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PHILANTHROPY

Jersey's giving doesn't yet follow its needs

Housing and fairness are the needs getting worse in Jersey, yet they draw a small share of charity spending. Without a shared way of measuring, nobody can see it. Charities and donors say they want one.

James Linder | 8 November 2026

Philanthropy in Jersey, part 3 of 4

4p

of every pound Jersey's charities spend goes to housing, one of the two needs getting worse

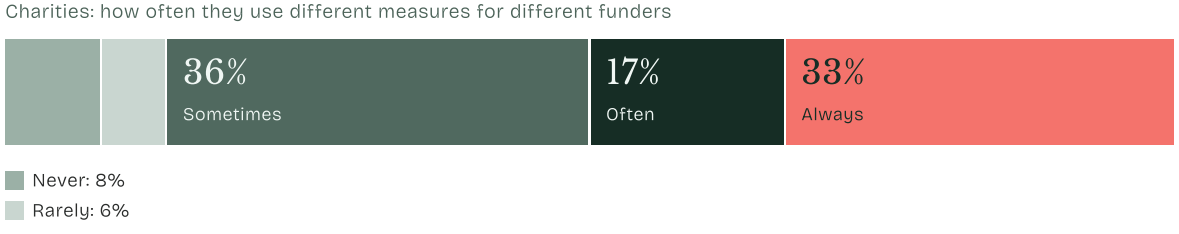
Jersey's Local Needs Assessment found two areas of need getting worse: housing and fairness. Of every pound the island's charities spend, about four pence goes to housing and a fifth of a penny to fairness. The money does not yet follow the need.

That gap has a cost. Problems not tackled early cost more later. In England and Wales, dealing with the problems of children and young people that were not tackled early costs the state about £300 a person every year. Jersey does not count its own.

Without a shared way of measuring, nobody can see this clearly. Half of charities in the consultation say they often or always report different measures to different funders, and more than eight in ten do so at least sometimes. Each funder sees its own slice. Nobody sees the whole.

FIGURE 1

MORE THAN EIGHT IN TEN CHARITIES GIVE DIFFERENT FUNDERS DIFFERENT MEASURES, AT LEAST SOMETIMES

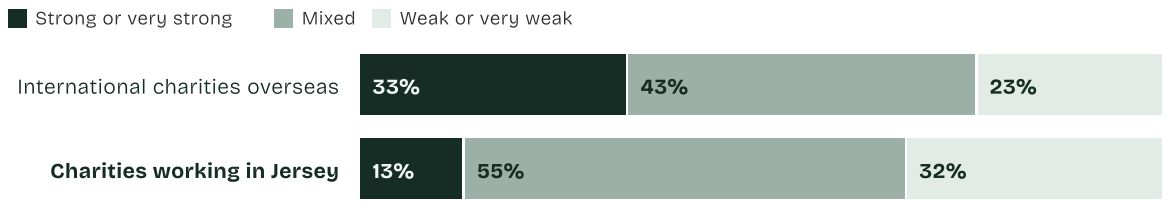


Charities reporting their impact to different funders.

Funders and donors feel it. Eight in ten institutional givers find it hard to compare the impact information they receive from one year to the next. Donors rate the evidence they see from charities working overseas as strong more than twice as often as the evidence from charities working in Jersey.

FIGURE 2

DONORS RATE EVIDENCE FROM JERSEY CHARITIES AS STRONG LESS THAN HALF AS OFTEN



Donors rating the evidence they see of the difference charities make.

There is appetite to change it. More than eight in ten charities see a benefit in one shared way of measuring, and nine in ten would want help to put it in place, most depending on what that help looks like. Three in four donors say comparable reporting would make their giving more targeted. Nearly eight in ten private wealth firms say a shared framework would help the trusts and foundations they run.

Jersey is writing its first Philanthropy Policy, and a common way to report impact is one of the questions it asks. One shared way of measuring would show where the island's giving goes, what it costs to leave a need unmet, and where to act.

If you fund charities, agree a short shared set of measures with at least one other funder, and accept the same report for both. Ask for less, and use more of what you get.

These are early answers from small, self-selected groups. Donors are rating the evidence they see, which may not reflect the quality of the work itself.

Sources. Jersey Philanthropy Policy consultation, 2026. Jersey Charity Commissioner register, December 2025, with spending grouped by area of need by Derros. Jersey Local Needs Assessment, 2022. Early Intervention Foundation, *The cost of late intervention*, 2016.

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