

Foreword

The City Parochial Foundation was formally established in 1891 as the means of channelling the benefits of the many scattered endowments of the City parishes to the poor of Greater London.

By the 1870s, parishes within the City of London had significant endowments intended to benefit their inhabitants, but a resident population no longer existed, as over the years the City changed into a financial and business centre. Concern, stimulated by some scandals, was expressed; a Royal Commission was established; an Act of Parliament was passed in 1883 – and eventually the Foundation was created. In effect, the secular and ecclesiastical endowments of almost all the City churches were seized and passed in trust to the Foundation.

Over the years the trustees have developed the original endowments to provide an invaluable source of continuing and increasing support for charitable bodies working to assist the poor in London. Recent initiatives have included the London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, which provides accommodation, library, training and conference facilities for voluntary organisations, the London Prisons Community Links initiative, which works to improve facilities for visitors in London prisons, and the Evelyn Oldfield Unit, which provides advice, training and support for refugee community organisations in the London area.

The programme and the projects funded are outlined. The report then concentrates on the general issues and concerns which emerged from the experience of the projects. Finally the lessons learned are discussed in the hope that work with carers will build as these along with other work in this field.