ABOUT THE SHACKLETON FOUNDATION

Inspired by Sir Ernest Shackleton’s Nimrod expedition of 1907-09 to the Antarctic, the Shackleton Foundation was established in 2007. Our initial funding came from personal donations in support of an expedition by descendants re-tracing Shackleton’s Nimrod expedition and completing his mission to the South Pole.

The Shackleton Foundation helps disadvantaged and socially marginalised young people in the UK. We do this by supporting aspiring social entrepreneurs who exemplify the spirit of Shackleton’s leadership with seed-funding to make their ideas a reality. We call them Shackleton Leaders.

Our Leaders are improving the lives of disadvantaged young people, and focus on the following issues:

• **Education**: helping to increase the educational attainment and aspirations of disadvantaged young people.

• **Youth offending**: helping to reduce the incidence of offending and to integrate ex-offenders and those at risk of offending back into society.

• **Life Skills and Employability**: helping to improve life-skills and build resilience for young people to lead independent lives and find employment.

• **Community**: helping to encourage social action among disadvantaged young people and improve community cohesion.

• **Health**: helping to improve the physical and mental health of young people.

The Shackleton Foundation likes to support high risk, but high potential projects. The projects that are awarded funding by the Shackleton Foundation are often considered too risky or too early in their endeavour for other funders, and struggle to gain funding from traditional sources. All Trustees review applications four times a year with the most successful being invited to present their plans to the Trustees in person. Each grant recipient signs a Shackleton Leader’s Agreement which helps guide and advise our Shackleton Leaders through the start-up phase of their projects. We also run a Leaders’ Forum twice-yearly to facilitate and support learning between Leaders, inviting external speakers and encouraging discussion and debate through shared experiences.

This report provides a picture of the difference our Leaders have made to disadvantaged young people around the UK over the past eight years. To date the projects run by our 31 Leaders have collectively reached 52,657 individuals—we believe our early stage funding has contributed to this achievement.

‘The Shackleton Foundation is different as a funder, willing to take the risk of investing in an early stage vision, including ideas which are fully innovative.’

Bailie Aaron, Spark Inside

£303,837 distributed in awards
31 leaders supported to date
£10,000 average award
52,657 individuals reached through supported organisations

'‘The Shackleton Foundation gave me the confidence to take CoachBright off the ground. We would have died if it wasn’t for the Foundation’s intervention. The Shackleton Foundation has been a game-changer for CoachBright.’

Robin Chu, CoachBright

Geographical spread of Shackleton Foundation Leaders

The Shackleton Foundation is a registered charity No 1118686 | www.shackletonfoundation.org
Jessica Barratt

Jessica founded Franklin Scholars in 2013, a youth leadership programme that helps Year 7 students at risk of under-achieving make a strong start in secondary schools through literacy coaching and mentoring from a trained Year 10 student—a Franklin Scholar. The transition from primary to secondary education is a big leap and thousands of children from tough backgrounds struggle during that year—one-to-one tutoring is a reliable way to build their skills and raise attainment. Not only do the Year 7s benefit from the older student’s support, but the Franklin Scholars themselves develop a sense of purpose, self-worth and responsibility, and have the opportunity to boost their own employability skills such as empathy, teamwork and leadership.

The Shackleton award enabled Jessica to develop and refine the programme in its first year and prepare for a wider roll-out to multiple schools. At the end of the first year, the programme was running in 7 schools across London and the North West of England, with 240 young people on the year-long programme. It is currently working in 22 schools and reaching over 700 young people. The organisation has achieved strong results, with evaluations showing an improvement to students’ academic progress, as well as their confidence, resilience and communication skills.

‘The impact on pupils’ academic progress, self-esteem and leadership skills is very impressive.”
Head Teacher, The Grange School

Harriet Laurie

Harriet Laurie founded The Horse Course (THC) in 2010 in Dorset with a single horse and the belief that horses make great teachers, particularly for people who are unable or unwilling to make progress in more conventional ways. In the words of the THC Patron Martin Clunes ‘Seeing people getting a horse to do something for them, simply by controlling their own moods, is incredible!’

In the five years since Harriet’s £10,000 Shackleton Foundation award, the charity has grown into a busy £200K turnover charity helping hundreds of people each year where conventional mental health or social services aren’t effective. The impact in Dorset is being replicated by others who have set up hubs in London, Gloucester and Wiltshire; Surrey is opening shortly.

Multiple external studies backed by universities and sector experts confirm the result of The Horse Course’s work in reducing social exclusion amongst the 8-24 year olds. For example, in prisons, there has been a 27% point reduction in re-offending amongst high-risk violent offenders that have been on the programme (where 10% would be considered successful). And 80% of young people participating in THC programme show reductions in serious problem behaviours.

‘Without the financial support of the Shackleton Foundation early on, which enabled me to take the plunge and make this my full-time job, I know we wouldn’t be where we are today working with hundreds of children, young people and troubled families — thank you Shackleton Foundation.’ Harriet Laurie, The Horse Course
Jacqueline Williamson

Jacqueline founded the School of Confidence in December 2015 to build the confidence, self-esteem and resilience of disadvantaged children and young people in Northern Ireland.

The award from the Shackleton Foundation allowed Jacqueline to create and offer a series of confidence building programmes and workshops, as well as a confidence building toolkit. The aim is for the children and young people with whom she works to experience greater confidence, and improved personal and emotional wellbeing. In addition, these participants have the opportunity and ability to meet and develop new relationships with others and engage better with their communities.

Just 6 months since the grant, 64 children and young people have participated in programmes. Of these, 100% reported an increase in their confidence and 95% said their emotional wellbeing had improved. Children also said they had developed new friendships. Jacqueline has certainly reached the very tough objectives she’d set for herself and for the School of Confidence!

Lorna, age 13, who is being raised by her older sister following the death of her mum said, “I feel a lot more positive about myself and what I want for my future. I am going to make my mum proud.”

Jaffer Hussain

Jaffer Hussain founded SLYNCS in March 2013 to help the young people of Blackburn engage in social action—he facilitates forums for young people to enable them to work on social action projects linked to local social issues. Projects include cleaning up the canal or tackling domestic violence, homelessness or community cohesion. The young people involved develop valuable skills such as leadership and teamwork whilst improving their community.

Since receiving the Shackleton Foundation award in July 2014, SLYNCS has grown from reaching 60 young people per week in January 2015 to regularly reaching 100 people per week, with a 50/50 gender reach, ranging in age from 12 to 18, with the majority from a Black and Minority ethnic background. Once 19, some young people become mentors or volunteers within the organisation. Around 5% of participants have a disability of some sorts. Amongst many of their remarkable achievements SLYNCS was awarded the European Citizens Prize 2015, being only one of three recipients nationally. The award was given due to their partnerships and approach to European Citizenship.

2016 is the second year in which SLYNCS has been delivering the National Citizens Service program across Blackburn with Darwen, with growing numbers of young people participating year on year. This month they hosted the Summer 2016 NCS graduation which was a huge success as they had a 100% completion rate. Plans for 2017 include further expansion of the current forums to engage more young people, and exploring more taboo issues in the community including extremism, culture-based violence, hate crime and mental health.

“SLYNCS means home to me. Every session or residential I’ve been on has always been so different and exciting. Nothing can beat the incredible opportunities SLYNCS has given me over the last two years. Whether that’s meeting new people, trying new things or doing different projects. Second family… always!” SLYNCS member
The Shackleton Foundation has been generously funded by a number of individuals, grant-making trusts and companies and we are very grateful for their support, without which we wouldn’t be able to do our work.