

20 WESTON CHARITY AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

- The Garfield Weston Foundation responds to small charities' need for insight and strategic skill sharing from the business sector
- More than four in five small charities are looking for businesses to contribute professional support in 2019
- Five years on, the community of Weston Charity Awards winners approaches 100 and steps up peer-to-peer initiatives

Today the twenty winners of the 2019 Weston Charity Awards were announced. Competition was fierce with 172 entries from small charities from across the North of England, the Midlands and Wales, all looking to meet their challenges head on with help from senior business leaders.

Each winning organisation will benefit from a year of tailored strategic planning support from a team of four senior business leaders, giving them a fresh perspective and the opportunity to tackle some big questions. The selected charities also receive a core grant of £6,500 as 2019 Weston Charity Awards winners.

Between them the winners provide services to 70,000 people and range in size from £100,000 to nearly £2 million annual income. The people that they support are coping with a range of issues such as domestic abuse, homelessness and living with the challenge of disability. Many of these organisations save public funds by preventing crisis points and help build stronger and more united communities. The Garfield Weston Foundation and Pilotlight, who facilitate the strategic coaching programme, are pleased to support these ambitious charity leaders and their beneficiaries.

New data from the Weston Charity Awards Small Charity Leader Insight survey portrays a sector that is looking at creative ways to harness the skills and goodwill of local people and businesses. More than four in five (83%) are looking for businesses to contribute skilled, professional support in 2019. This is higher on their agenda than their quest for general volunteers or even fundraising support.

Philippa Charles, director of the Garfield Weston Foundation said:

"The Weston Charity Awards recipients have been selected due to the strength of their ambitions and their openness to external perspectives. As we enter the sixth year of the Awards, our Trustees are excited by the opportunity this presents to strengthen the sector'.

Paul Sartori Foundation, a Welsh charity providing a hospice at home service, won a Weston Charity Award in 2018. Laura Hugman, Clinical Team Manager has benefitted from her charity's year-long engagement with a team of business coaches. She said:

"The time away from the office has strengthened the senior team. Strategic questions raised as part of the process will no doubt help the sustainability of our charity."

With the number of Weston Charity Awards winners now approaching one hundred charities, this growing network of past and current winners are now being offered additional opportunities for peer-to-peer collaboration.

Gillian Murray, chief executive of Pilotlight, a charity that connects the business and voluntary sectors to make both more effective, and whose 'Pilotlighter' volunteers form the teams to help each Weston Award winner said:

"The growing number of organisations applying to the Awards is a clear signal about the need for this initiative. We are proud to see the results to date and the value-add our partnership with the Foundation is bringing to the sector."

Notes to editors

1. For **photography** of the winning charities in action, **interviews** with the charities or with spokespeople from the Garfield Weston Foundation and Pilotlight, **please contact Julie Kangisser on 07711 818496 or Sam Burne James on 07848 380 394.**

2. A full list of Weston Charity Awards 2019 winners:
 1. Disability Direct – Disabilities
 2. Kairos Women Working Together – Female Sex Workers
 3. NewLink Wales – Addiction Issues
 4. SafetyNet UK – Domestic Abuse
 5. Trust House Lancashire – Domestic Abuse
 6. Burton upon Trent YMCA – Homelessness
 7. Community Link Stafford – Community transport
 8. Family Gateway – Entrepreneurialism
 9. Home-Start Horizons – Families
 10. Northmoor Community Association – Local Community
 11. Nottinghamshire Deaf Society – Disabilities
 12. Phoenix DAS – Domestic Abuse
 13. Rubicon Dance – Community Dance Theatre
 14. St Andrew's Community Network – Local Support
 15. Wirral Mencap – Disabilities
 16. Active Fusion – Education/Employment
 17. Greater Manchester Youth Network – Youth
 18. Humber YMCA – Youth Homelessness
 19. New Roots Housing – Youth Homelessness
 20. The Manchester Men's Room – Young Male Sex Workers

3. **About the Weston Charity Awards:** The Awards celebrate and support great frontline charities working in the fields of community, welfare and youth. Run by the Garfield Weston Foundation with Pilotlight, charities with incomes under £5 million in the North of England, the Midlands and in Wales can apply. Initially launched in the North East of England in 2014,

the Weston Charity Awards quickly expanded to the North West, the Midlands and, in 2018, Wales - areas identified by the Foundation as having the greatest need.

www.westoncharityawards.org

4. **About the Garfield Weston Foundation:**

Established over 60 years ago in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK with grants totaling around £70million annually. It has donated over £1billion to charities since it was established.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others – a successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown so too have the charitable donations.

From small community organisations to large national institutions, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities and activities that make a positive impact in the communities in which they work. More than 1,800 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants.

<https://garfieldweston.org/>

5. **About Pilotlight:** Pilotlight is an award-winning charity that connects Pilotlighters (its business members) with charitable organisations, to unlock solutions that help charities become more effective and sustainable. Since 2003 Pilotlight has supported over 700 charities and social enterprises tackling social disadvantage in the UK. Pilotlight's impact report 2019 shows that two years after completing the Programme, on average, charities have increased their turnover by 46% and are reaching 36% more people. For more information please visit: www.pilotlight.org.uk

6. **About the Weston Charity Awards Small Charity Leaders Insight Report 2018-19:** The Garfield Weston Foundation and Pilotlight conducted an online survey amongst 371 charity leaders in England, Wales and Scotland in October 2018. All worked for charities with incomes under £5 million. Charity leaders who responded were predominantly CEOs or Chairs. They were asked a series of questions on the challenges they had faced in 2018 and their expectations for 2019.