



# **Alec Dickson Trust**

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report



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## Welcome

Welcome to our 30th anniversary report, where we highlight how the Alec Dickson Trust (ADT) continues to empower young people to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

Our Trust empowers young people to lead volunteering projects spanning many different fields including education, health, the environment, and social equality. We provide small community grants to benefit vulnerable and marginalised people across the UK.

The cost-of-living crisis has amplified the need for ADT's funding to support young people, and we have seen a significant increase in the numbers of young people approaching the Trust with highly innovative projects that will have a profound impact in their local communities. This spirit to challenge adversity and act selflessly to benefit others embodies the attitude of Alec Dickson and aligns with his wishes which resulted in the formation of the Trust.

However, from next year, limited funds may force us to turn away projects with the potential for transformative impact. We are unique in what we offer and there is nowhere else for young people ready to drive youth-volunteer led impact in their communities to turn to without us.

30 years on from our formation, we want to continue supporting young people to lead by providing increased and long-term funding. This will enable young volunteers to plan innovative projects that address immediate needs with the confidence that they are backed by a dedicated, long-term funding source.

# Our approach to funding

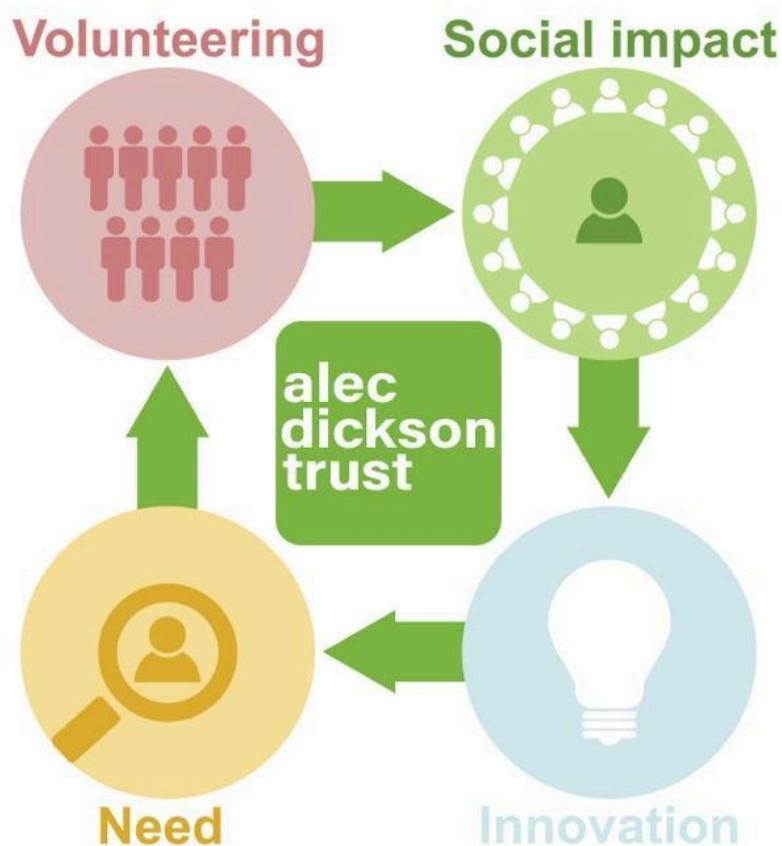
Alongside an overarching focus on leveraging the ideas and initiatives of young people, we fund projects based on four key priorities:

## 1. Youth volunteering

We encourage applicants to consider how they can maximise the number of youth volunteers involved in their projects. By involving other young people in disadvantaged communities, we hope to create a multiplier effect whereby projects funded by ADT are sustained in the long-term and young people are in the best possible position to create positive change in their communities.

## 2. Social impact

Whilst we acknowledge that the cost-of-living crisis has significantly increased the number of competing priorities for disadvantaged communities, we encourage applicants to focus on achievable goals. We support applicants who can clearly articulate how their project will meet a particular need within their community. By ensuring this level of focus, we increase the chance of success which in turn reinforces to the young volunteers involved that they have the skills to make a difference. At ADT we ensure that projects positively impact local communities and also invest in young people who have been marginalised by society.



### 3. Innovation

We look for projects that use an innovative approach to reach achievable goals. Encouraging young people to challenge the status quo has resulted in a breadth of applications that seek to tackle long-standing community issues in a unique way. Funding projects like this ensures that ADT supports young people to tackle societal problems through methods often rejected by larger, traditional funding bodies. We embody Alec Dickson's fundamental belief that all young people deserve a chance to better their communities.

### 4. Need

We aim to fund projects that couldn't go ahead without ADT's support. We focus on grassroots volunteering, so if a project is very established and is eligible to apply to lots of traditional funding sources, then it's unlikely to be a great match for our funding.

## Case Study: Breaking the Cycle

**Volunteers:** 11-20 ages 14-18 who were organising, promoting & running programme sessions

**Beneficiaries:** 20-49

**Location:** West Midlands



**Mission:** To create an alternative environment that allows young black people to thrive and become the best versions of themselves.

**Project:** A programme targeted at young people aged 13-18 that teaches them the power of dreaming big and how they can ultimately break stereotypes and the negative cycle that's been repeating through the generations.

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*"The application is straightforward and [it is] really simple to apply for the grant. I appreciate the funding as it's given me the confidence to run my project again in the future."*

**Remaya Ameilia Robinson-Beckford - Founder of A Product Of My Environment**

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**Instagram:** A\_productofmyenvironment

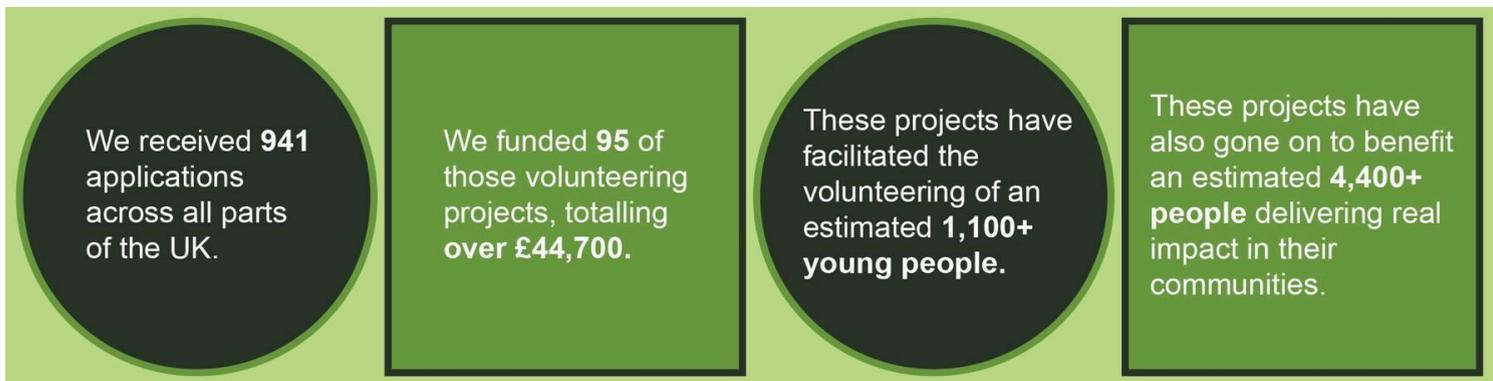
**Website:** <https://www.aproductofmyenvironment.org/>

## Our impact

We think that young people are amazing and that they have the potential to make the world a better place. The Trust funds young people in the UK who have an innovative idea about how to use volunteering or community service to do brilliant things in their communities.

We provide **grants of up to £500** to individuals or groups of young people aged 30 or under, to help them put their ideas into action and run projects that benefit the lives of others – particularly the most marginalised and disadvantaged members of society.

We are proud of our impact to date. Since 2018, we have:

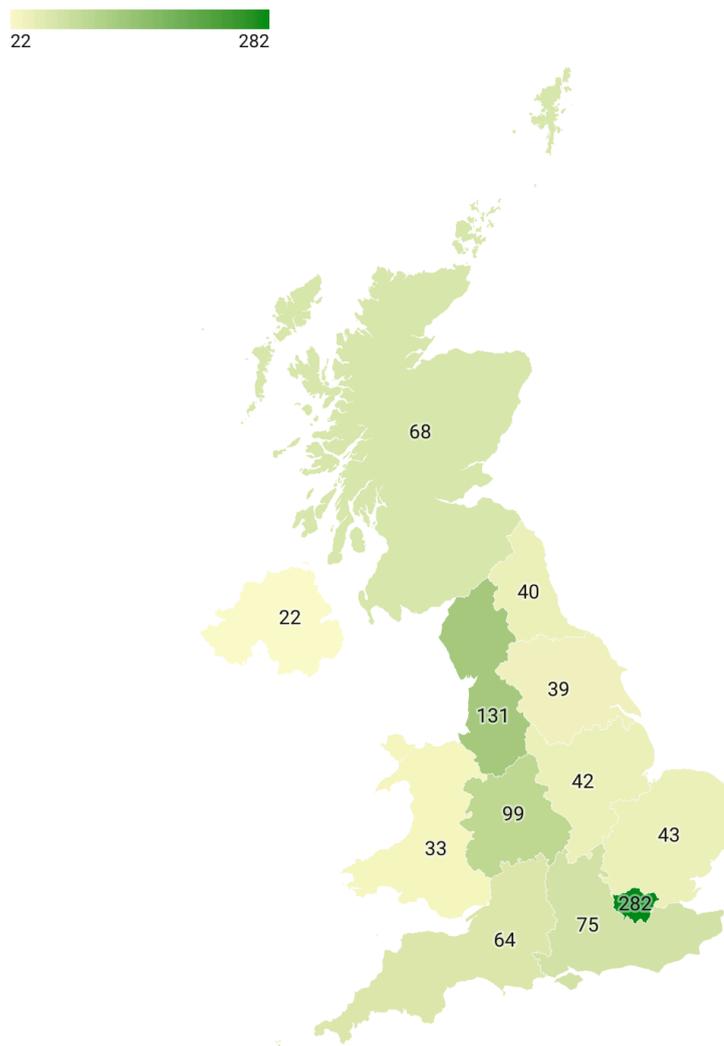


**Find out how to apply for funding from the Alec Dickson Trust [here](#)**

## Regional distribution of applications

We receive applications from all parts of the UK. Recently we have seen lots of applications from Greater London, the North West, and the West Midlands. As such, we have funded lots of projects in these regions.

We would like to see an even better geographic spread of applications and funded projects to support a wider impact across local communities throughout the UK.



Created with Datawrapper

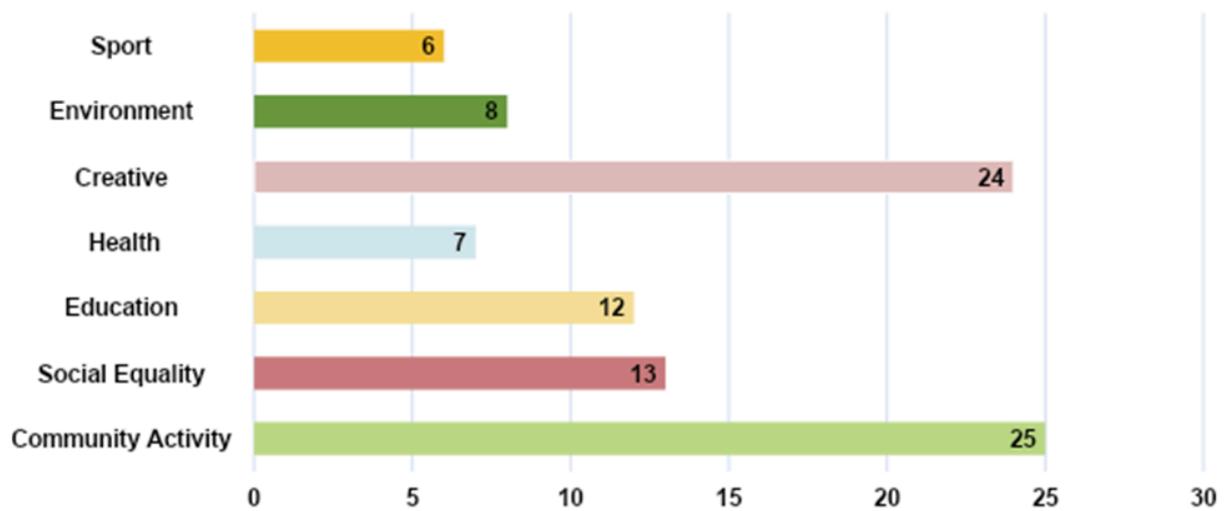
The graph above shows data from the last 5 years

If you are based **anywhere in the UK**, are aged 30 or under, and have an exciting idea to support your community through carrying out a volunteering project, we encourage you to apply for support from the Alec Dickson Trust.

## Funded projects by project type

The Trust is open to funding any type of project that meets our criteria - there are no limits! However we regularly fund several main types of projects, including those focusing on sports, the environment, being creative, health, education, social equality, and community activities.

In addition to the more comprehensive case studies throughout this report, we have included an example of a project we have funded in each category to demonstrate the breadth of project types we support.



The graph above shows data from the last 5 years

### Sport

ADT has supported Stockport County Football Club Community Foundation to deliver their monthly disability football league giving the opportunity for all disabled people to play football in a competitive yet friendly environment.



**Stockport County Football Club Community Foundation**

## Environment

The grant provided by the Alec Dickson Trust enabled a group of volunteers to establish a garden at Kentish Town Health Centre.

The garden is designed to provide an educational and relaxing alternative to a traditional waiting room.



**The Well - Being Garden**



## Creative

Cards for Bravery is an organisation that brightens the days of hospitalised and seriously ill children through positive, uplifting handmade cards.

They have a large volunteer base to support their mission and have received support from the Alec Dickson Trust multiple times to continue to grow the project.

**Cards for Bravery**

## Health

Hope Support Services help to support young people when a close family member is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, such as cancer.

Led by two Y-Teams, they are truly a youth-led service and received funding from the Alec Dickson Trust.



**Hope Support Services**



**STEM – Formula 1 Project**

## Education

This project focused on encouraging young students to take part in a Formula 1 themed project to promote and generate excitement around STEM careers, especially in young girls. Funding from the Alec Dickson Trust allowed this group of volunteers to hold a schools competition, providing completely free educational support.

## Social Equality

ADT have supported 'Summer Adventures', an amazing project run by a student group at the University of Exeter, providing a two week activity camp for young carers in Devon, catering for those aged between 8 and 15.

Young carers have huge responsibilities at home and the project aims to give them respite through sports, arts and crafts, and days out.



**Summer Adventures**



## Community Activity

The COVID-19 global pandemic had an unprecedented impact on individuals and communities. Youth volunteering played an important role as part of society's response to this issue.

To help young people to volunteer in response to COVID-19 the Alec Dickson Trust set up a specialist call for applications in May 2020.

Oak Church, a youth focused church in Stevenage used the funding to provide free "isolation packs" to lift the morale for young people in two local secondary schools who were vulnerable or children of key workers.

**Oak Church, COVID-19 Project**

**Do you want to support the Alec Dickson Trust in continuing to deliver our impact?**

**Get in touch with us [via our website](#)**

**or**

**Donate via [PayPal](#)**

## **Case Study: Gateway Radio Club**

**Volunteers:** 40+ ages 11-25

**Beneficiaries:** 50-99

**Location:** South East England



**Mission:** To expose and upskill young people about radio, get more young people involved in volunteering at the station long term, and encourage young people to pursue their formal media education.

**Project:** Running daily summer school sessions on presenting, production, editing, and recording, with each volunteer offering an average of 20 days of their time!

Following on from ADT funding, we're thrilled that the Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner has now provided £12,000 of funding to continue establishing this wonderful project.

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*"Radio has helped [me] develop and complete a media course and the activities [I] took part in helped in communication and life skills."* **Project beneficiary, age 16**

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**Website:** <https://www.gateway978.com/volunteering/radio-club>

## Why should donors consider ADT?

As a third-party funder, potential donors can rely on our wealth of expertise and experience in selecting projects that will make the biggest social impact through rich and widespread youth volunteering experiences.

We run **eight funding rounds per year**, meaning we are responsive to the needs of community projects and can efficiently get funding to our chosen recipients ready for their project starts. Our board of trustees run a rigorous review process, independently assessing each application for:

- Youth volunteering
- Social impact
- Innovation
- Need for funds

Once our funding allocations have been made, each young person leading a project receives a dedicated trustee who communicates with them from the point of notification that their application has been successful through to a project follow up six months after their funding has finished, offering an open route to support.

This robust approach means that the Alec Dickson Trust is an excellent intermediary for your charitable donation. There are thousands of charitable causes a donor can choose from, and analysing each one of them would take an immense amount of time and effort.

ADT's ready built processes remove that legwork for you. Plus, as we are run entirely by volunteers, our overheads are exceptionally low, meaning your full donation goes straight to funding innovative, youth-led projects. We will treat your donation as a parent grant to invest in youth volunteering to support disadvantaged communities across a wide range of beneficiaries.

**In the last five years, we have received over 925 applications.** Hundreds of youth-led organisations across the UK know us, trust us, and engage directly with us. This means we can ensure your donation is spent in the most effective way to maximise social impact, and without you having to conduct an in-depth review of each potential recipient.

A grant of £5,000 would support 10 projects across the UK, inspiring over 100 young volunteers to help marginalised people in their communities through their own ideas.

# The future of ADT

With a 30-year legacy of supporting youth volunteering behind us, we are looking to the future.

## **Adding value beyond funding**

As experts in youth engagement, we can offer much more than funding. We have begun to diversify our approach to introduce additional support, with our dedicated trustee team increasingly advising on access to funding, project design, and methods to increase volunteer recruitment. We will continue to explore how to best use our board's expertise to maximise the potential of innovative youth-led volunteering projects across the UK.

## **Increasing long-term impact through repeated funding**

The incredible organisations and groups we fund rarely stop after just one project. Many of the projects we fund are looking for repeat funding. Often, ADT acts as a launchpad, with projects reporting that they go on to access other funding sources after their ADT-funding enabled a proof of concept.

But for many youth-led volunteering projects there are no other suitable funding sources. Your donation could support us in offering repeated funding to selected projects, increasing the extent to which young people are engaged in volunteering activities and enhancing community benefits.

## **Developing young trustees**

Whilst 1 in 12 trustees are named John or David, less than 3% are under 30 (Young Trustees Movement). ADT encourages young people to take up trustee roles on our board, with many of our leadership team joining the Trust when they were under 30. For many, ADT is their first trustee experience, and we are proud to attract talent from the charity, private, and public sectors to sit on our board.

We also provide volunteer opportunities directly with the Trust for those building up their skills ready to become trustees in the future, doing our part to increase the 3%.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss our work, the difference your support could make, and how we can best work together to support youth volunteering.

**Contact our trustee team [here](#)**