

# IMPACT REPORT 2016



Shining brighter, reaching further

Our Construction Industry Helpline provides a 24/7 safety net for all construction workers and their families in the UK and Ireland. It is a charitable service funded by the industry, for the industry, and provides:



Emergency financial aid to construction families in crisis



Advice on occupational health and mental wellbeing



Support on legal, tax and debt management matters

How to get your Construction Industry Helpline Pack

If your construction site is registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme



0800 783 1423



enquiries@ccscheme.org.uk



www.ccscheme.org.uk/products

If you are not a member of the **Considerate Constructors Scheme** 



0345 609 1956





www.constructionindustryhelpline. com/products



0345 605 1956



Construction Industry Helpline

Confidential 24/7 helpline available to the industry's workforce and their families

0345 605 1956

#### Introduction from Chairman of Trustees



Welcome to our 2016 Impact Report. Last year, the Lighthouse Construction Charity Industry celebrated 60 years of charitable giving to the construction community and what a year it was.

In 2016 our charitable giving amounted to £602,314. Delivering emergency financial support to construction families in need is the corner stone of our charitable work. And it needs to be because construction remains one of the most dangerous and stressful industries to work in.

A career in construction can be very rewarding but worrying statistics show there is much work to be done to ensure that everyone gets home safely at the end of their working day. Every year there's an average of 40 fatalities on our building sites and over 69,000 new cases of work related illnesses reported can be directly attributed to working within construction.

Mental health and wellbeing continues to be a serious issue within our industry with 400 construction workers a year committing suicide and a fifth of all work related illness being due to stress, depression or anxiety.

Our Construction Industry Helpline is the gateway to our services for our construction workforce, offering financial help, mental health and wellbeing support and advice on taxation and legal issues. Following widespread publicity of the helpline we are already seeing an increase in the number of calls but we need to do more. We want every construction worker in the country to carry one of our helpline cards, so they know where to turn to in times of need. You can help us to achieve our mission by ordering your helpline pack today and spreading the word about the helpline.

In our 60th anniversary year we also launched, 'Lighthouse Day', where we asked organisations in the construction industry to pledge just one day to raise funds for our charity. 56 companies signed up and raised a fantastic £180,000 by hosting summer balls, quizzes, tough mudders, karting days and many other activities to raise much needed funds for our charity. There are over 360,000 companies in construction and if just one per cent registered for Lighthouse Day and raised just £500 each, we could see the charity raise £1.5m. I would encourage everyone in the sector to sign up and help us make a difference.

Our 21 Regional Lighthouse Clubs in the UK and Ireland also contributed significantly to our anniversary performance, raising £320,264 through their regional events and fundraising activities. All the clubs are volunteer led and I would like to personally thank our regional volunteer committees for their significant contribution and for the time and dedication of everyone involved.

In this report, you will see how these valuable contributions are making a difference and changing lives. It is these real-life stories that inspire us to reach further and shine brighter, providing a beacon of hope to those in need. Thank you to everyone that has contributed so generously so far and I hope that we can rely on your continued support in the future.

Chairman of Trustees

# Our impact in 2016

In 2016, 1345 new cases for support were presented to our charity, 313 construction families were delivered a total of £602,314 in emergency financial aid and 1032 cases were supported through our helpline with mental health and wellbeing advice, debt management,taxation support and legal assistance.





£602,314 of financial support to 313 families.



**1032** 

families needing mental health and wellbeing support and advice on occupational issues



As pressures within the industry grow, we continue to see an increasing demand for support with mental health wellbeing. To respond to these needs, our helpline provides access to a team of mental health first aiders who are specially trained to deal with anxiety, stress, depression and addictive behaviour.

We are also strengthening our relationships with other charities such as MacMillan Cancer Research, MIND, Samaritans and Citizens Advice to ensure that we reach the people that need our help.

# Charitable giving

Of the 313 families that received financial assistance, 215 reported illnesses that were so debilitating that they were unable to work. A further 61 applicants had suffered an accident which meant that they were unable to work for at least six months. We supported 37 cases where there was a death in the family.

#### Top 3 reported accidents

33%

Sprains, breaks and ruptures



**28%** 

Back injury



18%



Although the money was obviously really helpful, for me, it meant much more than that. It bought me time to grieve and think about the future which was really important.

#### Top 3 reported illnesses

desperate I was ready to end it all. But when we heard about the help from the Lighthouse Club Charity it meant that we could pay our bills and actually have some food in the cupboard

**52%** 

ancer

15%
Mental health



7%

Stroke

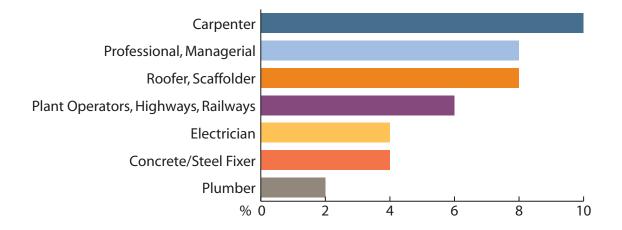


#### Top 3 occupational groups seeking assistance

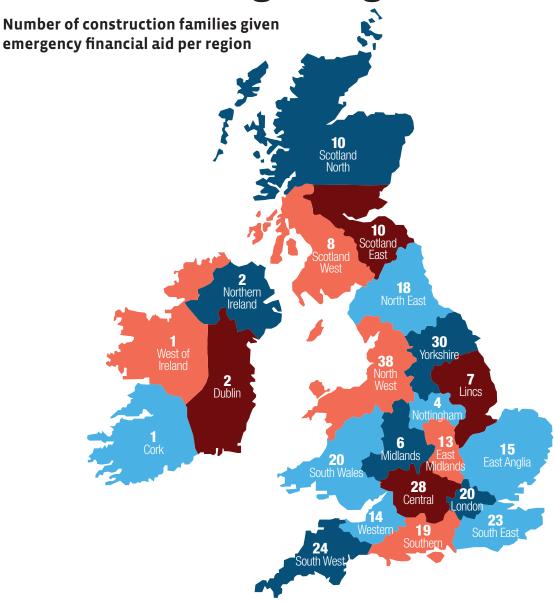
22% Builder, brick layer 19% Fround worker

170/o Plasterer, dry liner, fitter, decorator





# Charitable giving



#### Source of referral

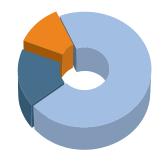


48% 26% Other charitable organisations

Welfare visitors

Direct to charity

#### Reasons for seeking help



69%

19%

Illness

Accident Death or bereavement

#### Ages of people helped



Over 50

40-49

30-39

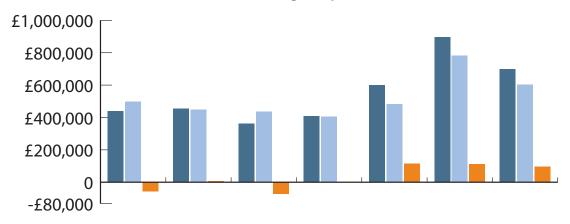
18-29

# Financial summary

We would like to thank all the companies and individuals that supported us so well in 2016 and for making our 60th Anniversary Year one to remember.

The charity delivered a strong financial performance in 2016 and the total *distributable funds* generated after event and overhead costs was £699,214. This was lower than in 2015 but when the extraordinary income generated by the Building Lives Campaign in 2015 is factored in, (£320,000) the underlying increase year on year is 21% and we continue to grow in a very competitive charity environment.

#### Distributable Income, Charitable Giving, Surplus/Deficit



<sup>\*</sup> A Surplus of £96,900 created from Income less Expenditure in 2016 was taken into reserves for future distribution.

#### Sources of our £1,540,257 of income

# 50% Event income 22% Corporate donations 21% Regional Lighthouse clubs

Individual donations

#### How did we spend the income generated?



The full audited accounts for 2016 can be found on our website www.lighthouseclub.org

## A day in the life of a welfare visitor

Neil Topping is one of our volunteer Welfare Visitors and he's been part of the Lighthouse Charity's Central Club for the past 22 years. We asked Neil to tell us about the vital work that our Welfare Visitors do across the country. Here's his special feature.



Neil Topping, Welfare Visitor, Central Club

#### Tell us a little about yourself!

I began my life in the construction industry in 1963 and trained as a quantity surveyor. In the latter part of my career I served as a commercial director with two major construction groups. In 2015, at the age of 69, I ended my direct involvement with the industry when I stepped down as a non-executive director of a large housing association that had its own building company

## How did you get involved with the Lighthouse Club Charity?

I became a member of the Lighthouse Club in the early 1980's having been a guest at one of the Club's functions. In the mid 1990s, the Central Club was set up and I became the volunteer Welfare Visitor at the first meeting because I wanted to give something back to the industry that had given me so much.

My role as Welfare Visitor means that I visit those in the industry facing financial hardship because they're unable to work through illness or injury. On mercifully rare occasions, I visit families who have lost a loved one through illness or injury.

#### How many visits do I do?

Until a couple of years ago it averaged about one every six to eight weeks. However, in early 2015 we set up an arrangement with Macmillan Cancer Support at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, a specialist cancer centre. The arrangement was that anyone from a construction background with cancer, facing financial hardship could be referred directly to me. This also includes employees who are only able to work part time due to a partner suffering from cancer.

Last year I received 25 referrals from Macmillan and this year I have been receiving them at a rate of about one a week. We are able to support most applications, either in the form of monthly payments or a single, one off payment depending on individual circumstances.

#### What happens when you visit an applicant?

I spend on average, about two hours visiting, but each case is very personal. Being under financial pressure obviously has repercussions in terms of stress and anxiety and for many this may be the first time that they have spoken to

someone about their situation. I outline the help that we can provide and then we talk about the applicant's employment history and their current circumstances. This information accompanies the application form and together we make sure that they are receiving any benefits they are entitled to. I finish the visit by explaining the submission process. From the time of my visit to the decision being conveyed back to me takes about two to three weeks.

#### What would be a typical case?

The answer is, there isn't one. Every person's situation is unique, but I can give an example of a recent one that had a 'good news' outcome. David, a 32 year old rigger who erects edge protection on high rise buildings, was diagnosed last year with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He lives in south Oxfordshire with his partner and two young children. He was referred to us by Macmillan because he was unable to work through the period of his treatment. The Lighthouse Club Charity provided both an initial lump sum payment as well as monthly payments for six months. I contacted David at the end of this period to see whether he needed continued support and he advised that he was about to return to work having recovered from his treatment. Sadly, many of the Macmillan referrals do not have such happy outcomes.

#### What's the best part of being a Welfare Visitor?

That's easy! It's contacting the applicant to advise them that their application for financial support has been successful. It's also fantastic when we hear that people like David get better and return to work.

All of our Welfare Visitors across the country are volunteers and I know that I can speak on their behalf in saying that there is huge satisfaction in knowing that we can make a difference to people when they are going through such difficult times. A few months ago, I called the wife of a self-employed plumber to advise her of the award. She had been diagnosed with breast cancer and had just returned home following an operation. She cried when I gave her the news and said that I was a 'star'. Despite the lump in my throat, I managed to respond 'No I'm not. I'm just a front man for a wonderful charity'.

# Your help, changing lives

Thanks to your huge efforts, we're able to provide charitable support to those who need it most in our construction community. Here's just a few of the people that you've made a difference to. Please continue your invaluable support so that we can help people like Robert, James, Lee, William and their families.

#### **Robert English**

Robert was tragically killed whilst working on a construction site early one morning back in October 2016. A colleague was driving a truck and accidentally crushed Robert, resulting in fatal injuries. He died moments later, before the emergency services reached the site. Robert left his partner, Caroline, and three daughters, Samantha 13, Rebecca nine and Jennifer, five. The Lighthouse Charity set up a just giving page for the family and to date, just over £100,000 has been raised through various fundraising events and donations from the construction community to support this young family.

#### A message to daddy from your three daughters

My daddy was the best he used to call me bubbles, my dad was my hero, my best friend, he was always doing his best for us. My dad did his best for us all, we look up into the sky at night to wish you a goodnight, you were and always will be special to us, you were our rock. The memories we have we will always have, he made our life complete we are heartbroken you are not here anymore to play and make us laugh. We miss your jokes, I know you are looking down on us and keeping us strong, I know you wouldn't want us to be sad so we just want you to know that we will keep our heads held high and do you proud, love you always daddy, sleep tight goodnight.

love your three daughters xxxx

#### James

James, a scaffolder since his late teens suffered horrific burn injuries when he was electrocuted whilst accessing a scaffold. His partner contacted the Citizens Advice Bureau and she was referred to us for help. James' injuries were so severe that he was placed into an induced coma and spent two months in intensive care. He has had both arms amputated as far as the elbows, one leg amputated below the knee and all the toes amputated from his other foot. He is undergoing multiple skin grafts and is now in the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford where he is beginning physiotherapy and being fitted with a prosthetic leg. James has a partner and five children, a daughter of nine, a son of four, another daughter who is two and twin daughters aged just nine months.

We are supporting the family by giving them a £1000 lump sum and £400 a month for six months.

#### Lee

Lee is a self-employed steel fixer aged 32 who was referred to us by Macmillan Cancer Support. In late October 2016, Lee's father passed away suddenly and he experienced a dramatic change in his health and started to get night sweats. This resulted in him being treated for depression by his doctor. In February 2017 Lee was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a cancer that develops in the lymphatic system, and he believes the depression and night sweats was the start of his cancer. He is currently going through a course of chemotherapy and is unable to work at present so we are supporting him with a monthly grant of £250 for six months.

#### William

William is a site manager and has a partner and three small children, the youngest being 19 weeks old. At just nine weeks old the youngest baby was diagnosed with cancer and required intensive treatment. William needed to take a sabbatical from work so that he could be by his baby boy's bedside whilst he was undergoing treatment and to help support his other two children. The Lighthouse Club's support of a monthly grant of £300 a month for six months, meant that William could spend precious time with his family.

#### Our regional lighthouse clubs need your help!

Our network of 21 volunteer led Lighthouse Clubs need your help. All of our clubs are looking for new volunteers and we urgently need Welfare Visitors who can be called upon to visit potential beneficiaries to follow up on the calls to our helpline.

If you think you can help in any way, however small, we would be delighted to hear from you.



#### To find out more please contact:-

# Construction Industry Helpline

Confidential 24x7
helpline available to the industry's workforce and their families

0345 605 1956

#### **Act Now!**

You could help save a construction worker or their family in crisis!

Purchase your Helpline Pack



Pledge to deliver a Lighthouse Day



Become a Lighthouse Supporter



Construction Industry Helpline 1956

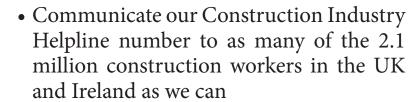


www.constructionindustryhelpline.com

# Building for the future

#### As we look to the future we have three clear objectives:







- Increase the support and nurture the growth of our Regional Lighthouse Clubs
- Increase Corporate engagement and donations through our Lighthouse Day initiative

You can help us shine brighter and reach further in a number of ways. Make sure your workers know where to turn to in times of need and order your Construction Industry Helpline Pack today. This will give you A2 posters for your site or place of work and handy wallet sized cards for your employees. All of our services are provided free of charge but we need your support so that we can continue to fund the helpline. By ordering your pack, you'll also be pledging to hold a Lighthouse Day where you take just one day...to help our own. It's really simple, all you need to do is choose a date and time that suits you and then decide what fundraising activity you'll like to do. We'll send you a fundraising pack with lots of ideas and support you all the way.

If you'd rather make a one off or annual donation, that would be great too. Every contribution really does make a difference to those in need in the industry.

Alternatively, find out about your local club and see what events they have planned. There's always something for everyone ranging from golf days to summer balls and they all provide great opportunities to network with industry people in your area. Best of all, you'll be raising much needed funds whilst having a great time!





www.lighthouseclub.org



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