

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

Charity

Vicar's Relief Fund

Impact
Report

2019/20



St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity helps people who are experiencing, or at risk of becoming homeless. We are best known for our annual BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal with St Martin-in-the-Fields. The money we raise directly supports people through The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields and across the UK through the Vicar's Relief Fund (VRF) and the Frontline Network.

The VRF helps people experiencing homelessness through small, quick grants that prevent eviction or help people access accommodation. We award grants of up to £350, and we usually process grant requests in 1-3 days. We give grants to people across the UK through frontline workers.





As *[our client]* was due to move in, the council reversed its decision to pay rent in advance and he was facing instant eviction onto the streets again. The Vicar's Relief grant saved the day, allowing him to have the property. Since moving in, he has been engaging successfully with alcohol and gambling addiction services and has been able to have full access to his little son. These factors have been crucial in improving his mental health significantly.

Tenancy Support Officer, Wales



Our year in numbers

Awarded
5,498
grants

44% increase
on last year



Helping
8,760
people

46% increase
on last year



Accessing
accommodation

4,061

Grants given to individuals and families

Preventing
eviction

1,437



Maximum
grant amount

£350

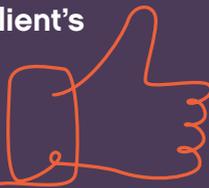
Total value of all the
grants given in 2019-20

£1,586,471



Support workers who
applied on their client's
behalf and were
awarded grants

1,942



Average grant decision
turnaround time

2.5

WORKING DAYS

Breakdown of grants

Accessing accommodation



3,350 Moving into new accommodation

398 ID to access accommodation

199 Clearing rent arrears to access social housing

48 Removal costs

36 A fee towards a DRO or bankruptcy application to access accommodation

30 Emergency accommodation whilst waiting for secure accommodation to be ready

Preventing eviction

Rent arrears

1,043

Fee towards a DRO or bankruptcy application

144

Service charge arrears

229

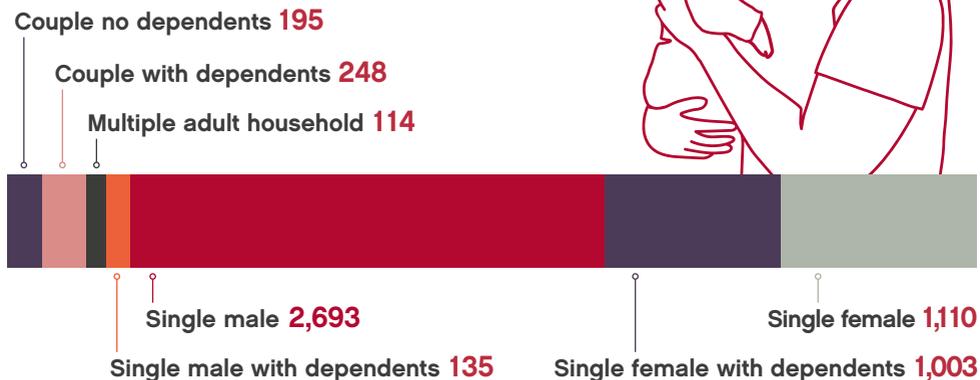
Costs of a deep clean or de-cluttering

21



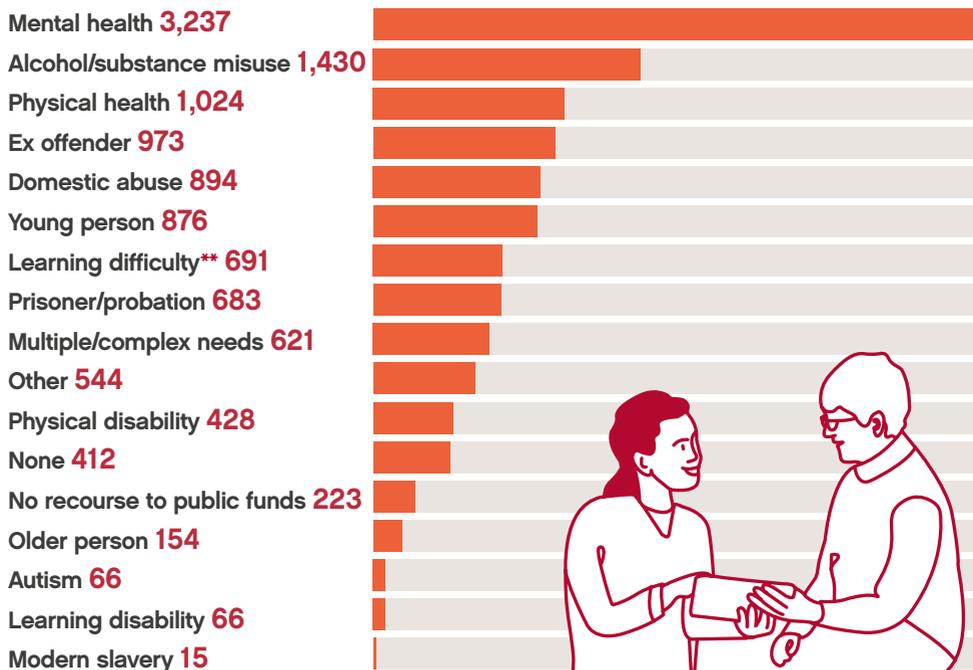
Beneficiaries

Household circumstances

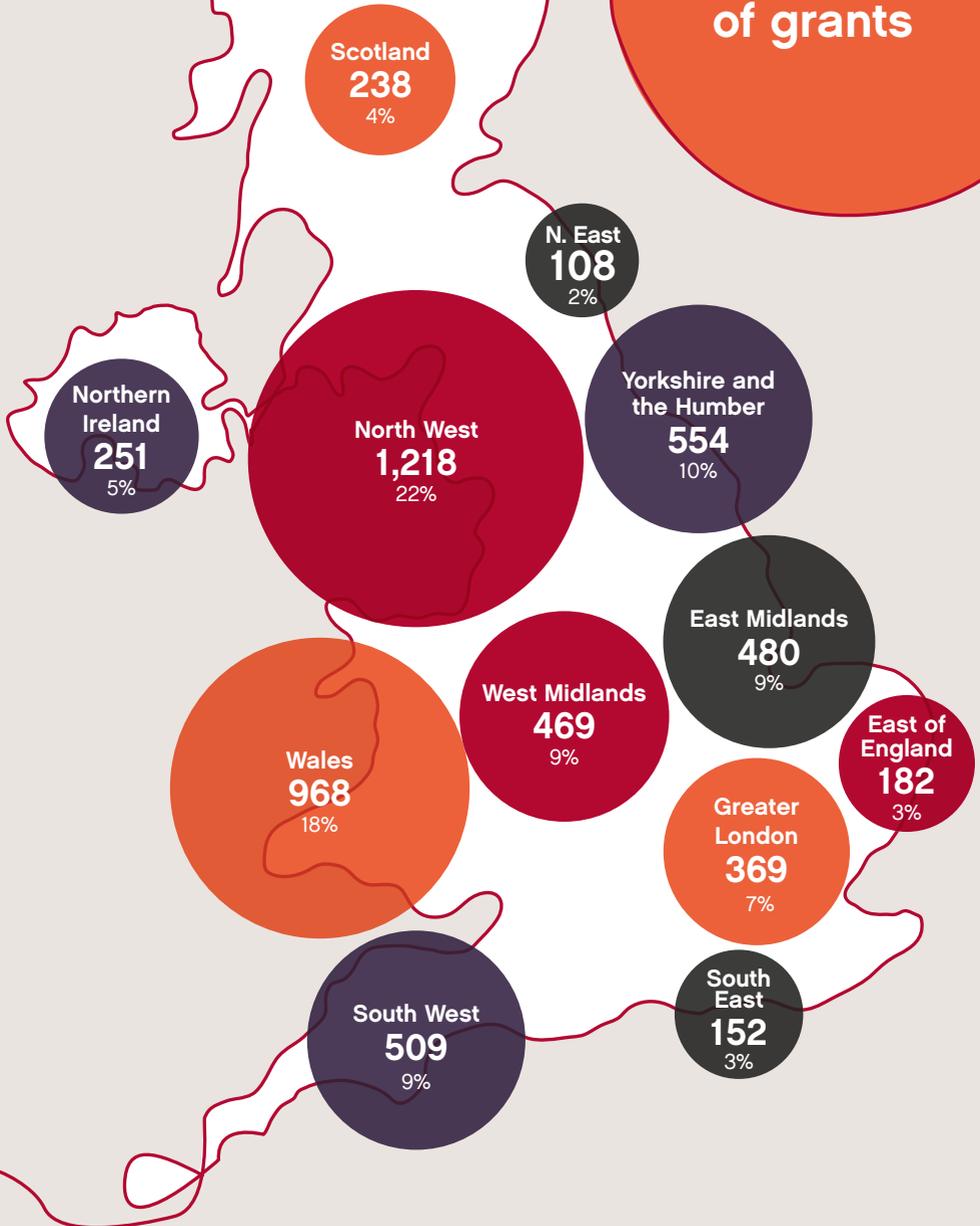


Support needs*

*Users are able to choose more than one category
**e.g. Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia



Regional breakdown of grants



Looking forward

We will continue to be guided by the voice of frontline workers and the people they work with. Our work continues to be supported by the BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal.

To find out more or to donate go to: smitfc.org/donate

At the Frontline Network, we support frontline workers who work with people experiencing homelessness. If you are a frontline worker, join for free to access funding, resources, & a strong frontline worker community: frontlinenetwork.org.uk

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Just to say thank you so much for your help in assisting me to secure my property. You guys have been amazing, and thank you for all your communication throughout. This has really helped me getting back on track, you never know how much this has meant to me. Facing homelessness is a terrible experience and you guys have helped me so much, I literally couldn't see no way out, and honestly the help you guys have given me when I had no one to help me, this I will never forget.

West Midlands-based grantee

