



REVITALISING TRUSTS AND TRUST TRANSFERS

The 'Revitalising Trusts' programme was developed by the Charity Commission and the UK network of community foundations to help charities who find it hard to spend their income on public benefit.

Several of the funds Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) manage were previous charities or trusts (see example below). Set up years or even centuries ago, they had become difficult to manage, inactive or completely dormant, and so were transferred to HCF. The transfer ensured the good work and original purpose of the trusts could continue in perpetuity and reach those in need.

For a variety of reasons, some trusts and foundations no longer work as originally intended. This might be because administrative duties become too time-consuming, burdensome or expensive; the original aims are outdated; it becomes difficult to recruit new trustees or attract the right applicants; or having done an excellent job for years, trustees decide it is time to move on. HCF works with the Charity Commission and a trust transfer expert to ensure all legal obligations are met.

It is usually possible to retain the original name, and stay true to the spirit of original intent, even if the aims are updated for the 21st century. Previous trustees may stay involved in making decisions on grants if they wish – or leave all responsibility to HCF. These trusts can be run as schemes or funds in their own right, or they can be merged with similar funds under the management of HCF.

Trust Transfer, Much Marcle Consolidated Charities

The parish of Much Marcle in south Herefordshire had an ancient charity, believed to date back to the time of the English Civil War, which was originally established by wealthy parishioners to help local people in need or hardship.

In recent years, the charity had become under-used - it struggled to make enough grants and to find trustees to run it. When trustees realised they could transfer the burden of fund management and grant-making, Herefordshire Community Foundation was described as being "the answer to their prayers".

Assets were transferred to a new fund at HCF, the Much Marcle Consolidated Fund. The fund continues to support organisations and community groups that benefit the wider community in the parish of Much Marcle, and can also help individuals in the Parish who may require financial assistance for education or welfare need.

To discuss the transfer of your trust please get in touch with Bridie Sullivan, CEO of HCF at ceo@herefordshirecf.org or 01432 272550.

More information on the national Revitalising Trusts programme is available from the Charity Commission at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-for-your-inactive-or-ineffective-charity> and UKCF at <https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/partner-with-us/transfer-your-trust>