



**NORMAN
GARON
TRUST**

2025 Impact Report



Highlighting a year of
community support,
development, and positive
change

OUR COMMUNITY

Southend-on-Sea is a densely populated coastal city with a vibrant character, but its needs are more profound than many places. Nine neighbourhoods rank among the 10% most deprived in the country, while around 21% of working-age residents (16–64) are economically inactive, significantly above regional averages. Approximately 35% of residents live in areas within the 30% most deprived nationally, and the life expectancy gap between the wealthiest and poorest wards is almost a decade.

Against this backdrop, rising living costs are placing increasing pressure on households, with local authorities reporting growing demand for support with food, energy, and other essential living costs. In response, the Trust's mission is clear: to create a stronger, healthier Southend by enhancing community life through sport, wellbeing, and charitable initiatives that unite people and deliver meaningful, lasting impact.

This report celebrates what has been achieved together and reaffirms our commitment to supporting community initiatives that make a difference through 2026 and beyond.



THE CEO'S MESSAGE

BY KARL HEPPLÉ

As CEO of the Norman Garon Trust, I am proud to present our 2025 Impact Report, which reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening life in Southend-on-Sea and beyond. Our charitable mission has long focused on supporting local youth projects, helping young people access opportunity, stability and positive pathways in a city where inequality and disadvantage remain significant challenges.

At the heart of our model is Garon Park, which serves both as the base for many of our charitable initiatives and as a sustainable engine for community impact. As a dedicated health and wellbeing site, Garon Park promotes active lifestyles for all ages through sport, exercise, nature and community programmes. Crucially, the proceeds generated are reinvested directly back into Southend, funding local charities and community groups so that every visit and activity contributes to meaningful, measurable change across the city.

2025 AT A GLANCE

£392,464 Distributed in 2025

Across 3 Funding Rounds



15

Local Charities
and Community
Groups Supported



3

Funding Rounds
Delivered



£2.5 M+

Total invested
since 1982



Mental Health & Family Support

- **Chaos & Calm**
- **Shoeburyness & Thorpe Bay Baptist Church**
- **MIND**



Inclusion & Accessibility

- **Able Kidz**
- **Just Ride Southend**
- **Friends and Places Together**



Creativity, Sport & Youth Development

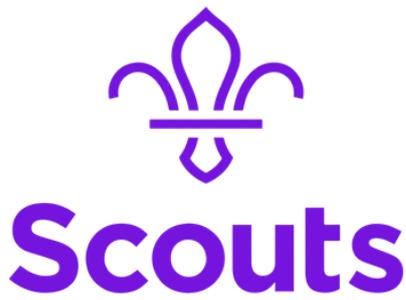
- **Southend United Community Foundation**
- **Platform Theatre Arts & Unpuzzled Theatre Company**



Safety & Wellbeing

- **Community Safety Education**
- **Little Heroes**
- **Narcanon Drug Support**

In 2025, the Norman Garon Trust supported a targeted group of local organisations united by a shared aim: strengthening wellbeing and opportunity across Southend-on-Sea. Funding was focused on four priority themes, Mental Health & Family Support, Inclusion & Accessibility, Creativity, Sport & Youth Development, and Safety & Wellbeing. The themes helped to address areas of the greatest need and long-term impact. Together, these charities support people at every stage of life, helping to build a healthier, safer and more connected community.



Over the past year, Essex Scouts has delivered a wide range of activities, events and experiences for young people across the County. This included large-scale events such as the Essex International Jamboree, County Backpack, Essex Weekend and Beavers in Tents, alongside international opportunities and skills-based challenges. Significant progress has also been made at Skreens Park and Thriftwood, with improvements to facilities, sustainability projects and ongoing volunteer-led maintenance.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

2025 has been a year of both consolidation and expansion for the Norman Garon Trust, but the work is far from done. As the cost of living continues to squeeze households, and as the most deprived parts of our city need deeper and more targeted support, we must remain agile, responsive, and bold.



SOCIAL
COHESION &
ENGAGEMENT



ECONOMIC
STABILITY &
OPPORTUNITY



EDUCATION
AND
LEARNING



SAFETY
AND
SECURITY



DEVELOPING
YOUTH

In 2026, the Trust will broaden its focus to support the "Pillars of Community"

This evolution reflects our belief that lasting community strength comes from addressing interconnected needs – not just supporting individuals in crisis, but supporting the systems, relationships, and opportunities that enable people to thrive.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND
LEARN ABOUT FUNDING
APPLICATIONS

