

Social investment

Flexible, blended finance
to help you support
homeless people



Homeless Link Social Investment Fund

Launched in May 2017,
the Homeless Link Social
Investment Fund has, over
three years, £4.5m to invest
in charities and social
enterprises working to
reduce homelessness
across England.

Our aim is to test and learn where social investment can be most effectively used alongside other forms of funding to improve outcomes. We are looking to support organisations to:

- Increase the homelessness sector's knowledge and experience of social investment
- Develop new models for income generation and funding
- Improve their long-term sustainability.

We will focus on the potential that blended finance of smaller unsecured loans and grants can have on creating change.

Our offer

- Support with your application
- Flexible loan/grant packages from £25,000 to £150,000
- All loans unsecured
- Dedicated support and aftercare.

Are you eligible?

- You are, or intend to form a legal company (this can include a company limited by guarantee, CIC and CIO)
- You have a direct social mission at the heart of your organisation
- Supporting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in England.

We are a REACH Fund Access Point – we can support you to apply for grants of up to £15,000 to spend on support you need to prepare your application.

You can find out more about social investment on the Good Finance website: www.goodfinance.org.uk

The Homeless Link Social Investment Fund is provided through the Growth Fund, which is managed by Access – the Foundation for Social Investment, with funding by Big Lottery Fund and Big Society Capital.

Interested?

Arrange to have a chat with our Investment Manager, Jaishree Mistry:

jaishree.mistry@homelesslink.org.uk
07505 506378

Or fill in the enquiry form on our website:

[www.homelesslink.org.uk/
social-investment-fund](http://www.homelesslink.org.uk/social-investment-fund)

Meet our first investees...

Doorway, Warwickshire



Doorway works with young people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in Warwickshire.

Based in Nuneaton, its advice service is the first point of contact for homeless young people in the county, and helps them to find suitable accommodation with support. The organisation also runs a variety of activities and events for its young people. Such positive engagement aids confidence, builds social skills and develops life skills.

Doorway has been awarded a £35,000 social investment by Homeless Link, which is being used to support the long-term sustainability of the organisation. The funds will help to ensure it can continue to provide much-needed and valued support for over 400 vulnerable young people in Warwickshire each year.

Doorway is a successful, independent charity. The trustees and senior management team had considered various options for increasing its financial resilience and identified the benefits of focusing on fundraising capacity. The

Doorway team was seeking to build upon its excellent local connections and support by developing strong new funding partnerships with the aim of unlocking new income streams and increasing unrestricted income.

The flexibility offered by social investment made it the right option for this work, as it is difficult to attract other types of funding for capacity and infrastructure building initiatives.

“Doorway was delighted to be one of the first recipients of a social investment from Homeless Link. We are a small, local charity and naturally our Trustees gave considerable thought about whether this was the way forward for us. Homeless Link was extremely supportive throughout the process, explaining things clearly and responding to any queries we had. Being awarded the investment is helping us to move forward with our Business Plan aims and we are now developing our new fundraising strategy.”

Carol Gallagher, CEO of Doorway



East Anglia Anchorage Trust



East Anglia Anchorage Trust provides much needed support for young people in transition who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, helping them into employment and to achieve positive change.

Its strong partnerships with landlords, employers, and local businesses in Norfolk, enable it to provide good quality, safe, affordable accommodation alongside tailored support packages of counselling, training and employment placements and opportunities.

In the two years since its creation, the Anchorage Trust has housed and supported 91 young people, 32 of whom have since found permanent employment and 12 of whom have taken up full time training or apprenticeships.

The charity has been awarded a £25,000 social investment by Homeless Link, which is being used to

provide additional working capital to support its tenancy programme, helping even more young people out of homelessness and into secure housing.

As part of the charity's strategy, trustees and senior management identified a need to boost its working capital in order to build on its work so far and ensure its long-term sustainability. As a relatively new organisation with a short track record, it was difficult to raise such funding from traditional sources, and the trustees recognised that social investment from a "sector friendly" fund was the ideal solution.

“We are very grateful for the social investment which has enabled us to continue to support our young people and look at growth within the charity.”

Colin Lang MBE, CEO of East Anglia Anchorage Trust



Delivered by



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