

Oxfordshire Community Foundation partners with new platform The Good Exchange to boost charitable fundraising across Oxfordshire

- **New fundraising platform has officially launched in Oxfordshire matching charitable projects with funders, donors and fundraisers**
- **The Good Exchange is working with Oxfordshire Community Foundation to create new partnerships to help tackle some of the key problems facing communities across Oxfordshire**
- **Grant funders, charities and community organisations seeking funders invited to join new fundraising platform**

Oxfordshire, 30 March 2017: Fundraising platform, The Good Exchange is working with Oxfordshire Community Foundation in a bid to forge new partnerships with charitable trusts, local authorities and social investment partners to tackle some of the key problems facing communities across Oxfordshire.

The partnership focuses on bringing charities and community organisations together with grant funders, donors and fundraisers through The Good Exchange to support local projects in reaching their fundraising targets and transform neighbourhoods.

The Good Exchange, which is now live across Oxfordshire has already raised in excess of £3.3 million (including nearly £1.7m in donations) for local good causes in grants and donations in West Berkshire and North Hampshire since it launched in September 2016.

Chief Operating Officer at The Good Exchange Ed Gairdner said: “We are delighted to be working with Oxfordshire Community Foundation as they are the leading local voice and visionary in the charitable sector. We both have an aspiration to attract and work collaboratively with established funders, local authorities and philanthropists to provide funding, sharing of information, as well as utilising technology to identify charitable needs to improve people’s lives.”

OCF Chief Executive Jayne Woodley added: “We are excited about working with The Good Exchange because we share the same vision of using and sharing technology for good in our communities. There is a great potential to work in partnership with The Good Exchange and collaborate with other community platforms to generate funding, source volunteers and work with local businesses who want to give their skills and expertise to help the voluntary sector. This partnership can help us tackle the serious social issues like homelessness and the lack of affordable housing which are prevalent in Oxfordshire at the moment.”

One of the many success stories on The Good Exchange is The Rosemary Appeal, a campaign aiming to raise £4.5m to build a cancer and renal dialysis unit at West Berkshire Hospital, which has already raised over £2.5m since it registered in October 2016.



Representing The Rosemary Appeal, Secretary of the Newbury and Thatcham Hospital Building Trust, Dr Rob Tayton, said: “The Good Exchange has enabled us to raise an extraordinary amount of money towards the appeal in under four months. The ability for funders to match fund donations from the public and local companies and other funders has given us an incredible boost.”

The Good Exchange can help local charities and community organisations to reach their fundraising goals by creating fundraising appeals which are automatically matched with multiple eligible grant funding schemes. The appeals can be shared on social media and fundraising events can be created to attract donors and fundraisers all in one place.

Funders can match fund donations and grants made to projects through the platform and can see who else is considering supporting projects so they can co-fund projects and enter into partnership funding agreements.

Mr Gairdner added: *“We are already working with a number of funders to support hundreds of charitable projects and we are looking to grow thegoodexchange.com even further in Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire. We are also talking with national funders and other community foundations to help regenerate deprived communities across the country. If you are fundraising for a local project, are a grant-giving organisation or want to support projects you care about through donations or fundraising, please visit thegoodexchange.com and help transform your community.”*

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Notes to editors

The Good Exchange is looking for charitable trusts and foundations, local authorities, housing associations, philanthropists, people who manage legacies and funds, commercial Corporate Social Responsibility programmes and social enterprises to join The Good Exchange as funders.

Charities, local authorities, schools, churches, amateur sports clubs and community organisations are very welcome to register as applicants and fundraise for local projects large and small on The Good Exchange.

The Good Exchange is a not-for-profit organisation which is wholly owned by Greenham Trust Ltd a charitable trust based in Newbury.

The concept for the platform was born out of a need to reduce bureaucracy, improve transparency and encourage collaboration in the grant giving and fundraising communities.

Greenham Common Trust began working together in partnership with West Berkshire Council and the then local strategic partnership to jointly administer their grant application, shortlisting and grant decision making processes. The decision to have a single grant application and decision making process cut over-subscription of funding applications by 50% and led to more informed and intelligent grant making.



The success of this collaborative approach to grant making led the Trust to create a digital fundraising website called findmeagrant which distributed nearly £12m (including £2.5m) in public donations to local good causes in West Berkshire and north Hampshire in the five years it was operating.

Currently, more than 10,000 charitable trusts provide c£3bn a year to the UK charitable sector. Each trust has its own application process, objectives and acceptance criteria. With a single application, applicants are able to access the complete range of funding options from local, regional and national funders and funders have full visibility of every application.

Website: <https://thegoodexchange.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thegoodexchange/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegoodexchange?lang=en>

About Oxfordshire Community Foundation

Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF) is an independent charity that connects people who care with causes that matter. OCF inspires local philanthropy, and nurtures community-based solutions to key social problems across Oxfordshire.

OCF is one of 48 community foundations in the UK, and over 1,800 similar foundations around the world. Community foundations collaborate with private philanthropists, family trusts, businesses and the public sector to provide a permanent, flexible and growing source of local charitable funding.