

# Together, giving hope

Thank you for hearing local people, and fighting  
for dignity

Oct 2024-March 2025

can help with:

council tax reductions  
additional financial help for

- Supporting **2,730** people through financial hardship
- Ensuring people like Andrew\* get the help they deserve
- Equipping **594** children with skills to improve their futures

*...in the last 6 months*

# Together, we can change lives

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**“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.”**

**Proverbs 31:8**

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**Everyone deserves the chance to live with dignity, free from the crushing weight of financial hardship. But for too many in our community, life is an uphill battle, where they struggle to be heard, and feel too exhausted to keep fighting.**

Thanks to you, over the past year we've been able to invest in our Community Engagement Team to listen and amplify the voices of those who are struggling. Their experiences drive our campaigning—pushing for fairer local and national systems so fewer people fall into hardship in the first place. This is justice in action, and it's only possible because of your support.

Because of you, people like Andrew - who was rejected three times for the benefits he was entitled to - now have financial security. Because of you, we were ready when people began to learn of pension credit after winter fuel allowance was removed, ensuring that older people weren't left in the cold. And because of you, over £1 million in total has been put back into people's pockets in the last six months, enabling them to regain control of their lives.

And we're not just fighting today's battles—we're investing in fairer futures. Through budgeting lessons in schools, we're equipping the next generation with the tools to manage money well, breaking the cycle before it begins. And looking forwards, we will be leaning further into these areas of prevention and policy, in order to achieve our ultimate mission; to bring about flourishing, thriving and resilient people in the communities we support.

Together, we value people. We build relationships, we hold hands. And we stand alongside each person for as long as they need us, because no one should have to fight alone.

Thank you for ensuring that justice isn't just an idea—but a reality for those who need it most.



**Henry Wilson MBE**  
CEO, REACH Community  
Projects

*N.B. Andrew's name, photo and minor details have been changed to protect his privacy.*

# Together, fighting for people like Andrew



## Andrew's life has been a relentless struggle from the beginning.

**Born with a rare disorder, he has barely known a year without surgery. Living with constant pain, he knows in the first hour of his day whether he will be able to speak with friends and hold his young child, or whether instead he will face a day of intense and unpleasant symptoms.**

Now in his 20's, he desperately needs to work: not just to keep busy and build social relationships, but more importantly to know he's able to help provide for his family.

Instead, he has been let go from multiple jobs, because of his sickness absence, due to the unreliable body he was born with. His wife is the breadwinner, and his mother-in-law has to help him look after his own child. Most days, someone has to prepare his meals for him, and he feels like a burden to his loved ones.

Understandably his mental health hit rock bottom, as did the family finances. They went into arrears for gas and electric, and after missing mortgage payments, were fearful of losing their home.

Our advisor, Ann, met him when he had already applied for Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and been declined.

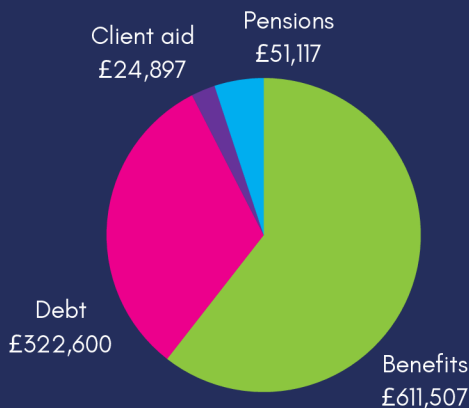
Despite his pain, Andrew asked her how she took her tea, and Ann saw in him a kind, capable and passionate man who felt utterly defeated from fighting. He had given up hope, but Ann persevered alongside him, through another application, rejection, and finally an appeal.

She sat literally by his side at his court appearance as he spoke about his daily challenges, and how desperately he didn't want any of this. He made such an impact that the judge personally called after the appeal to confirm that he would receive a substantial backpay, and £184 per week going forwards.

**Money won't fix Andrew's disability, or lessen his daily struggles, but he no longer has to worry if his family will keep their home, or if they can afford heating or food.**

**Andrew should never have been declined the help he was entitled to, but sadly this is a common occurrence. By fighting for justice alongside Andrew, and others like him, we like to think we've helped prevent him giving up on himself. He can see a path forwards now, and we'll continue to walk it with him for as long as he needs us.**

# Between October 2024 and March 2025...



**£1,010,121**

**achieved in financial  
outcomes**



**39.1% more  
children were  
helped than  
the previous 6  
months**



**60.4% more  
people helped to  
gain financially  
than Oct-March  
the previous year**

**2730 people**  
were supported  
during hardship

**1336**  
families were  
helped

**1114**  
people were fed

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