



Summary of success rates for the Trust's grant programmes

2022

Key points

Since its foundation, the Trust has pledged more than £120m to support projects at many universities, hospitals and charities across the UK.

In keeping with the founder's wishes, our vision is to improve health and care for people living with serious long-term or life-limiting conditions. We do this by supporting:

- world-leading translational research
- investment in equipment and facilities to support translational research
- investment in projects to integrate and improve care for people living with physical or mental ill health
- core costs for smaller charities providing practical and emotional support to people living with ill health or disability, and to their families and carers.

Context – Covid and its impact on 2020 and 2021

The Trust adjusted its grant programmes in 2020 and 2021, in response to the pandemic. The competitions for our major research award - the Sir Jules Thorn Award - and our PhD programme were both suspended in 2020, due to the pressure on researchers and clinicians involved in the process. This meant that no awards were made for these programmes in 2020, and applications were carried forward to 2021.

When the competitions for the Sir Jules Thorn Award and PhD programme re-started in the Autumn of 2020, the Trust also offered an additional, one-off award of £1m to support research which was at an advanced stage of translation but where progress had been hampered by the restrictions on research activity and funding due to the pandemic. Applications for this additional award were invited in late 2020 as research resumed in universities and the NHS, and the award was then made in 2021.

While research was disrupted in 2020 and 2021, the Trust allocated additional funds to support hospices and smaller charities responding to the pandemic. The Trust made awards of more than £1m to hospices, and £820K to smaller charities providing practical support for older people and people living with ill-health, or facing challenges with homelessness or social exclusion.

The enforced suspension of the competitions for our research programmes meant that the total value of new awards made by the Trust was lower in 2020 than the previous year. Our support for hospices and smaller charities in 2020 was however roughly double the amount pledged in 2019, and this was maintained into 2021 as the research programmes resumed.

Total value of new awards by year

2018	£3.3m
2019	£3.5m
2020	£2.0m
2021	£5.3m
2022	£3.2m

Grant programmes in 2022

The number and range of applications that the Trust received in 2022 – and the success rates for some of our programmes – were affected by two principal factors:

- a return to a more settled pattern of applications and awards, as the immediate impact of the pandemic began to recede for many of the organisations that we support
- changes to a number of our grant programmes, implemented following a strategic review in November 2021.

The review built on the lessons learned from previous successful projects, feedback from charities about the impact of the pandemic on their services and future priorities, and benchmarking with comparable funders.

The Trustees agreed changes to a number of our grant programmes. The objectives of these changes were to maintain the Trust's support for world-leading translational research, and to refine the care programmes to focus on:

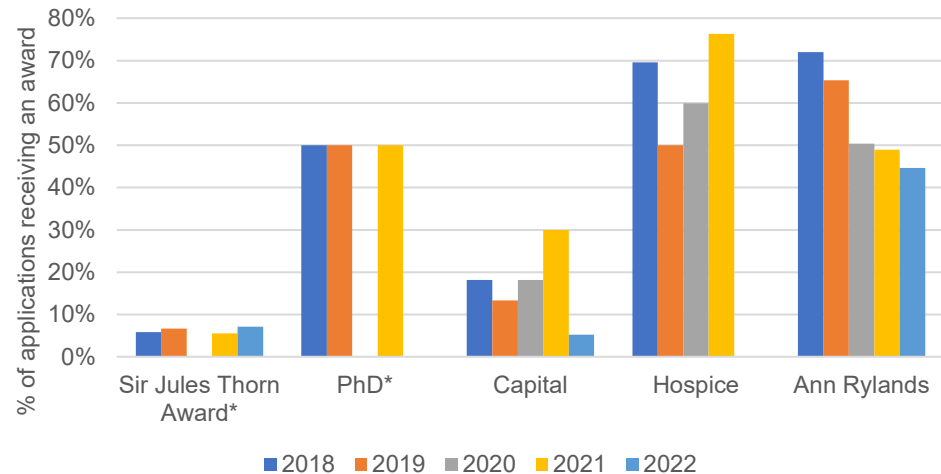
- aspects of physical and mental health where the Trust's funding can make a significant difference to the organisations that we support
- the development of improved models of care that are scalable and replicable by other organisations.

Following the strategic review, the Trust ran four grant programmes in 2022:

- the Sir Jules Thorn Award continued in its existing form to support world-leading translational research. The previous PhD programme was discontinued, but the Trust is in discussions with potential partners and hopes to reallocate the funds to support a new fellowship scheme for early career researchers
- two capital programmes; one focusing on equipment and facilities for translational research, and the other on support for projects which will deliver improvements in care and the closer integration of health and care services
- the Ann Rylands programme, which continues to support the work of smaller charities, but has been refined to focus more clearly on health-related charities.

The Trust no longer runs a standalone programme for hospices, but the criteria for the capital and Ann Rylands programmes were refined to allow hospices to apply for larger capital projects to support improvements in care, while enabling smaller hospices and hospice at home services to continue to apply for support with their core costs.

Award rates by programme



* No awards were made in 2020

The Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research

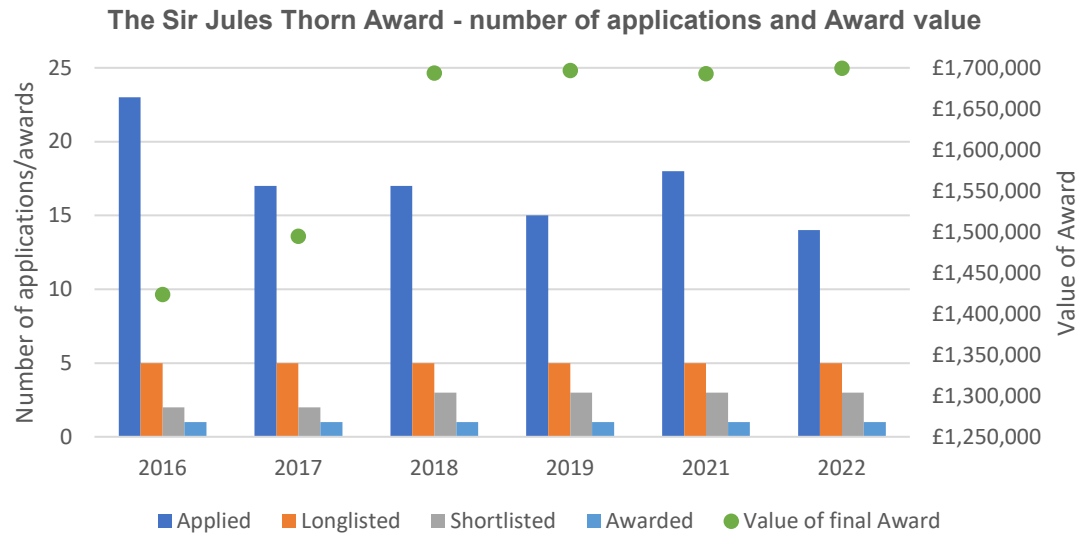
The Award provides a grant of up to £1.7 million to support a five-year programme of translational biomedical research.

The Award is made through an annual competition, with UK medical schools and NHS organisations able to submit a single application each year. It is for each organisation to select the application it puts forward through their own internal competition.

Applications are assessed by the Trust's Medical Advisory Committee and are also subject to peer review by external experts in the relevant field. Further information about the review process is set out in the Trust's [Peer Review Policy](#).

As noted above, no Award was made in 2020 due to the pandemic. Applications for the 2020 Award were rolled forward, and the Award was made in 2021 alongside the additional one-off award for Translational Biomedical Research.

The annual competition for the Award resumed its normal timetable in 2022.



Capital Funding

The Trust has for many years provided capital funding to support investment in research equipment and facilities, and in innovation and improvement in health and social care.

Following the strategic review, the capital programmes were restructured for 2022 as the:

- Research Infrastructure Fund, and
- Innovation and Improvement in Health and Care Fund.

The number of applications to the Research Infrastructure Fund was comparable to the previous scheme.

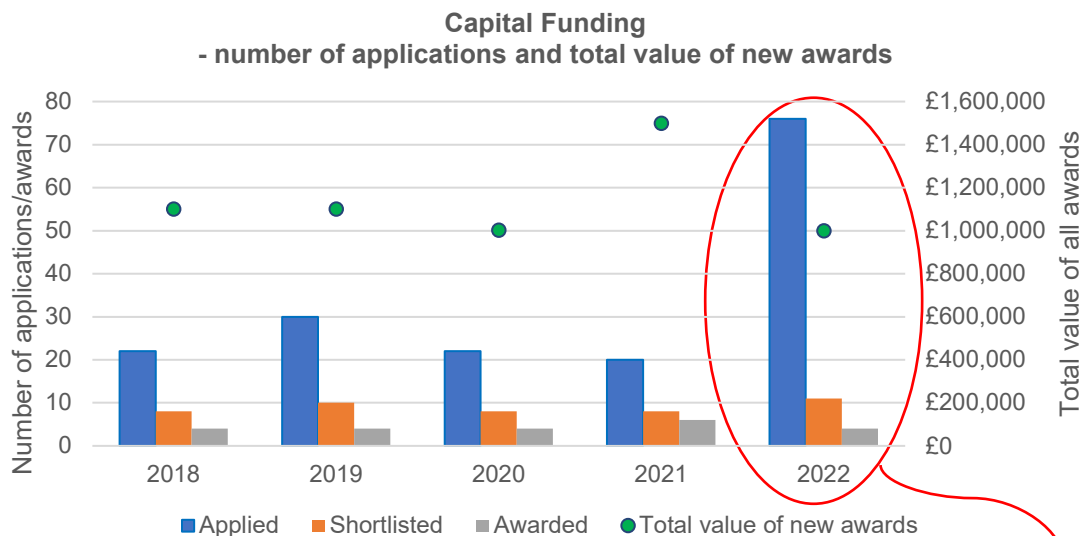
The number of applications for the revised Care fund increased significantly. This was in part due to advertising the fund in Civil Society to raise awareness, but the increase also indicates that the revised scope of the fund is meeting a significant need and responds effectively to the feedback and analysis that informed the Trustees' review.

Both capital funds follow a two-stage application process. Initial applications are reviewed by the Trustees, and shortlisted organisations are then invited to submit full applications.

Shortlisted applications for Research Infrastructure are subject to external peer review. The Trust will typically look to obtain 3-5 reviews for each application.

Shortlisted applications for the Care programme are typically assessed by the Trustees, based on the review of written applications and visits to the applicant charity to assess the proposed project.

The number of applications and success rates for each fund are summarised below.



Capital programmes – profile of 2022 applications and awards

Capital programme	Applied	Shortlisted	Awarded
Research Infrastructure	11	4	2
Innovation & Improvement in Health & Care	65	7	2

Ann Rylands Small Donations Programme

The Ann Rylands programme makes grants to support smaller charities' core costs.

The Trustees allocated additional funding in 2020 in response to a significant increase in applications as smaller charities worked to respond to the pandemic. This increased funding was then maintained in 2021 and 2022.

The funding criteria were reviewed as part of the strategic review at the end of 2021, and now focus more clearly on health.

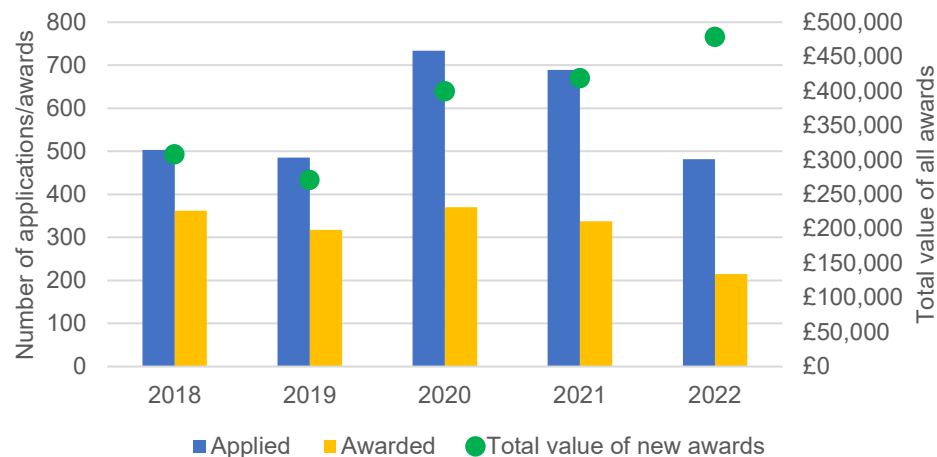
The programme prioritises applications from charities which offer practical support for older people, people with disabilities or living with serious illness, or people facing challenges with mental health, and health-related issues arising from social exclusion and homelessness

Following the review, the Trustees also increased the maximum value of awards from £2500 to £5000.

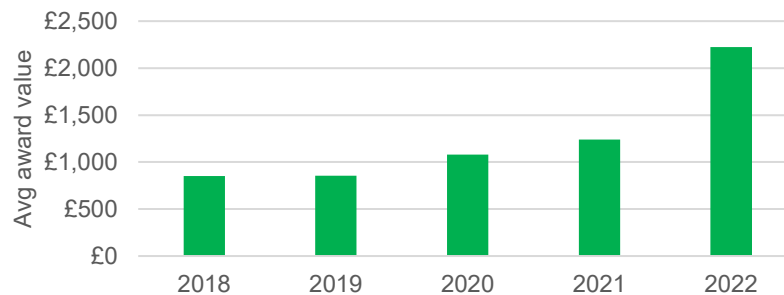
Overall, the changes implemented in 2022 mean that the Trust has continued to support a large number of smaller charities, but our support is now more focused and the average value of awards is higher than in previous years.

Eligibility criteria are set out on the Trust's [website](#).

Ann Rylands Programme - number of applications and total value of new awards



Ann Rylands Programme - average value of individual awards by year

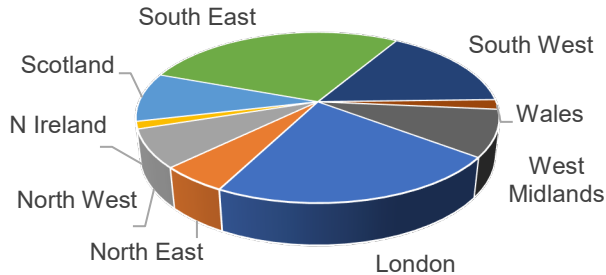


Information about the type and location of charities that we funded is summarised on the next page.

Ann Rylands Small Donations Programme *cont'd*

The charts below and on the right illustrate the type and location of charities which were awarded funding in 2022.

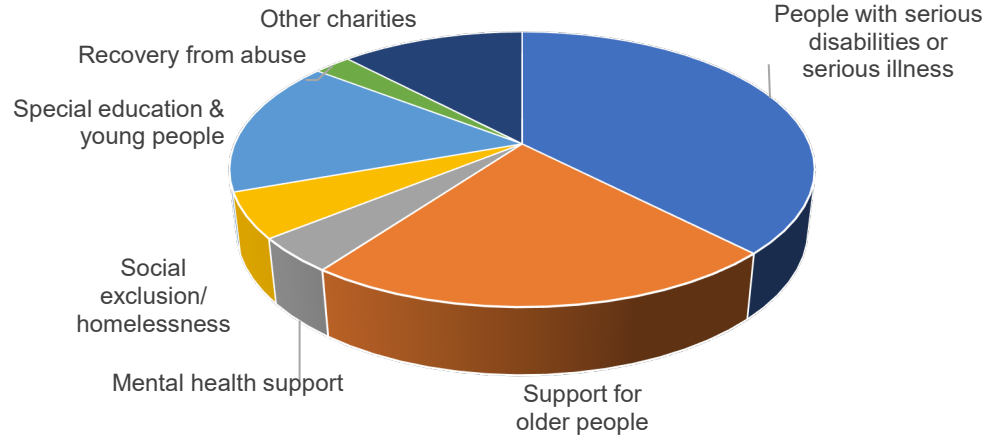
Location of charities applying to the fund - 2022



Success rates by region - 2022

Location of charities applying for support	No. of applications	% of applications funded
London	96	32%
North East	22	55%
North West	31	29%
N Ireland	6	33%
Scotland	40	53%
South East	120	45%
South West	69	42%
Wales	8	25%
West Midlands	38	47%

Main focus of funded charities - 2022



Success rates by focus of charity - 2022

Focus of charity	No. of applications	% of applications funded
People with serious disabilities or serious illness	184	47%
Support for older people	109	45%
Mental health support	20	45%
Social exclusion/ homelessness	26	23%
Special educational needs & young people	78	40%
Recovery from abuse	12	58%
Other charities	59	19%

Please note: each application is considered on its merits. The success rates shown above by region and by focus of charity are for information only and do not indicate the likely outcome of any future request for funding.