remains at the heart of our work.

We'll look forward to sharing our new strategic plan with you in 2026.

governance, structure & management

Big Leaf Foundation is controlled by its Constitution incorporated on 14 July 2018. It was recognised as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 14 December 2018 (UK Registered Charity Number 1181180) whose only voting members are its charity trustees ('Foundation' model constitution). The charity is run by the Board of Trustees who are responsible for ensuring we have a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and are focused on achieving these.

Appointment of trustees

Any person over the age of 16 who is willing to act as a trustee, and has not been disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 178 - 180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision) may be appointed to be a trustee.

There must be at least three trustees and a maximum of eight. Every trustee is appointed for a term of two to three years, by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees.

Retiring trustees are eligible for reappointment. But a trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be reappointed except after an interval of at least one year. In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, we consider the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the organisation and follow a thorough recruitment process.

Governance changes

We have changed and grown over the last six years. To ensure we have the right governance structures in place to guide us through the next six years we reviewed our governance model. We considered new approaches that embrace fresh ideas and build on the incredible experience within our team, our youth network and our volunteer community. Some trustees stepped down and we welcome new members with experience in governance, immigration policy, philanthropic giving, evaluation and reporting, and strategic planning and change management. We paired each new trustee with a staff member and a young person – ensuring their introduction to Big Leaf was rooted in the experience of our team and the young people we support. As the new board settles we're excited about the next phase of our development and what these individuals will add to our team.

Organisational oversight

The trustees meet six times per year with an additional strategic planning day. We also ask our trustees to attend a minimum of two Big Leaf Foundation projects per year as we strongly believe this contributes to a better understanding of our organisation, how we work and the young people we support. Trustees are DBS checked at an enhanced level and Safeguarding and Prevent trained.

The Programmes Manager and Governance, Partnerships & Finance Coordinator report on operational plans at trustee meetings. Big Leaf Foundation also operates subcommittees to oversee and deliver specific areas of work including Safeguarding; Finance & Fundraising and a new Risk Subcommittee and with new subcommittees under consideration. Each includes trustees and staff and operates under clear terms of reference, reporting back at trustee meetings.

The Chair and Programmes Manager also have regular meetings to discuss operational matters and resource needs.

Find out more about our team
www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/about-us

risks & mitigations

We're operating in a space that is increasingly hostile towards refugees and people seeking asylum. This has an impact both at an operational and strategic level, and on the young people we support. In recognition of this, we have established a new Risk Subcommittee to monitor risks and provide oversight to the Board.

We have focused on identifying the risks that pose the greatest threat and on defining realistic and effective mitigations. This organisational awareness means we can make careful choices about how we work and how we manage resources to build resilience in key areas.

Fundraising

Like many small charities, sustainable funding is key to our success. Reliance on a few, large donors leaves us financially exposed if a donor changes focus. We have worked hard to develop a diverse and engaged group of funders who support our work. But there is also a risk at the intersection between funding and growth – we need the right funders, with the right funding streams – to enable the evolution of the organisation in response to changing needs. This means ensuring staffing structures are fit for purpose, enabling staff to move from self-employed to employee contracts; and considering new roles, including a Director role. Our engagement with funders is authentic, rich and constructive, but identifying and building relationships with funders takes time. Revived commitment and expertise within the Board to consider and evaluate our fundraising strategy is a key mitigation and will provide Big Leaf with greater financial security in the longer-term.

Increasingly hostile environment

2024-2025 has been the most challenging year yet to be operating in the refugee and asylum space. Public displays of violence (physical and verbal) have become commonplace, more accepted and harder to challenge. This risk impacts both the safety and wellbeing of our young people, and staff morale and safety. In mitigation, we provide consistent, supported and varied safe spaces for our young people and interweave this with opportunities for accessing advice and expertise, from Surrey Police and same-sector partners, on how to remain safe in this environment.

Proposed changes to the asylum system represent a radical reshaping of the experiences of our young people. This instability increases the vulnerability of displaced young people. While we can't control policy, we use our influence and relationships with other organisations to petition MPs; we amplify the voices of our young people and focus on hope and belonging in our comms work; and we work to identify increased vulnerability and put in place extra support for these young people.

Safeguarding

Our ability to safeguard young people in increasingly challenging circumstances remains a key focus. The challenges of displacement and resettlement leave them vulnerable to homelessness, destitution and exploitation, alongside the deep psychosocial impact of living with ongoing uncertainty about their future, in a society that seems determined to exclude them, while also coming to terms with what they have lost.

Training for our staff and trustees is central to our response, along with robust policies and clear processes to support young people at risk and ensure they are properly safeguarded. This year we have focused on strengthening relationships with external agencies where we can escalate safeguarding concerns and developed our internal processes, and knowledge, to meet the challenges of a changing safeguarding environment.

Staff wellbeing

We're fortunate to have attracted some of the brightest and best to our staff team. Their passion for their work shines through in every engagement with our young people. We're committed to remaining a competitive employer in the sector through building a diverse and sustainable funding base. Thanks to multi-year core funding we have now started moving the team onto payroll.

Recent attacks on those working in the refugee sector has also led us to consider how we keep our staff and volunteers safe both physically and digitally. We have taken advice from cyber security experts, Surrey Police, and other organisations to build internal confidence and expertise. Our staff often absorb the fears and concerns of our young people. We work hard to ensure that our staff feel valued and supported, through regular supervision, responsive line management, and a strong collaborative working environment.

finance & accounts

Big Leaf Foundation is a registered charity and relies on donations from both trusts and individuals to continue its work.

One of our core aims this year was to broaden our funding streams for both project and core costs while also exploring general fundraising through events. We have made significant progress here with new multi-year core funding from BBC Children in Need, to complement existing multi-year funding from The National Lottery Community Fund; new multi-year project funding from Youth Music; and another successful fundraising event with a sponsored bike ride

from London to the Isle of Wight in July 2024 in support of our ongoing English Language programme. We also welcomed other new funders including Garfield Weston Foundation and the Wisley Foundation.

Our huge thanks to all of our funders and donors whether you're funding us for the first time or we've been working together for years. We can't do this work without you and we never take your support for granted.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | for year ended March 2025

Income

Trusts & Grants: £284,952

Individual Donations: £46,329

Gift Aid & Interest: £5,345

Total: **£336,626**

Previous year: £213,182

Expenditure

Core Costs: £38,978

Staff Costs: £179,073

Project Costs: £77,374

Total: **£295,425**

Previous year: £305,038

The information above (both for 2024/25 and 2023/24) is prepared on an accruals accounting basis, which is a change from the previous financial reporting and is explained in more detail below.

Changes to financial reporting

We have now transitioned to a charity-focused accounting system and as part of this, adjusted our accounts for 2024/25 to an accruals basis. This new system will improve financial reporting and better support the trustees in planning and decision-making. This change means the financial report for this accounting year has a transitional impact (as shown in the table on p33).

Income held for work planned in the next financial year has been deducted from the current financial year in which it was received and will be accounted for as prepaid income for the next financial year. This prepaid income of £73,896 is an asset at year-end and is shown in the following table as 'Committed restricted funds'.

FUNDS SUMMARY | at 31 March 2025 and compared to previous year

£	at 31 March 2025	at 31 March 2024
General funds (unrestricted)	£88,362	£5,475
Restricted Funds	£41,416	£83,102
Total funds at year end	£129,778	£88,577
Cash holdings	£188,736	£216,141
Committed restricted funds	£73,896	£113,196

Funding as of 31 March 2025 comprises of £41,416 in Restricted funds and £73,896 Committed restricted funds which must be used on stipulated project expenditure. Designated funds of £70,666 have been allocated by the trustees to fund specific project expenditure with £17,696 in General funds and available to cover unplanned or unfunded expenditure.

Based on this, funds for future projects remains tight but we believe the charity is operating prudently while positively utilising all funds received. With our work continuing to build in depth and complexity, we will continue to seek additional funding to build organisational resilience in a rapidly changing external context.

Restricted and designated funds

Project name and/or funder	Purpose
BBC Children in Need Staff costs	Multi-year core funding for our Sports Programme Manager.
Blagrave Trust The Listening Fund Youth leadership	Multiyear funding for the continuation of our Young Leaders programme and improving our listening work.
Community Foundation for Surrey & Guildford Philanthropy Project funding	Funding for Refugee Week project costs and our translation costs and care leaver support
Garfield Weston Foundation Core funding	Core funding to support our organisational objectives and programme costs as needed.
High Sheriff Youth Award Summer School	Funding for our Summer School programme.
Salesforce English sessions	Match funding for our second summer Challenge Bike Ride in support of our English language programme.
Surrey County Council (Surrey Virtual School) Summer Camp	Funding towards our five-day Summer Camp at Jamie's Farm.
The National Lottery Community Fund Staff costs & office lease	Multi-year core funding from for Programmes Manager & Comms Coordinator and office space.
Tresanton Trust Casework and hubs	Core funding for our Casework service and weekly hubs.
Wisley Foundation Sports for Connection	Project funding for our new Sports for Connection events.
Youth Music Music Connects	Multi-year project funding to deliver our Music Connects programme in partnership with Surrey Arts.

Our 2024/25 accounts have been independently reviewed by Warner Wilde accountants in line with Charity Commission guidelines.

thank you

We'd like to thank everyone who works alongside us with kindness, compassion and a shared determination to give displaced young people in Surrey the opportunities and the future that they deserve.

Donors

- Active Surrey Together Fund
- Arts Council England
- BBC Children in Need
- Blagrave Trust (Listening Fund)
- Bright Light Theatre
- Community Foundation for Surrey
- Garfield Weston
- Guildford Philanthropy
- Healing Herbs
- High Sheriff of Surrey
- Holy Trinity & St Mary's
- Salesforce
- Surrey County Council/Surrey Virtual School
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Tides Foundation
- Tresanton Trust
- Wisley Foundation
- Youth Music

We'd also like to thank all of the individuals who have given one-off or regular donations this year and all of the incredible people who fundraised through the challenge bike ride in the summer.

Partners

- Air Time CIC | Jo Woodhams
- Aristar Consulting | Paul Glynn
- Basketball4All | Bridget Hayward & Creon Raftopoulos
- Central & North West London NHS Trust | Ian Cole
- Chelsea Foundation | Rob Wright
- Child and Adult Mental Health Surrey | Vicky Lord
- Guildford Cricket Club | Ahmed Hussain
- Guildford Shakespeare Company | Eli Murton
- Guildford School of Acting | Amy & Fatima
- Higher Education & Outreach Network | Chris Dexter
- Holy Trinity & St Mary's Guildford | Chloe, Corinne & Simon
- Jamie's Farm | Sam Maynard & team
- PMAActive | Martin King
- Redhill Amateur Boxing Club | Alex Moore & Rehan
- Refugee Council (FairShot FC) | Luke Stewart & Georgie Thomas
- RHS Wisley Community Outreach team | Chris Young
- Surrey Arts | Jim Pinchen & team
- Surrey County Council Public Health team | Kate Crockatt
- Surrey Football Association | Rob Bryant
- Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development | Ben Rayner & team
- Surrey Police | CI McDermott, PC Madgwick-Smith, PCSO Moyes & DC Tyson
- Surrey Sports Park | Carly Pearson
- Surrey Uni School of Law | Liz Williams, Jessica & the law students
- Surrey University WP team | Thamsin Young & Joe Hickenbottom
- Surrey Virtual School | Cass Hardy, Nadia Mughal & Lisa Scrivens
- The Boileroom | Dom Frazer & team
- Together with Refugees Coalition & IMix
- Shah Jahan Mosque | Kawther Hashmi & Imam Hashmi
- St George's College | Jon, Kevin Jess & all the staff & students

Volunteers

- Abdulsalam
- Alex
- Alfie
- Alison
- Annabel
- Antonin
- Ash
- Carol
- Chris
- Denise
- Ella
- Hannah
- Henry
- Jane
- Jaego
- James
- Jessame
- Jess M
- Jessica G
- Martin
- Naoe
- Nikki
- Paul
- Richard L
- Sofia

Youth Ambassadors

- Ahmed
- Hamid
- Henry
- Jessica M
- Mohi
- Nadir
- Randy
- Sabir
- Sahand
- Kayte Cable
- Ro Carter
- Vicki Felgate
- Koye Sofoluwe

Trustees

- Sally Bagwell (app. 17/01/25)
- Nick Early (appointed 20/12/24)
- Vicki Felgate (chair)
- Caroline Parkes (app. 17/01/25)
- Dave Wagstaff (resigned 01/25)
- Katie Wilson (resigned 11/24)
- Jocelyn Zanası (resigned 01/25)

Staff

- Daud Afzal
- Abby Auty

support us

We can only achieve our aims with your help. With your support, displaced young people in Surrey can build new connections, regain confidence and find their place in the local community.

Donate

Your money will help to fund projects that combat social isolation and improve wellbeing among young refugees and asylum seekers in Surrey
www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/support-us

Partner with us

We work with a growing network of organisations and individuals to develop projects that will inspire our young people. If you'd like to explore a partnership or have a project idea that you'd like to talk to us about, please email contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

Volunteer

Volunteers bring time, care and energy that make a real difference. Join our small, dedicated team and help create spaces of welcome and belonging for displaced young people. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please get in touch
contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

Keep in touch

Follow us on social media for the latest news and updates [@BigLeafSurrey](https://twitter.com/BigLeafSurrey)

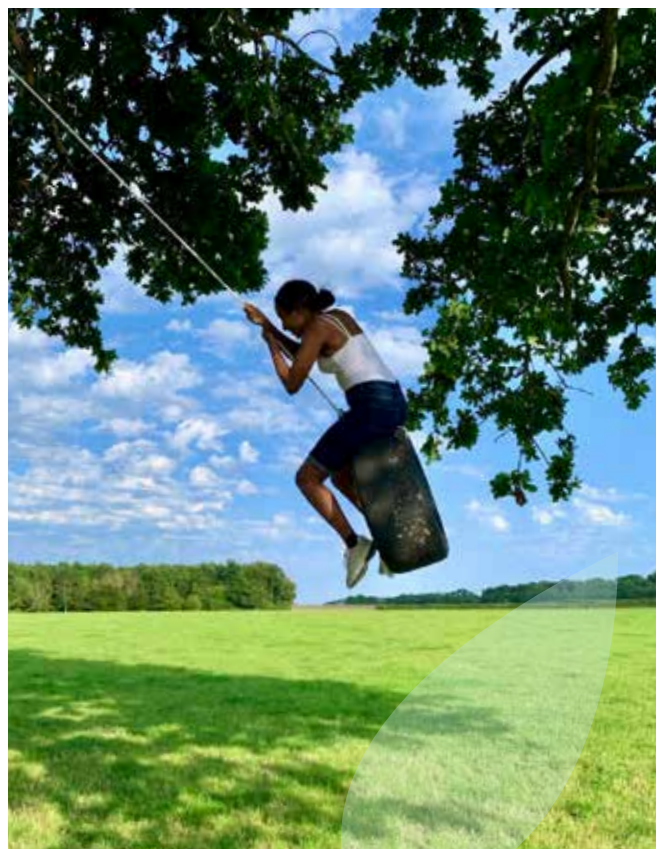
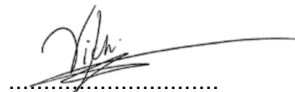


Image © Kayre Cable/Big Leaf Foundation

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



.....
V Ashraf Felgate
Chair

Date: ..16 Jan 2026.....

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Big Leaf Foundation (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Frances Wilde FCCA DChA

Warner Wilde Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
4 Marigold Drive
Bisley
Surrey
GU24 9SF
Date: 19 January 2026

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Current financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	27,798	100,494	205,283	333,575	210,569
Investments	3	756	-	-	756	-
Other income	4	-	-	2,295	2,295	2,613
Total income		<u>28,554</u>	<u>100,494</u>	<u>207,578</u>	<u>336,626</u>	<u>213,182</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	5	15,599	65,321	214,505	295,425	305,038
Total expenditure		<u>15,599</u>	<u>65,321</u>	<u>214,505</u>	<u>295,425</u>	<u>305,038</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		12,955	35,173	(6,927)	41,201	(91,856)
Transfers between funds		-	34,759	(34,759)	-	-
Net movement in funds	7	12,955	69,932	(41,686)	41,201	(91,856)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		5,475	-	83,102	88,577	180,433
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>18,430</u>	<u>69,932</u>	<u>41,416</u>	<u>129,778</u>	<u>88,577</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prior financial year		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes			
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	7,317	203,252	210,569
Other income	4	-	2,613	2,613
Total income		<u>7,317</u>	<u>205,865</u>	<u>213,182</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	12,025	293,013	305,038
Total expenditure		<u>12,025</u>	<u>293,013</u>	<u>305,038</u>
Net income and movement in funds		<u>(4,708)</u>	<u>(87,148)</u>	<u>(91,856)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		<u>10,183</u>	<u>170,250</u>	<u>180,433</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		<u>5,475</u>	<u>83,102</u>	<u>88,577</u>

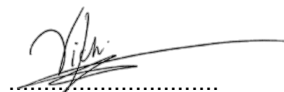
BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	10	30,822		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		188,736		216,140	
		<u>219,558</u>		<u>216,140</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(89,780)		(127,563)	
Net current assets			<u>129,778</u>		<u>88,577</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	13		41,416		83,102
Unrestricted funds - general	15		18,430		5,475
Unrestricted funds - designated	14		69,932		-
			<u>129,778</u>		<u>88,577</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 16 January 2026.



V Ashraf Felgate
Chair

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Big Leaf Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	27,798	-	20,825	48,623	5,757	-	137,756	143,513
Grants	-	100,494	184,458	284,952	-	-	65,496	65,496
Donated goods and services	-	-	-	-	1,560	-	-	1,560
	<u>27,798</u>	<u>100,494</u>	<u>205,283</u>	<u>333,575</u>	<u>7,317</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>203,252</u>	<u>210,569</u>

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Income from investments

Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Interest receivable	756	-
	<u>756</u>	<u>-</u>

4 Other income

Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £
----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Other income	2,295	2,613
	<u>2,295</u>	<u>2,613</u>

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

Charitable activities 2025 £	Charitable activities 2024 £
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Direct costs

Contractors and other staff costs	179,073	145,980
Project costs	77,374	132,951
	<u>256,447</u>	<u>278,931</u>

Share of support and governance costs (see note 6)

Support	35,534	24,547
Governance	3,444	1,560
	<u>295,425</u>	<u>305,038</u>

Analysis by fund

Unrestricted funds - general	15,599	12,025
Unrestricted funds - designated	65,321	-
Restricted funds	214,505	293,013
	<u>295,425</u>	<u>305,038</u>

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Premises costs	22,460	24,547
Travel & subsistence	10,090	-
IT, communications & stationery	2,984	-
Governance costs	3,444	1,560
	<u>38,978</u>	<u>26,107</u>
Analysed between:		
Charitable activities	<u>38,978</u>	<u>26,107</u>

Governance costs comprise:	2025 £	2024 £
Other governance costs	1,884	-
Independent examiner	1,560	1,560
	<u>3,444</u>	<u>1,560</u>

7 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Trustees

One trustee received remuneration commensurate with the team management & project management services they provided (2024: three trustees received remuneration for project management services and expenses).

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

10 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>30,822</u>	<u>-</u>

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income	12	73,896	113,196
Other creditors		14,324	14,367
Accruals		1,560	-
		<u>89,780</u>	<u>127,563</u>

12 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Other deferred income	<u>73,896</u>	<u>113,196</u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	<u>73,896</u>	<u>113,196</u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	113,196	-
Released from previous periods	(113,196)	-
Resources deferred in the year	<u>73,896</u>	<u>113,196</u>
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	<u>73,896</u>	<u>113,196</u>

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Care leavers	-	4,282	(4,641)	-	(359)
Casework team	16,571	11,575	(28,146)	-	-
Communications programme	8,879	18,448	(21,806)	-	5,521
ESOL & language	10,332	10,000	(10,643)	(9,689)	-
Finance & governance	10,948	10,000	(10,000)	(10,948)	-
Gardening activities	2,830	500	(889)	(2,303)	138
Hub activities	5,934	10,500	(9,713)	-	6,721
Music connects	-	6,856	(1,416)	-	5,440
Office costs	4,132	26,220	(22,835)	-	7,517
Programme management	3,785	31,400	(35,910)	-	(725)
Refugee week	(83)	5,339	(5,256)	-	-
Sports for connection	-	2,858	(358)	-	2,500
Sports programme management	(4,320)	31,651	(26,333)	-	998
Staff suport & pension costs	4,189	(345)	(69)	(2,682)	1,093
Team management	10,741	-	661	(10,089)	1,313
Translation support	987	4,470	(709)	-	4,748
Young leaders	4,870	17,650	(18,776)	-	3,744
Youth ambassadors	2,728	4,378	(4,339)	-	2,767
Other restricted funds	579	11,796	(13,327)	952	-
	<u>83,102</u>	<u>207,578</u>	<u>(214,505)</u>	<u>(34,759)</u>	<u>41,416</u>

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Restricted funds	(Continued)				
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Casework team	51,897	-	(35,326)	-	16,571
Communications programme	8,109	770	-	-	8,879
ESOL & language teaching	6,607	3,725	-	-	10,332
Finance & governance	22,992	-	(12,044)	-	10,948
Gardening activities	-	2,830	-	-	2,830
Hub activities	5,716	218	-	-	5,934
Music connects	3,568	-	(3,568)	-	-
Office costs	-	4,132	-	-	4,132
Programme management	2,442	1,343	-	-	3,785
Sports programme management	5,662	-	(9,982)	-	(4,320)
Staff support & pension costs	2,649	1,540	-	-	4,189
Team management	19,057	-	(8,316)	-	10,741
Translation support	1,670	-	(683)	-	987
Young leaders	31,064	-	(26,194)	-	4,870
Youth ambassadors	-	2,728	-	-	2,728
Other restricted funds	8,817	188,579	(196,817)	-	579
Refugee Week	-	-	(83)	-	(83)
	<u>170,250</u>	<u>205,865</u>	<u>(293,013)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,102</u>

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Restricted funds

(Continued)

The transfer represents designated funds included with restricted fund balances in the prior financial year.

Funds in deficit at the year end are as a result of timing differences. These funds return to positive values in the following financial year.

Care Leavers

To help young displaced people leaving care to become independent & integrate into British society

Casework Team

To help & support displaced young people with issues around housing, education, asylum claims, age disputes, job applications etc.

Communications Programme

To communicate BLF's aims & objectives via all media and to participate in relevant campaigns

ESOL & Language

To provide English language teaching to young displaced people

Finance & Governance

To ensure that BLF is meeting governance requirements e.g. board structure, policies & procedures, training, safeguarding and accounting / bookkeeping

Gardening Activities

Gardening programme for displaced young people

Hub Activities

Drop-in social hubs with catering for displaced young people

Music Connects

Music events programme e.g. open mic nights for displaced young people

Office Costs

Office rent / rates / utilities etc.

Programme Management

F/T programme management role delivering multiple projects for displaced young people

Refugee Week

Summer project celebrating national refugee week

Sports For Connection

Sports events programme including community participation

Sports Programme Management

F/T programme management role delivering weekly football provision and Sports for Connection events

Staff Pension & Support Costs

Pension payments for employed staff, support costs e.g. supervision, HR software, staff training

Team Management

Line management role - direct reports - GPP role / Comms role / Caseworker roles and general team management

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Translation Support

Covers costs of translators / interpreters when needed if young person has low level language.

Young Leaders

Youth leadership programme covering leadership styles, law & democracy, employment skills, public speaking etc.

Youth Ambassadors

Progression from Young Leaders programme - representing BLF at events, conferences, press & media interviews.

Community IRC Refugee week

Blagrove Uplift Fund to support refugee charities with community engagement in face of far right hostility.

Football Activities

Weekly football provision with coaching.

14 Unrestricted funds - designated

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Team management	-	9,648	(11,743)	10,089	7,994
Staff support costs	-	951	(951)	2,682	2,682
Sports programme management	-	7,000	(6,507)	-	493
Hub activities	-	8,250	(699)	-	7,551
Refugee week	-	2,314	(452)	-	1,862
ESOL & language teaching	-	16,990	(21,214)	9,690	5,466
Finance & governance	-	5,886	(6,133)	10,948	10,701
Football activities	-	10,705	(12,903)	2,302	104
Gardening activities	-	2,000	(548)	(952)	500
Casework	-	36,750	(4,171)	-	32,579
	-	100,494	(65,321)	34,759	69,932

15 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
General funds	5,475	28,554	(15,599)	18,430

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Unrestricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	10,183	7,317	(12,025)	5,475
	<u>10,183</u>	<u>7,317</u>	<u>(12,025)</u>	<u>5,475</u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:				
Current assets/(liabilities)	18,430	69,932	41,416	129,778
	<u>18,430</u>	<u>69,932</u>	<u>41,416</u>	<u>129,778</u>

	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:				
Current assets/(liabilities)	5,475	-	83,102	88,577
	<u>5,475</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,102</u>	<u>88,577</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

Operating lease commitments comprise the property lease which commenced in July 2024 for a period of 3 years.

At the reporting end date the had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	18,900	18,900
Between two and five years	17,325	36,225
	<u>36,225</u>	<u>55,125</u>

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025***

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none) except as disclosed in note 8.

19 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

“

When I arrived in the UK, I was happy, I had arrived in a safe place. But just for one week, after that I realised I was lonely... I didn't know what to do... I didn't know how to speak English... I was overwhelmed. After that my social worker introduced me to Big Leaf... I learnt English, and I met my best friend, K, and I was happy.

M

”



The King's Award
for Voluntary Service

Recipient of the Kings Award for Voluntary Service

Big Leaf Foundation, PO Box 1544, Woking, GU24 8UH
www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk | contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk | [@BigLeafSurrey](https://twitter.com/BigLeafSurrey)

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1181180

Accounts

annual review 2024



Big Leaf Foundation

helping displaced young people belong and grow

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Editorial: Evie Booton, Ro Carter, Kayte Cable, Vicki Felgate, Sofia Janjua, Jessica Mathew, Koye Sofoluwe, Elizabeth Williams & Jocelyn Zanasi Design: Vicki Felgate Cover image: © Vicki Felgate/Big Leaf Foundation

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welcome

What another incredible year for Big Leaf. We've seen our projects develop, our outreach increase; we've widened our activities with existing partners, and started fabulous new relationships with new organisations. We've received funding to allow us to grow bigger, stronger and more creative, and we are so grateful for this. And as ever, we've worked alongside some of the bravest, most determined and inspiring young people we could ever hope to meet.

But it hasn't been easy. Explosive conflicts in other parts of the world mean that more people are trying to reach safety on other shores. The journeys taken are increasingly perilous, and the risks are ever more acute. With safe routes into the UK reserved only for people on temporary schemes from Ukraine or Hong Kong, most displaced people can only access this country by putting their lives in the hands of the smuggling gangs and risking everything on a small, and often not seaworthy boat. The tragedies seen in the Channel, in which 21 people lost their lives last year alone, are reflective of the desperation people feel, and their lack of options to try any other way.

We have also lived in the shadow of growing hostility in the media, fed by a government led rhetoric around "illegal immigration" which so often did not reflect the basic humanity of those seeking sanctuary. We've seen more and more blatant misinformation around the whole subject of migration, and outright racism expressed by people with significant platforms. All of this has a painful impact on those trying to start new lives here and their ability to look forward with positivity and hope.

But the resilience and drive of those we support amazes us every day. We often watch open mouthed as people throw themselves into study, into training and into their futures. We have seen young people win national and academic awards; start new jobs, often in competitive sectors; seize upon chances to volunteer and gain work experience. We've seen them off to further and higher education and on to apprenticeships; and we've seen them grasp at every opportunity we can offer them with enthusiasm and determination.

Last week we received a message from one of our young people that read: "I am and will always be grateful for all the opportunities, experiences and support you gave me here. What you do is amazing and I hope all of you are aware of how much you change young people's lives, just as you changed mine."

Messages like this mean so much to us. But we consider it an absolute honour and joy to be able work side by side with the young people we support and to be so consistently amazed and inspired by them. It is not a one-way street. And as we watch some of our more settled young people grow and mature and step into leadership roles themselves, we know that they are also inspiring other young people around them, who might be new to the UK and unsure about where their future holds, showing them what's possible when you believe in yourself.

In December, we also marked our five-year anniversary and have been reflecting on all that we have achieved in that time – with more than 600 young people passing through our doors and finding a community here waiting to welcome and support them. It's this community that you, our partners, funders and supporters, have helped build and create, and we are entirely and endlessly grateful to the many, many people who work alongside us with kindness, compassion and a shared determination to give these young people the opportunities and the future that they deserve. We hope this review shows you just how much you've helped us achieve. Thank you for being part of it.

Vicki & Kayte | Big Leaf Foundation Founders



“

The only family we have is Big Leaf... you've taught us and you are keeping us going and keeping us safe.” Merhawi

Image © Big Leaf Foundation

about us

Our vision is of a community where displaced young people are valued, supported and given the opportunity to create better outcomes for themselves.

Big Leaf Foundation is an award-winning charity working with displaced young people aged 15-25 across Surrey.

Our aim is to provide a nurturing programme of activities, projects and events that focus on combating social isolation and improving wellbeing for the young people we support.

We want to engage the young people we work with to be excited about the opportunities available to them, and to value their unique talents and abilities so that they can rediscover their potential and move forward with renewed optimism.

We want to support and empower these young people to know they are more than the status they have been given, and help them find their place within the local community.

Our projects range from sports, equine-assisted learning and creative arts projects to full-day English language schools, specialised casework support and residential workshops, alongside leadership programmes, summer schools and progression opportunities. All of our projects are built with the focus of helping young people feel more empowered within their own lives, their local communities and Big Leaf itself.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/about

“

I always come to you with my problems and sadness. But today I was very happy and I came to share my happiness with you. I am forever grateful to Big Leaf for bringing me back to life... thank you for being part of my journey.” M

about our beneficiaries

The young people we support have all been forced to leave their homes – many fled conflict and religious or political persecution, some were trafficked, some were kidnapped from their families and forced to train as child soldiers, and others were promised the dream of a better life and smuggled to the UK at huge cost.

Surrey is a significant receiver of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) with 143 (under 18s) living in care in the county in addition to the UASC care leavers. There are also many more displaced young people who have been resettled in Surrey with their families as part of government resettlement schemes and others who have arrived independently post-18 and have been placed in asylum hotels.

Most of the young people we support arrive as UASC and live in semi-independent accommodation. We've seen a slight decrease in demand for our services from hotels over the last year as the government pushed to move Afghan families on from temporary bridging accommodation and closed a local asylum hotel. But the number of UASC accessing our services continues to grow as existing beneficiaries spread the word among their peer network and refer new young people to us.

Separated children arrive alone, often in shock and without language or cultural understanding. They have to navigate their new lives, and the long and complex asylum system, without the support of family or friends. Even for those who come with family or through resettlement schemes, the experience can be overwhelming, confusing and incredibly difficult.

Cut off from everything that is familiar to them, displaced young people are particularly vulnerable to loneliness, isolation and anxiety. They face huge barriers in accessing legal support, education, employment and, above all, in finding a community.

230 young people
accessing our services

107 of whom were
new to us this year

9% girls &
women

62% aged
15-18

Over the past year, the outgoing Conservative Government created an exceptionally hostile environment for those seeking safety. The Illegal Migration Bill and the Rwanda Plan saw the UK turn its back on its commitments under the Refugee Convention, causing immense anxiety and distress for the young people we support. In the face of ever-changing laws, those working to help displaced communities scrambled to understand the implications of these appalling plans and offer meaningful guidance or reassurance to the communities they support.

There have been times of real darkness with young people calling us, terrified the Government was about to send them to Rwanda. We even had conversations about reshaping our entire model of working, which the Illegal Migration Act threatened. It seemed a real possibility that the fundamental right for people to claim asylum in the UK might cease to exist altogether.

Living in this kind of limbo can be debilitating for young people trying to rebuild their lives. But despite trauma, anxiety and an asylum system that seems focused on destroying their rights, these young people are resilient, strong and determined. They are full of hope and optimism, and we know that with the proper support, they can thrive in the UK and in their new communities.

“

The resilience and strength of these young people is incredible. They have been through so much and yet they are keen to learn, to be part of the communities they live in and to work and make a difference.” Zöe Franklin
Lib Dem Candidate MP for Guildford, Cranleigh & villages

our approach

We're a growing team of passionate individuals, determined to support and empower displaced young people to know they are more than their status, and help them find their place within their local community.

Our team includes refugee care and migration studies experts, experienced youth workers, volunteers with lived experience of forced displacement and finance, project management, fundraising and communications specialists. The team has combined experience of more than 20 years working with displaced young people.

our values

trust & transparency

Nothing is more important to us than trust, because so many of our young people have experienced a world in which they can trust no one. It's essential that we build trusted relationships with our young people, and that they have confidence that we will always act in their best interests. We do this through maintaining high standards of openness, honesty and transparency.

equality

We want everyone to feel welcome at our projects. We approach everything we do with empathy and compassion. We strive to create a sense of community to which we all belong, on equal footing and to create a safe, secure and non-judgemental space for young people to engage and build new friendships, explore new activities, and uncover their talents and passions.

growth

Everything we do is focused on promoting the personal growth of our young people – growth that allows them to know they are more than the status they have been given and that each one of them is unique and valued. Growth is also at the heart of our approach to governance. We prioritise team learning, work to embody best practice and aim to make each project better than the last.

working in partnership

To achieve our vision of a community where displaced young people are valued and supported we need to build strong connections within the community. We do this through working in close partnership with local organisations, agencies and businesses.

Over the last five years we've built a network of more than 70 community and multi-agency partners. These partnerships bring valuable skills and experience to our work, and are essential to building connection, trust and understanding within the community.

youth leadership

We recognise that young people with direct experience of forced displacement are best placed to create projects and campaigns that meet their needs and the needs of their peers. Our young leaders programme (p22) and new ambassadors project support young people to build skills and confidence, helping them feel more empowered within themselves, their local community and within Big Leaf itself. You can read more about youth leadership in action on p24.

our projects

Now in our sixth year, we've learnt a lot from the young people we support about the challenges they face. Our projects are designed to address these challenges and are built around four key strands – safety, health and wellbeing, connecting communities and growing knowledge. Read more about our projects on pages 8-24.



CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY | making our voices heard

Through our campaigns and advocacy work we raise awareness of the issues faced by displaced young people and speak out when their rights are under threat. This year has been challenging with the Illegal Migration Bill and the Rwanda Plan dominating the news and creating fear and anxiety.

The political and media landscape has become increasingly hostile towards those seeking sanctuary and as laws rapidly change, misinformation is rife. Working alongside same-sector partners we have amplified messages of welcome and lobbied the government and opposition parties to adopt a more compassionate and fair approach to asylum.

We have mobilised our supporters, written letters to our local MPs and worked with partner organisations to deliver open letters to the Home Secretary, Prime Minister and various newspapers. Organisations and individuals across the country have come together to oppose the Illegal Migration Bill and the Rwanda Plan and we've attended some brilliantly insightful seminars to build our understanding of the Bill and its implications for the young people we support.

We will continue to campaign for a fairer and more compassionate approach to asylum in the UK. Follow us on social media @BigLeafSurrey for the latest news and campaign actions.

“

Outsourcing our asylum system to other countries is never acceptable. It abandons our duty to share in the global responsibility towards those forced to seek safety.”

Open letter to Government about the Rwanda plan signed by Big Leaf alongside 221 organisations, community and faith leaders.

speaking up and speaking out

We want to provide young people with more opportunities to speak out on the issues affecting them. Our new ambassadors programme, launched in April 2024, will amplify young people's voices and experiences.

Building on the success of our Young Leaders programme (p22) and providing a progression route for graduates who want to engage with the media and public speaking, this programme provides the infrastructure and training to ensure they feel supported and safe to do so.

Over five weeks our new ambassadors will learn about advocacy, speaking with the media, staying safe online with the rise of the far right and effective public speaking techniques. We'll have sessions with the media and online experts and other youth ambassadors, journalists and successful public speakers.

Through this programme we want to create a network of like-minded peers who will support each other and Big Leaf to magnify the voices of people with lived experience of forced displacement.



Image © Vicki Felgate/Big Leaf Foundation

CASEWORK | supporting young people to access their rights

We provide complex casework advice and support, integrated into our project activities in both East and West Surrey. Through our work we aim to not only resolve the problems our young people face, but also support them to learn to advocate for their own rights and the rights of their peers.

Over the last year, the breadth of casework our team has taken on has grown significantly, as an unfortunate reflection of the increasingly hostile environment many of our young people find themselves in. Whether it's poor quality Home Office accommodation, evictions, drawn out age disputes, increased criminalisation or lack of access to housing solutions, our casework team has worked with and empowered young people to resolve these issues and their resilience and strength continues to inspire us.

“

We got an eviction letter and we have to leave [in 6 days]. Nobody could do anything for us... they cannot give us temporary accommodation.” F

a changing landscape

All of this has taken place with the backdrop of multiple anti-refugee laws being passed at the national level and an ever-shifting landscape of Home Office policy updates.

On the local level, funding and support for care leavers has noticeably decreased due to the cost of living crisis. Young people who have been granted refugee status and are trying to build the foundations of their new lives in the UK have faced huge barriers in finding meaningful work and stable housing.

This has meant our team has had to be flexible, reactive and resourceful in responding to a changing set of circumstances and needs, while rapidly learning and adapting to legislative changes.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

56 young people accessing casework

60% aged 15-18 years

29% of referrals included accommodation issues

78% positive outcome

case study

A attended our youth hub in Redhill and told our caseworker that he was sleeping rough in the park. He was a care leaver, and therefore should have been considered a priority need under the Housing Act 1996. But a breakdown at his previous accommodation meant there was a reluctance to listen to his needs from the professionals involved.

Through an intensive period of casework and advocacy we were able to support him to have his voice heard, and he has since moved to stable accommodation where he has been able to continue his education.



Image © planet_fox/pixabay

hotel closures and evictions

Throughout the first six months of the year our caseload was dominated by issues arising from the section 95 asylum hotels in Redhill and East Horsley. The isolated location of these hotels meant that there was very little available in terms of local support and the impact of this was particularly felt by young people who were undergoing age dispute issues or arrived post 18 and were therefore treated as adults.

On top of the difficulties in section 95 provision, a change in policy by the Home Office in July 2023 meant that after being granted refugee status, residents were being evicted from the hotels with just 7 days' notice. This change, combined with a push to clear the backlog of asylum cases, soon overwhelmed the homeless provision of Local Authorities across the country and resulted in a 223 per cent surge in street homelessness for people leaving asylum between June and September 2023.

We experienced this first hand, and worked hard to support our young people, and in many cases their families as well, as they went through the incredible stress of suddenly facing homelessness after what should have been a moment of such relief for them.

“

I have my keys now... I'm not homeless now. I'm really really thank you very much for helping me. I appreciate that.” A

the illegal migration act

While the introduction of the Nationality and Borders Act and the passing of the Illegal Migration and Safety of Rwanda Act presented challenges for our team in keeping abreast of the legislative changes, their real impact was the level of fear and anxiety they caused for the young people we support.

The increase in anti-migrant rhetoric left many young people feeling afraid, and the lack of easily available information about what the new laws meant, and to whom they would be applied, meant that misinformation was rife.

Through our projects, and particularly our youth hubs, we helped separate rumour from fact and supported young people to understand whether there was a real risk to them while also holding space for the distress and anxiety they were experiencing.

“

I am worried for my friend... he thinks he will be sent to Rwanda. He had a letter he doesn't understand. He is scared and he was told the Home Office will come for him.” K

thank you

With huge thanks to **Tresanton Trust** for its continued support and funding for our vital casework service and to our long-term casework volunteer **Alison** for the commitment and experience you bring to this role.



Image © Vicki Felgate/Big Leaf Foundation

YOUTH HUBS | providing a safe and welcoming space

Our youth hubs in Redhill and Guildford provide displaced young people with an opportunity to come together in a safe, familiar and welcoming space. We offer English language support through conversation, games and activities; and teach numeracy and life skills through our Food Counts project.

Our youth hubs have been running for over four years and are vital to our work. Last year, we welcomed more than 100 young people to our hubs.

In Redhill, table tennis, card games (Uno in particular) and informal English practice are the favourites. In Guildford, badminton, games and occasional sewing and arts and crafts activities run alongside English.

But the most important part of both hubs is cooking together and sitting down to share a meal. This is when the conversations happen and when we feel the most connected. Many of the young people enjoy helping out in the kitchen, cooking delicious food from around the world. This experience of sharing a meal is especially meaningful during Ramadan, when young people often join us to break their fast.

117 participants

7 dedicated hub volunteers

“

I am glad for hub and to come every week for food, and to meet my friends and new people and do activities. It is good to have this every week and I am very grateful for it.”

food counts

Thanks to funding from Surrey Country Council and the Department of Education we were also able to offer numeracy and life skills sessions for over 19s at both our hubs this year.

Most of the young people we support are here alone and must learn to cook and budget without family support. Finding the time and money to prepare home-cooked meals can be challenging.

Our Food Counts programme combined sessions on food safety and hygiene, nutrition and budgeting, with practical sessions preparing and cooking meals for the group.

thank you

With thanks to our hub volunteers, **Alison, Sofia, Scarlett, Jess, Alfie, Richard, Hannah** and **Ella**; our hub chefs, **Ash** and **Ro**; and to **Surrey County Council** and the **Department of Education** for funding our Food Counts project.

Sofia has been volunteering at our Guildford hub since February 2022. We invited her to be one of our first ever guest editors, sharing in her own words what it's like to work alongside our young people as a Big Leaf volunteer.

an invisible thread

My first evening hub was at the start of a new term. I met other volunteers and one of the regular hub attendees, who had invited a newcomer along. This new young person had only been in the country for a few weeks and it was encouraging to see he was already being taken care of, not just by Big Leaf, but also one of his peers.

This is the invisible thread running through my two years with Big Leaf... I see new young people come through our doors so often, usually side-by-side with one of our regular attendees. The support the young people offer each other is something that amazes me every week. It is a wonderful thing, to witness the transition of a young person who once attended hub shy and unsure, and with little English, bringing a new friend, showing them around and even translating for them at times.

I joined Big Leaf because I wanted to contribute to making even a small difference. It seems cliché but I suppose clichés exist because they sometimes have merit. My heart goes out to anyone experiencing forced displacement and having even the tiniest role in our young people's experience, and meeting them with warmth, kindness and encouragement, feels like some glimmer of meaning.

I see my role as a facilitator... supporting the young people to connect with Big Leaf staff and their peers and to feel a sense of achievement through learning a new game, trialling a new art or craft activity and improving their English or just finding time to have fun in a safe and supportive atmosphere.

“

One of the best moments... was when the newcomer from that first evening at hub announced they'd got their status... it felt like I'd witnessed their journey come full circle.”

I realised it had been two years since we met during our first time at hub, and they had finally received what they had been waiting for. No doubt they will have more challenges to face but I am humbled to have been a small part of their journey and to continue working with the team to offer them and other young people support and safety along the way. Another cliché, but I'll allow it.

Image © Sofia

Our volunteers make a huge impact in the lives of the young people they work alongside, whether through casework, teaching English, mentoring, running

31 volunteers

4 young people
volunteering with us

2093 hours
volunteered

activities at our hubs and sports sessions or applying for funding opportunities behind the scenes.

www.bigleafaffoundation.org.uk/volunteer

thank you

With thanks to all of our incredible volunteers who give their time and expertise to supporting displaced young people each year.



“

The ESOL lessons have been invaluable for all my young people, not only giving them the skills and confidence to learn English but also giving them the skills to adapt to their new lives in the UK.” Wendy, UASC keyworker

© Kayte Cable/Big Leaf Foundation

EDUCATION | providing opportunities to learn

One of the biggest barriers to anyone trying to resettle in the UK is a good understanding of English. Usually, people arrive as beginners in English, making it extremely challenging to find their feet in their new communities.

College places are often hard to access, particularly for those who have arrived after the start of the academic year. These delays in accessing education mean many young people are excluded from support, guidance and information that could significantly improve their situation.

We know that the young people we support are keen to learn English, and often frustrated by the lack of opportunities to do so. Although all of our projects carry an ESOL learning focus, we offer dedicated programmes for young people still awaiting educational placements, or that need a little extra help.

48 young people accessing ESOL

7 getting support with GCSEs

8 young people attending IELTS

English language school

Our full-day English language ‘school’ has been running for two years and has supported 48 young people with limited or no access to school or college this year.

Our sessions, held once a week during term time, offer a unique approach to learning English. We provide the specialised support that groups from mixed backgrounds need. Morning lessons focus on vocabulary, grammar, and numeracy skills, preparing participants for the UK education system. In the afternoons, we build cultural literacy and develop understanding of life in the UK with activities, field trips and guest visitors.

We’ve found that one of the best ways to settle into a new community is through exploring the local history, of places and people. This year, we visited Guildford Castle, Lewis Carroll’s house, St Mary’s Saxon Church and Abbot’s Hospital. We also welcome community guests to our sessions, including officers from Surrey Police, faith leaders and politicians.

“

When I was struggling with my English, I was introduced to Naoe, a Big Leaf volunteer. She teaches me English which is extremely helpful to improve my language skills.” M

More and more of the young people we support want to go on to higher education and we're committed to providing opportunities, support and progression routes to help them achieve this goal.

GCSE study groups

For the second year running and thanks to our brilliant volunteer teachers, we were able to offer tailored sessions for seven young people studying GCSE Maths and English. The sessions focus on study skills and revision techniques and build confidence around exam papers using past papers and practice questions.

Without family support or a stable home environment, finding time and space to revise can be challenging. Evidence also shows that long-lasting relationships with trusted teachers impacts positively on GCSE attainment, as does extra tuition. Thanks to our long-term volunteers, Naoe and Chris, we've been able to provide this consistent support.

IELTS sessions

Last spring, one of our Young Leaders asked if we could help him prepare for his International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams - which he needed to pass in order to apply for university. We're committed to listening to our young people and being flexible to their needs, so our Co-founder and Programmes Manager, Kayte, started running IELTS-focused sessions for eight of our higher learners, as part of our English language school.

Three have since passed their IELTS exams and have university offers. R achieved an incredible score of 8.5.

“

The Big Leaf IELTS sessions absolutely helped me achieve this score. Especially the writing feedback that Kayte gave me and the speaking practice we did every time, even outside of IELTS sessions.” R

“

I had a good time, it was very interesting. We saw 3D printers making objects and played virtual reality games... I made a circuit board... and we learnt how electrical circuits are used in machines. It made me happy to visit the universities and learn new things.” MS

exploring local universities

Building on the success of our Women in Higher Education sessions last year, we spent three days with Surrey Higher Education Outreach Network during the spring half term.

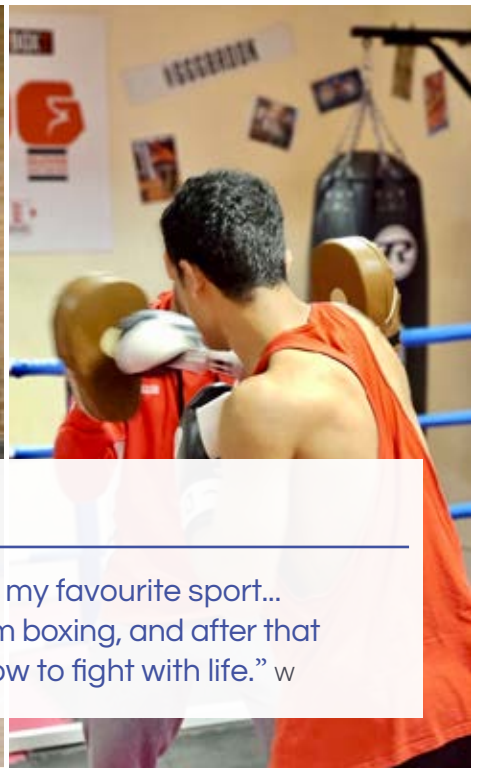
Together with 20 young people we visited the University of Surrey, Royal Holloway University of London and the University for the Creative Arts, to explore some of the courses on offer and discuss pathways into university.

We had a taste of what it might be like to study at each university, chatting with students and professors and joining workshops and seminars - from mechanical and electrical engineering to business management and creative art sessions. We also looked at foundation courses, apprenticeship opportunities, internships and blended learning options.



thank you

With thanks to our fabulous ESOL and GCSE volunteers, **Annabel, Naoe** and **Chris**; the **University of Surrey Widening Participation team** and **Surrey Higher Education Outreach Network**; **University of Creative Arts** and **Royal Holloway University of London** and all the tutors.



“

Boxing is my favourite sport... when I am boxing, and after that I know how to fight with life.” w

Images © Big Leaf Foundation

SPORTS | improving health and connecting through sport

Our sports activities are our most popular sessions. More than 130 young people joined sessions this year and with regular attendees often bringing recent arrivals, it's also one of our first contact points with young people new to the area.

Sport is a vital part of what we do. It brings young people together, promotes health and wellbeing and is often one of our first contact points with young people new to the area. It helps young people and our community partners to build mutual understanding and builds respect between participants.

This year we worked with professional coaches to offer regular sessions in football, basketball and to trial boxing for the first time. Our sports coaches are valued partners who work with enthusiasm, skill and compassion and we couldn't run the sessions without them. We're proud that Martin, who coaches our Guildford football team, received a sports award from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council this year in recognition of his work.

We also work with local teams so that young people can access sports activities in their local communities - with ten young people now playing for local cricket teams, two playing with football clubs and two in local boxing clubs.

For the second year we joined the Surrey FA Refugee League. Working in partnership with Surrey Police, Surrey FA created the league to improve football opportunities for displaced young people in Surrey and upskill participants.

One of our aims this year was to develop leadership and progression routes for those keen to pursue a career in sport. Thanks to Chelsea FC, six of young people attended Sports Leadership training at Stamford Bridge, exploring different career opportunities and pathways.

“

When I come to football, my mind is free. I see people like me, with difficulties like me, and we give each other hope. My coach is smiling at me, and I feel welcome. Everyone encourages each other - do you best, do your best. I remember this for my rest of life too. I will do my best.” MG

thank you

With thanks to our coaching partners **Chelsea Foundation, Upskill Coaching, PM Active, Basketball4All**, and **Redhill Amateur Boxing Club**; local teams **Guildford United, Redhill Youth FC, Reigate Priory Cricket Club** and **South Nutfield CC**; and our funders **Active Surrey**.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

132 young people attended football

22 joined basketball

11 young people came to boxing sessions

Koye joined our core team in June 2022 and runs the Sports Programme for Big Leaf. He joined us with a desire to showcase the benefits of using “sports for good” an interest he found since he started practising Judo over six years ago, back home in Nigeria.

my big leaf family

It's now more than two years since I joined Big Leaf, and my experience can be described in one word, 'family'.

Like a great family, my ever-dependable team, including my colleagues, our coaching partners and volunteers, provide all the support I need to try out and test new ideas through sports with and for the young people we work with. This has helped me to settle well since I arrived in the UK in 2022.

On the other hand, the young people we work with give me the love I need to trust my experience of settling here and working with them. They are a lovely bunch!

I find the experience of working with them has helped to further grow my interest in showcasing the benefits of sports for human development, especially for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, including displaced young people who are often isolated primarily due to the communication gap created by their limited use of English. This forms a huge source of motivation for me to want to do more and be more as an individual and a member of this family.

I always look forward to all our sports projects because they offer a safe place for everyone (including myself). The vibe we share is deliberately very welcoming for everyone - our coaches, our volunteers, and every young person who turns up.

“

I secretly think I get the most from our sessions because it is very soothing to watch the smiles on everyone's faces and the joy they take away from the sessions.”

Because of this, it is very hard for me not to join in all our sports activities, and I have learned to play basketball, boxing, cricket and even football, just by being a part of this family. Beyond sports, working with Big Leaf also allows me to participate in other activities, and some of the most memorable ones are being at Jamie's Farm, singing at our events and any given opportunity, and winning at the Surrey FA tournaments with the boys.

At times, I have to pinch myself to remind myself that this is meant to be work. This is what I get from working with Big Leaf - the feeling of being young again and the experience of such a fulfilling job.

thank you

With thanks to our brilliant sports volunteers, **Nikki, Anto, Henry, Abdulsalam** and **Sabir**, for showing up each time we ask, for caring and for making the sessions welcoming and fun. We'd also like to thank all of the young people we work with who lend us their ears and minds to test new ideas and work with us to shape the programme.



Images © Big Leaf Foundation

“

When I met Big Leaf, I knew they cared about us. But since volunteering, I realise how much effort and dedication... and above all love they put into making every young person happy regardless of their circumstances.” R

REFUGEE WEEK | celebrating creativity and community

We want to raise awareness of the issues faced by displaced young people and encourage connection and cohesion in our communities. One way we do this is through our Refugee Week programme.

Refugee Week is a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. It's a platform for displaced people to share their experiences and creative work on their terms. It's also a chance to engage the local community in our work.

We want all of our projects and events to reflect the the young people we support and our Refugee Week events were co-created in partnership with one of our graduate Young Leaders, R.

The theme for Refugee Week 2023 was compassion and we spoke about what compassion means and the different ways in can be shown.

building community awareness

We co-hosted a film-screening of 'On Our Doorstep' at the Electric Theatre in Guildford. The film takes a behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary grassroots movement that formed to help people stuck in the Calais 'Jungle' refugee camp before it was demolished. Following the screening, author and activist, Gulwali Passarly, joined the film's producer, Verity Wislocki, and guests from Refugee Community Kitchen and Amnesty International for a panel discussion about the UK asylum-system.

compassion for nature

R said that showing compassion for the environment was important to him and his peers. He wanted to show care and love to the place we call home and do a simple act that would benefit everyone. So with young people from our English language school, we built bee hotels to support solitary bee populations.

“

It was a beautiful project and we learned a lot about bees. I like that we take care of them because they are very small beings but very important to nature and the world.” J

We also wanted to show the power of compassion and what can happen when we all come together and we invited our partners, funders, volunteers and young people for an evening of art, music and shared food to celebrate our community.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

72 young people

149 partners, volunteers and community attendees



music connects

We know that music has incredible community-building power and we welcomed our Music Connects group to run an open mic night at the event.

We launched Music Connects four years ago, and in that time, it has become one of our most effective tools for connecting young people.

It's difficult for displaced young people to meet those local to Surrey. Language and cultural barriers, separate ESOL classes in college and a lack of family and community networks make it challenging for these groups to mix.

Music Connects brings these young people together to create music and write songs that reflect the group's musical styles and experiences. The project challenges young people to overcome cultural and language barriers and builds genuine connections and friendships.

We ran a two-day workshop with Surrey Arts in preparation for the open mic night, working together to craft, write and rehearse songs. Participants embraced the linguistic and cultural differences that might be seen as a barrier to collaboration, incorporating different musical styles and languages into their pieces. Throughout the evening the group shared their music, singing and rapping in different languages and styles from across the globe.

“

It's been an incredible evening. We were so moved by the evocative art pieces, incredible music and the touching speech by R...we're so grateful to be here and for all you do.”

Lucy Zirins, Surrey Arts

“

In this picture I tried to portray the feeling of children who left home, family. When you really lack parental care, the only way out for you is to draw a loved one and believe that you can hug them. The painting depicts a girl who painted her mother and is trying to feel this love again.” SK



Image @ SK

celebrating art and culture

We've seen many young people find self-expression through art and we wanted to include an exhibition of work as part of the event. Young people created incredible pieces – exploring the theme of compassion through sculpture, painting and drawing.

Our hub chef, Ash, worked with the young people to cook food from their home countries and together we served dishes from South America, North Africa and the Middle East.

You can view images and artwork from the week at www.bigleafoundation.org.uk/refugee-week-23

thank you

With thanks to **R** for his dedication to making Refugee Week a success; the incredible **Surrey Arts** for running the workshop and coordinating the open mic night; and to the **Boiler Room Guildford** for hosting the event.



Image © HM

GARDEN PROJECT | learning skills and connecting to home

Our new gardening project brings young people together to transform disused land into small community gardens, supporting them to gain the skills and knowledge to plant and grow in their own gardens.

From our time at Jamie's Farm we've seen how much the young people we support enjoy gardening and cultivating land. It encourages a sense of ownership and pride and is an opportunity to build new skills or reconnect with existing ones, often learnt from parents and grandparents back home.

We wanted to include gardening in our activities but it was a real challenge to find the ideal plot to start. In April (just in time for the new growing season), we found a willing partner in St Mary's Church, Guildford.

Thanks to a generous donation from one of our supporters, we were able to buy essential tools needed to start clearing an overgrown area of the churchyard. We also benefited from the support of local gardeners from the Merrow Horticultural Society and Guildford Allotment Society, who donated seeds and plants.

“

It's a lovely experience for me. It's like a sporting exercise for me because it uses all parts of my body. I know in the future it will have a positive impact on my health.” HM

Working with a team of young people, we cleared the mass of brambles and planted courgettes, tomatoes, potatoes, pumpkins and sunflowers. The hot weather in June gave these plants a flying start and we harvested our potatoes in July, cooking and eating them together in the churchyard.

Inspired by this progress, we set up four other gardens in the shared houses where some of our young people live. Each garden is different, some are container gardens, with tomatoes and cucumbers growing in large pots, while others have a small garden plot with an array of vegetables and flowers.

The young people have a sense of pride and ownership in these gardens, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

thank you

With thanks to our brilliant gardening volunteers, **Alison, Alex** and **HM**; to our **donor** for providing financial support; and to **Merrow Horticultural Society** and the **Guildford Allotment Society** for sharing seeds and plants to kick-start the project.

5 gardens **15** participants

48 individual gardening hours



Image © Kayte Cable/Big Leaf Foundation

“

This is the happiest I have been in a long time.” M

SUMMER CAMP | building trust and friendships

Each summer, we take a group of young people to a farm for a five-day residential. It’s one of our favourite activities of the year. Big Leaf started with a Summer Camp, and having seen how transformative the experience is, we’re committed to keeping this annual tradition alive.

These trips are the perfect place to spend time with the young people we support, getting to know them and building trust so we can better support them in the months and years ahead. For the young people it’s a chance to spend time outdoors, relax, sleep and connect with one another.

For the last four years we’ve hosted our Summer Camp at Jamie’s Farm – a working farm that specialises in supporting disadvantaged young people at risk of academic and social exclusion. It aims to build self-esteem, improve wellbeing and help young people develop positive relationships with those around them.

“

You honoured us and brought us to the farm and we enjoyed a great time with you. Thank you very much.” N

We spend our time working on the farm, looking after the animals, cooking meals together, taking long walks in the surrounding countryside and playing games.

But it’s the daily check-in meetings that often have the most impact. During these meetings we talk about our day and how we’re feeling. But we also celebrate each other, giving ‘shout-outs’ to others in the group for doing something well. Often it’s for brilliant teamwork or for looking out for each other or showing patience and determination in the farm tasks. But sometimes the shout-out is just for being open and honest about how they’re feeling and for trusting us all enough to tell us how we can support them.

For young people who have been moved around from place to place or feel forgotten in our asylum system, it can be hard to know who to trust or to feel valued and appreciated. Jamie’s is an incredibly positive place where all young people are valued and acknowledged. Our time at the farm, talking, sharing food, working together as a team, helps build this much-needed trust and shows them that we are here to support and to lift them up when things feel hard.

thank you

With thanks to the **Jamie’s Farm team** in Lewes for your brilliant and continued support for us; and the young people we work with and to **Surrey Virtual School** for funding our Summer Camps.



“

I love to learn different language and culture. I'm learning to achieve... and show peace and love for every human being.” T

Images © Big Leaf Foundation

SUMMER SCHOOL | boosting language and combating isolation

Created to help young people prepare for the new academic year and mitigate some of the isolation experienced during the long summer holiday, our Summer School improves English and fosters connections with the community.

The long summer break can be challenging for displaced young people, who often have nothing to do and no funds to access activities or travel. We hear often from carers and key workers that young people's mental health is significantly impacted with long periods of time spent alone and cooped up in their accommodation.

Our Summer School is more than just a programme, it's a chance to connect with the local community, make friends, learn new skills and have fun.

Building on the success of last summer, we ran Summer School activities throughout August and increased our provision to offer dedicated sessions for those isolated in hotel accommodation. We worked with multiple community partners to deliver a varied programme, engaging 47 young people across four weeks.

Our partnership with St George's College is unique. Each summer, young people from Big Leaf spend three days with their sixth form students engaged in a brilliant programme of activities, including team games, street art, sports and cooking. It gives two groups of young people, who wouldn't ordinarily meet, the opportunity to find out more about the lives of others in their community and kick back and have fun together, whatever the language and cultural differences might be.

team building

We ran sessions with Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) and Sayer's Croft Outdoor Learning Centre focused on team building and communication skills.

We watched the young people support each other to complete the high ropes course and climbing wall; and listened as those who wanted to try swimming at Sayer's Croft talked about overcoming their fear of water after traumatic experiences crossing oceans to reach safety.

It's always profoundly impactful for young people to be out of their rooms and in fresh air and nature, and it provides space for new conversations and friendships to form.

“

I had no idea what was happening in Darfur. Talking to E taught me a lot. I can't stop thinking about what life would be like in their shoes... We're good friends now.” St. George's College 6th former

47 Big Leaf participants

1248 individual learning hours

8 partner orgs

“

It was a pleasure and honour to be there. These young people have been through so much. You do an amazing job supporting them.” Kawther Hashmi, Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum



connecting across communities

Over the last few years debates around asylum have become increasingly inflammatory. Media and political narratives often leave our young people feeling unwelcome and unsafe, and during Summer School there was a Far-Right protest outside one of the hotels where some of the young people live. We wanted to show them just how much support there is in the community and that they are safe here. Working with our partners at Elmbridge CAN and Surrey Police we organised a £20 community cricket match to bring people together and rebuild trust.

rights and responsibilities

Our final week, hosted at Surrey University with police officers, nursing students, junior lawyers and local faith leaders, focused on living safely in the UK.

Our time with officers from Surrey Police had a had a profound impact, challenging preconceptions and helping rebuild trust in authority figures.

During our Shared Faith day, five different faith leaders joined us to talk about multiculturalism and how faiths can co-exist peacefully. We chatted about religious intolerance and what people can do if their faith is under attack, learnt about different faiths, and then visited Guildford Cathedral where we filled the prayer tree with prayers for peace.

“

In my country, police don't play games and help people. I don't like them in my country, but here I do.” A



final celebrations

For our final day, the Surrey University Widening Participation and Outreach team (WPO) organised a sports day - giving young people the chance to have a go at dodgeball, netball and ultimate frisbee - before coming back together for the WPO's hilarious and inventive interpretation of hungry hippos.

It was a brilliant month with a lot of positive feedback from participants and partners alike. We saw young people improve their English, grow in confidence and build new connections with other young people and our community partners.

thank you

With thanks to **Surrey High Sheriff Youth Awards** for funding the programme and to all of our brilliant partners: **Surrey Police, Surrey University WPO team, Sayer's Croft Outdoor Learning Centre, Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development, Woking** and all of the **faith leaders** for bringing this programme to life.

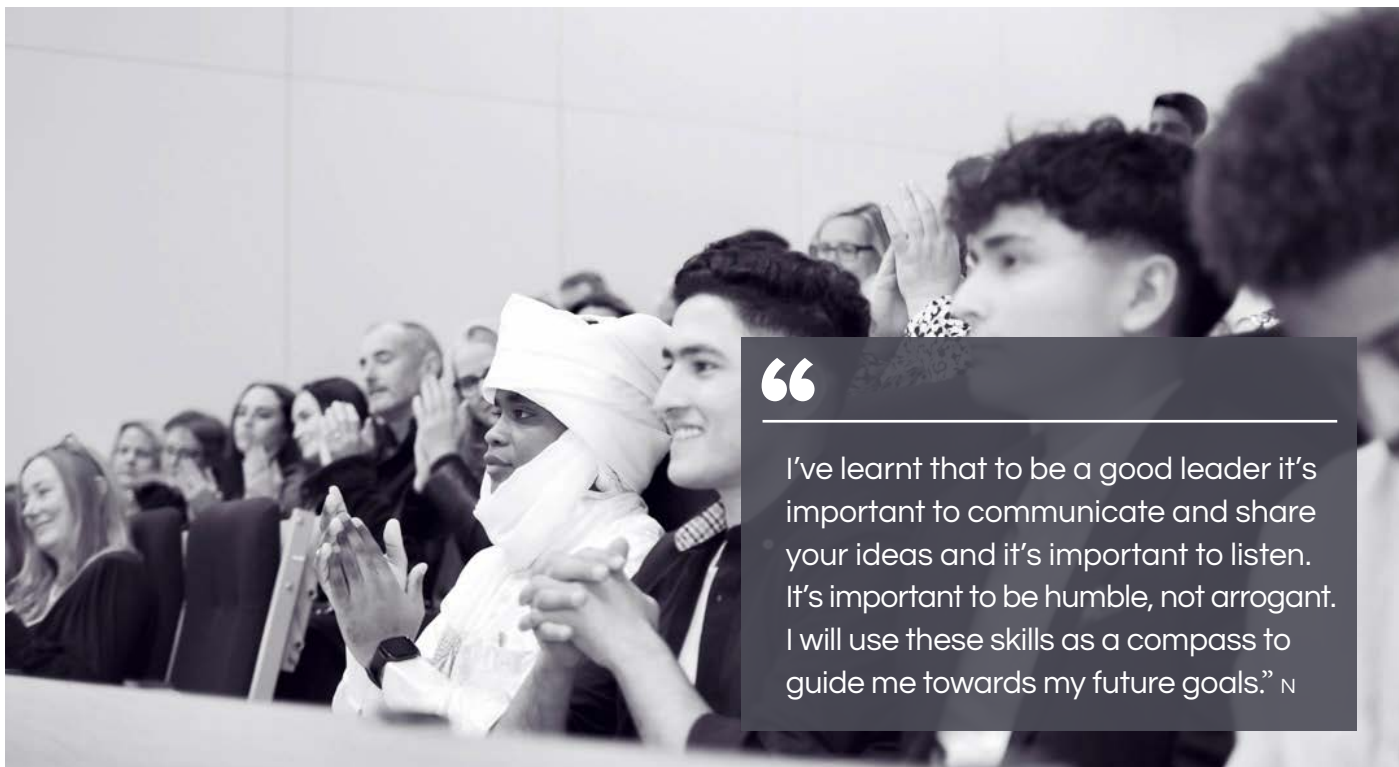


Image © Toby Athersuch/Big Leaf Foundation

“

I've learnt that to be a good leader it's important to communicate and share your ideas and it's important to listen. It's important to be humble, not arrogant. I will use these skills as a compass to guide me towards my future goals.” N

YOUNG LEADERS | empowering young people to lead

”

Our Young Leaders programme builds leadership skills, confidence and knowledge to help young people feel more empowered within themselves, their local community and within Big Leaf itself.

We're committed to supporting displaced young people to participate in the development and leadership of Big Leaf and become active leaders within their community, making lasting changes to issues that affect their lives. Our Young Leaders programme is core to achieving this.

Thanks to funding from the Listening Fund we were able to run two programmes this year, graduating 12 new young leaders.

Over the course of ten weeks each group came together to learn about leadership, legal rights, how to create change and support others. The projects started with a residential at Jamie's Farm, the ideal place to break the ice, get to know one another and build connections. This residential was followed by workshops on human rights and democracy with our brilliant partners at Surrey University School of Law (see opposite).

“

I always feel very privileged to come and share with these young people and hear something of their stories.” Zöe Franklin, Lib Dem Candidate MP for Guildford

There's real thought and intentionality... and something so authentic about the journey that Big Leaf has gone on with their young people to support them to do the work of being an ambassador in a safe and comfortable way.”

Mercy Shibemba, Collective Discovery

This year we also joined forces with the Guildford Shakespeare Company and welcomed previous Young Leaders to co-lead sessions on public speaking and support with team-building.

Our volunteer mentors provided individual support with personal goals and progression from the programme.

Young Leaders is designed to support young people to speak out and advocate for themselves and their peers. Graduation provides the perfect stage to show their newfound public speaking skills and it's also a chance for our funders, partners and community to hear what their support means to the young people.

“

This is the future. We are the future leaders of the world. We are the ones who are going to make this world better.” E

With thanks to **The Listening Fund** for supporting this programme. You can hear more about our Young Leaders programme on Collective Discovery's Shift podcast www.collectivediscovery.co.uk/shift (episode 4)

We've been working in partnership with Surrey University School of Law for over three years – bringing law students and our young leaders together to explore human rights, democracy and employment law. We asked Liz and Jessica to share their thoughts on the partnership.

learning from each other

We feel so fortunate to have built such a unique relationship with Big Leaf having met the co-founders, Kayte and Vicki, four years ago. Together, we planned and delivered bespoke legal confidence sessions with Lawyers Against Poverty which are now part of the Young Leaders programme. Our law students have worked together to design workshops on employment law, human rights, citizenship and democracy, to support displaced young people to learn about their legal rights and obligations in the UK.

We have also collaborated with Big Leaf, and the theatre company, Compass Collective, on a highly successful initiative about trust in the rule of law, for which we were awarded funding from the University.

Working with Big Leaf has been the most inspiring, enjoyable, and important initiative that we have been involved with. We admire Big Leaf's young people enormously and are grateful to them for making the workshops so engaging. Having the opportunity to discuss, learn from each other, explore and hear different perspectives, stories and varying views on all kinds of topics, including the laws back home and how the law works in this country is incredibly interesting and empowering.

Elizabeth Williams

Associate Professor in Law, Surrey University

What started as workshops for Young Leaders turned out to be a place where we learnt a lot more from them. The open learning environment enabled both sides to exchange ideas and opinions on the complexities of the law. It helped us explore the challenges of applying our daily university learning to real life situations. Every year more and more students sign up to be part of this programme.

“

It has taught us how to use our skills to create impact and opened our eyes to what we can do to help.”

It has helped create new conscious young leaders at the School of Law who are keen on pursuing pro-bono roles alongside their other commitments. This would not have been achievable without the proactive participation of your young leaders in the workshops. They have the amazing ability to create waves of change by brining their whole selves and share their experiences and ideas with us.

Jessica Mathew

Law student, Surrey University

thank you

Whether it's supporting with venues, providing sports coaches or facilities, co-delivering sessions, sharing best practice or offering strategic or funding advice, we're exceptionally grateful to **all our partners** who give their time, expertise and commitment to supporting displaced young people in their communities.



© Surrey & Sussex Police and James Harrison Productions

“

The film would mean nothing without the involvement of its three young contributors. What incredible stories. Even though I've seen it many times, every time I am taken by their bravery. I'm not sure I could have done what they've done.” James Harrison, filmmaker

YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN ACTION | a new generation of leaders

Since we launched our Young Leaders programme in January 2022, we have seen graduates go on to achieve great things. They have shared their stories in the national media, co-delivered training courses for organisations, including Surrey Police, presented to young people at local colleges, shared their experiences of our work with funders, co-created Big Leaf events and helped inform our strategy.

Our vision is of a community where displaced young people are valued, supported, and given the ability to create better outcomes for themselves. To achieve this, we need people to understand the context of forced displacement and the challenges young people face so they are better able to support and work alongside them.

We know that young people with direct experience of forced displacement are best placed to speak about the challenges they face, and we're proud of all of our Young Leaders for everything they have done, and continue to do, to advocate for themselves and their peers.

9 speaking events with our young leaders

6 young people involved in media/press work

reaching other young people

When we asked the first graduates what they wanted to achieve as Young Leaders, back in 2022, they said, “we want to help other young asylum seekers and refugees to access Big Leaf activities. We want other young people to feel supported like us”. Since then our Young Leaders have visited colleges to talk to other young people about our work and brought new young people along to our projects.

“

E messages us each time a new young person arrives in Redhill and asks if he can bring them to ESOL. Over the last year, he's introduced five young people to us. He's a brilliant ambassador and a great support to his peers.” Abby, ESOL teacher

training the police

This year, three of our Young Leaders worked with Surrey & Sussex police and film producers from James Harrison Productions to create a training video to help build understanding within the police and tackle misconceptions around forced displacement. The film has now been shared with 23 forces, reaching frontline officers and police staff across the UK.

sports ambassadors

Over the past year, we've focused on bringing more young people's voices into the design and delivery of our projects. One of the ways we've done this is through creating space for young people to shape our sports programme. We now have two sports ambassadors, who welcome new participants and set an example to others through their commitment and behaviour on the pitch. But they also challenge us, asking questions and giving advice on how to evolve our sports programme to engage more community members and build more partnerships so that we can offer routes to a wider variety of sporting activities.

self-advocacy

When we launched our Young Leaders programme we didn't have a pre-defined goal that all participants would become volunteers, ambassadors or leaders within Big Leaf. This was never our measure of success. We wanted to empower them to become leaders in their own lives and communities, and to make their own decisions about how to use their newfound skills.

For some this has meant advocating for themselves in pursuit of their educational and career goals. So often displaced young people are held back in college or told they don't meet the requirements for a particular course. Since graduating, Young Leaders M and A approached their colleges, making the case to be accepted onto their chosen courses. Both were, and A has since completed his Access to Higher Education course in Design and Architecture. M is taking her GCSEs this year and has just started work as a Healthcare Assistant, a huge step towards her ultimate goal of becoming a nurse.

For these two brilliant and determined young people, 'leadership in action' means following their dreams and showing other displaced young people what's possible when you believe in yourself and refuse to accept 'no' as an answer.

“

Before I became involved in Big Leaf, I was unsure of my own English Language, my own potential and lacked the confidence to pursue my dreams... Big Leaf has provided me with the tools, support and guidance necessary to grow into a strong and capable individual.” M

“

N continually has a positive impact on fellow residents and staff; taking new residents under his wing, showing them around, accompanying them to appointments, cooking for them and sharing whatever he has.”

Youth Matters Awards nomination 2024



Image © Toby Athersuch/Big Leaf Foundation

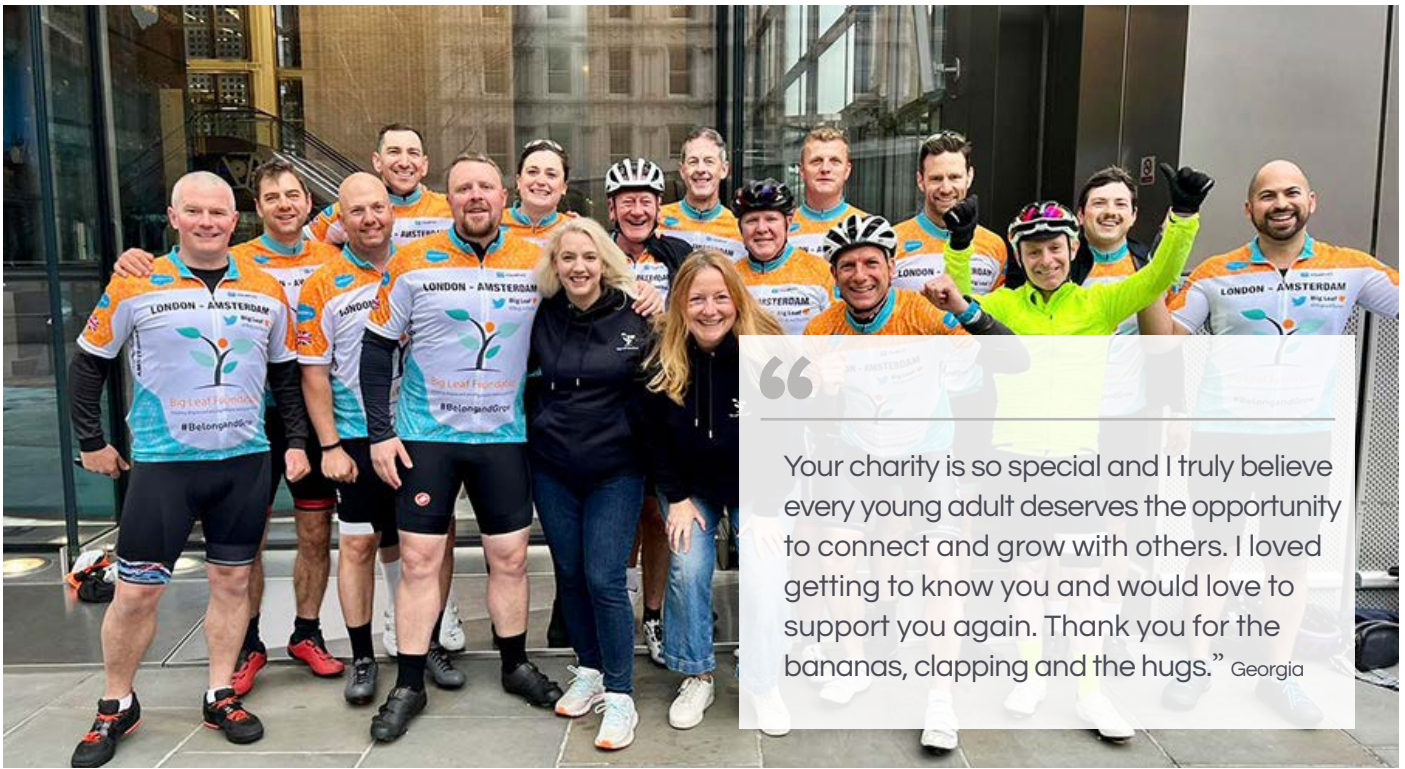
youth matters awards

Four of our graduates have been shortlisted for the national YMCA England & Wales Youth Matters Awards over the last two years, in recognition of their resilience, achievements and leadership.

These young people have become leaders within their own communities - providing support to other young people, making them feel welcome and helping them settle in. S also represented his YMCA group at a recent event with the local Mayor and other prestigious guests, sharing his experience as an asylum-seeker living in supported accommodation.

thank you

With thanks to **all of our Young Leaders**, past and present, for your brilliance, determination and constant care and support for others around you.



“Your charity is so special and I truly believe every young adult deserves the opportunity to connect and grow with others. I loved getting to know you and would love to support you again. Thank you for the bananas, clapping and the hugs.” Georgia

Image © Arun Sharma/TFA Limited

FUNDRAISING | supporters take up the challenge

One of our goals this year was to broaden our funding streams to include fundraising through sponsored events. We're grateful that our supporters have taken up the challenge. These individuals have raised vital funds to support our work.

salesforce charity bike ride

In June, 15 riders from Salesforce UK cycled from London to Amsterdam to raise money for Big Leaf. Covering around 350 miles over three days the team raised an impressive £16,084, enough to fund our English language school for a whole academic year.

One of the most significant barriers for young people arriving in the UK is a good understanding of English. Often people arrive as beginners in English speaking and reading, making it challenging to find their feet in their new communities.

These riders cycled to Dover before riding through France and Belgium, arriving in the Netherlands and eventually Amsterdam. Our Treasurer, Jocelyn, and Programmes Manager, Kayte, joined the support team and kept the riders motivated with stories of what their fundraising efforts would help achieve.

Many of the young people we support are eager to learn English. Thanks to these riders more young people than ever will be able access our English language programme.

twilight runway challenge

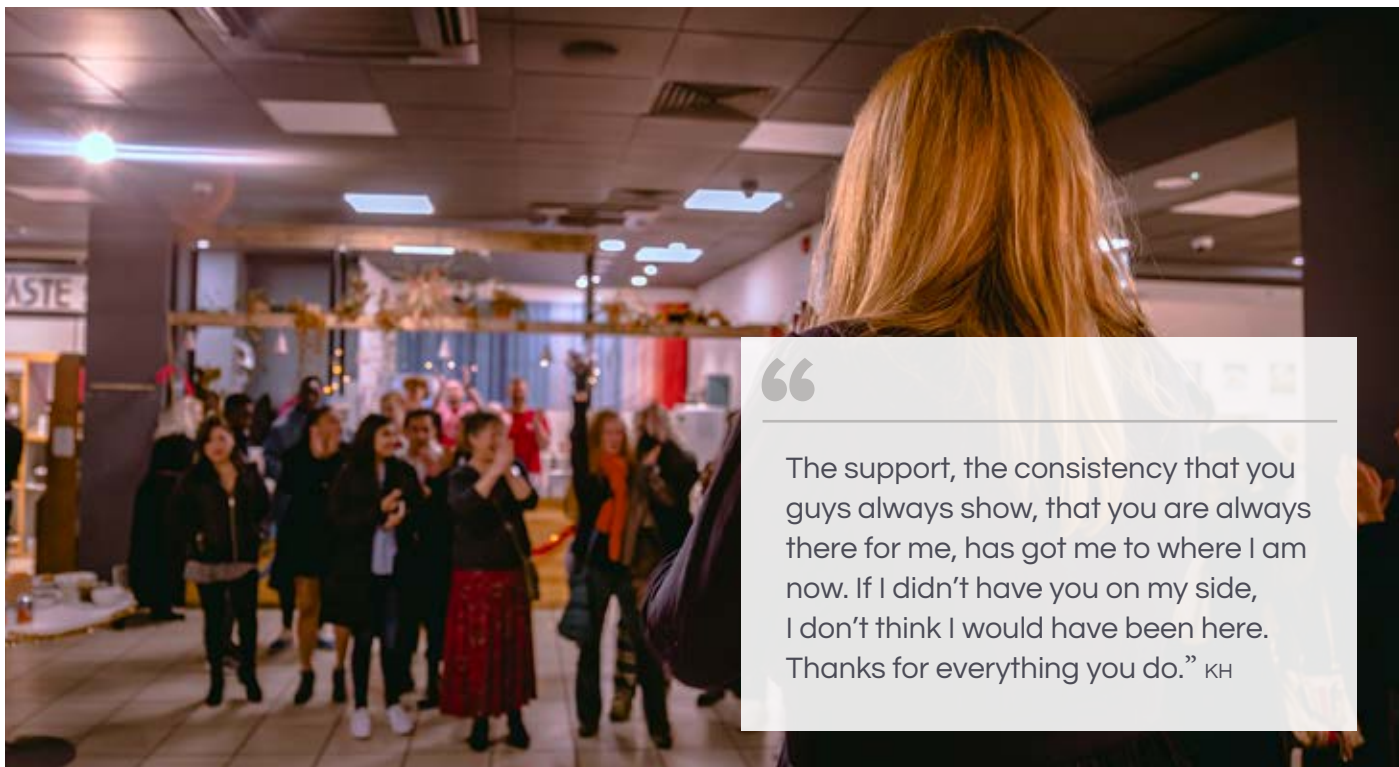
We were also one of the charity partners of the Twilight Runway Challenge. The challenge works with over 40 local charities. It takes place along Blackbushe airstrip, and participants can run, walk, cycle or scoot their way around the route and choose 3km, 5km or 10km loops.

Six Big Leaf staff, volunteers and supporters took part to raise money for Big Leaf and together raised £1,823 to support our projects. With demand for our services continuing to grow each year, we're exceptionally grateful to all those who participated and their sponsors.

funding milestone

This year, we also secured our first major multi-year core grant. Thanks to generous support from The National Lottery Community Fund, we now have three-year funding for our Programmes and Communications work and a Big Leaf office. We can plan with greater certainty and bolster our programme delivery.

“This funding will make a huge difference, allowing us to build our projects and community engagement. Having a permanent office space for the first time also means that young people can drop in and see us whenever they want and have a safe place they can anchor to when so much in their lives feels uncertain.” Vicki, Co-Founder



“

The support, the consistency that you guys always show, that you are always there for me, has got me to where I am now. If I didn't have you on my side, I don't think I would have been here. Thanks for everything you do.” KH

Image © Adi Detemo/Big Leaf Foundation

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS | a huge milestone for our organisation

Big Leaf has grown from a single summer camp to year-round provision supporting displaced young people across Surrey. In December, we celebrated our five year anniversary with the community that has helped us each step of the way.

where it all began

In Summer 2017, our co-founders Vicki and Kayte took a group of 12 displaced young people on a residential trip to Trill Farm in Devon. Kayte was working in an FE college at the time and had seen first-hand the social isolation that many displaced students experienced during the long summer holiday. Together, and with the support of Elmbridge CAN, Trill Farm and social workers, they organised a week-long residential.

The week was transformative - for the young people, for Vicki and Kayte, and for the team at Trill. It was a chance to talk, build friendships, eat well, switch off from daily stressors and have fun. But it also showed what's possible when displaced young people are welcomed into a community and supported, and through this, the idea for Big Leaf was born.

624 individual young people supported since 2018

76 community & multiagency partners over five years

26 funders

80 volunteers giving their time supporting our young people

our community

Thanks to incredible and consistent support from multiple funders, partners and volunteers, we now provide a holistic programme of projects and activities throughout the year.

Our projects are designed to reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing for displaced young people and we are proud that with your help we have supported more than 600 young people over the last five years. Whether you were able to join us for our celebration event in December or not, we want to thank everyone who has played a part in getting us to where we are now. Community is at the heart of everything we do, thank you for being part of ours.

looking to the future

In an ideal world, charities like Big Leaf wouldn't need to exist. But while we are needed, we want to be able to support every displaced young person who asks for help - to walk alongside them until they have the confidence and friendships to see them into their future; and we want to do this with young people leading and our community at our side. Listen at <https://bit.ly/blf5years>

“

There are so many things I love about Big Leaf, but if I had to choose one, it would be that being in the company of such bravery, resilience, and determination every day just gives you so much hope at a time when I think hope is exactly what the world needs.” Kayte, Co-Founder

priorities for the year ahead

In December we marked our five-year anniversary and we've been reflecting on all that we have achieved in that time. But we're also looking to the future and as we grow, we're remain committed to ensuring that the voices of the young people we support are at the core of our work.

We know that listening to and learning from those with lived experience of forced displacement is essential to building meaningful projects. As we look to the year ahead, our priority is ensuring the voices and experiences of displaced young people continue to shape everything we do. We will deepen youth involvement in our organisational structure and build stronger connections with local schools and employers to create more opportunities for young people to thrive. Strengthening our governance structures and sharing our learning with others will help us to expand our impact and support even more young people as they navigate life in the UK. Our focus remains on building a community where young people are empowered to lead and have the support they need to succeed.

“

You give us opportunities and ideas and you look out for us. You accept people for who they are without exception. You make us feel like we can have a normal life.” R

“

We want to build networks and share our opinions to be useful to others.” R, Youth Ambassador

youth leadership

We already take our lead from the young people we support in almost all areas of our work. One aim of our leadership programmes is to support young people to develop the confidence and skills to speak out on the issues that matter to them. For some this means advocating for themselves or becoming leaders within their communities. For others, it has meant sharing their ideas within Big Leaf - about what we do well and how we could improve. Often the most effective organisations are not those who have one or two people with 'lived experience' on the board but instead have a culture of listening. As we look to the year ahead we'll explore how to further embed youth voice within Big Leaf, for example, by creating a youth advisory board.

building communities

This is at the heart of what we do and we will continue our focus on partnerships as a means to building supportive communities. We know that to achieve our vision of a community where displaced young people are welcomed and valued we need strong connections with the people around us. But not just at an organisational level, we also need to create space for young people from both displaced and local youth communities to meet, to connect and to build friendships, on equal footing. This is already a core part of many of our projects but over the coming year we will pursue new partnerships with local schools and youth communities to create more opportunities for connection through sports and education.

“

I enjoyed playing basketball, meeting new people and making friends from different backgrounds.” N



We want to encourage other organisations to work like Big Leaf.” S, Youth Ambassador

opportunities for progression

One of the biggest barriers to anyone trying to resettle in the UK is a good understanding of English and all of our programmes are designed around building English skills. But it can also be difficult for the young people we support to access work experience or find paid employment even once their English is at the right level, and more and more young people are asking for help with this. Our casework team and our Young Leaders Mentors have been doing some great work supporting young people to access opportunities. But we want to do more. Over the coming year we will seek out new partnerships with local employers and build our volunteer capacity to research local work experience and apprenticeship opportunities.

sharing our approach

The young people we support often express how much our work means to them. Over the last six years we've learnt so much about what works and what doesn't. We've listened to our young people and collaborated with partners to develop projects that help meet the changing needs of displaced young people in our community. We're still learning. But we also recognise our experience in this space and its potential for broader application; and we want to share our approach with others to increase support for displaced young people in Surrey and beyond. Over the coming year we will work with project partners and our new ambassadors to share our learning and approach with more organisations.



I have completed my work experience... it was great. I learned a lot and wish it was longer than a week.” K

governance structures

We celebrated our five-year anniversary in December. It gave us a chance to reflect on our achievements but also to think about how we have changed and grown in that time... and as we look to our future we want to ensure we have the right governance structures in place to take us through the next five years. Over the coming year, we will review our governance model and consider new approaches that embrace fresh ideas and perspectives but also continue to build on the incredible experience within our current team, our youth network and our volunteer community.

speaking up and speaking out

We know that young people with experience of forced displacement are best placed to speak about the challenges they face. Through our new ambassadors programme we'll empower young people to share their experiences – seeking opportunities to amplify their voices through media engagement and public events. Co-creation will be at the heart of our communications and campaigns work, and this means making joint decisions with our ambassadors about which opportunities we pursue; and what our focus should be in that space.



We want to encourage other refugees and asylum speakers to speak out.” N, Youth Ambassador

governance, structure & management

Big Leaf Foundation is controlled by its Constitution incorporated on 14 July 2018. It was recognised as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 14 December 2018 (UK Registered Charity Number 1181180) whose only voting members are its charity trustees ('Foundation' model constitution). The charity is run by the Board of Trustees who are responsible for ensuring the charity has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and is focused on achieving these.

appointment of trustees

Any person over the age of 16 who is willing to act as a trustee, and has not been disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 178 -180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision), may be appointed to be a trustee by a decision of the trustees.

There must be at least three trustees and a maximum of eight. Apart from the first trustees, every trustee is appointed for a term of two to three years, by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees.

Retiring trustees are eligible for reappointment. But a trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a fourth but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year. In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the trustees consider the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Big Leaf Foundation's trustees include business and charitable sector professionals with experience in refugee care, youth work, education, finance, project management, IT, fundraising and communications.

Big Leaf Foundation is committed to the ongoing professional development of its trustees and their knowledge is kept up to date through internal and external training, knowledge sharing with partner organisations, academic reading and regular participation in project team meetings.

The trustees meet once a month. We ask our trustees to attend a minimum of two Big Leaf Foundation projects per year as we strongly believe this contributes to a better understanding of our organisation, how we work and the young people we support. All trustees are DBS checked at an enhanced level and Safeguarding and Prevent trained.

The Programme Managers report on the operational plan at trustee meetings. Big Leaf Foundation has a Safeguarding Sub Committee that meets to discuss safeguarding and review and update safeguarding policies and processes as needed. This committee includes the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Deputy DSLs and two trustees.

The trustees have delegated authority to the Programme Managers with clear limitations. The Chair and the Programme Managers also have regular meetings to discuss operational matters and resource needs.

our team

Our team includes refugee care and migration studies experts, experienced youth workers, volunteers with lived experience of forced displacement and finance, project management, fundraising and communications specialists.

www.bigleafaffoundation.org.uk/about

risks & mitigations

Our trustees have identified ongoing risks around safeguarding and fundraising. But there are also continuing risks from government policies and a growing threat from the far-right which impact our work.

safeguarding

Risk | Failure to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns, resulting in harm to the young people we support or others.

Mitigation | Safeguarding is embedded in Big Leaf and all staff and volunteers receive safeguarding training through our safeguarding partner, SafeCIC, as part of their induction and every two years thereafter. We have a range of policies in place to support good practice, including safeguarding, health and safety, lone working and codes of conduct for staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. Big Leaf also has a Safeguarding sub-committee that meets once a fortnight to discuss safeguarding and update policies and processes as needed. We're working with more young people than ever before. In recognition of this and to ensure we have sufficient capacity to monitor and respond to all safeguarding concerns, we have two Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (in addition to our DSL) and two trustees on the sub-committee to oversee and provide support with safeguarding.

refugee rights

Risk | Government policies undermine the rights and entitlements of the young people we support, impacting their mental health and increasing stress levels of our staff.

Mitigation | We step into a campaigning space to speak up for the rights and entitlements of the young people we support. To oppose the inhumane policies of the Illegal Migration Bill and Rwanda Bill, we work closely with like-minded organisations. Big Leaf is a member of the Together with Refugees coalition and the Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium. We attend regular sector-wide briefings on current policy and changes in the asylum system. We engage with MPs at a local level on individual cases where a young person is at risk. Through our communications work, leadership programmes and community partnerships, we aim to build broad support for a fairer, kinder and more effective asylum process. Our programmes continue to focus on health and wellbeing and supporting resilience for the young people we support. We also provide clinical supervision for all front-line staff.

fundraising

Risk | Insufficient funds to maintain current services, meet growth in demand or achieve our objectives.

Mitigation | Our Chair and Treasurer take an active role in fundraising and major donor relationships. Our Programme Managers also prepare funding applications relevant to their projects and we have a new part-time fundraiser supporting with grant writing. In 2018/2019 Big Leaf was reliant on two main funders for most of its income. We now receive funding from multiple trusts and organisations and for the first time ever we have secured large multi-year core funding. We believe in building strong relationships with our donors. We achieve this through regular communication, detailed reporting and providing opportunities to see first-hand what their support is helping us achieve. This focus on donor relationships has helped us retain funders and forward plan with confidence. But as demand for our services continues to grow, we're also increasing fundraising from individual donors and through sponsored events.

rise of the far-right

Risk | Hostile environment leads to increase in far-right activities, posing a direct threat and risk of harm to the young people we support and/or our team.

Mitigation | We work closely with organisations specialising in the risk posed by the far-right, including Hope Not Hate and SafeCST. These organisations monitor the risk from far-right groups, guide our risk management policies and update us on far-right action in our local area. We're also supporting young people in understanding their rights and UK law. Through close working with Surrey Police, we aim to build mutual trust and understanding between officers and local displaced communities so that the young people we support feel able to report hate crimes. With the support of Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum, we're advocating for our young people, ensuring that appropriate action is taken when a hate crime is reported. We also create the space to have difficult conversations with our young people about how to respond and keep themselves safe when targeted by the far right.

finance & accounts

Big Leaf Foundation is a registered charity and relies on donations from both trusts and individuals to continue its work.

We're fortunate and grateful to have the constant support of individual donors who give to us each month. We have also welcomed new funders this year alongside those who have supported us for the fourth or fifth year running.

We received our first large multi-year core grant from The National Lottery Community Fund for staff costs and a new office base for our team and young people; and multi-year funding from BBC Children in Need (to start in April 2024) which will fund our sports provision for under 18s.

This combination of multi-year core funding and regular and repeat donors helps us to forward plan with confidence. But we remain committed to making these grants and donations stretch as far as we can, so that we can support as many young people as possible. With this in mind, we continue to review our return as part of each project planning cycle to ensure it meets our standards.

Our huge thanks to all of our donors for your support. Together you're helping us to support more young people than ever before.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | for year ended March 2024

income

Trusts & Grants	£178,692
Individual Donations	£143,513
Gift Aid & Interest	£2,613

total

£324,819

BROUGHT FORWARD from FY23 (ending March 2023)

General Fund	£9,748
Restricted Funds	£170,686
Total brought forward	£180,434

expenditure

Core Costs	£23,223
Staff Costs	£134,056
Project costs	£131,832

total

£289,112

CARRIED FORWARD to FY25 (ending March 2025)

General Fund	£5,475
Restricted Funds	£210,665
Total brought forward	£216,140

Our accounts have been independently reviewed by a Chartered Accountant in line with the guidance of the Charity Commission. For the sixth year since becoming a registered charity we will report clean accounts with no guidance or concerns.

The independent auditor's report will be available on our website in the coming months and added to this review and republished.

restricted funds

Our staff are currently engaged as self-employed contractors rather than employees. In order to ensure we have funding allocated to secure their services during the year, we hold the funds for each role within a restricted fund.

We also use our restricted fund model to hold funding gifted by grants or donations allocated to specific programmes. This allows us to account and report more easily on our expenditure for a programme against a grant.

project name and/or funder	purpose
Active Surrey Basketball & Boxing	Funding for our basketball programme and to trial a new boxing programme in response to direct requests from young people.
Anon. (private donor) Staff Costs	Funding for Governance, Partnerships and Admin Coordinator.
Blgrave Trust The Listening Fund Youth leadership	Multiyear funding for the continuation of our Young Leaders programme and improving our listening work.
Bennelong Foundation Practical English	One-off grant to support out practical English sessions.
Community Foundation for Surrey Core, translation costs & care leaver	Unrestricted funding to progress multiple areas of work; funding for essential translation services and new care-leaver project funding.
High Sheriff Youth Award Summer School	Funding for our Summer School programme.
Salesforce Practical English	Match funding for our summer Challenge Bike Ride in support of our English language programme.
Surrey County Council & DfE Numeracy & life skills programme	Funding for our new Food Counts programme aimed at improving numeracy and life skills for young people over 19.
Surrey Virtual School Education & enrichment	Partnership funding to support UASC with education and enrichment activities including our Summer Camp with Jamie's Farm.
The National Lottery Staff costs & office lease	Multi-year core funding from The National Lottery Community Fund for Programmes Manager & Comms Coordinator and new office.
Tides Foundation Ben & Jerry's Ambassadors programme	Funding for our new Ambassadors programme, launching in April 2024.
Tresanton Trust Casework, hub & translation services	Year four of a grant, providing funding for our two part-time caseworkers and our weekly drop-in service.
Twelve Healers & Healing Herbs Ltd Staff costs	Funding for staff costs.

Our aim this year was to broaden our funding streams for both projects and core costs while also exploring general fundraising through sponsored challenge events. We have made significant progress on both – with new multi-year core funders and two successful fundraising events (p27) giving us greater financial stability.

Thanks to support from our local community we have also increased the number of monthly donors and one-off donations. Over the coming year we will continue to seek new funding as we mature the shape of our organisation. Our focus on growth is solely to allow us to meet the growing demand for our services and support more young people.

thank you

We'd like to thank everyone who has worked with us this year. From our funders to our brilliant team of volunteers – we couldn't have done it without you.

donors

- Active Surrey
- Aristar Consulting
- Bennelong Foundation
- Blagrave Trust (Listening Fund)
- Ben & Jerry's Foundation (Tides)
- Community Foundation for Surrey
- Co-op Community Fund
- High Sheriff of Surrey
- Holy Trinity & St Mary's Church
- John Lewis Partnership
- Salesforce
- Shah Jahan Mosque
- Surrey County Council & DfE
- Surrey Football Association
- Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum
- Surrey Police (Chief Constable's charity of the year)
- Surrey Virtual School
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Tresanton Trust
- Twelve Healers Trust & Healing Herbs

We'd also like to thank all of the individuals who give regularly throughout the year but are too many to name individually.

partners

- Aristar Consulting | Paul Glynn
- Basketball4All | Bridget Hayward & Creon Raftopoulos
- BBC Radio Surrey
- Chelsea Foundation | Rob Wright
- Child and Adult Mental Health Surrey | Vicky Lord
- Couchman Hanson Solicitors | Alex Couchman
- Elmbridge CAN | Jeannie Tweedie & team
- Guildford United Football Club | Colin Deans
- Guildford Shakespeare Company | Eli Murton
- Holy Trinity & St Mary's Guildford | Chloe, Corinne & Simon
- Jamie's Farm | Sam Maynard & team
- Merstham Cricket Club | Rich Feist
- Redhill Amateur Boxing Club | Alex Moore & Rehan
- Reigate Priory Cricket Club | James Stringer
- South London Refugee Association
- South Nutfield Cricket Club | James Paulett
- Surrey Arts | Jim Pinchen & team
- Surrey Football Association | Rob Bryant
- Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development | Ben Rayner
- Surrey Police | So many officers but esp. Supt Debbie Crouch, Ch Insp Dallas McDermott, PC Phil Jebb & DC Paul Tyson
- Surrey Sports Park | Carly Pearson
- Surrey University School of Law & WPO | Jessica Mathew & the law students, Liz Williams & Thamsin Young
- Surrey Virtual School | Cass Hardy, Nadia Mughal & Lisa Smith
- The HEART Centre | Wendy Firmin-Price & the team
- The Hummingbird Project | Elaine Ortiz
- The Kennedy Club & St George's College | Jon Carr
- Together with Refugees Coalition & IMix
- Woking Mosque | Kawther Hasmi and Imam Hashmi
- Woking People of Faith | Simon Trick and Keith Scott

volunteers

- Abdulsalam
- Toby Athersuch
- Mimi Auty
- Martin Bangs
- Annabel Boyle
- Jaego & Jessame Cable
- Richard Cable
- Alfie Carter
- Denise Cassar
- Alexandra Colbert
- Alison Craze
- Hannah Dirks
- Antonin Ficatier
- Paul Glynn
- Kavyan H
- Sabir H
- Ella Hood
- Sofia Janjua
- Richard Leighton
- Ash Mall
- Jessica Mall
- Jane Manfield
- Chris Richards
- Scarlett Somerville

core team

- Akira Takenaka
- Naoe Takenaka
- Randy T
- Nikki Triffitt
- Henry Woods
- Hannah Zander
- Daud Afzal
- Abby Auty
- Evie Booton
- Kayte Cable
- Ro Carter
- Vicki Felgate
- Koye Sofoluwe

trustees

- Vicki Felgate
- Dave Wagstaff
- Katie Wilson
- Jocelyn Zanasi

support us

We can only achieve our aims with your help. Your support will mean that displaced young people in Surrey will be able to rediscover their potential and find their place in the local community.

donate

Your money will help to fund projects that combat social isolation and improve wellbeing among young refugees and asylum seekers in Surrey.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/support-us

partner with us

We work with a growing network of organisations and individuals to develop projects that will inspire our young people. If you have a project idea that you'd like to talk to us about please email

contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

volunteer

We're a small and dedicated team, determined to support and empower displaced young people. If this sounds like something you want to help us achieve please get in touch.

contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

keep in touch

Follow us on social media for the latest news, campaigns and updates.

[@BigLeafSurrey](https://www.instagram.com/BigLeafSurrey)



Image © Vicki Felgate/Big Leaf Foundation

“

All your young people... are a real credit to you. They give me renewed hope for the future of our world, knowing that you have given them the tools to make a positive difference in the world.

Rebecca Bowden
Community Foundation for Surrey

”



Recipient of the **Surrey High Sheriff Youth Award 2022**
Surrey Police **Chief Constable's Charity** of the year 2023

Big Leaf Foundation, PO Box 1544, Woking, GU24 8UH
www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk | contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk | @BigLeafSurrey

UK Registered Charity Number 1181180



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Big Leaf Foundation

Charity No (if any) **1181180**

Annual accounts for the period

Period start date **4/1/2023** To **3/31/2024**

CC17a

Section A Statement of financial activities

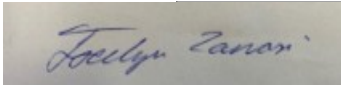
Recommended categories by activity	Details of own analysis	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Unrestricted funds opening balance	Restricted income funds opening balance	Total last year
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£
			F01	F02	F03	F04	F01b	F02b	F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)									
Incoming resources from generated funds			15,941	308,878	-	324,819	10,184	170,250	180,434
Voluntary income			-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Activities for generating funds		S01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment income		S02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities			-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other incoming resources		S03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		S04	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		S05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		S06	15,941	308,878	-	324,819	10,184	170,250	180,434
									Total Income + Opening Balance
									505,252
Resources expended (Notes 4-8)									
Costs of Generating Funds			-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of generating voluntary income		S07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising trading costs		S08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs		S09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		S10	10,465	98,214	-	108,679	10,184	170,250	180,434
Governance costs		S11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other resources expended		S12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total resources expended		S13	10,465	98,214	-	108,679	10,184	170,250	180,434
									Total Spend
									289,112
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		S14			-				Assumption all Opening Balance is consumed first
Gross transfers between funds		S15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains/(losses)		S16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)									
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		S17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gains and losses on investment assets		S18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		S19	5,475	210,664	-		10,184	170,250	180,434
Total funds brought forward from opening balance		S20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		S21	5,475	210,664	-	216,140			Total carried Forward
									216,140

Section B

Balance sheet

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets (Note 9)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 10)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets						
Stock and work in progress	B05	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 11)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
(Short term) investments	B07	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	B08	5,475	210,664	-	216,140	-
Total current assets	B09	5,475	210,664	-	216,140	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 12)	B10	-	-	-	-	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B11	5,475	210,664	-	216,140	-
Total assets less current liabilities	B12	5,475	210,664	-	216,140	-
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 12)	B13	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets	B15	5,475	210,664	-	216,140	-
Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted funds	B16	5,475			5,475	-
	B17	-			-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 13)	B18		210,664		210,664	-
Endowment funds (Note 13)	B19			-	-	-
Total funds	B20	5,475	210,664	-	216,140	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Jocelyn Zanasi	1st April 2024

Cells highlighted in Yellow contain formulas to add up columns C,D and E but these are not protected cells

Cells highlighted in Blue contain formulas in protected cells. The protection can be removed from the tools menu

Note 1 **Basis of preparation**

This section should be completed by all charities.

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that i

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practi
- and with*

ü

 Accounting Standards;
- or

 Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller I
- and with the Charities Act.

[** except for the following].

Give details in this box if a different standard has been followed.

* -Tick as appropriate:

- if all relevant disclosures shown in the pack have been given then please tick “/
- if disclosures completed in these accounts have been restricted to those requir
Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE)”.
/

** - If no departures from the chosen standards have been made then delete these wo

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and met

Give details in this box of any material changes that have been made.

§ if no changes have been made to accounting policies then delete these words.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years

Give details in this box of any material changes that have been made.

§§ if no changes have been made to accounts for previous periods then delete these v



Investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

Accounting Standards (SORP 2005);

Financial Reporting Standards for Enterprises (FRSSE);

--

Accounting Standards”;

If you have adopted the FRSSE, then please tick “Financial Reporting Standards for

Enterprises”; otherwise give details of any changes in the boxes.

Accounting Standards (SORP 2005) since last year.

--

--

words.

Section C

Note 2 Accountin

This standard list of accounting policies adopted then this is detailed in the box

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of incoming resources

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Grants and donations

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Contractual income and performance related grants

Gifts in kind

Donated services and facilities

Volunteer help

Investment income

Investment gains and losses

EXPENDITURE AND LIABIL

Liability recognition

Governance costs

Grants with performance conditions

Grants payable without performance conditions

Support Costs

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by
charity

Investments

Stocks and work in progress

**POLICIES ADOPTED ADDITIONAL
TO OR DIFFERENT FROM THOSE
ABOVE**

g policies

has been applied by the charity except for those deleted. Where a different or additional policy has been below.

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.

Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.

Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

ITIES

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

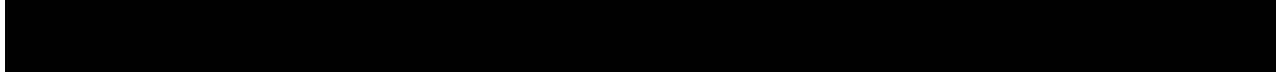
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt.

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

These are valued at the lower of cost or market value.

N/A



Note 3 **Analysis of inc**
Incoming resources may be further ana

Voluntary income - Donations |

Activities for generating funds |

Investment income

Incoming resources from charitable activities

incoming resources

analysed if this would help the reader of the accounts.

Analysis	This year £
General fund Donations + gift aid	15,940
Restricted fund donations - Private donor - Contractor costs	150,912
Grants & Project Funds	157,966
	-
	-
Total	324,818

	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
Total	-

	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
Total	-

	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
Total	-



Last year
£

21,958
163,918
69,765
-
-
255,640

Gift aid

2613

-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-

Note 4 Analysis of resources expended
Resources expended may be further analysed if this would help

Costs of generating voluntary income

All income generated by volunteers

Fundraising trading costs

No fundraising costs incurred

Investment management costs

No Investment costs incurred

Charitable activities

Contractor Cost
Project Cost
General Costs, including travel, insurance, etc.

Governance costs

No Governance cost incurred

ts (cont)

help the reader of the accounts.

Analysis	This year £	Last year £
ers or by Trustees without costs	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-
	134,056	119,726
	131,832	44,406
nsurance, telephony, translations	23,223	27,766
	-	-
	-	-
Total	289,111	191,898
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-

Note 5 Support Costs

Please complete this note if the charity has analysed its expenses using activity categories.

Support cost type	Fundraising activity £	Charitable Activity £
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-

Note 6 Details of certain items of expenditure

6.1 Trustee expenses

Please provide details of the amount of any payment or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by trustees. If no expenses were paid, please enter 'None' in the appropriate box(es).

Number of trustees who were paid expenses

Nature of the expenses

Total amount paid

6.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Please provide details of the amount paid for any statutory external scrutiny of accounts by an independent examiner or auditor. If nothing was paid please enter NONE in the appropriate box(es).

Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts

Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor



(cont)

gories and has support costs.

Governance Activity £	Total Cost £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

ket expenses made to trustees or to third parties for

This year	Last year
2	
Project cost reimbursement . Vicki Ashraf Felgate, David Wagstaff & Jocelyn Zanasi	Project cost reimbursement . Vicki Ashraf Felgate, David Wagstaff & Jocelyn Zanasi
£4,995	£1,400

ints and other services provided by your appropriate box(es).

This year £	Last year £
0	0

ProBono

0	0
---	---

ProBono

Note 7 Paid employees

Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

7.1 Staff Costs

Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	
Employer's National Insurance costs	
Pension costs	
	Total staff costs

7.2 Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work	Fundraising
	Charitable Activities
	Governance
	Other
	Total

7.3 Defined contribution pension scheme

Please complete if a defined contribution pension scheme is operated.

Brief details of the scheme	
-----------------------------	--

- The costs of the scheme to the charity for the year
- The amount of any contributions outstanding at the year end
- The amount of any contributions prepaid at the year end

(cont)

This year £	Last year £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

All team members are self em

This year Number	Last year Number
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

No employees

--

This year £	Last year £

ployeed contractors or volunteers

Note 8 Grantmaking

Please complete this note if the charity made any grants or donations which in aggregate have exceeded £10,000 in the year.

8.1 Total value of grants

Purpose for which grants made
No grants were made
<i>Total</i>

8.1 Grantmaking costs

If the charity's accounts are prepared on the "activity basis" please give details of any support costs. Please enter "Nil" if the charity does not identify and/or allocate support costs.

Support costs of grantmaking

8.3 Grants made to institutions

If the charity has made grants to particular institutions that are material in the context of the year, please list the institution supported, purpose of the grant and total paid to each institution listed. Support costs should be included in the total paid. Provide a reasonable understanding of the range of institutions supported.

Names of institutions	Purpose

--	--

T

(cont)

do not form a material part of the charitable activities

Grants to institutions Total amount £	Grants to individuals Total amount £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

support cost associated with grantmaking.

£

If its grantmaking please give details of the efficient information should be given to provide a

	Total amount of grants paid £
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-

	-
<i>total grants to institutions</i>	-

Note 9 Tangible fixed assets*Please complete this note if the charity has any tangible fixed assets***9.1 Cost or valuation**

	Freehold land & buildings	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles
	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-

9.2 Accumulated depreciation and impairment provisions

**Basis	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB
** Rate			

Balance brought forward	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year	-	-	-
Impairment provisions	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-

9.3 Net book value

Brought forward	-	-	-
Carried forward	-	-	-

9.4 Revaluation

If any fixed assets have been revalued please give details of the valuer and methc

--

** The "transfers" row is for movements between fixed asset categories.*

*** Please indicate the method of depreciation by deleting the method not applicable (SL indicate the rate of depreciation: for straight line, what is the anticipated life of the asset annual deduction.*

(cont)

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Payments on account and assets under construction	Total
£	£	£
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

No Fixed assets owned

SL or RB	SL or RB

-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

-	-	-
-	-	-

Method of valuation

--

(= straight line; RB = reducing balance). Also please (in years); for reducing balance, what is the percentage

Note 10 Investment assets

Please complete this note if the charity has any investments

10.1 Fixed assets investments

Carrying (market) value at beginning of year

Add: additions to investments at cost

Less: disposals at carrying value

Add/(deduct): net gain/(loss) on revaluation

Carrying (market) value at end of year

Please provide below:

10.2 A breakdown of the market values of investments shown

10.3 A breakdown of the income from investments agreed

Analysis of investments**Investment properties**

Investments listed on a recognised stock exchange or held in open-ended investment companies, unit trusts or other collective investments

Investments in subsidiary or connected undertakings and

Securities not listed on a recognised Stock Exchange

Cash held as part of the investment portfolio

Other investments

10.4 Material investment holdings

If any single investment is material in terms of its value (for all investments) please provide details.

Investment held

Market Value



No investments in place

Note 11 Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

Analysis of debtors	Amounts falling ye
	This year £
Trade debtors	-
Amounts due from subsidiary and associated undertakings	-
Other debtors	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-
Total	-

Note 12 Creditors and accruals

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

12.1 Analysis of creditors

Analysis of creditors	Amounts falling ye
	This year £
Loans and overdrafts	-
Trade creditors	-
Amounts due to subsidiary and associated undertakings	-
Other creditors	-
Accruals and deferred income	-
Total	-

12.2 Security over assets

If any loan, overdraft or other creditor holds a charge or other security over any assets

--

(cont)

Due within one year	Amounts falling due after more than one year		
	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-

No debtors

Due within one year	Amounts falling due after more than one year		
	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-

No creditors

of the charity please provide details.

--

Section C

Notes to the accounts

Note 13 Endowment and restricted income funds

Please complete this section if the charity has any endowment or restricted income funds

13.1 Funds held

Please give a brief description of any of the following type of funds held by the

- permanent endowment funds (PE);
- expendable endowment funds (EE); and
- restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity (R).

Fund Name	Type PE, EE or R
Restricted Fund - Contractor (Kayte)	R
Restricted Fund - Hub Programme Manager	R
Restricted Fund - Sports Programme Manager	R
Restricted Fund - 4th Contractor (Comms)	R
Restricted Fund - Campaign Temp role	R
Restricted Fund - Mash - Training	R
Restricted Fund - Equine	R
Restricted Fund - Hub	R
Restricted Fund - Case Work (Louise)	R
Restricted Fund - 2nd Case Work (Ella)	R
Restricted Fund - Language Line	R
Restricted Fund - Translation Grant	R
Restricted Fund - Bangs - Governance and Admin role	R
Restricted Fund - Bangs - Casework drop in	R
Restricted Fund - ESOL	R
Restricted Fund - AB Charitable	R
Restricted Fund - National Found Youth Music Grant	R
Restricted Fund - Tides - Young Leaders Program	R
Restricted Fund - Afghan Project	R
Lottery Fund	R
Blargarve Trust - Young leaders Program	R
Active Surrey - Sports Grant	R
Nanagone - Gardening Program	R
Tides - Ben and Jerry's Ambassdor program	R
Bennelong Foundation - Practical English	R
Surrey Minor Sports Equipment Fund	R

Community Foundation for Surrey	R
Travel Fund	R
TNL Office Fund	R
Shah Jah Donation	R
Surrey CC Care Leavers Fund	R

13.2 Movements of major funds

Please give details of the movements of the major funds summarised in the rest

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward £
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
Total Funds	-

13.3 Transfers between funds

Please give details of any transfers between funds.

From Fund (Name)	To Fund

(cont)

ome funds.

charity:

Purpose and Restriction

Private Donation - Restricted to fund Program Director Role Contract
Private Donation - Restricted to fund Program Manager - East Surrey
Private Donation - Restricted to fund Sports Program Manager Role
Private Donation - Restricted to fund Comms Program Manager Role
Private Donation - Restricted to fund for Equine project
Private Donation - Restricted to fund for Contractor training
Charity Grant - Guildford Philanthropy - Restricted to fund Equine therapy
Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fund weekly Hub - ESOL
Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fund Caseworked - C
Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fund 2nd Caseworked
Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fund language translation
Charity Grant - Surrey CC - Restricted to fund Covid 19 Guidance training
Private Donation - Restricted to fund for Governance and Admin Core
Private Donation - Restricted to fund for Casework drop in facility
Private Donation - Restricted to fund for ESOL lessons
Charity Grant - AB Charitable - Unrestricted usage fund for Core costs
Charity Grant - National Foundation Youth Music - Music Connects Initiative
Charity Grant - Tides Foundation - Ben and Jerrys Ice Cream - Youth
Charity Grant - Surrey CC - Restricted to fund for Afgan Evacuee Home
Charity Grant - National Lottery - Restricted to fund residential ESOL
Charity Grant - Blargrave Trust for Young leaders program
Charity Grant - Active Surrey grant for sports for refugees
Private Donation - Nonogone for gardening project
Charity Grant - Youth Ambassadors program
Charity Grant - Bennelong Foundation for literacy through sport
Charity Grant - Sport equipment

Charity Grant - Community Foundation for Summer school activities
Private Donation - Transportation for our YP to events and programs
Charity Grant - The National Lottery
Private Donation - Shah Jah Mosque
Charity Grant - Surrey Care leavers fund

restricted and endowment columns of the Statement of Financial Activiti

Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-

(Name)	Reason



tions

tor
- Contractor
Contractor
Contractor
erapy Project
SOL, Maths and wellbeing
Contractor
d - Contractor
lation
nslations
ntractor
ts - Held as Restricted fund for accounting purposed
Program
g Leaders Program Fund
tel Project
., Maths and wellbeing program

ies.

Fund balances carried forward £	
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-

Amount

Note 14 Transactions with relat

If the charity has any transactions with related parties (or should be provided in this note. If there are no transactio

14.1 Remuneration and benefits

Please give the amount of, and legal authority for, any rer charity or any institution or company connected with it.

Name of trustee or connected party

14.2 Loans

Please give details of and amounts owing to or from the c

	Name of trustee or connected party
Due to trustees and related parties	
Due from trustees and related parties	

14.3 Other transaction(s) with trustees or related parties

Please give details of any transaction undertaken by (or o

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity

Related parties

Other than the trustee expenses explained in note 6) details of such transactions are to report, please enter "None" in the relevant boxes.

Remuneration or other benefits paid to a trustee or other related parties by the

Legal authority (eg order, governing document)	Amounts paid or benefit value	
	This year £	Last year £

owed by the charity's trustees or other related parties by the charity at the year end.

Legal authority	Amount owing	
	This year £	Last year £

entered on behalf of) the charity in which a trustee or related party has a material interest.

Description of the transaction(s)	This year £	Last year £

None

No Loans given

Note 15 Additional Disclosures

The following are significant matters which are not covered in other notes and need to be included to provide a full understanding of the accounts. If there is insufficient room here, please add a separate sheet.



**Report to the trustees/
members of**

**On accounts for the year
ended**

**Charity no
(if any)**

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's
statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

Name:

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):**

Address:

BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1181180

Accounts



Big Leaf Foundation

annual review

april 2023

contents

04 about us	05 about our beneficiaries	06 our volunteers
07 our approach	08 our achievements	20 campaigns & advocacy
22 partnerships	24 priorities for the year ahead	26 governance & management
28 finance & accounts	30 thank you	31 support us

Editorial: Evie Booton, Kayte Cable, Vicki Felgate, Ella Hood, Koye Sofoluwe & Jocelyn Zanasi
Design: Vicki Felgate Cover image: © Big Leaf Foundation

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welcome

What a year it has been. Big Leaf has undergone growth and strategic changes. We've developed our core projects, and launched new ones. We've built new partnerships, alongside the wonderful ones already in place. We've also welcomed new funders, new team members and expanded our incredible network of volunteers. But most importantly, we have supported more young people than ever before.

Big Leaf Foundation is now in its fifth year and we've gone from supporting 20 young people a year to almost 300. In that time, we've learnt a lot about the challenges they face. Our projects are designed to address these challenges. But we also recognise that young people with direct experience of forced displacement are best placed to create and lead projects that meet their needs and the needs of their peers. And for the first time since we launched, our beneficiaries are volunteering with us, helping design projects, working with us to train partners and sharing their ideas as part of our strategic planning process. This has been our goal since we started and we're delighted that we're now in a position to put it into practice.

But there have also been significant challenges this year. We have seen the Government increase its hostility towards people seeking asylum and turn its back on our commitments under the Refugee Convention, with new policies that will have deeply worrying implications for anyone seeking sanctuary here. This has been underpinned by growing antagonism in some sections of the media towards immigration in general and an increase in far-right campaigns built on misinformation and fake news.

Together this has created unprecedented levels of anxiety and stress for many of the young people we support. Unable to plan for their future, and in fear of widely publicised schemes involving Rwanda, barges and detention camps, as well as the anger and aggression they often experience in public, it can be almost impossible to tolerate the uncertainty with which they must now live.

We have, at times, felt overwhelmed, devastated and infuriated. But it has also made us more determined to keep doing what we do... more determined to bring people

and communities together, to show what's possible when young people are supported to grow and achieve, and more determined to speak out and provide an alternative, more hopeful narrative in debates around asylum.

And there have been some real highs. We've welcomed more young people to our youth hubs and football sessions in both Redhill and Guildford. We've connected displaced and local young people through our Music Connects programme. We performed at Union Chapel in London to a standing ovation, were shortlisted for two prestigious awards, and watched one of our Young Leaders win his own national prize. We've also launched a new basketball project and an English language programme.

We've discovered incredible talents and witnessed remarkable determination, resilience and optimism. We've seen young people progress into Higher Education, apprenticeships and employment. And we've been inundated with offers of help – huge acts of generosity, compassion and support from across the community. We've welcomed new volunteers and extended our networks. And perhaps most importantly of all, we have seen our beneficiaries take up roles within the organisation, bringing their uniquely valuable knowledge and experience to our strategic development.

And when we look at all of this, we don't feel defeated. We feel hopeful and determined to continue to work for the benefit of young people who have experienced so much, to help them find acceptance, safety and friendship.

Thank you for reading our annual review, but more than anything, thank you for your support.

Vicki & Kayte | Big Leaf Foundation Founders

Big Leaf Foundation, PO Box 1544, Woking, GU24 8UH
www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk | contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

UK Registered Charity Number 1181180



Image © Big Leaf Foundation

“

It makes me feel like a family and not like I am alone. Like I have someone beside me that can help me and support me.”

about us

Our vision is of a community where displaced young people are valued, supported and given the opportunity to create better outcomes for themselves.

Big Leaf Foundation is an award-winning charity working with displaced young people aged 15-25 across Surrey.

Our aim is to provide a nurturing programme of activities, projects and events that focus on combating social isolation and improving wellbeing for the young people we support.

We want to engage the young people we work with to be excited about the opportunities available to them, and to value their unique talents and abilities so that they can rediscover their potential and move forward with renewed optimism.

We want to support and empower these young people to know they are more than the status they have been given, and help them find their place within the local community.

Our projects range from sports, equine-assisted learning and creative arts projects to full-day English language schools, specialised casework support and residential workshops, alongside leadership programmes, summer schools and progression opportunities. All of our projects are built with the focus of helping young people feel more empowered within their own lives, their local communities and Big Leaf itself.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/about

“

Always, when I’m engaged with Big Leaf I feel like I’m with my family. I appreciate every moment we have together.”

about our beneficiaries

The young people we support have all been forced to leave their homes – many fled conflict and religious or political persecution, some were trafficked, some were kidnapped from their families and forced to train as child soldiers, and others were promised the dream of a better life and smuggled to the UK at huge cost to their families.

Surrey remains the third largest receiver of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in the UK – there are around 120 (under 18s) living in care in the county and a further 315 current UASC Care Leavers. There are also many more displaced young people who were resettled in Surrey with their families as part of government resettlement schemes, including the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The majority of young people we support arrive as UASC. But there is an ever-growing need to help displaced young people housed in ‘asylum hotels’ and we work alongside other local charities and organisations to offer as much support as we can within current capacity.

Separated children arrive alone, often in shock and without language or cultural understanding. They have to navigate their new lives, and the long and complex asylum system, without the support of family or friends. Even for those who come with family or through resettlement schemes, the experience can be overwhelming, confusing and incredibly difficult.

Cut off from everything that is familiar to them, displaced young people are particularly vulnerable to loneliness, isolation and anxiety. They face huge barriers in accessing legal support, education, employment and, above all, in finding a community.

In the last year, we have seen the Government increase its hostility towards people seeking sanctuary and turn its back on our commitments under the Refugee Convention. Both the Rwanda Plan and the Illegal Migration Bill have caused tremendous anxiety to the young people we support. There is a well-founded fear that this Government will detain them indefinitely or deport them, returning them to the dangerous situations they fled.

There is enormous uncertainty about how the asylum system will look in the next six months. Most young people we support are awaiting a decision from the Home Office as to whether they’ll be allowed to remain in the UK or be forced to return to the countries they once fled. And it’s possible the basic right for people to claim asylum here will soon cease to exist altogether. Living in this kind of limbo can be debilitating for young people trying to rebuild their lives.

But despite trauma, anxiety and an asylum system that seems focused on destroying their rights, these young people are resilient, strong and determined. They are full of hope and optimism and given the proper support, they can thrive in the UK and in their new communities.

“

Big Leaf provides invaluable opportunities for young people seeking asylum... to connect with others, try new activities, find a passion and develop their English and social skills... The staff are polite, passionate and put the young people at the heart of all they do.” Emma, Social Services

our beneficiaries in numbers



our volunteers

Our volunteers make a huge impact in the lives of the young people they work alongside, whether through casework, teaching English, mentoring, running activities at our weekly hubs and sports sessions or applying for funding opportunities behind the scenes.

Volunteers have contributed over 2500 hours to supporting displaced young people this year, and it's no exaggeration to say what we do would not be possible without them. Their dedication and contributions make a real difference in the lives of so many young people, and we're incredibly grateful to each and every one of them.

“

Sometimes if I feel sad or angry, I call. She helped me get a bicycle, a helmet, a light – everything. Then she spent three hours on the big road helping me to learn the rules of cycling. When my bicycle broke, she helped me to get it fixed. Then my bike got stolen, and she helped me get a new one. She remembered when it was my birthday... Thank you for helping me!”

Abdulsalam talking about his mentor, Abby

As a small charity, we are often faced with the question, “do we have capacity for this?” and time and again, our volunteers’ commitment and unerring support means we can say, “yes”.

It can often appear to the young people we work with that the UK isn't a welcoming place for them. But our volunteers remind us constantly that this is not the case and that a huge number of people want to offer their time to support displaced young people across Surrey.

our volunteers in numbers



“

When I met Big Leaf, I knew they cared about us. But since volunteering I realise how much effort and dedication... and above all, love, they put into making every young person happy regardless of their circumstances.” R

Our volunteers are a core part of the Big Leaf team but without a central office it can be difficult to connect with each other. Last summer, we hosted our first in-person volunteer gathering, which was a chance to chat about the future of Big Leaf and discuss everyone's experiences.

“

Volunteering with Big Leaf is one of the best things I've done. The community that Big Leaf has created is so welcoming and inspiring. I feel so lucky that I get to spend time with such a fantastic group of people laughing and connecting over games, language and good food.”

Hannah, Redhill Hub Volunteer

Find out more about volunteering with Big Leaf at www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/volunteer

our approach

We're a growing team of passionate individuals, determined to support and empower displaced young people to know they are more than their status, and help them find their place within their local community.

Our team includes refugee care and migration studies experts, experienced youth workers, volunteers with lived experience of forced displacement and finance, project management, fundraising and communications specialists. The team has combined experience of more than 20 years working with displaced young people.

our values

trust & transparency

Nothing is more important to us than trust, because so many of our young people have experienced a world in which they can trust no one. It's essential that we build trusted relationships with our young people, and that they have confidence that we will always act in their best interests. We do this through maintaining high standards of openness, honesty and transparency.

equality

We want everyone to feel welcome at our projects. We approach everything we do with empathy and compassion. We strive to create a sense of community to which we all belong, on equal footing and to create a safe, secure and non-judgemental space for young people to engage and build new friendships, explore new activities, and uncover their talents and passions.

growth

Everything we do is focused on promoting the personal growth of our young people – growth that allows them to know they are more than the status they have been given and that each one of them is unique and valued. Growth is also at the heart of our approach to governance. We prioritise team learning, work to embody best practice and aim to make each project better than the last.

working in partnership

Our vision is of a community where displaced young people are valued, supported and empowered to create better outcomes for themselves. But we cannot achieve this vision alone. We're exceptionally grateful to the donors, partner organisations and the wider community who support our work.

This year we welcomed a dedicated governance and partnerships manager to support our focus on partnerships, and our network now includes over 35 multi-agency, statutory and community partners.

You can read more about our partnerships on page 22.

youth leadership

We recognise that young people with direct experience of forced displacement are best placed to create projects and campaigns that meet their needs and the needs of their peers. Our young leaders programme (p18-19) supports young people to build skills and confidence, helping them feel more empowered within themselves, their local community and to lead within Big Leaf itself.

our projects

Now in our fifth year, we've learnt so much from the young people we support about the challenges they face. Our projects are designed to address these challenges and are built around four key strands – safety, health and wellbeing, connecting communities and growing knowledge. Read more about our projects on pages 8-20.



Big Leaf gave me confidence and knowledge. I have made such good friends, like family. Big Leaf supported me and most importantly gave me courage to enter the world.” M



“

You support me for so long and when I call you are listening and helping me.”

© AD/Big Leaf Foundation

CASEWORK | supporting young people to access their rights

We provide tailored advice and support, helping young people to understand and access the services they need. Our caseworkers advocate for young people, helping them navigate the complex resettlement process.

Over the past year, our casework team has supported 54 young people to access welfare, healthcare, education, legal and recreational services. We now have well-established casework teams in East and West Surrey, strong working relationships with Surrey Social Services, local colleges and accommodation providers. We also work closely with other refugee support groups, including the Refugee and Migrant Children’s Consortium.

These relationships mean that we can provide the best support possible for young people.

The young people we work with face many challenges – from concerns about accommodation and lack of access to education to difficulties finding appropriate legal representation and age assessment issues.

Over the last year we’ve also noticed an increase in the number of young people reporting feeling anxious or depressed.

Our caseworkers help with practical issues, whether that’s being a trusted adult throughout the stressful age-assessment process, accompanying young people

to Home Office interviews, ensuring that there are no financial barriers to education or supporting young people to access healthcare. Our caseworkers also make sure they feel part of a supportive community.

The Illegal Migration Bill and increasingly hostile rhetoric in the media around displacement has left these vulnerable young people feeling unwelcome and unwanted in the UK and worried about how they will be treated. Our work to build trusted relationships with these young people and connect them to the community around them feels more important than ever.

case study

P was referred to Big Leaf through our partner, Young Roots. He was placed in an adult asylum hotel despite being just 17 years-old and needed our support to appeal his age-assessment. We got to know P well over time and he became a regular at our East Surrey Hub, which brings young people together to learn English, play games, share food and make friends. Our Caseworker supported him to enrol in a local college and challenge his age assessment, which is now under review.

case study

We first met R in May 2022. He came to a few football sessions and joined our weekly English classes while awaiting a college place. R spoke to our Caseworker, Louise, during a football session and said that he hoped to be physiotherapist in the future. Despite having excellent English and a good education, he had been offered a place on an ESOL programme but wanted to study A-Levels. Louise supported him to apply to a local sixth form, getting his paperwork together and organising an interview. He is now studying Biology, Chemistry and PE at A-level.

our work in hotels

The number of young people housed in asylum hotels has grown and with it, the need for more complex and targeted help. These young people have no statutory support aside from the roof over their heads and it can be incredibly difficult for them to access local services.

Over the past year, our caseworkers have supported 15 young people in hotels, to understand entitlements, access education and vocational projects and activities and appeal age assessment rulings.

shaping our projects

Casework feeds into every aspect of our work. Our caseworkers are often the first point of contact for new young people, meeting with them to understand their situation and their needs. Our caseworkers provide tailored advice and support to these young people, helping them to access external services and the Big Leaf activities most relevant to their needs.

These emerging needs also shape our activities. For example, when our caseworkers reported a significant increase in young people without access to education, we launched our English language school to mitigate long delays for school and college places.

casework in numbers



“

We love Big Leaf. They have helped me with education, getting me directly to A-Levels which is something completely unusual for refugees.”

R

working in partnership

Partnerships are an important part of our approach. The young people we support have no agency over where they are placed and can be moved out of county at a moment's notice. We've built a nationwide network of partners so that we can link young people with local services and organisations in new areas while continuing to support them from afar where possible.

Our caseworkers also attend Surrey County Council's UASC and Leaving Care team meetings which allow us to connect with social workers and personal advisors but also a wider network of representatives from health and education. These meetings provide the chance to update the group on our activities, raise any concerns we/the young people have and also help managers build a better picture of the difficulties young people in their care are facing.

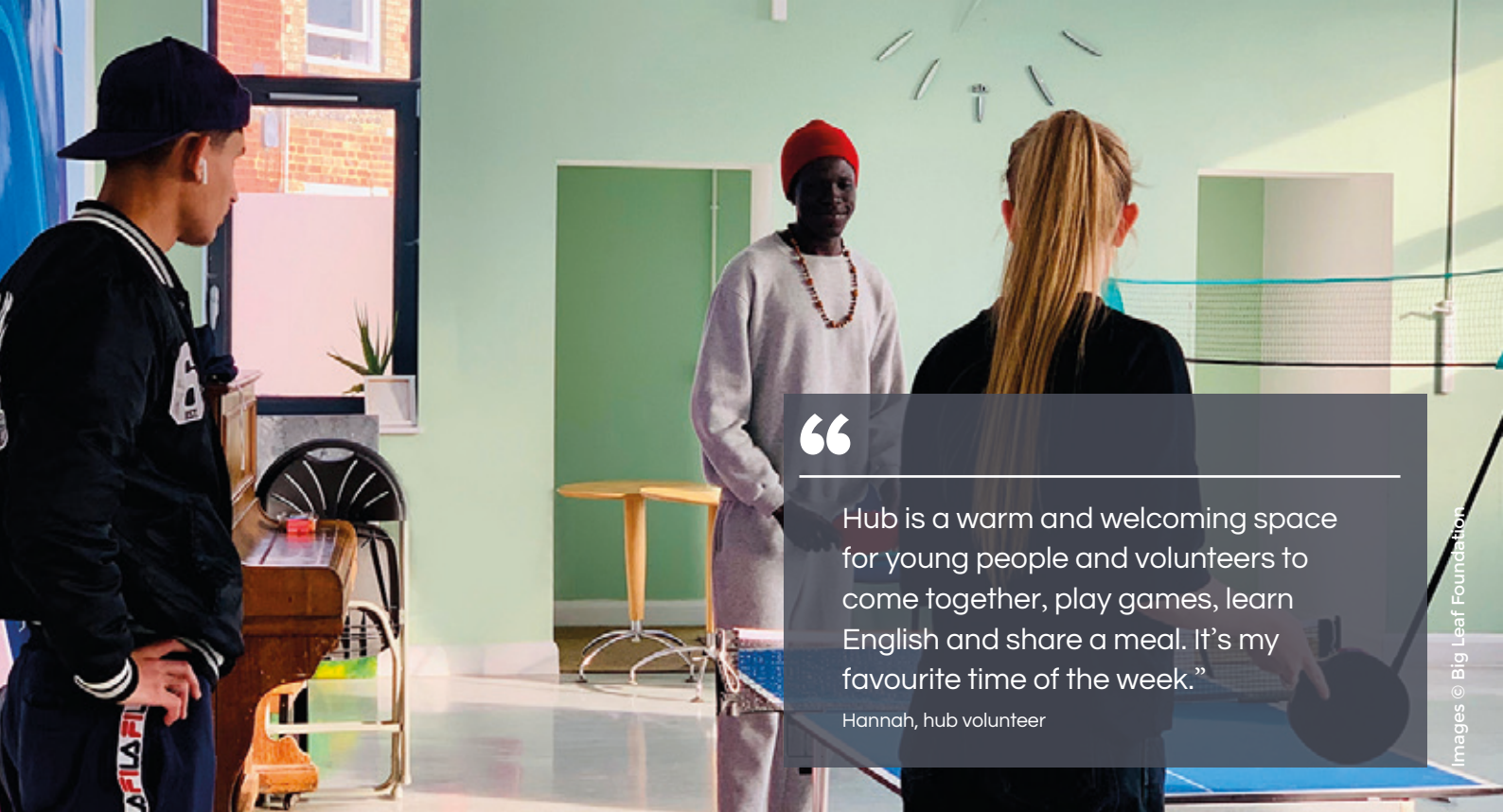
“

Big Leaf are making such an impact in these young people's lives, to have people believing in them and investing time in them is so vital.”

Anna, Keyworker

thank you

With huge thanks to **Tresanton Trust** for its continued support and funding for our vital casework service and to our brilliant casework volunteer **Alison Craze** for the commitment and experience you bring to this role.



“

Hub is a warm and welcoming space for young people and volunteers to come together, play games, learn English and share a meal. It's my favourite time of the week.”

Hannah, hub volunteer

Images © Big Leaf Foundation

YOUTH HUBS | providing a safe and welcoming space

Our weekly youth hubs provide displaced young people with an opportunity to come together in a safe, familiar and welcoming space. We offer English language and homework support through conversation, activities and games. We also cook hot meals and sit down and eat together.

Our youth hubs have been running for more than three years now and are a core part of our provision. In the last year alone we welcomed 109 young people to our hubs.

These drop-in sessions are a chance for young people to ask questions about life in the UK and meet other people from the local community.

It's an informal and relaxed space and it gives us the opportunity to get to know the young people and understand what projects and activities might suit them. We can build our activities around them and ensure they're invited to any projects we think they would enjoy.

It also means we can build trust with young people, making it much more likely that they'll come to us when they need help.

hub and casework

We offer a regular casework drop-in service at our youth hubs in both Guildford and Redhill. These informal sessions are great for new young people who might not otherwise know about this service or have the confidence to request a referral.

Many of the young people who come to our hubs refer friends to us, and this is often one of our first points of contact with young people new to the area.

We're working with residents in an asylum hotel in East Surrey and two young people regularly attend our youth hub. We helped them to enrol in college, they told their friend and the following week he came to ask for our support. He's now regular at many Big Leaf projects. These word of mouth referrals are so important in helping us to reach new young people who need support.

“

I always leave hub with a big smile on my face.”

thank you

With thanks to **Tresanton Trust** for funding our Youth Hubs this year and to our **brilliant and dedicated hub volunteers** who support with activities, cooking and English practise.

EDUCATION | offering opportunities to learn

We know that the young people we support are keen to learn English, and often frustrated by the lack of opportunities to do so. Although all of our projects carry an ESOL learning focus, we offer dedicated programmes for young people still awaiting educational placements, or that need a little extra help.

One of the biggest barriers to anyone trying to resettle in the UK is a good understanding of English. Often, people arrive as beginners in English, making it extremely challenging to find their feet in their new communities.

College places are often hard to access, particularly for those who have arrived after the start of the academic year. These delays in accessing education mean many young people are excluded from support, guidance and information that could significantly improve their situation.

Even for young people who have successfully accessed school or college places, there are still challenges to navigate. It can be hard to keep up with studying for GCSEs alongside managing asylum claims and without the structure of a family home.

English language school

We launched our new English language 'school' in April 2022 for young people without access to school or college.

Our full-day sessions run once a week during term time and provide the specialised support that groups from mixed backgrounds need. Morning lessons emulate a traditional schooling experience, focusing on vocabulary, grammar and numeracy skills, and prepare participants for their entry to the UK education system. In the afternoons we focus on building cultural literacy, developing an understanding of life in the UK and social expectations, with activities, field trips and guest visitors.

“

I love Big Leaf School.”

education in numbers



“

The ESOL project is not just about learning English – we look at all aspects of life in the UK, we meet people from the community, we learn new skills and most importantly we build friendships.” R

GCSE masterclasses

Passing GCSE English and Maths opens the door to many opportunities. But it can be difficult to pass and this year we launched our exam-focused masterclass for young people studying at GCSE level.

These sessions focus on developing an 'exam and revision' strategy – working with students to build confidence around exam papers and guide them towards self-study materials.

access to higher education

More and more young people have been asking about routes in to Higher Education. In January we partnered with the Widening Participation and Outreach team at Surrey University to run a three-day pilot project with nine displaced young women to explore routes into Higher Education.

We visited three universities and explored the practicalities of studying, university life and the available pathways. We also experienced some different courses, from Chemistry and Electric Engineering to Drama.

thank you

With thanks to the **University of Surrey Widening Participation team** and ambassadors; **University of Creative Arts Widening Participation team** and tutors; and **Royal Holloway University Widening Participation team** and their tutors from **Story Futures Electronic Engineering Department**.



Images © Vicki Felgate / Big Leaf Foundation

“

...this is the best thing for us guys cuz football is a language that everybody from all the world understands and also it's very important for our mental health. I want to thank everyone who works for Big Leaf, we appreciate you guys.” Biniam

SPORTS | improving health and connecting through sport

Our sports activities are our most popular sessions. We reached 198 displaced young people from across Surrey through our regular football sessions, our participation in the Surrey FA Refugee League and through our newest offering, basketball.

Sport is a vital part of what we do. It brings young people together, promotes health and wellbeing and (alongside casework) is often one of our first contact points with young people new to the area. It helps young people and our community partners to build mutual understanding and builds respect between participants.

“

My experience with Big Leaf has been wonderful. It has given us happiness and joy, it's something that we look forward every week to see our friends faces and to play football with our friends form all over the world.” B

our football hubs

We work with Upskill Coaching and Chelsea Foundation to run football sessions in Guildford and Redhill once a week.

More than 30 young people attend each session, practising drills, building fitness and playing a match. There's a real mix of 'old-timers' and young people new to the UK and a real community has developed. It's great to see the young people who have been here for a few years and are more settled offer wisdom and friendship to those still finding their feet.

“

Coaching this group is one of my favourite parts of the week... it's full of extremely bright, friendly and exceptional young people who have such potential within them. They play with 100 percent commitment, which every coach relishes.”

Rob Wright, Chelsea Foundation

surrey refugee league

This year we had the opportunity to participate in the Surrey Football Association (FA) Refugee League. Working in partnership with Surrey Police, Surrey FA created the league to improve football opportunities for displaced young people in Surrey and upskill participants.

Eight teams from across Surrey participate in the league and we've consistently finished in the top two.



“

We absolutely love working with your young people. They are so respectful, listen to their coach and are willing to learn. We're looking forward to seeing how far we can go with their development.” Bridget, Basketball4All

basketball

During our last Sports Day we had a basketball taster session and it was such a hit that more and more young people asked for help to access local clubs.

When young people ask for a specific project, we explore ways to include it within our Big Leaf programmes... and we're thrilled to share that we launched our newest sports project, weekly basketball sessions, at the start of 2023.

These sessions, in partnership with Basketball4All, are a place for displaced young people to build technical skills and knowledge, exercise, have fun and make friends. Basketball4All coaches include ambassadors and ex-NBA players and are an inspiration to the young people we support.

We're exploring progression routes for some exceptionally talented players and can't wait to see what they achieve.

cricket

In our last annual review, we shared our hope to add cricket sessions to our regular programmes. This was in direct response to requests from the young people we were supporting at that time, many of whom were from Afghanistan and fled to the UK following the Taliban's return to power. Since then, many of these young people and their families have moved on and when we spoke with our current young people, most of them told us they'd prefer basketball or more football opportunities so we switched focus. We still offer occasional cricket sessions and have great referral routes to local cricket clubs for young people keen to play.

sport in numbers

total number of participants	202 hours spent playing football	partnered with
198		16 teams & clubs

connecting with local teams

We want the young people we support to feel confident accessing sports activities in their communities. Over the last two years we have built strong relationships with local cricket and football clubs, including Redhill Youth FC and Merstham Cricket club, to offer progression routes and pathways for young people keen to play with local teams.

thank you

With thanks to **Active Surrey, Sport England** and the **National Lottery** through the **Together Fund** for funding our basketball programme and to the **Twelve Healers Trust** for supporting our overall sports provision; huge thanks also to our brilliant sports partners and coaches.



“ Thank you so much for the music. I could forget my difficult life and be with new friends.” A

Images © Big Leaf Foundation

MUSIC CONNECTS | bringing people together through music

Music Connects is now in its third year and going from strength to strength. This project brings together young people from both displaced and local youth communities to create understanding and build friendships.

It is difficult for displaced young people to meet those local to Surrey. Language and cultural barriers, separate ESOL classes in college and a lack of family and community networks make it challenging for these groups to mix. During this time of division and hostile discourse, it is more important than ever that these two communities can unite... and what better way to do this than through music?

Last Summer, 20 young people from nine countries came together, to create music and write songs that reflected the different experiences and musical styles within the group.



“

Big Leaf’s fierce commitment to support displaced young people alongside the belief in music as a tool to help deliver this support makes for a strong partnership between our two organisations.” Sarah Lee, Surrey Arts

One of our guiding principles for Music Connects is that it’s not a project where one side comes to ‘help’ the other. It’s a shared project where everyone belongs, on equal footing. But this is not without its challenges. Many Surrey participants come with a background of formal music training and a proficiency in several instruments, often in contrast to Big Leaf participants. But our focus on all genres of music, song and rhythm from across the globe means there is always something familiar and something new for everyone. Everyone is encouraged to pick up a new instrument or try singing for the first time, and everyone does.

find my way

Each song has a theme and this year, the group were drawn to the idea of life as a journey with many unknowns ahead and feeling daunted and uncertain about the future. But they agreed that the only solution is to hope and to believe in their courage to move forward – and their song *Find My Way* was born. You can listen to the full track, recorded at the Academy for Contemporary Music in Guildford, at <https://soundcloud.com/surreyarts/music-connects-summer-2022-acm>

“

Our biggest thanks goes to our young musicians who, through their open minds, hearts and hopeful joy, created a world where music brought everyone together.”

Kayte Cable, Big Leaf Programmes Manager

union chapel performance

We were honoured to be invited to perform in Under the Same Sun’s Refugee Week concert at Union Chapel in October 2022 (pictured opposite). Walking onto the stage was a daunting experience for many, but the group who decided to cope with their nerves by holding hands all the way to the stage steps really did find their way. The standing ovation from the audience was a proud and emotional moment for us all.

In addition to the music performance, two brilliant young people from Eritrea and Ukraine, choreographed and performed a dance together to reflect the song’s theme.

“

Music Connects is a terrific initiative that unites young people raised in Surrey with young displaced people recently arrived in the UK. We should have one in every borough.” Lucy Popescu, Camden and Islington Gazette

youth music award

We’re delighted to share that one of the young people we support, Kavyan, was awarded a Youth Music Young Leader Award for his outstanding contribution to the project. Kavyan learnt to play the daf as a child – a percussion instrument popular in Iran where he grew up. He’s an incredible percussionist who brought so much energy to Music Connects and inspired others to learn and to share their stories through music. We’re so glad to see him honoured in this way.

music and drama education awards

We are also thrilled that alongside our partners Surrey Arts, we were awarded runners-up in the category of Outstanding Musical Initiative at the 2022 Music and Drama Awards..

music connects in numbers

total number of participants

35

20

displaced young people & 15 Surrey YP

38%

girls and women

thank you

With thanks to **Youth Music**, **The National Lottery Community Fund** and the **Arts Council England** for funding our Music Connects programme; to the incredible team at **Surrey Arts**; and to the **Academy for Contemporary Music** in Guildford for use of their recording studio.



“

I thank you for caring about me... and for giving me this time to be together at the farm. I hope I can come on more Big Leaf activities soon.” N

Images © Big Leaf Foundation

SUMMER CAMP | building confidence and friendships

Big Leaf started with a Summer Camp. We wanted to combat the social-isolation that displaced young people often feel during the long summer holidays so we organised a week-long residential at a farm in Devon. We saw what’s possible when young people are welcomed and supported, and through this, the idea for Big Leaf was born.

Since then our programmes have grown to year-round provision. But our Summer Camp remains an important part of our work and it’s a highlight of our year. The camp is a chance for young people to relax, eat well, sleep well, spend time outdoors, have fun and make new friends.

For the Big Leaf team, it’s an opportunity to reconnect with everything we’re trying to achieve, spend time with the young people and build trust so we can better support them in the months and years ahead.

“

You’ve become one of my best friends. It is so good to be around you, thank you for encouraging me.”

H talking about his new friendship with N

For the last three years we’ve hosted our camps at Jamie’s Farm, a working farm specialising in supporting disadvantaged young people at risk of academic and social exclusion.

We love our time at Jamie’s but it can also be challenging. These young people have often experienced significant trauma and have been shuffled from place to place. It can take time to determine who to trust and we’re thankful for the space to have difficult discussions and show them that we are here to support them.

autumn at the farm

We support almost 300 young people each year. But we only have space for 12 young people on our Summer Camp. We have to make hard decisions on who to include in the trips. But this year, thanks to the continued support of Surrey Virtual School, we were able to offer our first autumn camp and we’re thrilled we could offer this experience to even more young people.



SUMMER SCHOOL | boosting language and learning new skills

Each summer we run a summer school. Designed to help young people prepare for the new academic year, this programme improves English through language and skills sessions.

The long summer break can be challenging for the young people we support. Cooped up in their rooms with very little to do, the summer break can increase feelings of social isolation and loneliness. Our Summer School is an opportunity to spend the holidays learning new skills, having fun and building relationships.

We're working with more young people than ever before and we want to give as many young people as possible the chance to participate in our programmes. This year we expanded our Summer School to offer a full four-week programme. Each week focused on a different key theme: exploring our community, work and careers, health and wellbeing and rights and responsibilities.

exploring our community

Our first week was all about getting to know each other. With half the group at Jamie's Farm, the rest of us went to London and enjoyed competitive treasure hunts around the famous sights. Even though the young people we support live close to London, many haven't had the opportunity to visit. Spending time in the capital is a great way to build cultural literacy and confidence.

work and careers

During the second week we focused on work and career skills. Police officers, doctors, video game designers, politicians, engineers, actors and even brewers came to our careers day to discuss their jobs.

We also ran practical mechanics workshops at GASP Motor Centre. By the end of the week, the young people had achieved multiple AQA Qualifications, and we left with many aspiring mechanics.

“

I want to be a doctor. I know it's hard, but Dr Kerrie gave me courage.”

summer school in numbers



health and wellbeing

We spent the third week with Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD), focusing on health and wellbeing and how to talk about it in English. We learnt a lot of new vocabulary and discussed where to find support for different concerns.

We discussed mental wellbeing and the anxieties of war, displacement and loss. We're grateful to SOLD and Surrey Hills Area of Natural Beauty for hosting us. It is always profoundly impactful for young people to be out of their rooms and in fresh air and nature, making friends and building confidence.



“

I love this day. London is the best city and famous, and I am so happy to be here today with everybody.” R

rights and responsibilities

We joined forces with Surrey Police and local law firms, exploring what it means to live safely in the UK. Last year, our Living Safely workshop with Surrey Police had a huge impact on the young people we support, shattering pre-existing fears of the police and rebuilding trust, and this year was just as powerful.

We had excellent and nuanced discussions about the differences in the systems here and abroad, covering relevant legal topics.

thank you

With thanks to the **High Sheriff of Surrey Youth Awards** for funding our Summer School and to all of our brilliant Summer School partners including **GASP Motor Project, Surrey Police, Surrey University, Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development** for their support and hard work in bringing this programme to life.



Image © Big Leaf Foundation

“

It is moving and inspiring to see what you have brought to us all today. I am honoured to be here. You are our best ambassadors.” Lady Elizabeth Toulson CBE DL

YOUNG LEADERS | empowering young people to lead

Our Young Leaders programme brings displaced young people together to learn about leadership, legal rights, how to create change and support others. Launched in January 2022, this programme supports participants to build confidence and knowledge to help them feel more empowered within themselves, their local community and within Big Leaf itself.

We're committed to supporting displaced young people to participate in the development and leadership of Big Leaf and become active leaders within their community, making lasting changes to issues that affect their lives.

Our Young Leaders programme is core to achieving this. Thanks to funding from the Tides Foundation and the Listening Fund we were able to build on the success of our first programme and welcome a new group of Young Leaders in January 2023.

The programme launched with a residential at Jamie's Farm, bringing the group together and exploring their sense of self while also team-building and creating a sense of trust with us and each other. We then had workshops on leadership; on human rights and democracy with our brilliant partners at Surrey University School of Law and explored storytelling and how to be a confident public speaker with the Hummingbird Project.

“

When I came to the UK, I didn't know much about the law – what is right and what is wrong, what it the meaning of human rights. But now I know. I appreciate this opportunity.” M

Last year's Young Leaders co-created this programme, sharing their ideas on how to improve it and co-leading sessions around identity, leadership and campaigning.

This programme is designed to support young people with the skills to speak out on the issues that concern them and advocate for themselves and others in the future. Our graduation ceremony provided the perfect stage for our six new Young Leaders show their newfound public speaking skills and each young person spoke so powerfully about what being a leader means to them.

“

To all of the asylum seekers and refugees, I want you know we are capable to achieve our dreams. If we put our best effort and do it with our heart we will be successful... because now we are more powerful, capable, real leaders and can do something for our community, for the UK, for our countries, for the world and for us.” R

With special thanks to **Lady Elizabeth Toulson CBE DL** for presenting the awards and to our funders and partners.

PROGRESSIONS ROUTES | supporting young people to achieve their goals

We want to support young people to realise their full potential and achieve their dreams. As part of this, we help them to access educational and vocational opportunities related to their career goals.

A key aim of our Young Leaders programme is to support young people to explore new opportunities, build networks and access further training or work experience. Over the last year we've helped six Young Leaders to find work experience in their chosen field.

case study

A was one of our first Young Leaders, graduating from the programme in March 2022. During the programme he shared with us his dream to become an architect.

Work experience is a normal part of the offering for school students in the UK, but it can often be difficult to access for young people who haven't been through the mainstream education system. But making informed decisions about your future career is challenging without first experiencing the workplace and different job roles.

We helped A secure a work experience placement at the renowned Glenn Howells Architects. He spent time with the partners and team in design review meetings and tried his hand at model making. But it was also a chance for him to find out more about routes in to architecture and think about his options. A is now studying art and design alongside GCSE Maths and English and exploring access to Higher Education courses. He remains committed to his goal of becoming an architect.

One of our Young Leaders, M, is an aspiring writer and is working on a children's book about his life in the UK with mentoring support from a brilliant author.

“

It went really well. I had a really amazing time there. I saw how the real workplace feels and met a lot of architects, and this is all thanks to you and Big Leaf.” A

Since graduating, three Young Leaders have started volunteering with local charities to gain experience in the workplace and “do something that helps people”.

progression routes in numbers

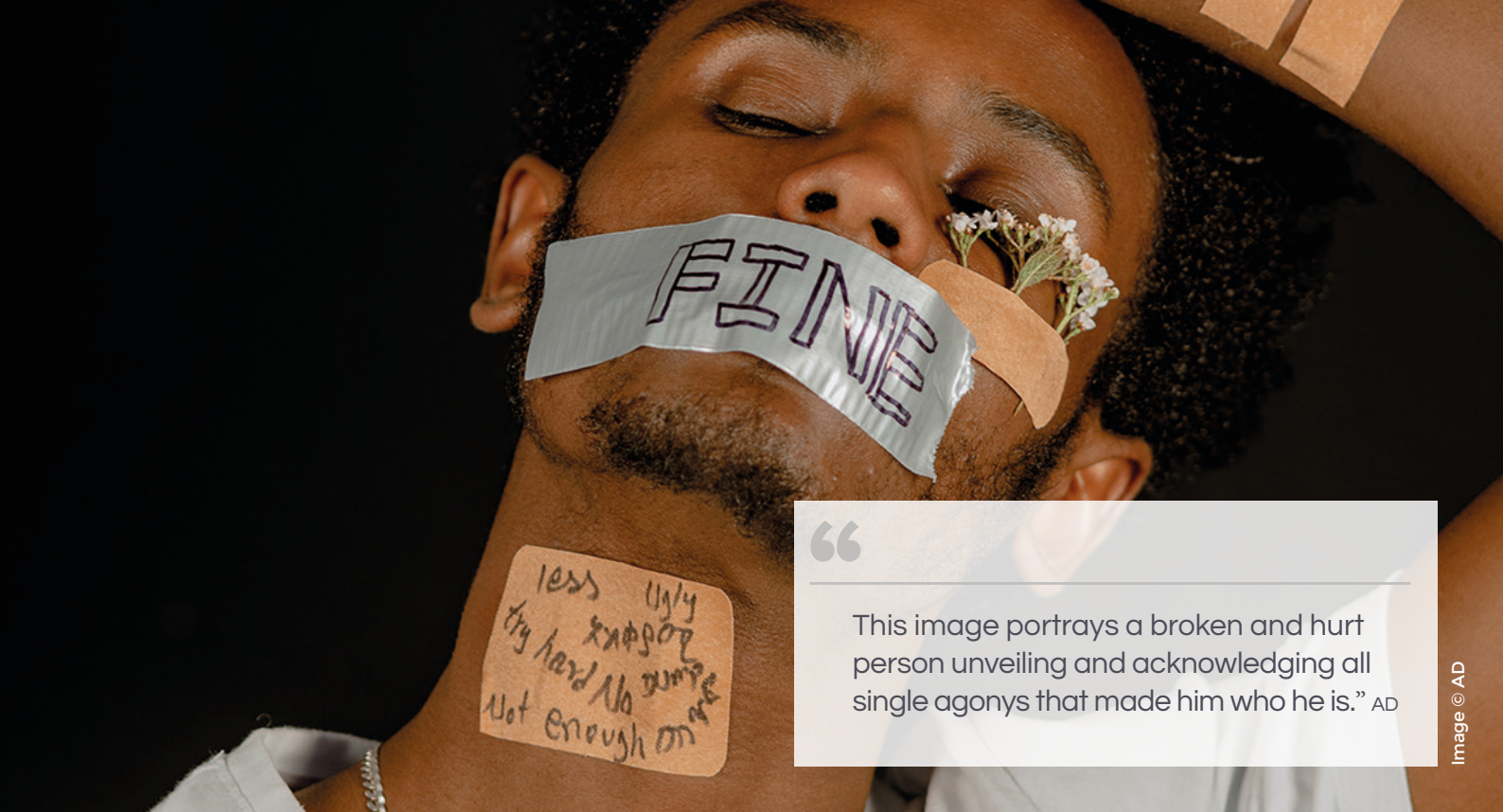
6
young people
accessing
work exp.

total hours of
work exp.

208

thank you

Huge thanks to Glenn and everyone at **Glenn Howells Architects** for giving A this opportunity and making him so welcome. Thanks also to **Artistar Financial Consulting** for providing valuable work experience opportunities for two of our young people this year; and to **Alex Strick** for supporting M with his book project.



“ This image portrays a broken and hurt person unveiling and acknowledging all single agonies that made him who he is.” AD

Image © AD

CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY | making our voices heard

We want to raise awareness of the issues faced by displaced young people and how everyone can help. Over the last few years debates around asylum have become increasingly politicised and inflammatory and the introduction of new laws that undermine the basic human right to seek asylum are deeply concerning.

We also want the young people we support to know that most of the population doesn't share this anti-refugee stance. Media and political narratives often leave our young people feeling like the British public don't want them here, but we know that's not true. Every day, we see people advocating for and offering support to displaced people. Our community events counter the negative narrative – bringing everyone together and showing the young people we support that they are welcome and that people care.

“ Brilliantly curated, powerful and authentic. Precious to hear these voices through creativity in this way. Thankful for all who created and shared.” Anon

refugee week

To celebrate Refugee Week 2022, we hosted a three-day art installation on the theme of 'Healing'. The exhibition featured paintings, photography (including AD's image above), poems and recordings of dance and music performances, all created by the young people we support.

We marked the end of the exhibition with a celebration, bringing together our partners, supporters and young people for an evening of music and dance performances from our brilliant Music Connects group and some beautiful performances from audience members.

Our exhibition celebrated community, mutual care and the human ability to start again. It was reaffirming to see everyone come together and acknowledge the huge contribution displaced people make to our communities, and it meant a great deal for the creators of the pieces to see their impact.

You can view more exhibition pieces online at www.bigleafoundation.org.uk/refugeeweek2022

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Image © MC

make a difference awards

We're thrilled to be shortlisted to one of four finalists out of over 100 nominations in the BBC Surrey Make a Difference Awards.

Although we didn't win, we were incredibly proud to be in the company of such compassionate, strong and change-making organisations. Not only did this shortlisting mean a great deal to our team, but it also showed our young people that they genuinely are valued in Surrey. We left the award ceremony feeling optimistic and inspired, and we're very grateful to BBC Surrey for their consistent support of our work.



“

It was an inspiring evening... the sheer sense of strength, compassion and generosity in the room. All those people, quietly going about their work, creating real change – there was genuine beauty in their dedication.” Kayte, Big Leaf Co-Founder

campaigns and advocacy in numbers

number of radio interviews	17 open letters signed and 5 direct letters	young people in speaking or media events
12		3



the illegal migration bill

In March 2023, the Government announced a continuation of its mission to erode the rights of people seeking asylum through the new 'Illegal Migration Bill'. Under this Bill, anyone crossing the Channel to claim asylum will be detained, deported and banned from further re-entry into the UK.

The Government will strip people fleeing war and persecution of their right to seek safety in the UK and punish them based on how they came here, regardless of any need for protection. This amounts to an asylum ban.

We're working with colleagues across the sector to fight the ramifications of this Bill. Alongside peer organisations, including the Refugee Council, the UNHCR, Together with Refugees and Refugee Action, we have successfully lobbied MPs and Lords to adopt amendments to the Illegal Migration Bill, participated in virtual and real-life protests, shared learning, co-signed many open letters and worked to streamline sector-wide messaging.

This law is unworkable, cruel and immoral. The asylum system needs serious reform. But the Illegal Migration Bill is not a solution. It will cause misery, cost millions to the taxpayer and force vulnerable people to take even more dangerous journeys.

We will continue to campaign for a fairer and more compassionate approach to asylum in the UK.

Follow us on social media @BigLeafSurrey for the latest news and campaign actions.

thank you

With thanks to the **Twelve Healers Trust** and **Healing Herbs Ltd.** for supporting our campaigns and advocacy work; to all the members of the **Together with Refugees Coalition** for speaking up and speaking out on the issues that matter to the young people we support and to **BBC Radio Surrey**.

Image © Louise E. Number

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Images © Big Leaf Foundation

“

It's been so inspiring working with the Young Leaders on this programme. For us and our law students it's been fantastic. Such an honour. So interesting and we've all learnt such an enormous amount from you.”

Elizabeth Williams, Surrey University School of Law

PARTNERSHIPS | building community connections

Partnerships are integral to our work. To achieve our vision of a community where displaced young people are valued and supported we need to build strong connections within the community. We do this through working in close partnership with local organisations, agencies and businesses.

Over the last four years Big Leaf has built has a network of more than 35 community and multi-agency partners. These partnerships bring valuable skills and experience to our work, and are essential to building connection, trust and understanding within the community.

We work with a growing network of organisations and individuals to develop projects that will inspire our young people.

We partner with Jamie's Farm to offer a residential programme that helps young people build confidence and friendships. We work with Surrey Arts to run a unique music programme connecting displaced young people with local youth communities through music. Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) funds and co-leads a range of sessions, including language and numeracy-focused activities and partner with us to run workshops on buddying and facilitation for our Young Leaders.

These are just some examples of our project partnerships, a full list of our amazing partners can be found on p30.

We also work with local statutory partners including Surrey Virtual School, Surrey Social Services, and local accommodation providers to ensure the young people in their care can access our projects and that we're working together in their best interests.

“

I have found Big Leaf to be incredibly supportive, caring and passionate about the service they provide our young people.”

Emma, Personal Advisor, Social Services

Working with displaced communities requires a deep understanding of the complexities of displacement. We're continually learning. But we're also committed to sharing our knowledge with partners through our bespoke training.

“

Thank you so much for the session. It was really useful and insightful to reflect on the young people our mentors work with.”

Emily, Grandmentors Surrey

Whether it's supporting with venues, providing sports coaches or facilities, co-delivering sessions, sharing best practice or offering strategic or funding advice, we're exceptionally grateful to all our partners who give their time, expertise and commitment to supporting displaced young people in their communities.

WORKING WITH SURREY POLICE | creating trust and understanding

Many of the young people we support have a real fear of the police, often inherited from brutal experiences, corruption and harassment in other countries. This fear affects their daily lives and makes it far less likely they will ask for help if they ever need it. We work with Surrey Police to mitigate this fear as best we can.

Last year two of our Young Leaders joined us for a series of speaking events with Surrey Police designed to increase their understanding about the experience of forced displacement. Since then our partnership has continued to grow.

We're the Chief Constable's Chosen Charity for 2022-2023 and this has provided new opportunities for working together.

We want the young people we support to feel comfortable and confident with the police and one of the best ways to achieve this is through repeated contact. We create opportunities for young people and officers to meet – through our youth hubs, English sessions and community events. We also run bespoke sessions about the law and policing in the UK as part of our Summer School programme.

Our young people now have a better understanding of how the police work in the UK, and officers have a greater understanding of the reasons displaced young people are often scared of them.

“

I feel I am a better police officer and manager as a result of working with these young people.”

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Bentley,
Surrey Police

“

Any department working in partnership with Big Leaf will have come away with a better awareness and positivity about displaced communities.” Rachel McCormick

Political and media narratives have driven misinformation about the realities of displacement and we're working to address this through training and creating open dialogue between the young people we support and the police.

“

The constant negative media and political portrayal of asylum seekers as a threat to UK society and the general lack of humanity is depressing. If displaced young people are supported and welcomed into our society, who knows what they might achieve.”

Detective Chief Inspector Deborah Crouch,
Surrey Police

Surrey Police partnership in numbers



thank you

Huge thanks to the many officers within Surrey Police who have committed to increasing their understanding of the challenges displaced young people face and working with us to help (re)build a sense of trust.

priorities for the year ahead

Big Leaf Foundation is now in its fifth year. We've grown from supporting 20 young people a year to almost 300 and demand for our services continues to grow. But the environment we're operating in is also changing and with it, the needs of the young people we support.

We recognise that young people with direct experience of forced displacement are best placed to create projects and campaigns that meet their needs and the needs of their peers. Through our Young Leaders programme we're supporting young people to take an active role in the development and leadership of Big Leaf. Earlier this year we spoke to each of our Young Leaders to find out what they value most about our work; what we could do better; what they think our priorities should be and what big ideas they have for Big Leaf. We put this feedback at the heart of our planning, giving it equal weight alongside ideas from our trustees and staff, to set our priorities for the coming year.

“

You give us opportunities and ideas and you look out for us. You accept people for who they are without exception. You make us feel like we can have a normal life.” R

Our vision is of a community where displaced young people are valued, supported and given the ability to create better outcomes for themselves. Our priorities continue to be guided by this vision and our core values of trust, equality and growth.

“

You help us to achieve our goals and realise our talents.” S

“

Big Leaf supported me at the beginning when I was alone, and gave me confidence to make friends. This is important.” K

building communities

This is at the heart of what we do. We will continue to prioritise partnership working as a means to building supportive communities. But we will take this further. The young people we spoke to said that the best projects are the ones which involve local young people as well. This is already a core part of our Music Connects programme and we've seen the difference it makes – building understanding across cultures and giving young people the chance to make friends. We also work with students at the School of Law as part our Young Leaders programme; and partner with St George's College to bring their students and ours together through sports. We will look for ways to make these links in more of our projects over the coming year.

developing our listening work

We're committed to supporting displaced young people to participate in the development and leadership of Big Leaf. Our Young Leaders programme is the first step to achieving this – supporting young people to build skills and confidence in leadership and to recognise their own strengths. But it is just the first step. We know that we also need to create the right space and structures for young people to take up leadership roles... and this means reflecting on how we work, giving them the space to share their ideas and listening to their experience. Over the coming year we will continue our focus on youth leadership and be guided by what our young people tell us is important to them.

“

Big Leaf has helped me so much. I want more young people to have this same support.” M

“

Education can unlock everything and unlock our future.” R

opportunities for learning and progression

One of the biggest barriers to anyone trying to resettle in the UK is a good understanding of English. Each young person we spoke to said that support to learn English and opportunities to learn new skills was one of the most important elements of our work. Education will continue to be a core part of our work but we will expand this to offer opportunities to more young people and with an added focus on life skills, careers advice and support accessing work experience including through new partnerships and with Big Leaf itself.

casework and legal advice

The young people we support are waiting longer than ever for their asylum claims to be processed within an increasingly hostile asylum system. We've also seen more young people subject to age disputes. And with new laws that threaten indefinite detention and remove the right for people to seek asylum, things look set to get worse. Our Casework team helps young people to understand and access the support they need and advocates on their behalf. We will continue to prioritise casework. But over the coming year we will also explore potential partnerships to support legal advice clinics for the young people we work with.

“

Legal advice clinics to help us understand our legal situation and our rights would be so useful.” R

speaking up and speaking out

We know that the young people we support rarely have a voice in the issues that affect them, especially when it comes to policy decisions, and we want to change this. Through our new ambassadors programme we'll give young people more opportunities to share their experiences and make their voices heard in local and national conversations around displacement and immigration. We'll also build partnerships to influence change on a local level and work to combat misunderstanding and misinformation through our training provision, events and creating open dialogue with local partners.

“

When I tell people about my experience, it changes how they think. They didn't understand before” K

governance, structure & management

Big Leaf Foundation is controlled by its Constitution incorporated on 14 July 2018. It was recognised as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 14 December 2018 (UK Registered Charity Number 1181180) whose only voting members are its charity trustees ('Foundation' model constitution). The charity is run by the Board of Trustees who are responsible for ensuring the charity has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and is focused on achieving these.

appointment of trustees

Any person over the age of 16 who is willing to act as a trustee, and has not been disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 178 -180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision), may be appointed to be a trustee by a decision of the trustees.

There must be at least three trustees and a maximum of eight. Apart from the first trustees, every trustee is appointed for a term of three years, by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees.

Retiring trustees are eligible for reappointment. But a trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a fourth but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year. In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the trustees consider the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Big Leaf Foundation's trustees include business and charitable sector professionals with experience in refugee care, youth work, education, finance, project management, IT, fundraising and communications.

Big Leaf Foundation is committed to the ongoing professional development of its trustees and their knowledge is kept up to date through internal and external training, knowledge sharing with partner organisations, academic reading and regular participation in project team meetings.

The trustees meet once a month. We ask our trustees to attend a minimum of two Big Leaf Foundation projects per year as we strongly believe this contributes to a better understanding of our organisation, how we work and the young people we support. All trustees are DBS checked at an enhanced level and Safeguarding and Prevent trained.

The Programme Managers report on the operational plan at each trustee meeting. Big Leaf Foundation has a Safeguarding Sub Committee that meets to discuss safeguarding and review and update safeguarding policies and processes as needed. This committee includes the DSL, DDSLs and the Chair or trustees.

The trustees have delegated authority to the Programme Managers with clear limitations. The Chair and the Programme Managers also have regular meetings to discuss operational matters and resource needs.

our team

Our team includes refugee care and migration studies experts, experienced youth workers, volunteers with lived experience of forced displacement and finance, project management, fundraising and communications specialists.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/about

risks & mitigations

Our trustees have identified ongoing risks around safeguarding and fundraising. But there are also new and growing risks from government policies and the increased threat from the far-right which impact our work.

safeguarding

Risk | Failure to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns, resulting in harm to the young people we support or others.

Mitigation | Safeguarding is embedded in Big Leaf and all staff and volunteers receive safeguarding training through our safeguarding partner, SafeCIC, as part of their induction and every two years thereafter. We have a range of policies in place to support good practice, including safeguarding, health and safety, lone working and codes of conduct for staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. Big Leaf also has a Safeguarding sub-committee that meets once a fortnight to discuss safeguarding and update policies and processes as needed. We're working with more young people than ever before. In recognition of this and to ensure we have sufficient capacity to monitor and respond to all safeguarding concerns, we have appointed a second Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and a second trustee (in addition to the Chair) to oversee and provide support with safeguarding.

refugee rights

Risk | Government policies undermine the rights and entitlements of the young people we support, impacting their mental health and increasing stress levels of our staff.

Mitigation | Like other organisations we increasingly have to step into a campaigning space to speak up for the rights and entitlements of the young people we support. We know that to oppose inhumane policies, like the Illegal Migration Bill, we need to work together with like-minded organisations. Big Leaf is a member of the Together with Refugees coalition and the Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium. We engage with MPs at a local level on individual cases where a young person is at risk. Through our communications work, our leadership programmes and our community partnerships, we aim to build broad support for a fairer, kinder and more effective asylum process. Our programmes continue to focus on health and wellbeing and supporting resilience for the young people we support. We also provide clinical supervision for all front-line staff.

fundraising

Risk | Insufficient funds to maintain current services, meet growth in demand or achieve our objectives.

Mitigation | Our Chair and Treasurer take an active role in fundraising and manage our major donor relationships. Our Programme Managers also prepare funding applications and reports relevant to their projects. In 2018/2019 Big Leaf was reliant on two main funders for the majority of its income. We now receive funding from 16 trusts and organisations with three new major donors coming on board in the last year. We believe in building strong relationships with our donors. We achieve this through regular communication, detailed reporting and where possible, providing opportunities to see first-hand what their support is helping us achieve. This focus on donor relationships has helped us retain funders and forward plan with greater confidence. But as demand for our services continues to grow, we're exploring new opportunities including statutory funding and fundraising through sponsored events.

rise of the far-right

Risk | Hostile environment leads to increase in far-right activities, posing a direct threat and risk of harm to the young people we support and/or our team.

Mitigation | We're working with same sector-organisations, including Hope Not Hate, to monitor risk from far-right groups and ensure our risk management policies reflect the increased threat from the far-right in our local area. We're also supporting young people to understand UK law and their rights. Through close-working with Surrey Police we aim to build mutual trust and understanding between officers and local displaced communities so that the young people we support feel able to report hate crime. With the support of Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum we're advocating for our young people, ensuring that when a hate crime is reported it is recorded as such and appropriate action is taken. But we also create the space to have the sometimes-difficult conversations with our young people about how to respond and keep themselves safe when targeted by the far-right.

finance & accounts

Big Leaf Foundation is a registered charity and relies on donations from both trusts and individuals to continue its work.

We're fortunate to have the constant support of individual donors who give to us each month, as well as grant funders who have supported us for the third or fourth year running.

This regular and repeat funding helps us to forward plan with confidence. But we remain committed to making these grants and donations stretch as far as we can, so that we can support as many young people as possible. With this in mind, we review our return as part of each project planning cycle to ensure it meets our standards.

We have a small and dedicated team of fundraising volunteers, who alongside our trustees and core team, research and make applications to funders. And we're delighted to have welcomed three new major donors this year.

Our huge thanks to all of our donors for your support. Together you're helping us to support more young people than ever before.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | for year ended March 2023

income	
Trusts & Grants	£172,287
Individual Donations	£48,004
Gift Aid & Interest	£5,965
total	
£226,256	
BROUGHT FORWARD from FY22 (ending March 2022)	
General Fund	£1,852
Restricted Funds	£160,350
Total brought forward £162,202	

expenditure	
Core Costs	£16,879
Staff Costs	£124,397
Project costs	£66,748
total	
£208,024	
CARRIED FORWARD to FY24 (ending March 2024)	
General Fund	£9,748
Restricted Funds	£170,686
Total brought forward £180,434	

This year we submitted our third independently reviewed accounts (for year ending March 2022) as part of our commitment to the Charity Commission. We are fortunate to receive this independent review pro bono as a generous donation of time and skill. This was our third full external financial review and resulted in a smooth sign off with no discrepancies.

Our FY23 (ending March 2023) accounts will be audited over the coming months in the same way and submitted to the Charity Commission in line with their requirements. The independent auditor's report will be available on our website and added to this review and republished.

restricted funds

Our staff are currently engaged as self-employed contractors rather than employees. In order to ensure we have funding allocated to secure their services during the year, we hold the funds for each role within a restricted fund.

We also use our restricted fund model to hold funding gifted by grants or donations allocated to specific programmes. This allows us to account and report more easily on our expenditure for a programme against a grant.

restricted funding includes

project name and/or funder	purpose
Active Surrey Basketball & Boxing	Funding for our new basketball programme and planned boxing sessions.
Anon. (private donor) Staff Costs and Casework drop in	Funding for Core Governance, Partnerships and Admin Coordinator and Casework drop-in facility.
Blagrave Trust The Listening Fund Youth leadership	Multiyear funding for the continuation of our Young Leaders programme and improving our listening work.
Community Foundation for Surrey Equine and core funding	Funding for our equine programme in collaboration with the Heart Centre & unrestricted grant funding to progress multiple programmes of work.
High Sheriff Youth Award Summer School	Funding for our Summer School programme.
Surrey Virtual School Education & enrichment	Partnership funding to support UASC with education and enrichment activities including our Summer Camp with Jamie's Farm.
Tides Foundation Ben & Jerry's Young Leaders	Funding for year two of our Young Leaders programme.
Tresanton Trust Casework, hub & translation services	Year 3 of a grant, providing funding for our two part-time caseworkers, our weekly youth hubs and translation services to support Casework.
Twelve Healers Trust & Healing Herbs Ltd. Staff costs	Funding for programme managers and our Communications & Campaigns Coordinator.
Youth Music, National Lottery & Arts Council England Music Connects	Funding for our collaborative music projects – bringing together young people from both displaced and local youth communities in Surrey to write and record music.

It's been great to see the number of monthly donations rise again this year, thanks to support from the local community. We've also made significant progress in diversifying our funding streams. It's our intention to diversify further,

both in terms of core funding and project funding. We're also exploring general fundraising through sponsored events and runs so that we can meet the growing demand for our services and support more young people through our work.

thank you

We'd like to thank everyone who has worked with us this year. From our funders to our brilliant team of volunteers – we couldn't have done it without you.

donors

- Active Surrey
- Arts Council England
- Ben & Jerry's Foundation (Tides)
- Community Foundation for Surrey
- Co-op Community Fund
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Salesforce
- Sport England
- Surrey Virtual School
- Surrey Hills National Landscape
- The High Sheriff of Surrey
- The Listening Fund
- The Tresanton Trust
- Twelve Healers Trust & Healing Herbs
- Youth Music

We'd also like to thank all of the individual donors who support us with regular or one-off donations throughout the year. There are too many names to list here but we remain grateful for your continued support.

partners

- Aristar Consulting | Paul Glynn
- Basketball4All | Bridget Hayward & Creon Raftopoulos
- BBC Radio Surrey | Nicky Patrick
- Child and Adult Mental Health Surrey | Sandra Forrester
- Couchman Hanson Solicitors | Alex Couchman
- Elmbridge CAN | Jeannie Tweedie, Steve Wells & team
- Guildford United Football Club | Colin Deans
- Horsell and Send Cricket Club | Phil Pemberton & team
- Jamie's Farm | Laura Johnson, Clare Martin, Sam Maynard & team
- Kings College Guildford | Nick Irwin
- Love the Ball | Tom Chapman & Sam
- Merstham Cricket Club | Rich Feist
- Pathways Plus | Tracy Humphries
- Redhill Rockets Football Club
- Surrey Arts | Jim Pinchen & team
- Surrey Virtual School | Cass Hardy & Lisa Scriven
- Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development | Ben Rayner
- Surrey Police | DCI Dave Bentley & PC Laura Madgwick-Smith
- Surrey University School of Law & WPO | Jessica Matthew (and the law students), Liz Williams & Thamsin Young
- The HEART Centre | Wendy Firmin-Price and the team
- The Hummingbird Project | Bex Large, Elaine Ortiz & Naqeeb Saide
- The Kennedy Club & St George's College | Jon Carr
- Together with Refugees Coalition
- Upskill Football Coaching | Nuno Carvahlo, Raymond Franco & Farouk Ladjouzi
- Zero Carbon Guildford | Ben McCallan & Steph Bleach

volunteers

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Abby Auty | Will Fauvet | Akira Takenaka | core team |
| Toby Athersuch | Kavyan Hajirostami | Naoe Takenaka | Daud Afzal |
| Martin Bangs | Sofia Janjua | Nikki Triffitt | Louise Baumberg |
| Emily Boyfield | Claire Launchbury | | Evie Booton |
| Annabel Boyle | Catherine Loy | trustees | Kayte Cable |
| Jaego Cable | Ash Mall | Vicki Felgate | Vicki Felgate |
| Jessame Cable | Jessica Mall | Sarah Phillips | Ella Hood |
| Richard Cable | Jane Manfield | Dave Wagstaff | Koye Sofoluwe |
| Alison Craze | Arianna Pisetti | Katie Wilson | |
| Hannah Dirks | Laura Ryan | Jocelyn Zanasi | |
| Ghaith Durkawi | Emma Stevenson | | |

support us

We can only achieve our aims with your help. Your support will mean that displaced young people in Surrey will be able to rediscover their potential and find their place in the local community.

donate

Your money will help to fund projects that combat social isolation and improve wellbeing among young refugees and asylum seekers in Surrey.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/support-us

partner with us

We work with a growing network of organisations and individuals to develop projects that will inspire our young people. If you have a project idea that you'd like to talk to us about please email

contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

volunteer

We're a small and dedicated team, determined to support and empower displaced young people. If this sounds like something you want to help us achieve please get in touch.

contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

keep in touch

Follow us on social media for the latest news, campaigns and updates.

[@BigLeafSurrey](https://www.instagram.com/BigLeafSurrey)



Image © Vicki Felgate / Big Leaf Foundation

“

It is incredible to see a group of people who really want to help asylum seekers and refugees to create a life in the UK, to create something good for our lives. To help us with education and knowledge that is so important for us. We are completely grateful and honoured to be helped.

”



Finalist in BBC Radio Surrey's **Make a Difference Awards**
Surrey Police **Chief Constable's Charity** of the year 2022/2023

Section B Balance sheet

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets (Note 9)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 10)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets						
Stock and work in progress	B05	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 11)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
(Short term) investments	B07	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	B08	10,212	170,221	-	180,434	-
Total current assets	B09	10,212	170,221	-	180,434	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 12)	B10	-	-	-	-	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B11	10,212	170,221	-	180,434	-
Total assets less current liabilities	B12	10,212	170,221	-	180,434	-
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 12)	B13	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets	B15	10,212	170,221	-	180,434	-
Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted funds	B16	10,212			10,212	-
	B17	-			-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 13)	B18		170,221		170,221	-
Endowment funds (Note 13)	B19			-	-	-
Total funds	B20	10,212	170,221	-	180,434	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Jocelyn Zanasi	4th April 2023

Cells highlighted in Yellow contain formulas to add up columns C,D and E but these are not protected cells

Cells highlighted in Blue contain formulas in protected cells. The protection can be removed from the tools menu

Note 1 **Basis of preparation**

This section should be completed by all charities .

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005);
- and with* Accounting Standards;
- or Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE);
- and with the Charities Act.

[** except for the following].

Give details in this box if a different standard has been followed.

* -Tick as appropriate:

- if all relevant disclosures shown in the pack have been given then please tick “Accounting Standards”;
- if disclosures completed in these accounts have been restricted to those required by the FRSSE, then please tick “Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE)”.

** - If no departures from the chosen standards have been made then delete these words; otherwise give details of any changes in the boxes.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

Give details in this box of any material changes that have been made.

§ if no changes have been made to accounting policies then delete these words.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years

Give details in this box of any material changes that have been made.

§§ if no changes have been made to accounts for previous periods then delete these words.

Note 2 Accounting policies

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those deleted. Where a different or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

INCOMING RESOURCES**Recognition of incoming resources**

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.

Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.

Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated services and facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer help The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment income This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment gains and losses This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance costs Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with performance conditions Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants payable without performance conditions These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

Support Costs Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt.

Investments Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

Stocks and work in progress These are valued at the lower of cost or market value.

**POLICIES ADOPTED ADDITIONAL
TO OR DIFFERENT FROM THOSE
ABOVE**

N/A



Note 3 Analysis of incoming resources

Incoming resources may be further analysed if this would help the reader of the accounts.

	Analysis	This year £	Last year £
Voluntary income - Donations	General fund Donations + gift aid	21,958	13,202
	Restricted fund donations - Private donor - Contractor costs	163,918	23,998
	Grants & Project Funds	69,765	55,897
		-	-
	Total	255,640	93,097
Activities for generating funds		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total	-	-
Investment income		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total	-	-

Incoming resources from charitable activities

	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-



Gift aid	13541.39
----------	----------

Note 4 Analysis of resources expended

Resources expended may be further analysed if this would help the reader of the accounts.

	Analysis	This year £	Last year £
Costs of generating voluntary income	All income generated by volunteers or by Trustees without costs	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total	-	-
Fundraising trading costs	No fundraising costs incurred	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total	-	-
Investment management costs	No Investment costs incurred	-	-
		-	-
	Total	-	-
Charitable activities	Contractor Cost	119,726	-
	Project Cost	44,406	-

General Costs, including travel, insurance, telephony, translations	27,766	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	191,898	-

Governance costs

No Governance cost incurred	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-

Note 5 Support Costs

Please complete this note if the charity has analysed its expenses using activity categories and has support costs.

Support cost type	Fundraising activity £	Charitable Activity £	Governance Activity £	Total Cost £
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Note 6 Details of certain items of expenditure

6.1 Trustee expenses

Please provide details of the amount of any payment or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses made to trustees or to third parties for expenses incurred by trustees. If no expenses were paid, please enter 'None' in the appropriate box(es).

Number of trustees who were paid expenses

This year	Last year
2	

Nature of the expenses

Total amount paid

Project cost reimbursement . Vicki Ashraf Felgate, David Wagstaff & Jocelyn Zanasi	Project cost reimbursement . Vicki Ashraf Felgate, David Wagstaff & Jocelyn Zanasi
£4,995	£1,400

6.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Please provide details of the amount paid for any statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by your independent examiner or auditor. If nothing was paid please enter NONE in the appropriate box(es).

Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts

Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor

This year £	Last year £
0	0
0	0

ProBono

ProBono

Section C

Notes to the accounts

(cont)

Note 7

Paid employees

Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

7.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	-	-
Employer's National Insurance costs	-	-
Pension costs	-	-
Total staff costs	-	-

7.2 Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	-	-
Governance	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	-	-

7.3 Defined contribution pension scheme

Please complete if a defined contribution pension scheme is operated.

Brief details of the scheme

<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">This year</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Last year</td> </tr> </table>		This year		Last year
	This year		Last year	

The costs of the scheme to the charity for the year
The amount of any contributions outstanding at the year end
The amount of any contributions prepaid at the year end

£	£



All team members are self employed contractors or volunteers

No employees

Note 8 Grantmaking

Please complete this note if the charity made any grants or donations which in aggregate form a material part of the charitable activities undertaken.

8.1 Total value of grants

Purpose for which grants made	Grants to institutions Total amount £	Grants to individuals Total amount £
No grants were made	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-

8.1 Grantmaking costs

If the charity's accounts are prepared on the "activity basis" please give details of any support cost associated with grantmaking. Please enter "Nil" if the charity does not identify and/or allocate support costs.

Support costs of grantmaking

£

8.3 Grants made to institutions



Section C

Notes to the accounts

(cont)

Note 9

Tangible fixed assets

Please complete this note if the charity has any tangible fixed assets

9.1 Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Payments on account and assets under construction	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-

9.2 Accumulated depreciation and impairment provisions

**Basis	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB
** Rate					

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-
-------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Depreciation charge for year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment provisions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-

9.3 Net book value

Brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-

9.4 Revaluation

If any fixed assets have been revalued please give details of the valuer and method of valuation

--

* The "transfers" row is for movements between fixed asset categories.

** Please indicate the method of depreciation by deleting the method not applicable (SL = straight line; RB = reducing balance). Also please indicate the rate of depreciation: for straight line, what is the anticipated life of the asset (in years); for reducing balance, what is the percentage annual deduction.

No Fixed assets owned

Note 10 Investment assets

Please complete this note if the charity has any investment assets.

10.1 Fixed assets investments

	£
Carrying (market) value at beginning of year	-
Add: additions to investments at cost	-
Less: disposals at carrying value	-
Add/(deduct): net gain/(loss) on revaluation	-
Carrying (market) value at end of year	-

Please provide below:

10.2 A breakdown of the market values of investments shown above agreeing with the balance sheet row B03.

10.3 A breakdown of the income from investments agreeing with SOFA row S03.

Analysis of investments**Investment properties**

10.2 Market value at year end £	10.3 Income from investments for the year £
-	-

Investments listed on a recognised stock exchange or held in common investment funds, open ended investment companies, unit trusts or other collective investment schemes

Investments in subsidiary or connected undertakings and companies

Securities not listed on a recognised Stock Exchange

Cash held as part of the investment portfolio

Other investments

	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-

10.4 Material investment holdings

If any single investment is material in terms of its value (for example represents more than 5 per cent of the value of the charity's total investments) please provide details.

Investment held

Market Value



No investments in place

Section C**Notes to the accounts****(cont)****Note 11 Debtors and prepayments***Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.***Analysis of debtors**

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Trade debtors	-	-	-	-
Amounts due from subsidiary and associated undertakings	-	-	-	-
Other debtors	-	-	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Note 12 Creditors and accruals*Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.***12.1 Analysis of creditors**

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	-	-	-	-
Amounts due to subsidiary and associated undertakings	-	-	-	-

Other creditors

Accruals and deferred income

	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

12.2 Security over assets

If any loan, overdraft or other creditor holds a charge or other security over any assets of the charity please provide details.

--



No debtors

No creditors

Note 13 Endowment and restricted income funds

Please complete this section if the charity has any endowment or restricted income funds.

13.1 Funds held

Please give a brief description of any of the following type of funds held by the charity:

- permanent endowment funds (PE);
- expendable endowment funds (EE); and
- restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity (R).

Fund Name	Type PE, EE or R	Pur
Restricted Fund - Contractor (Kayte)	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund Program Direc
Restricted Fund - Hub Programme Manager	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund ProgramMana
Restricted Fund - Sports Programme Manager	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund Sports Progra
Restricted Fund - 4th Contractor (Comms)	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund Comms Progr
Restricted Fund - Campaign Temp role	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund for Equine pro
Restricted Fund - Mash - Training	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund for Contractor
Restricted Fund - Equine	R	Charity Grant - Guildford Philanthropy - Restricted t
Restricted Fund - Hub	R	Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fun
Restricted Fund - Case Work (Louise)	R	Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fun
Restricted Fund - 2nd Case Work (Ella)	R	Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fun
Restricted Fund - Language Line	R	Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fun
Restricted Fund - Translation Grant	R	Charity Grant - Surrey CC - Restricted to fund Civic
Restricted Fund - Bangs - Governance and Admin role	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund for Governanc

Restricted Fund - Bangs - Casework drop in	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund for Casework
Restricted Fund - ESOL	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund for ESOL less
Restricted Fund - AB Charitable	R	Charity Grant - AB Charitable - Unrestricted usage f
Restricted Fund - National Found Youth Music Grant	R	Charity Grant - National Foundation Youth Music -
Restricted Fund - Tides - Young Leaders Program	R	Charity Grant - Tides Foundation - Ben and Jerrys l
Restricted Fund - Afghan Project	R	Charity Grant - Surrey CC - Restricted to fund for Af
Closing Balance Lottery Fund	R	Charity Grant - National Lottery - Restricted to fund

13.2 Movements of major funds

Please give details of the movements of the major funds summarised in the restricted and endowment columns of the Statement of

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	-	-	-	-

13.3 Transfers between funds

Please give details of any transfers between funds.

From Fund (Name)	To Fund (Name)	Reason



purpose and Restrictions

Director Role Contractor
Manager - East Surrey - Contractor
Team Manager Role Contractor
Team Manager Role Contractor
Project
training
to fund Equine therapy Project
ded weekly Hub - ESOL, Maths and wellbeing
ded Caseworked - Contractor
ded 2nd Caseworked - Contractor
ded language translation
ded 19 Guidance translations
ded e and Admin Contractor

drop in facility
ons
und for Core costs - Held as Restricted fund for accounting purposes
Music Connects Program
Ice Cream - Young Leaders Program Fund
igan Evacuee Hotel Project
residential ESOL, Maths and wellbeing program

Financial Activities.

Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
-	-
-	-

-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

	Amount

Note 14 Transactions with related parties

If the charity has any transactions with related parties (other than the trustee expenses explained in note 6) details of such transactions should be provided in this note. If there are no transactions to report, please enter "None" in the relevant boxes.

14.1 Remuneration and benefits

Please give the amount of, and legal authority for, any remuneration or other benefits paid to a trustee or other related parties by the charity or any institution or company connected with it.

Name of trustee or connected party	Legal authority (eg order, governing document)	Amounts paid or benefit value	
		This year £	Last year £

14.2 Loans

Please give details of and amounts owing to or from the charity's trustees or other related parties by the charity at the year end.

Name of trustee or connected party	Legal authority	Amount owing	
		This year £	Last year £
Due to trustees and related parties			

Due from trustees and related parties

--	--	--	--

14.3 Other transaction(s) with trustees or related parties

Please give details of any transaction undertaken by (or on behalf of) the charity in which a trustee or related party has a material interest.

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity	Description of the transaction(s)	This year £	Last year £



None

No Loans given

Section C**Notes to the accounts****(cont)****Note 15****Additional Disclosures**

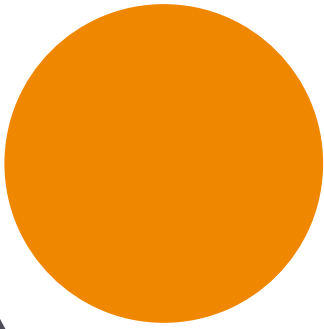
The following are significant matters which are not covered in other notes and need to be included to provide a proper understanding of the accounts. If there is insufficient room here, please add a separate sheet.



BIG LEAF FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1181180

Accounts



Big Leaf Foundation

annual review

april 2021

contents

04 about us	05 about our beneficiaries	06 our approach
07 our achievements	17 priorities for the year ahead	18 governance & management
20 finance & accounts	22 thank you	23 support us

Editorial: Vicki Felgate, Louise Baumberg, Kayte Cable, Rachel Ellis & Ben Monro
Design: Vicki Felgate Cover images: Big Leaf Foundation

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welcome

What an unexpected year it has been for everyone. None of us could have predicted the challenges so suddenly thrown up by a global pandemic, or the ever-changing situation that ensued. The new world into which we were plunged turned all of our plans on their heads and we found ourselves having to rethink and rebuild all of our programmes, almost overnight.

We knew from the start that the vital information around keeping safe from COVID was not necessarily reaching people whose first language was not English and we wanted all the young people we support to be as clear as possible on how to keep themselves safe. We knew that the ever-changing guidelines and rules around social distancing, as well as the surge in fake news and misinformation, meant that simple and accessible information for everyone was more important than ever.

We were deeply concerned about the impact of enforced isolation on the young people we support who are often already so alone; and were particularly worried about all those arriving who would not be able to connect with their new community in lockdown.

And we knew that for many, educational progress was likely to be severely impacted, either due to reduced provision, limits on access or the enormous challenge of sustaining motivation for online learning over such a long time.

But we also knew that Big Leaf needed to respond to these challenges – to ensure our young people knew they were not forgotten, and to remain committed to our fundamental belief that where there is hardship, there is also hope.

And in the midst of all these challenges and concerns, there came times of real opportunity and optimism.

Moving projects online meant that we could reach young people all across Surrey, and not only build our understanding of their needs and hopes, but also adjust our projects accordingly.

Being compelled to think creatively brought us ideas we hadn't considered before, and in exchanging ideas with like-minded organisations, we discovered new connections that have turned into lasting partnerships.

Through all of this, Big Leaf itself has continued to grow. In the last year we have welcomed a new trustee, three new paid staff and 10 new volunteers. It's this incredible commitment, passion and diversity of experience within our team that enabled us to reach more young people, run more projects, raise more funds to support our work and expand our ideas and plans for the year ahead.

We continue to be amazed by the generosity of the people around us, from our funders and individual donors to the many people offering to help in other ways. But most of all we're inspired by the young people we support, by their willingness to show up, engage and grasp opportunities and support when it's offered, even in the most difficult of times.

As we move into what we all hope is a more optimistic time for the world, we're taking with us the knowledge that there is a whole community around us who share our determination to help these incredible young people begin their new lives.

Kayte & Vicki
Big Leaf Foundation Founders

Big Leaf Foundation, PO Box 1544, Woking, GU24 8UH
www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk | contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

UK Registered Charity Number 1181180



Image © Vicki Felgate / Big Leaf Foundation

about us

Our vision is of a community where displaced young people are valued, supported and given the opportunity to create better outcomes for themselves.

Big Leaf Foundation is a small charity working with displaced young people aged 16-25 living in Surrey.

Our aim is to provide a nurturing programme of activities, projects and events that focus on combating social isolation and improving wellbeing for the young people we support.

We want to engage the young people we work with to be excited about the opportunities available to them, and to value their unique talents and abilities so that they can rediscover their potential and move forward with renewed optimism.

We want to support and empower these young people to know they are more than the status they have been given, and help them find their place within the local community.

Our projects range from sports, equine-assisted learning and creative arts projects to providing casework support and residential workshops, alongside our new online programme, built in response to the restrictions on social contact during the pandemic.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/about

“

“First time in my life I have this big enjoy. First time I big happy. In Afghanistan... only sad and pain. My life on farm big big enjoy. My first long happy in my life.”

B about his time with Big Leaf at Jamie's Farm

about our beneficiaries

The young people we support have all been forced to leave their homes – many fled conflict and religious or political persecution, some were trafficked, some were kidnapped from their families and forced to train as child soldiers, and others were promised the dream of a better life and smuggled to the UK at huge cost to their families.

Surrey remains the third largest receiver of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in the UK – there are around 145 (under 18s) living in care in the county. And there are many more displaced young people who were resettled in Surrey with their families as part of the government's Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) or who arrived as UASC and have now turned 18 but still need support.

Over the past year, we have worked with 70 young people – from Albania, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Kurdistan, Libya, Niger, Sudan, Syria, Vietnam and Yemen.

The majority of young people we support arrive as UASC. Each has a unique story of how they came to the UK but the challenges they face once here are similar.

Separated children arrive alone, often in shock and without language or cultural understanding, and have to navigate their new lives, and the long and complex asylum system, without the support of family or friends. Even for those who come with family, the experience can be overwhelming, confusing and incredibly difficult.

Cut off from everything that is familiar to them, displaced young people are particularly vulnerable to loneliness, isolation, anxiety and boredom. They face huge barriers in accessing legal support, education, employment and, most importantly, in finding a community.

These issues have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with no way to make new friends, difficulties accessing education and an increase in targeted scams and disinformation leaving them even more isolated and fearful.

Some are living in limbo, awaiting a decision from the Home Office as to whether they'll be allowed to remain in the UK or if they'll be forcibly returned to the countries they once fled. For these young people in particular it can be impossible to imagine any kind of a future.

But despite these challenges, and the trauma and anxiety about family or friends left behind, the young people we work with are strong, resilient and determined, and given the right support can thrive in their new communities.

“

R was lucky enough to meet people who supported him to feel safe and embrace the opportunities available to him. Through determination and hard work, he's now started an electrical apprenticeship. He's a person who has come a long way and will go far.”

Petrina, foster carer

our approach

We're a growing team of passionate individuals, determined to support and empower displaced young people to know they are more than their status, and help them find their place within their local community.

Our team includes refugee care and migration studies experts, experienced youth workers, ex-social workers and finance, project management, fundraising and communications specialists. The team has combined experience of more than 20 years working with displaced young people.

our values

Trust & Transparency

Nothing is more important to us than trust, because so many of our young people have experienced a world in which they can trust no one. It's essential that we build trusted relationships with our young people, and that they have confidence that we will always act in their best interests. We do this through maintaining high standards of openness, honesty and transparency.

Equality

We approach everything we do with a deep sense of empathy and compassion. We strive to create a sense of community to which we all belong, on equal footing and to create a safe, secure and non-judgemental space for young people to engage and build new friendships, explore new activities, and uncover their talents and passions.

Growth

Everything we do is focused on promoting the personal growth of our young people – growth that allows them to know they are more than the status they have been given and that each one of them is unique and valued.

working in partnership

Working in partnership with local organisations, agencies and business is an important part of our approach. These partners bring valuable skills and experience to our work but this also enables us to build community engagement and create understanding and trust in the place we all live. Over the last two years Big Leaf has built has a network of more than 25 community and multi-agency partners who are core to delivering our projects.

“

“Big Leaf works closely with us to enable access to education, combat isolation and improve wellbeing. Each project, event or online interaction makes a profound and lasting impact. It's a privilege to work in partnership with the team and to witness their unequivocal support for our young people.”

Anna, Surrey Virtual School

over the past year we:

- launched **10 projects** including a new online programme
- engaged 70 displaced young people** in our projects, 33% more than the previous year
- provided **28 young people** with **casework support**
- more than doubled capacity with **3 new part-time staff**
- engaged a team of **volunteers** who together have **given 1500 hours** to supporting displaced young people
- partnered with 9 new local organisations and agencies** to deliver our projects
- raised more than £90,000** to support our work.

our achievements

Over the past year we have launched 10 projects – focused around health and wellbeing, building relationships and staying connected during lockdown and providing opportunities for learning. This has included a new casework service (below), our online Keep Talking programme (p10), an outdoor summer school (p12), a summer activity week (p13) and a music project in partnership with Surrey Arts (p14).
Read on to find out more.

CASEWORK | ensuring young people have access to the support they need

We launched our new casework service in April 2020, providing tailored advice and advocacy and helping young people understand and access the services to which they are entitled.

Our caseworker worked with 28 young people over the last year, supporting them to access welfare, legal, healthcare, education or recreation services.

Much of our casework provision is around giving young people emotional support in the difficult situations in which they find themselves and acting as an advocate for them.

Building relationships where the young people trust that we genuinely care about their wellbeing and will be honest with them is essential. We know it makes a difference for the young people to feel that someone is helping them and they are not alone.

One of our young people recently said **“Big Leaf is always on your side”** and this is perhaps the greatest compliment we can hope for.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/casework

case study

Most colleges moved to online learning in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. With timetables often subject to change at the last minute, B struggled to follow what he was meant to be doing and when, and had problems accessing online lessons.

Our caseworker supported him to raise these issues with the college and as a result, the college assigned B a Progress Coach to help him access online learning and catch up with the work he'd missed.

Without Big Leaf's support, B would have found it very difficult to access his studies and would have been at risk of disengaging altogether. He's now engaging and working well.

“

“Louise has gone above and beyond in supporting my young person... attending medical appointments, ensuring interpreters are available and finding educational support. She offers so much support and guidance.”

Ann, keyworker

over the past year we also:

- recruited and trained **3 new casework volunteers** to enable us to increase our casework provision
- introduced a **new database system with multi-factor authentication** to ensure all sensitive data is secure

- engaged with local MP** on the cases of two YP who have waited more than 18 months for their substantive interviews.
- With thanks to **The Tresanton Trust** for funding our casework provision.

SUPPORTING THROUGH TRANSLATION |

helping keep young people safe

It's essential that displaced young people have access to the same information as everyone else, and are not further disadvantaged or at risk because of their low level of English.

translated covid-19 updates

Over the last year, the government has released extensive guidance about COVID-19 – the signs and symptoms, what to do if you think you have it and the rules you must follow to help prevent spreading it. But very little of this is available in the languages spoken within our local displaced community and the translated guidance that does exist is often complicated and relies on people having a high level of literacy in their own language, something that's not always present among our beneficiaries.

Since the pandemic started we've created simple translations, in up to 12 different languages, each time there has been a significant new update to the guidance.

combating fake news

Fake news and malicious disinformation have surged during the pandemic, with reports of vulnerable or minority groups being deliberately targeted.

Misleading health advice and ill-informed conspiracy theories put everyone at risk. But at a time when lockdown and social distancing measures have pushed people back into their rooms with the internet for company, we have been increasingly concerned about the risk to the young people we support.

In response, we created a short film in 10 languages representative of our displaced young people – to help them identify, and avoid spreading, fake news.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/fake-news-film

over the past year we also:

- made and **distributed 100 reusable fabric facemasks** to displaced young people throughout Surrey
- created a simple **leaflet in 12 languages** showing the **main SMS scams** & tips on how to check a message is real

These translations have been shared through our network of partners and direct with young people themselves to ensure they reach all who need them.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/covid-19-advice

“

“These are so helpful, thank you.”

Janine, Children & Family Health Surrey



“

“I have just watched the film and it is brilliant, clear and accessible.”

Kalyani, British Red Cross

With thanks to **The National Lottery Community Fund** and the **Community Foundation for Surrey** for their continued support in funding our COVID-19 translations.



Image © M



Image © H

KEEP TALKING | staying connected through lockdown

We developed a range of online activities to help local displaced young people stay connected, with us and each other, during lockdown. Our Keep Talking programme has helped young people improve English, be creative and share concerns about health and education throughout the pandemic.

2020 presented new challenges for us all. But for the young people we support it was especially difficult, with limited access to school and college, no way to make new friends and worries about keeping safe or about friends and family back home. With the pandemic restricting movement, we couldn't to run our normal activities and we were concerned that our young people were at greater risk of isolation. We needed to create something to help them keep talking.

We teamed up with some of our trusted partners to provide a wide selection of activities – from creative arts, cartooning and photography to sport and fitness and English and maths.

“

It was an absolute pleasure to help. I was over the moon with their engagement... joking and having fun.”

Mohamed, Keep Talking volunteer

photography

During the first lockdown, we worked with acclaimed photographer, Kate Stanworth, to set weekly challenges that young people could complete at home using camera phones.

Kate invited our young people to take photos of something that interested them on their daily walk, be it the park, streets or a local footpath.

ABOVE | M's image (top left) shows his creative use of filters with a rainbow, the symbol of thanks to NHS staff during the pandemic, overlaid on a photo of his favourite tree. H's image (**top right**) shows his own reflection in the stream he passed each day on his walk.

as part of our keep talking programme we also:

- distributed **50 lockdown activity packs**, containing art materials, origami and seeds to grow indoors
- held a **virtual Iftar celebration** – delivering homemade meals and hosting an online session to break fast together
- hosted regular **'ask a question' sessions** for young people to get online support with homework
- ran a **Friday night 'film night'** exploring different genres of film and talking about our favourite films.

creative arts

We've seen first-hand at our summer camp the powerful impact art can have on displaced young people – offering distraction from daily stressors and instead providing calm focus and opportunities for positive connections to the past.

Working with graphic journalist, Dan Archer, and Big Leaf co-founder and artist, Vicki, we created video tutorials on cartooning and origami for people to try at home. We also ran a series of online art lessons.

“

“I really like drawing more than anything because when I start drawing I don't think about anything else, I don't stress and I just focus on drawing.” **M**

English and maths

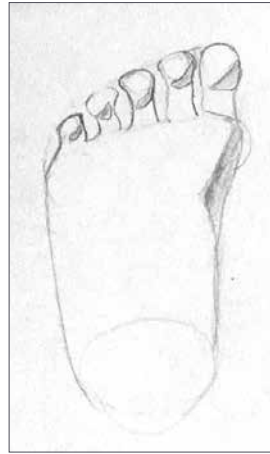
We've been running English and maths lessons online for young people still awaiting college places or those in college but wanting some extra support. These sessions are deliberately dynamic and informal and there is always a lot of laughter. We have a fantastic team of translators and volunteers supporting the sessions and the group has found a level of familiarity and ease which means the classes combine learning and achievement with a sense of fun and friendship.

sport and fitness

Our online sport and fitness sessions have provided an opportunity for young people to keep fit and improve their English through talking about the sports they love.

The weekly workout segments, where the group warm-up and train together, have been a great motivational and team-building space which the young people have really enjoyed.

£ With thanks to the **Community Foundation for Surrey** for funding our Keep Talking programme and to all of our **volunteers, translators and partners** who supported us to make this programme a success.



Illustrations © M

ABOVE | M's artwork which focused on the human form and the photos (**opposite**) were featured in a lockdown-inspired exhibition in Guildford in the summer.

“

“Lockdown was the hardest time for me as I have never experienced anything like it before. However, I kept myself busy by practising my English and doing different activities. I was studying English on zoom [with Big Leaf]. It was sensational. I learned a lot of new words and sentences.” **H**

Collectively, these online activities have created a safe space and opportunity for regular interactions to take place; for young people to share concerns about health and education, or raise questions about the pandemic in general while also connecting with new friends and improving their language skills.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/keep-talking



Image © Louise Baumberg / Big Leaf Foundation

SUMMER HIVE SCHOOL | outdoor learning after lockdown

This summer we ran an outdoor Summer Hive School in Guildford to help displaced young people re-engage with learning after the disruption of the lockdown period, and introduce those new to the UK to the basics of English ahead of the start of the college year.

We heard from key workers, foster carers and young people themselves that the long period of lockdown affected their mental wellbeing and made it difficult for them to engage with college work – sometimes due to technical or accessibility issues, but also because of a lack of focus and growing lethargy towards engagement of any sort.

We wanted to address this. But restrictions meant we couldn't run sessions indoors. So we borrowed a pop-up classroom from the Human Hive and ran an outdoor summer school in a local park.

The weather in the UK can be unpredictable at best. Some days the heat was so intense that everyone was tired and distracted. Other days there were gales that blew away our cardboard whiteboards and threatened to take the classroom too. Then there was the rain, which came in sideways and soaked everyone, and a thunderstorm...

...but the joy of language learning is that everything, including the weather, provides an opportunity to learn.

“

“The team have given B enormous help to further develop and improve his English, general knowledge and overall confidence. I simply cannot thank them enough.”

Foster carer talking about the impact of the summer school.



© Kayte Cable / Big Leaf Foundation

Claps of thunder led to discussions about different words for sounds. The heat brought about a list of words to do with exhaustion, and the importance of knowing the difference between *knackered* and *naked*. Running for cover from the rain into the multi-storey carpark provided new light opportunities for our photography session.

“

“It was great. I loved it all.” A



Images © Vicki Felgate / Big Leaf Foundation

SUMMER ACTIVITY WEEK | re-imagining our summer camp

Covid restrictions meant we couldn't run our annual summer residential at Trill Farm in Devon. But having seen the impact of lockdown on our young people we knew we had to do something in its place. If we couldn't go to Trill, then we should take as much as possible from our Trill experience, and bring it to us.

Working with a brilliant team of partners, we organised a week of activities in Surrey. We wanted to remain true to our Trill outcomes: to give young people the chance to be outside, and in company (especially after so much time inside and alone); to create time and space to breathe; to boost language skills through participation in a range of different activities; to interact with the community around us; to eat well and to have fun.

We spent a day with the team at The Heart Centre in Ockham. Working with horses, building trust through grooming, and leading them through the obstacle course in the paddock, had such a calming effect and even the most nervous participant immersed himself in the tasks.

over the summer we also:

- 🍷 ran a **woodcraft session with Big Hat Bushcamp** – making music sticks and cooking together over an open fire
- 🍷 joined forces with Surrey Virtual School to take **6 young people to Jamie's Farm for an activity day.**

We went to Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development centre in the hills just outside of Dorking, first for wood whittling and leatherwork and then later for climbing and high rope activities.

The first day at SOLD was a different pace... activities that required the use of hands, attention to detail, and focus. H spent two hours carefully shaping and engraving a walking stick for his foster carer and another showed us how they used to decorate sticks back home. But the second day was full of energy, a chance to challenge themselves and to support one another as they climbed, abseiled and leapt (with a harness) from the high trapeze.

In between, there was music, food, organic gardening at the wonderful Rosamund Community Garden in the pouring rain and whole lot of laughter.

“

"I could come often to see friends and learn English, and have fun, so I wasn't lonely this time." **A**

www.bigleafoundation.org.uk/blog/keep-talking-activity-week-2020

🇬🇧 With huge thanks to **everyone who donated to our crowdfunding campaign** to support our summer activities and to **The Human Hive** and all our partners for their kindness and support.



Pixabay

MUSIC CONNECTS | bringing young people together

2020 presented many challenges, not least the increase in isolation for young people already very much alone. But it also brought opportunities. Opportunities to engage new young people, new partners and to think creatively about how to respond to the ever-changing situation. Music is a great connector and connection is something we all needed. In December we launched a new collaborative music project to bring together young people from both displaced and local youth communities to write and record a song.

Talking to people about our work and why we do it is important to Big Leaf. It gives us a chance to correct false or malicious narratives in public discourse and share the human, rather than political, side of displacement.

During lockdown we were invited to speak to several sixth-form groups about issues of displacement, and on each occasion, it was notable that most students had heard negative misinformation about refugees and asylum seekers. But after hearing from our team many were keen to help.

The challenge is that these two peer groups rarely have the opportunity to meet each other. Our Music Connects project was designed to change this.

Working with the brilliant team at Surrey Arts, we created a new songwriting project bringing displaced and local teenagers together through a series of online sessions, that cut across language and cultural divides.

We didn't want this to be a project where local young people came to "help" displaced young people. We wanted to create an equal footing from the start while still embracing the seven different languages and the range of musical tastes and experiences within the group. We wanted to acknowledge the diversity and the commonality – and there was so much of both.

We were delighted to have two professional musicians with us on this project. Representing two very different musical genres, Manchester rapper, DJ and producer Chimpó, and the 90s pop icon, performer and songwriter Chesney Hawkes, worked side-by-side with the tutors and young song writers while providing unique insights into the music industry.

“

“It's been so great working with everyone on the project... from different countries, different parts of the world, different backgrounds... it's been so great to gain an idea of different cultures and just make amazing music together.”

Music Connects participant

Together the team ran a series of online workshops focused around songwriting, performing and recording. But it was the first few sessions, building a sense of trust and community between the young people (and the tutors), that were perhaps the most important. We shared favourite songs and examples of music from around the world and the tutors led activities that encouraged movement and broke through any shyness or self-consciousness. And when it came to creating the song, it all fell together so naturally because everyone felt relaxed, safe and supported to share their ideas.

They spoke of how the pandemic had brought us all together in a shared experience, that has at times been difficult, lonely and anxious. From this came the idea to write about a different place – a place that is beautiful, peaceful and safe, and most importantly, somewhere you will not be alone.

This idea also gave space to talk about other things: anxiety, self-doubt, identities, friendship and love, subjects everyone could recognise. And **“remember who you are”** became a leitmotif of the song.

The song is now in its final mixing stage and we can't wait to share it.

Follow us on twitter www.twitter.com/bigleafoundation1 or on our website www.bigleafoundation.org.uk for more information about the song release.

“

“It's helped me gain so much more confidence, it's such an amazing experience... it's been absolutely amazing getting to know all of these different people that I otherwise probably would never have met.” **Music Connects participant**

This was a new approach for us. It was exhilarating and at times, overwhelming. But the feedback from participants speaks for itself. We want a community that is willing to reach across different languages and life experience and that sees strength and opportunity in its diversity. Perhaps it's our teenagers who can do this better than any of us.

£ With huge thanks to the **National Lottery Community Fund** for funding our Music Connects project, and to **ACM, Chimpo, Chesney Hawkes**, the brilliant **Surrey Arts** team and our **volunteer translators**.



© Kayte Cable / Big Leaf Foundation

ABOVE | The Academy for Contemporary Music (ACM) offered us use of their flagship studio in Guildford for the final recording. Restrictions meant we couldn't record together but the studio experience was a source of huge excitement for everyone and as people arrived and left, there were shouts and waves as they recognised other faces from the screens of the preceding weeks.



Images © Vicki Felgate & Louise Baumberg / Big Leaf Foundation

EAST SURREY LAUNCH | celebrating our new programmes

To celebrate our expansion into East Surrey, we took a group of young people from Redhill and the surrounding area to Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development (SOLD) for a day of activities.

Providing much-needed respite following months of lockdown, our first in-person event of 2021 focused on those *most* isolated. It was a chance to connect, to make friends and to be outdoors. For most, it was the first time we had met off screen and the power of in-person connection was shared by participants and the team alike.

Surrounded by greenery in SOLD's peaceful grounds at High Ashurst, the morning was about getting to know each other, practising English and team-bonding through games and activities. We drew hand mandalas to reflect our likes and dislikes, and share our hopes for the future. We worked in groups, with each team competing to get as many people jumping together, in time, using a Japanese Nawatobi (a giant skipping rope) and we ate lunch *together*, after so much time in lockdown eating alone.

In the afternoon, it was over to the brilliant SOLD instructors for some climbing, abseiling and high ropes. The group supported one another, both physically and mentally, anchoring each other during the climbs and shouting words of encouragement from below.

The 'let it land' session at the end provided a chance to reflect and share thoughts about the day. Everyone said **"meeting new friends"** was the best thing about it. But there was another shared theme in the responses and A's words capture it best: **"It was my happiest day since coming to UK."**

The SOLD launch event was a special day and an exciting glimpse of the potential for us to offer support in East Surrey. But most importantly, it reminded us about the importance of human interaction and social networks for vulnerable young people during an incredibly challenging and isolating year.

“

"I can't thank you enough. M really enjoyed it. He showed me pictures on his phone as soon as he got in the car! Thank you for giving him this opportunity." **Molly, Social Worker**

£ With huge thanks to **Surrey Virtual School** for its support in funding our activity day and to the brilliant team at SOLD for making our visit so special.

priorities for the year ahead

Big Leaf Foundation is entering its third year. We have a brilliant and dedicated team but also a growing number of displaced young people in need of our support. The last year has shown us that where there is hardship there is also hope and we know that with your support we can continue to make a positive difference in the lives of these young people.

expanding our programmes

In late 2020, in response to growing demand, we expanded our activities and geographical reach to provide much-needed support for young people in and around the Redhill area. Our East Surrey programme seeks to build on previous successes in other parts of the county – combining a range of sports with a regular drop-in hub, while also creating new activities to suit the interests and needs of participants.

Over the coming year we will expand to facilitate educational and vocational opportunities in East Surrey, developing participatory approaches to include young people in their own development.

Working with local partners we will also grow our sports programme to combine football with tailored ESOL classes. The I Speak Football programme will focus on English language and literacy through both playing and studying football.

supporting young leaders

We are committed to supporting displaced young people to participate in the development and leadership of Big Leaf. Our new Young Leaders programme, launching this autumn, will support young people to build their confidence and knowledge. Using a trauma-informed approach to explore identity, advocacy, leadership and legal rights we aim to help participants feel more empowered within themselves, their local community and within Big Leaf itself.

amplifying our voice

Big Leaf Foundation is entering its third year and we're growing – both in terms of the number of young people we support and our geographical spread. To ensure we can continue to fulfil our objectives we need to engage more people in our work and make our collective 'voice' louder through increased awareness of the issues and how people can help. But we also recognise the need to do more to improve the rights of displaced young people and/or ensure existing legal rights are upheld.

Over the coming year our new Communications and Campaigns Coordinator will expand and enhance our presence to engage more people in our work, and explore how Big Leaf can best support and add value to campaigns that work to improve and uphold refugee rights.

growing our knowledge

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us, but especially for the young people we support. The pandemic has kept people in their homes, sometimes with just the internet for company, and the impact of this enforced isolation and changing context shouldn't be underestimated. We're committed to responding to this. Over the coming year we will focus on growing our team's knowledge in several areas (through both internal and external training for staff, trustees and volunteers) including: risks and vulnerabilities, mental health, campaigning and advocacy, and media and communications.

Find out how you can help us to achieve these aims on [page 23](#) or at www.bigleafaffoundation.org.uk/support-us

governance, structure & management

Big Leaf Foundation is controlled by its Constitution incorporated on 14 July 2018. It was recognised as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 14 December 2018 (UK Registered Charity Number 1181180) whose only voting members are its charity trustees ('Foundation' model constitution). The charity is run by the Board of Trustees who are responsible for ensuring the charity has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and is focused on achieving these.

appointment of trustees

Any person over the age of 16 who is willing to act as a trustee, and has not been disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision), may be appointed to be a trustee by a decision of the trustees.

There must be at least three trustees and a maximum of eight. Apart from the first trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years, by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees.

Retiring trustees are eligible for reappointment. But a trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a fourth but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year. In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the trustees consider the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Big Leaf Foundation's trustees include business and charitable sector professionals with experience in youth work, education, finance, project management, IT, fundraising and communications.

Big Leaf Foundation is committed to the ongoing professional development of its trustees and their

knowledge is kept up to date through internal and external training, knowledge sharing with partner organisations, academic reading and regular participation in project team meetings.

The trustees meet at least six times per year and more regularly in periods of high activity or change. We ask that trustees attend a minimum of two Big Leaf Foundation projects per year as we strongly believe this contributes to a better understanding of our organisation, how we work and the young people we support. All trustees are DBS checked at an enhanced level.

The Programme Managers report on the operational plan at each trustee meeting. Big Leaf Foundation has a Safeguarding Sub Committee that meets to discuss safeguarding and review and update safeguarding policies and processes as needed. This committee includes the DSL, DDSL and the Chair or trustees.

The trustees have delegated authority to the Programme Managers with clear limitations. The Chair and the Programme Managers also have regular meetings to discuss operational matters and resource needs.

risks & mitigations

Risk of harm to the young people we support

Mitigation | Safeguarding is embedded in Big Leaf, with all staff and volunteers trained at an appropriate level through our safeguarding partner. We have a range of policies in place to support good practice, including safeguarding, health and safety and code of conduct for staff and volunteers. Our policies are reviewed and updated once a year.

Insufficient funds to achieve our objectives

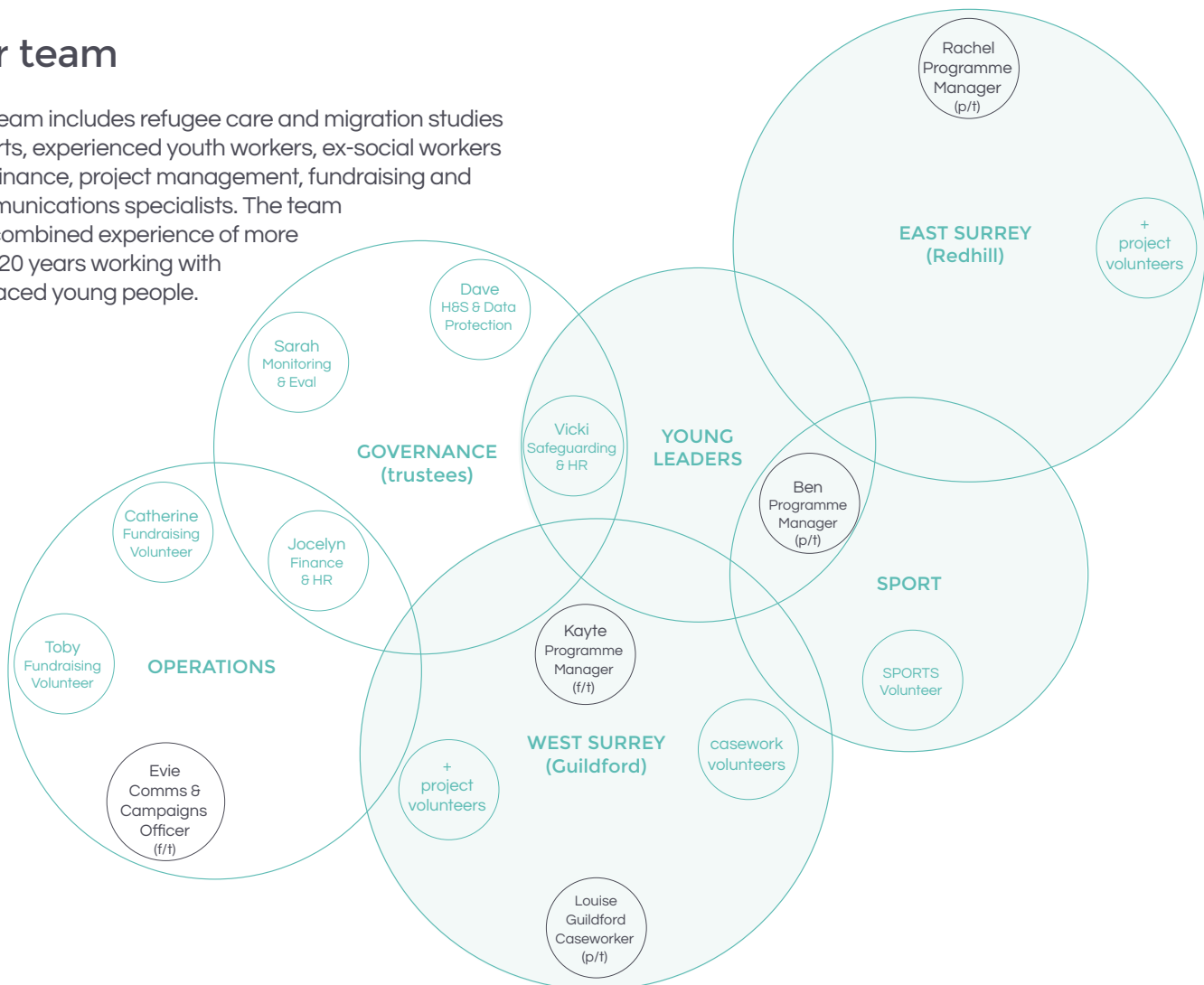
Mitigation | In year one Big Leaf was reliant on two main funders for the majority of its income. Since then we have continued to grow and diversify our funding base and in year two we received funding from ten trusts and organisations. We have also recruited two experienced fundraising volunteers who, together with the support of the trustees, are working to secure additional long-term core funding.

Loss of core team members & associated knowledge

Mitigation | We invest in our team through both professional training and providing clinical supervision sessions for all direct contact staff to support wellbeing. Our pay structure is in line with sector median average and reviewed every two years. We use a horizontal management structure, with all team members on an equal level; and an open and creative work culture where ideas are valued and successes are shared.

our team

Our team includes refugee care and migration studies experts, experienced youth workers, ex-social workers and finance, project management, fundraising and communications specialists. The team has combined experience of more than 20 years working with displaced young people.



finance & accounts

Big Leaf Foundation is a registered charity and relies on donations from both trusts and individuals to continue its work.

We have a small dedicated team of fundraising volunteers who work together with the trustees and core team to research and make applications to relevant grants and funders.

We are extremely grateful to our four main grant funders and donors who together fund our core staffing costs. But over the last year we have also received a number of pandemic-related emergency grants from the Community Foundation for Surrey, the National Lottery Community Fund and Sport England.

Together these grants have enabled us to engage remotely with our young people, create accessible translations of the ever-changing Covid-19 guidance and run outdoor fitness sessions for young people after the first lockdown.

We're delighted to have also seen an increase in the number of regular monthly donations from individuals in the last year.

statement of financial activities for the year ended March 2021

income	
Trusts & Grants	£79,264
Individual Donations	£12,191
Gift Aid & Interest	£1,642
TOTAL	
£93,097	
BROUGHT FORWARD from FY20 (ending March 2020)	
General Fund	£7404
Restricted Funds	£91,240
Total brought forward	£98,644

expenditure	
Core Costs	£10,941
Staff Costs	£62,784
Project costs	£18,983
TOTAL	
£92,709	
BROUGHT FORWARD to FY22 (ending March 2022)	
General Fund	£5,770
Restricted Funds	£93,253
Total brought forward	£99,032

This year we submitted our first independently audited accounts (for the year ending March 2020) as part of our commitment to the Charity Commission. This was our first full external financial review and resulted in smooth sign off.

Our FY21 (ending March 2021) accounts will be audited over the coming months. The independent auditor's report will be available on our website www.bigleafaffoundation.org.uk and added to this review and republished.

restricted funds

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Current restricted funds include grants for specific project work or income that is allocated to staff costs.

Our team members engage with us as self-employed contractors rather than employees. The majority of our restricted funds are held in reserve for these contractor costs.

restricted funding includes:

project name and/or funder	purpose
National Lottery Community Fund in partnership with the Community Foundation for Surrey Emergency response (Covid) fund	Emergency response funding to enable Big Leaf Foundation to continue providing COVID-19 updates in the languages spoken within our local displaced community.
Community Foundation for Surrey Equine-assisted learning	Funding to run equine-assisted learning programmes throughout the year (postponed due to Covid-restrictions and due to restart in April 2021).
National Lottery Community Fund Music Connects	Funding to run our collaborative music project – bringing together young people from both displaced and local youth communities in Surrey to write and record a song.
Sport England Tackling Inequalities Fund in partnership with Active Surrey Park Gym	Funding for outdoor fitness programme to re-engage displaced young people in exercise after lockdown.
Surrey Virtual School East Surrey projects & hub provision	One-off grant for an activity day for new UASC arrivals in East Surrey and a 4-week hub programme in Redhill.
Tresanton Trust Casework & hub provision	Two-year grant, providing funding for our part-time caseworker and weekly hub in Guildford.
Twelve Healers Trust & Healing Herbs Ltd. Staff costs	Funding for programme managers and new Communications & Campaigns Coordinator.

Over the coming year we will focus on increasing our fundraising activities. We have now reached an income threshold that means we are eligible to apply for larger long-term grants that were previously unavailable to us.

We have made significant progress in diversifying our funding streams in the last year but it is our intent to diversify further, both in terms of core funding and project funding, so that we can support more young people through our work.

thank you

We'd like to thank everyone who has worked with us this year. From our funders to our brilliant team of volunteers – we couldn't have done it without you.

donors

- Mashood Ashraf
- Active Surrey
- Capgemini
- Chertsey Rotary Club
- Community Foundation for Surrey
- Guildford Philanthropy
- Healing Herbs Ltd
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Salesforce

- Sport England
- Surrey Virtual School
- The Tresanton Trust
- Twelve Healers Trust
- Jocelyn Zanasi

We'd also like to thank everyone who donated to our crowdfund campaigns and Christmas appeal or give regularly through our Charities Aid Foundation page. There are too many of you to list individually here, but your contributions funded our summer school, supported our summer activity week and ensured we were able to make young people feel welcome at Christmas.

partners

- Big Hat Bushcamp | Ian Brember
- Musical artists | Chesney Hawkes and Chimp
- Child and Family Health Surrey | Janine Gallini
- Jamie's Farm | Liz Ikamba, Dom Koole, Clare Martin and the whole Jamie's Farm team
- Photographer | Kate Stanworth
- Love the Ball | Jack Holmes and Jack Oxenham
- Rosamund Community Garden | Clare Millington, Helen Harris and John Bannister
- Streetwise Safety Training | Martyn Bowie

- Surrey Arts | Liz Ikamba, Sara Koorosi, Orli, Jim Pinchen and Richard Smith.
- Surrey Virtual School | Lisa Smith and Anna MacLean
- Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development | Ben Rayner and the SOLD team
- Surrey Police | PC Phil Jebb, PC Laura Magwick-Smith and Borough Commander David Bentley
- SwimLab | Salim Ahmed
- The HEART Centre | Wendy Firmin-Price
- The Human Hive | Darren Abrahams

volunteers

- Pippo Ajroldi
- Marco Ajroldi
- Hilal Alshareef
- Toby Athersuch
- Charito Berru
- Jaego Cable
- Jessame Cable
- Richard Cable
- Sarah Cozens
- Alison Craze
- Ghaith Durkawi
- Susan Eade
- Huda Farran
- Ashagre Hailu
- Ella Hood

- Sokol Klogjri
- Arian Kochi
- Bahar Joya
- Catherine Loy
- Rami Mehri
- Sarah Nuttall
- Daniela Palazzolo
- Felicity Penn-Jones
- Jim Pinchen
- Miranda Postance
- Mohamed Ragab
- Helen Shepherd
- Akira Takenaka
- Aliyu Tanko
- Binh Tran

- Katie Wilson
- Rachel Wright
- Giorgio Zanasi

trustees

- Vicki Felgate
- Sarah Phillips
- Dave Wagstaff
- Jocelyn Zanasi

core team

- Louise Baumberg
- Kayte Cable
- Rachel Ellis
- Ben Monro

support us

We can only achieve our aims with your help. Your support will mean that displaced young people in Surrey will be able to rediscover their potential and find their place in the local community.

donate

Your money will help to fund projects that combat social isolation and improve wellbeing among young refugees and asylum seekers in Surrey.

www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/support-us

partner with us

We work with a growing network of organisations and individuals to develop projects that will inspire our young people. If you have a project idea that you'd like to talk to us about please email

contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk

volunteer

We're a small and dedicated team, determined to support and empower displaced young people. If this sounds like something you want to help us achieve please get in touch.

contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk



Image © Vicki Felgate / Big Leaf Foundation



“

The greatest gift any of us can give is to make a difference to peoples lives. Big Leaf Foundation has achieved this. Thank you to everyone.

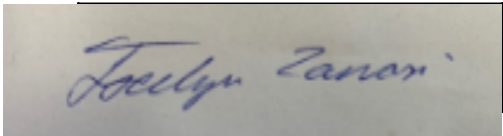
UASC foster carer

”

Section B Balance sheet

	Note	Restricted			Total this year	Total last year
		Unrestricted funds	income funds	Endowment funds		
		£	£	£	£	£
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets (Note 9)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 10)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets						
Stock and work in progress	B05	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 11)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
(Short term) investments	B07	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	B08	5,806	93,198	-	99,004	-
Total current assets	B09	5,806	93,198	-	99,004	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 12)	B10	-	-	-	-	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B11	5,806	93,198	-	99,004	-
Total assets less current liabilities	B12	5,806	93,198	-	99,004	-
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 12)	B13	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets	B15	5,806	93,198	-	99,004	-
Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted funds	B16	5,806			5,806	-
	B17	-			-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 13)	B18		93,198		93,198	-
Endowment funds (Note 13)	B19			-	-	-
Total funds	B20	5,806	93,198	-	99,004	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Jocelyn Zanasi	5th April 2021

Cells highlighted in Yellow contain formulas to add up columns C,D and E but these are not protected cells

Cells highlighted in Blue contain formulas in protected cells. The protection can be removed from the tools menu

Section C **Notes to the accounts**

Note 1 Basis of preparation

This section should be completed by all charities.

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005);
- and with* Accounting Standards;
- or Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE);
- and with the Charities Act.

[** except for the following].

Give details in this box if a different standard has been followed.

* -Tick as appropriate:

- if all relevant disclosures shown in the pack have been given then please tick “Accounting Standards”;
- if disclosures completed in these accounts have been restricted to those required by the FRSSE, then please tick “Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE)”.

** - If no departures from the chosen standards have been made then delete these words; otherwise give details of any changes in the boxes.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

Give details in this box of any material changes that have been made.

§ if no changes have been made to accounting policies then delete these words.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years

Give details in this box of any material changes that have been made.

§§ if no changes have been made to accounts for previous periods then delete these words.

Note 2

Accounting policies

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those deleted. Where a different or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of incoming resources	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the charity becomes entitled to the resources; · the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and · the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Incoming resources with related expenditure	Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
Contractual income and performance related grants	This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.
Gifts in kind	Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Investment income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Investment gains and losses	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
Governance costs	Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.
Grants payable without performance conditions	These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.
Support Costs	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

Stocks and work in progress

These are valued at the lower of cost or market value.

**POLICIES ADOPTED
ADDITIONAL TO OR
DIFFERENT FROM
THOSE ABOVE**

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Note 4 Analysis of resources expended

Resources expended may be further analysed if this would help the reader of the accounts.

	Analysis	This year £	Last year £
Costs of generating voluntary income	All income generated by volunteers or by Trustees	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total	-	-
Fundraising trading costs	No fundraising costs incurred	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total	-	-
Investment management costs	No Investment costs incurred	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total	-	-
Charitable activities	Contractor Cost	62,849	-
	Project Cost	15,086	-
	General Costs, including travel, insurance, telephony,	14,770	-
		-	-
	Total	92,705	-
Governance costs	No Governance cost incurred	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total	-	-

Note 5 Support Costs

Please complete this note if the charity has analysed its expenses using activity categories and has support costs.

Support cost type	Fundraising activity £	Charitable Activity £	Governance Activity £	Total Cost £
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Note 6 Details of certain items of expenditure

6.1 Trustee expenses

Please provide details of the amount of any payment or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses made to trustees or to third parties for expenses incurred by trustees. If no expenses were paid, please enter 'None' in the appropriate box(es).

	This year	Last year
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	2	
Nature of the expenses	Travel, Project cost reimbursement . Vicki Ashraf Felgate & Jocelyn Zanasi	
Total amount paid	£1,400	£

6.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Please provide details of the amount paid for any statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by your independent examiner or auditor. If nothing was paid please enter NONE in the appropriate box(es).

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	0	
Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor		

Note 7 **Paid employees**

Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

7.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	-	-
Employer's National Insurance costs	-	-
Pension costs	-	-
Total staff costs	-	-

All team members are self employed contractors or volunteers

7.2 Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year

		This year Number	Last year Number
The parts of the charity in which the employees work	Fundraising	-	-
	Charitable Activities	-	-
	Governance	-	-
	Other	-	-
	Total	-	-

No employees

7.3 Defined contribution pension scheme

Please complete if a defined contribution pension scheme is operated.

Brief details of the scheme

--

	This year £	Last year £
The costs of the scheme to the charity for the year		
The amount of any contributions outstanding at the year end		
The amount of any contributions prepaid at the year end		

Note 9 **Tangible fixed assets**

Please complete this note if the charity has any tangible fixed assets

9.1 Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Payments on account and assets under construction	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-

No Fixed assets owned

9.2 Accumulated depreciation and impairment provisions

**Basis	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB
** Rate					

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment provisions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-

9.3 Net book value

Brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-

9.4 Revaluation

If any fixed assets have been revalued please give details of the valuer and method of valuation

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* The "transfers" row is for movements between fixed asset categories.

** Please indicate the method of depreciation by deleting the method not applicable (SL = straight line; RB = reducing balance). Also please indicate the rate of depreciation: for straight line, what is the anticipated life of the asset (in years); for reducing balance, what is the percentage annual deduction.

Note 10 Investment assets

Please complete this note if the charity has any investment assets.

10.1 Fixed assets investments

	£
Carrying (market) value at beginning of year	-
Add: additions to investments at cost	-
Less: disposals at carrying value	-
Add/(deduct): net gain/(loss) on revaluation	-
Carrying (market) value at end of year	-

No investments in place

Please provide below:

10.2 A breakdown of the market values of investments shown above agreeing with the balance sheet row B03.

10.3 A breakdown of the income from investments agreeing with SOFA row S03.

Analysis of investments

	10.2 Market value at year end £	10.3 Income from investments for the year £
Investment properties	-	-
Investments listed on a recognised stock exchange or held in common investment funds, open ended investment companies, unit trusts or other collective investment schemes	-	-
Investments in subsidiary or connected undertakings and companies	-	-
Securities not listed on a recognised Stock Exchange	-	-
Cash held as part of the investment portfolio	-	-
Other investments	-	-
Total	-	-

10.4 Material investment holdings

If any single investment is material in terms of its value (for example represents more than 5 per cent of the value of the charity's total investments) please provide details.

Investment held	
Market Value	

Note 11 Debtors and prepayments*Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.*

Analysis of debtors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Trade debtors	-	-	-	-
Amounts due from subsidiary and associated undertakings	-	-	-	-
Other debtors	-	-	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

No debtors

Note 12 Creditors and accruals*Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.*

12.1 Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	-	-	-	-
Amounts due to subsidiary and associated undertakings	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

No creditors

12.2 Security over assets*If any loan, overdraft or other creditor holds a charge or other security over any assets of the charity please provide details.*

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Section C **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

Note 13 **Endowment and restricted income funds**

Please complete this section if the charity has any endowment or restricted income funds.

13.1 Funds held

Please give a brief description of any of the following type of funds held by the charity:

- permanent endowment funds (PE);
- expendable endowment funds (EE); and
- restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity (R).

Fund Name	Type PE, EE or R	Purpose and Restrictions
Restricted Fund - Contractor - (Kayte Cable)	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund Program Director Role Contractor
Restricted Fund - 2nd Contractor (Rachel Ellis)	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund Program Manager - East Surrey - Contractor
Restricted Fund - 3rd Contractor (Ben Munro)	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund Sports Program Manager Role Contractor
Restricted Fund - 4th Contractor (Comm)	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund Comms Program Manager Role Contractor
Restricted Fund - Mash	R	Private Donation - Restricted to fund for Equine project
Restricted Fund - Equine	R	Charity Grant - Guildford Philanthropy - Restricted to fund Equine therapy Project
Restricted Fund - Hub	R	Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fund weekly Hub - ESOL, Maths and wellbeing
Restricted Fund - Case Work (Louise)	R	Charity Grant - Treasanton Trust - Restricted to fund wCaseworked - Contractor
Restricted Fund - Translation Grant	R	Charity Grant - Surrey CC - Restricted to fund Covid 19 Guidance translations
Lottery funding	R	Charity Grant - National Lottery - Restricted to fund residential ESOL, Maths and wellbeing program

13.2 Movements of major funds

Please give details of the movements of the major funds summarised in the restricted and endowment columns of the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-

13.3 Transfers between funds

Please give details of any transfers between funds.

From Fund (Name)	To Fund (Name)	Reason	Amount

Note 14 Transactions with related parties

If the charity has any transactions with related parties (other than the trustee expenses explained in note 6) details of such transactions should be provided in this note. If there are no transactions to report, please enter "None" in the relevant boxes.

14.1 Remuneration and benefits

Please give the amount of, and legal authority for, any remuneration or other benefits paid to a trustee or other related parties by the charity or any institution or company connected with it.

Name of trustee or connected party	Legal authority (eg order, governing document)	Amounts paid or benefit value	
		This year £	Last year £

None

14.2 Loans

Please give details of and amounts owing to or from the charity's trustees or other related parties by the charity at the year end.

	Name of trustee or connected party	Legal authority	Amount owing	
			This year £	Last year £
Due to trustees and related parties				
Due from trustees and related parties				

No Loans given

14.3 Other transaction(s) with trustees or related parties

Please give details of any transaction undertaken by (or on behalf of) the charity in which a trustee or related party has a material interest.

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity	Description of the transaction(s)	This year £	Last year £

Section C **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

Note 15 **Additional Disclosures**
The following are significant matters which are not covered in other notes and need to be included to provide a proper understanding of the accounts. If there is insufficient room here, please add a separate sheet.

Empty box for additional disclosures.



Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Big Leaf Foundation		
On accounts for the year ended	March 2021	Charity no (if any)	1181180
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: S. Medhurst Date: 14/11/2022

Name: SARAH MEDHURST

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
ICAEW.

Address: 6 BUTLER RD.
BAGSHOT
GU19 5QF