

Annual Review

2019-20

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What is the TDS Charitable Foundation?

The TDS Charitable Foundation exists to raise the standards in the private rented sector. It does this by providing funding to organisations who can support the PRS through educational initiatives. The Foundation also disseminates educational information to aid tenants, landlords and agents.

The Foundation looks to support projects which focus on:

- Promoting knowledge of landlords' obligations
- Promoting knowledge of tenants' rights and responsibilities

About our funding

The Charitable Foundation was launched in 2014 and, over the past six years, has provided funding for 58 projects totalling £783,100.

Each award granted has contributed to a range of different ventures all with the core focus of advancing education on housing rights and obligations throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Foundation is funded by donations from The Dispute Service – the leading not-for-profit, government-approved Tenancy Deposit Scheme, which also operates across the UK.

How projects are funded

Organisations are invited to submit bid funding applications to outline the proposed projects or initiatives they seek funding for.

All applications received are then reviewed by the board of Trustees. Three Trustees are appointed by the Tenancy Deposit Scheme and the remaining trustees are appointed by the Board as Independent Trustees.



A warm welcome to our new trustees

The TDS Charitable Foundation has welcomed two new independent Trustees to the Board this year; John Kraus, Head of Sustainable Urbanisation at RICS and Kate Faulkner, leading property expert and Founder of Propertychecklists.

Kate has previously been a beneficiary of funding from The Foundation, producing 12 papers and research surveys to better inform the property industry about residential property market facts and figures and the consumers within it.



"The work the Foundation carries out to support education initiatives is vital. Having had first-hand experience of the funding and monitoring process, I am looking forward to helping to support other projects deliver best practice in this essential housing sector."
Kate Faulkner.



A spotlight on projects funded by the TDS Charitable Foundation

Over the past year, we've seen a number of great projects reach their conclusion after receiving funding in previous years. This is a flavour of those projects which have made a difference with the financial support of the TDS Charitable Foundation:

Bristol Law Centre

£7,184

Bristol Law Centre provided four one-off weekly appointments to tenants in privately rented accommodation to help educate them on their rights and responsibilities, as well as their potential next steps. These appointments were held with trained volunteer law students in order to develop their research and communication skills.

“The TDS funding has been essential in helping some of the hundreds of people who come to us with housing issues.”

Citizens Advice Oxford

£5,000

Citizens Advice Oxford produced an awareness campaign targeted key areas of the city. The project primarily focused on helping tenants for whom English is a second language, and provided and published tenancy rights information in five languages.



Shropshire Housing Alliance

£5,000

Shropshire Housing Alliance used their funding to host a bespoke YouTube channel that enhanced information in an existing tenant handbook as well as allowing updates to be publicised in real time.

“ The funding from TDS has been instrumental in helping us to get across much needed messages to both private sector landlords and tenants alike. This will increase their knowledge, safety and enjoyment of their homes. We aim to build on the work done to date and to use this medium of communication in the future.”

Refugee Council

£10,000

The TDS Charitable Foundation funding contributed towards the London-based 'refugee private rented scheme'. The scheme provided advice sessions and group pre-tenancy support to prepare newly recognised refugees for searching, securing, and maintaining tenancies.

“Thanks to the fantastic support of the TDS Foundation we were able to help 109 people and secure 52 tenancies, enabling people to rebuild their lives in safety and with security.”

Private Rented Service Newcastle

£12,000

Private Rented Service Newcastle utilised their funding for the production of a series of short educational films for tenants to help them understand their rights and responsibilities.

Topics included:

- How to choose your new home
- Budgeting and affordability
- How to be a responsible tenant
- Landlord responsibilities
- How to report a repair

<http://www.privaterentedservice.co.uk/tenants/guide-to-renting/>

Law For Life

£19,805

Law for life used their funding to develop a nationwide integrated education and information project to help private renters. This included producing three practical guides for renters who are threatened with homelessness, and the delivery of four regional workshops for trusted intermediaries across England. The aim of the training and the guides was to boost knowledge, skills and confidence of participants to help them deal with their local authority when faced with homelessness.

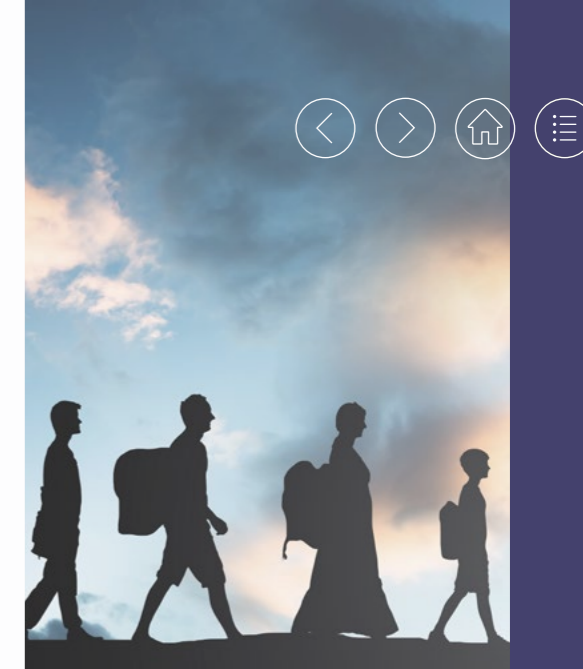
[A survival guide to what to do if you are threatened with homelessness](#)

[A survival guide to what to do if you are homeless](#)

[How to challenge the decision about your homelessness application](#)

Information on all funded projects and the resources generated can be found on the TDS Charitable Foundation website:

<http://tdsfoundation.org.uk/programmes>



Propertymark Qualifications | £50,000

The TDS Charitable Foundation granted funding for Propertymark Qualifications (PMQ) to support the development and roll out of Propertymark Qualifications' provision to colleges and training providers. This helped to deliver programmes to learners in full and/or part time education and training. The training was targeted principally at students aged 16- 19, leading initially towards Propertymark Qualifications Level 2 Award in Residential Lettings.

The sum of £50,000 over a 2-year period, commencing January 2018, was used to support:

- Development of (online) learning resource materials
- Capacity building for a programme/ centre development/ facilitation of employer/ professional body member support
- Development of promotional materials to support centre/ learner take-up and employer/member support.

Over the period of funding, 117 Level 2 Lettings qualifications have been awarded. Given the stimulus provided by the promotion and awareness raised as part of the project, 1,737 Lettings and Letting-related qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 were awarded during the same period.

“ The funding received has enabled Propertymark Qualifications to provide a range of support and information to learners, their tutors and employees/employers more generally and provide greater access to professional qualifications. ”

Manchester CAB £21,000

The Foundation awarded the Manchester branch of Citizens Advice £21,000 in a previous round of funding in 2018, which was rolled out in incremental amounts to help with each stage of software development.

Their idea was an Advicebot on Facebook Messenger, which was designed to make it easier for people to access advice from Citizens Advice Manchester via a platform they were already comfortable using.

The Advicebot plays an important role in allowing people to find out answers to questions quickly, with a seamless handover to human advisors when the automated Advicebot can no longer assist. This frees up advisors to respond to enquiries that require urgent attention or deeper expertise, much faster and more efficiently than before.

The application has proved so successful that the Citizens Advice are considering a rollout across the country.

The project has since won the National Citizens Advice Innovation Award.

“ We found it hard to sell the idea for innovative technology, as it was difficult to convince investors to support us in something they didn't fully understand. The TDS Charitable Foundation were different and could see the potential in our idea. They took a gamble on us, which really paid off! ”

The UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)

In September 2018, the TDS Charitable Foundation awarded its largest bid funding to date for a specific research project. The total funding of £295,521 was granted, with SafeDeposits Charitable trust donating a third of the total grant.

The centre, which was established in August 2017, is a multidisciplinary partnership between academia, housing policy and practice. Over the course of the programme, CaCHE researchers will produce evidence and new research which will contribute to tackling the UK's private

rented sector's housing problems at a national, devolved, regional, and local level.

We have proposed a number of research projects or questions to address, for which there are now two published reports by CaCHE:



What has the TDS Charitable Foundation funded this year?



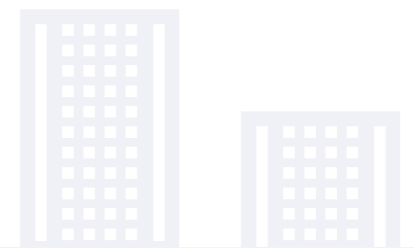
During 2019-2020, the TDS Charitable Foundation invited organisations to submit funding proposals for projects that met the core objectives. Two were successful and were awarded grant funding totalling £17,725.

People, Potential, Possibilities | £7,900

Project: To create bite-size videos (<1 minute) using plain English, infographics, photography, film and animation. These will be presented by real people with first-hand knowledge about the subjects.

Centre for Sustainable Energy | £9,825

Project: The funding will be used for attendance at 5 regional landlord events and The Landlord Expo 2021 where tailored face to face guidance can be provided to advise delegates of the recent and pending changes to MEES.



Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

Incoming Resources	Unrestricted Funds 2020 (£)	Total year ended 31 March 2020	Unrestricted Funds 2019 (£)	Total year ended 31 March 2019
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Donations	101,185	101,185	64,075	64,075
Interest	430	430	1,640	1,640
Total Incoming Resources	101,615	101,615	65,715	65,715
Resources Expended				
Charitable activities	(95,675)	(95,675)	(193,228)	(193,228)
Support costs	(2,266)	(2,266)	(1,938)	(1,938)
Total Resources Expended	(97,941)	(97,941)	(195,166)	(195,166)
Net Movement in funds	3,674	3,674	(129,451)	(129,451)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	294,144	294,144	423,595	423,595
Total funds carried forward	297,818	297,818	294,144	294,144

The TDS Charitable Foundation is funded by donations from The Dispute Service and provides grant funding to organisations within England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland, The Dispute Service is a partner in the SafeDeposits Scotland Trust which works towards similar goals in the Scottish private rented sector.

TDS Northern Ireland

is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Dispute Service, providing both Custodial and Insured tenancy deposit protection.

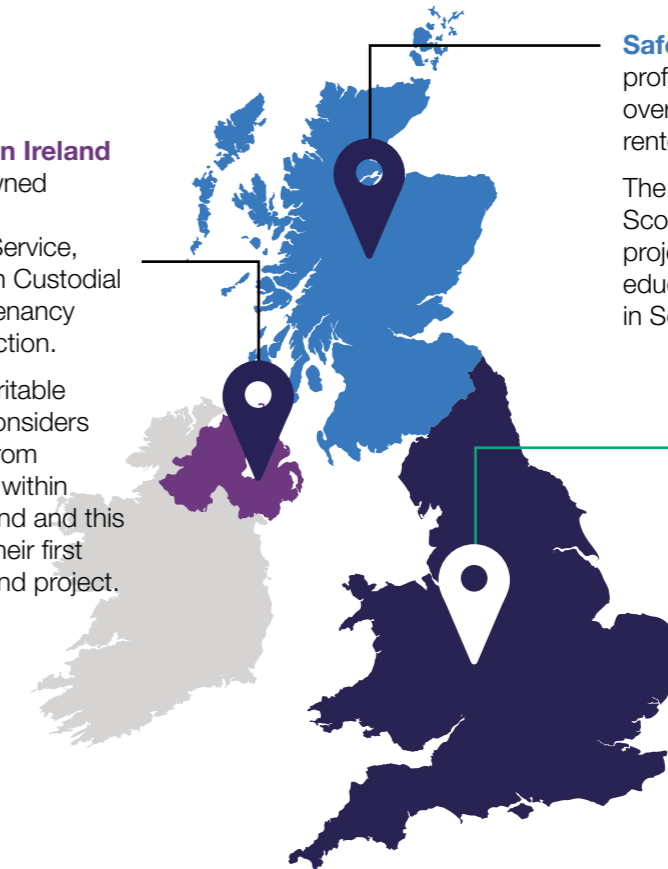
The TDS Charitable Foundation considers applications from organisations within Northern Ireland and this year funded their first Northern Ireland project.

SafeDeposits Scotland is a not-for-profit organisation which safeguards over 100,000 deposits of private rented tenants under Scottish law.

The scheme funds the SafeDeposits Scotland Charitable Trust, funding projects aimed at promoting education, training and best practice in Scotland's private rented sector.

The Tenancy Deposit Scheme

is operated by The Dispute Service providing tenancy deposit protection in England and Wales. TDS offers both Insured deposit protection, **TDS Insured**, and Custodial deposit protection, **TDS Custodial**.




We are currently welcoming bid funding applications with a deadline for submission being 5pm on Friday 25th September 2020. All applications received will be considered by the Trustees of the Foundation and organisations will be notified towards the end of October whether they have been successful.

Within this round, we are particularly interested in receiving applications that seek to drive forward education and learning as well as dispute resolution in light of the impact which Covid-19 has had on the Private Rented Sector.


Applicants are encouraged to think about how a project would be deliverable in the post Covid-19 world.

<https://tdsfoundation.org.uk/#apply-for-funding>



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