

Barrow Grants Committee 24 June Grants Committee 6 July 2010

## **MONITORING REPORT**

### **1. Some of the reports returned recently:**

#### **08621 Cockermouth Mechanics Band**

Winter jackets, music and assistance with bandroom rent

The jackets will be used mainly during winter external events to protect the band jackets. New music allows the band to keep a varied and up to date repertoire.

Assistance is also sought with rental costs - the band meet twice weekly to rehearse and rental costs have recently increased.

Allerdale Community Fund £1,050

Wearing the new smart jackets the Band has appeared on TV twice during the aftermath of the floods. Also played for the BBC Radio Cumbria Breakfast Show and featured two of our young players who were evacuated during the floods. Played xmas carols for the Mountain Rescue Team lights switch on three days after the floods to boost morale in the town.



#### **08636ai Our Place Ambleside**

Youth project

To develop a wide range of activities relating to the Every Child Matters framework with young people aged 11-18 in Ambleside. These will include sports, drama, cookery and healthy eating and social education. Funding is sought for the costs of providing a two evenings a week youth project.

n2n Fund £5,000

The project is going well but we still need to attract more young men into the Club and outreach will be key over the next year. We have supported 36 young people since the beginning of the grant of whom ten demonstrated the acquisition of new skills and eight achieved accreditation. Over the year we have run twice weekly youth club sessions and

a once a week session for young women including those with disabilities. We also ran a number of trips out during holiday periods and a very successful short residential to Liverpool. Young people made a presentation to the Trust's annual general meeting and performed a dance number for the Evergreen Christmas Concert. New activities this year have included: African drumming – this has proved very popular and we hope to put on a demonstration perhaps as a fundraising effort; drugs awareness sessions using the police kit box; Chinese New Year sessions; preparation for the painting of a mural in the basement; visit to Connexions in Kendal. Our "Here Come the Girls" group for young women has enjoyed a new wall climbing project which we ran in partnership with Young Cumbria and the community police. They all gained their NICAS level 1 certificates and plan to move onto level 2 in the coming year. They undertook a fundraising sleep over in the basement of the parish centre and finally fell asleep at 5.30 rising up to run a stall at Ambleside Christmas Lights indoor fair. A young woman with complex learning disabilities gained confidence in the group and moved on to attend the mainstream evening sessions. The group is now going to talk to two young people with visually impairment in April and watch the DVDs they have made with South Lakes Society for the Blind and we hope they will then be able to join our group as regular members. Our two long term youth leaders left us January 2010, one to go on maternity leave and one to take on more responsibility as a teacher and move into preparation to become a deputy head. We recruited a new team of three new youth workers in the autumn giving useful experience to two adults who are taking their youth work qualifications but need the practical experience to build up their portfolios. We have also provided a regular volunteering slot to two young women through the V-Volunteering scheme. We have enabled one previously isolated young person with learning disabilities to integrate into our main stream project and hope to shortly do the same for two young women with visual impairment. Eight young people have gained new confidence through the acquiring of accreditation. Young people have been involved in entertaining older people and in fundraising for their own project.



"Here Come the Girls" visit Liverpool

Summer 2009 saw a group of Our Place members venture to Liverpool. This group was made up of seven girls from the 'Here Come the Girls' group. The young people explored the life of the Albert Dock and the city centre. Together we enjoyed bowling and shopping, whilst a spooky walk of Liverpool, put on by the drama and tourism group 'Shiverpool' told us of historic myths, tales and facts of Liverpool's past. The young people had really positive feedback. They really enjoyed the trip and would have liked to stay longer. "The youth hostel was great and we enjoyed sharing a room together". "The city was totally different from Ambleside, it was very busy and full of different crowds of people". "The ghost walk, Shiverpool, was fun and we all laughed when Jude screamed!" "We would love to go back to Liverpool or another city, such as Manchester, London or Paris." Many of the ideas our young people have about city life come from film and television and our trip to Liverpool provided them with an opportunity to experience inner city life themselves. The experience of being in an urban area, led to our young people to think about the difference between their own life in rural Ambleside and that in a major city. They reflected on young parenting and living in a multi-ethnic community. Some young people commented on their own fear of city life and the diversity of different cultures. We plan to follow this up with activities around diversity in the coming year. The young people were very sensible, respectful and mature. The youth hostel manager commented upon this on more than one occasion. They can not wait until next summer to venture off elsewhere.

### **08653i Feature Youth Club Ulverston**

#### Youth workers

The club is currently supported by five adult volunteers and eight young volunteers who act as young leaders. The club caters for children and young people with one club a week for 8-11 year olds and one for 11-16 year olds. It is very popular with high levels of attendance. There is a need now to employ two experienced qualified youth workers to support the adult volunteers and to develop the young volunteers.

n2n Fund £10,000 over two years

The impact on the club has been massive. Through the paid staff the club has seen a marked improvement in advertising activities, events and the general activities. Benefits of this are clear in the number of young people attending a wide range of opportunities. The club now has a strong team of nine new young leaders having seen some of the older young leaders move on in life after several years of hard work. However three of the old young leaders have been promoted to full leaders thanks to the staff support and guidance raising the volunteer team to eight keeping the ratios of supervision to safety requirements despite the huge regular attendances. Funding for the club activities and budget control has also improved with the staff making the most of a difficult year to source funding and stretching the available funds a long way and running a wide range of opportunities and innovative training for young leaders. A final improvement has been the development of the club website and Facebook page which has enhanced the promotion of the club and improved communication with members and their parents tenfold. To compliment this, a banner was made to promote the club which has been on show outside the local schools and at community events organised by the club. Events

delivered including attendance 2009-10: 25 young people on Summer Camp, 48 at Alton Towers, 15 on residential in Keswick, 150 young people and 60 adults at family fun day, 75 young people at Lazerzone, 115 at talent show, 160 at disco, 70 at Sandcastle Waterpark, 50 at Croftland MUGA opening and 10 planning and delivering a coffee afternoon for older residents. The opportunity to build partnerships has been impressive; most noticeably the development of close links between the club, Young Cumbria and Spirit of Youth. This partnership has led to the three entities sharing resources and facilities to maximise the benefit to young people in the town. All partners have promoted each other's work and shared staff time to run activities and stretch the limited resources further. Additionally a strong link has been made with the Police and through the club's relationships with young people a project was established to reduce anti social behaviour midweek during winter. A recent report from the Police showed a 42% reduction in crime thanks to the Wednesday sports project delivered by club staff, Young Cumbria, Ulverston Police and Lakes Leisure staff. Having paid staff has allowed the club to have attendance a representation at community meetings and develop relationships with the local schools broadening the reach area of club. This has meant that the club's community profile has grown immensely and enabled communication with community groups to improve. A major project undertaken at the end of the financial year was to deliver a coffee afternoon for residents from the older generations in the estate around the club. The aim of this was the young people had an opportunity to give something back to the community and to put the first major step forward in developing better understanding and acceptance between the older and younger generations. Ulverston Police provided some funding towards this project which they felt was a huge effort from the young people to improve the harmony in the community. The club had grown almost out of its capacity under the heavily devoted volunteer team, however this presented a problem in that the club was becoming unsustainable in terms of maintaining good attendances and providing a range of opportunities for the young people involved. With the introduction of two part time staff employed through Young Cumbria the club has not only managed to maintain its membership but actually increase it. A wide range of activities as outlined above were made available to the young people with record numbers able to attend trips. Most importantly the club has been able to develop positive relationships and partnerships within the town which has raised both the profile and the impact the club is having. All work has been to look at the long term development of the club with the younger group now set to feed more naturally into the older group, regular meetings organised for the delivery team (staff and volunteers), regular training for young leaders and turning focus in community benefit. The club hosted a family fun day to promote its work and other voluntary groups in the town which was attended by over 250 people and proved a great success. With the club developing so strongly over the last year the impact has been very positive and all volunteers, members, families and staff are grateful for the opportunity to make these developments materialise.

### **08662 Chrysalis Wigton**

Wholefood shop update phase 1

Intend to install an electronic point of sale system to enable us to accurately monitor and analyse our sales and keep a better track of our stock control. We also intend to install a chilled display counter so that they shop can offer an increased range of products for sale namely local cheeses and soups etc... The items would improve the Wholefood shop (the only one in the area) and the range of the goods they can stock. The shop provides clients with skills and confidence and accredited training places as well as raising the understanding of the needs of people with disabilities in the town.

Allerdale Community Fund £1,000

The new shop location has certainly improved our presences within the town with increased footfall to the shop. Turnover has increased by some 15% on average from the previous shop. The larger premises has also enabled us to sell a wider range of produce including more local produce, more fair trade, gluten and wheat free and the introduction of the cheese counter has also increased sales and interest in our shop. All of our members who work in the shop have been very enthusiastic and positive about the changes. Both staff and members feel that the new shop presents a much more professional image and has increased local awareness of Chrysalis and the work that we do.

### **08778 Blue Skies Support Group Cleator Moor**

Running costs

They presently offer basic services with the opportunity and expertise to refer to other agencies and professionals eg counsellors, self help books, practical hobbies and interest for which they require funding for twice weekly sessions.

Grassroots Grants £500

Crafts, social events, day trips, reading groups, kitting group, wellbeing group, aromatherapy, talking therapy, healthy eating. Increase social interaction, confidence building, assertiveness. Networking with other agencies. Poetry. "J came on the first day, a quiet individual who has suffered from depression for over ten years. It came to light that she was a poet. With encouragement she approached the local media and now has had poetry published and displayed in the press and in a local museum. She has also lost over three stones and her confidence continues today."

(Trustee report:) The Blue Skies Group meets at the Town Hall, Cleator Moor on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is a drop in group, intended for those suffering from depression and anxiety. I visited on the afternoon of Thursday, 28th August. Although Cleator Moor is grim and the Town Hall forbidding, the group meets in a pleasant bright room. When I went, there were about eight people sitting round a large table drinking coffee and tea. There were large bowls of fresh fruit and good quality cakes and biscuits on the table. I was introduced to everyone but first names only were used. Clare Lowery, to whom I had spoken a number of times on the phone and with whom I had arranged the visit, introduced herself. I was not told which of the people there were the "droppers in" and which were the committee/volunteers. There appeared to be no distinction between the latter and little distinction between any of them. To begin with

everyone seemed rather wary. I did not want to question too directly, nor did I take notes. After a while I got chatting to one of the committee members, who was a councillor on Copeland Borough Council and an ex-mayor. She had also been a psychiatric nurse at Whitehaven Hospital. She told me the following: the group had been started by a number of people, including herself and Clare Lowery, because there was no support group for the mentally ill in Cleator Moor; it is intended as a service for those living within the area of Copeland Borough Council; "droppers in" are asked to sign a visitors' book, but only with a first name and no address; she thought that since they started in March about 50 people had dropped in, some only once, some regularly (she was proud of the fact that one had been encouraged to write poetry, about which there had been reports in the local paper who had since been able to come off medication); the group principally offers support, but there are a psychotherapist and an aromatherapist who give their services free and also arrange gym visits and social events, such as quiz evenings, cream teas provided free, as is transport; they are working quite closely with MIND. With regard to funding, the treasurer seemed reluctant to discuss things with me, but assured me that accounts were kept and were properly audited. Our £500 was used to buy computer equipment. They do not pay for the use of the room. They raise funds from other sources to pay for tea, coffee, the social events, hire of a minibus etc. The principal object is to provide support, including mutual support for those suffering from depression and anxiety. Two committee members are supposed to be present at each session, but this does not seem to be strictly followed. They were a bit vague about what happens if there are not two committee members present, but stressed that one of the objects was mutual support. Because of the stigma attached to mental illness, they do not make any enquiries of those who drop in. They did not seem to think that this may mean that it would be used by those who were not mentally ill but were simply homeless. They suggested that the homeless must of necessity be mentally ill. Because they make no enquiries, they do not know whether any of the "droppers in" suffer from a psychotic illness and agreed that they are not able to, nor should they, be attempting to make diagnoses. They do not yet appear to have had to deal with the violent mentally ill or anyone at risk of self harm. It is clearly very helpful that one of those most actively involved has been a psychiatric nurse. It is clearly working well on an informal, ad hoc basis, but they have not yet had to deal with the problems I have outlined above, nor the problems which may come with their own success and not having the personnel to deal with large numbers of "droppers in."

### **08921 and other grants**

Alpe d'Huez skiing, 2 - 9 January 2010

Mary Grave Trust £901

(Joint report) What was the best thing about the ski trip for you? Black slopes, scenery, experience, other activities, going with friends, learning how to ski, being with friends, improving my skiing, staff and teachers.

What do you think you got out of the whole experience? Learning to ski/board, going to a beautiful place, meeting different people, new friends, once in a life time experience, great memories.

Did you learn anything about yourself/what you are capable of during the week? Fear of cable cars, my physical limits, improved my French, helping others and working as part

of a team, dealing with cold, doing something I found hard, not to give up, enjoying things new, more self confident, improve my fitness and to be patient. If you had to use five words to describe the experience what would they be? Audacious, best in the world, cold, funny, exciting, adrenalin fuelled, different, face plant, exhilarating, spectacular, hard work, amazing, rewarding, fatigue, clumsy, one in a lifetime opportunity, best I have ever been on, challenging, beautiful.

### **08958 B Palms Football Club Cockermouth**

Set up costs and strip for football club

The purpose of the grant would be to provide a set of kit for the 20 plus new players for the newly formed second team together with the initial setup costs for Football Association affiliation, league membership fees etc to cover the first season. The football club is a non profit community project that has rapidly evolved since 2001. A grant would enable the club to establish a second team that I have tried to run myself this season on a trial basis to see if it's sustainable. The first team has been running smoothly over the past eight seasons and manages to fund itself (we have no sponsors, grants etc and the existing players try to cover the substantial costs amongst themselves by making voluntary contributions to help with the running of the club). From the brief accounts I have tried to show how the club has established, grown and expanded whilst keeping it's head above the water despite increased involvement, rising costs and being voluntary run).

Allerdale Community Fund £500

The activity has increased the local village residents to participate in sporting activities and we have quite a bit following with many people travelling to watch games. We have had many problems in trying to locate permanent residence anywhere having been turned away from the intended facility for which this project was encouraged to start up and with the bad weather we have been forced to relocate further which unfortunately hinders the full potential of this project. We have a large contingent of players who are in the armed forces and it's nice for them to return from duty and be able to take part in activities. We have one player currently on active service in Afghanistan and it's something he's looking forward to when his current tour of duty ends. We have also encouraged people from outside the area to take part and have had players from Spain, Bulgaria, Brazil and France to name but a few.

### **09045i Millom Folk Museum Society**

Employing staff for three years

To provide funds towards the costs of employing staff for three years so that the following can take place: put Millom Folk Museum on a sound, sustainable financial footing, retain two part-time jobs (and in the wider project, create three more part time jobs), provide an information service each day throughout the year not only for users of the museum but also for visitors seeking information about the Millom area, give education and training advisers greater opportunity to use the museum for visits, training or placements (this often cannot be done when open on a seasonal basis only) and provide a rail ticket office which

improves the service to Millom rail users and hopefully increase the number of passengers using rail travel.  
NMP Community Fund (Groups) £16,000

Both visitors and local people (and Schools) have greater opportunity to access the Museum now it is open all year round. Local people can now access full rail user facilities which before could only be accessed from Barrow or Whitehaven, eg advance ticket sales. A station waiting room where refreshments are available. Two local people have had their jobs safeguarded and 3 local people have gained part-time employment. One local trainee is in post. All five part-time staff are on a Level 2 NVQ course re customer relations.

### **09083 Hive Carers Action Group**

Funding for Hive voluntary group

Flyers/newsletters, and personal expenses for committee members.

Allerdale Community Fund £500

Addressed isolation of our young adults with special needs through activities and clubs and helped parents with local information and support in general. "My name is Darren, I have a busy time now. I go to youth club on Monday and Tuesday, Boccia on Wednesdays and football on Thursdays. My favourite things are playing on the Wii and football. Me and my friends like "Just Dance" on the Wii, we know all the dance moves now!"

### **09139 St John's the Evangelist Carlisle**

Sports gap year helper

To have a sports gap year helper to help develop the potential of using our sports hall for the community and also to provide extra help with football and sports coaching to young people in the South Carlisle area where there is a lack of green space and sports facilities. We would also like to use the gap year person to help develop links with the Greystone community youth and children and parents at Norman Street, Brook Street and Upperby primary schools through football coaching and lessons. We would also like to develop links with the Polish community school that meets at Brook Street School.

Comic Relief £3,000

The grant enabled our Sports Gap Year helper, Dan Cronin, to have a great impact this year. He has been developing strong links with three local primary schools: Brook Street, Norman Street and Upperby Primaries. These schools cover areas of serious social disadvantage. Many of the children come from homes experiencing poverty, poor diet, one-parent families and health problems. The Polish, Asian and Chinese community face social exclusion but are being integrated by things like sport. They use our sports hall for a range of sporting activities and Dan has built relationships with them and is organising events to involve them.

### **09153b Nenthead Sports and Leisure Association**

Renew badly worn carpet and equipment

We would like to renew our bowls equipment, with two new carpets and two new set of bowls (32 bowls) as our old carpets etc are 15 years old and badly worn.

Grassroots Grants and Cumberland and Westmorland Herald Fund £1,500

We can now play more competitive bowls and invite friendly matches with other clubs. We have played a cup match against three teams and won and also played Alston and Slaggyford teams in a friendly match and beat both of them. The new equipment has improved our game a lot and we now have two new members learning to play.

### **09183i Craven Park Community Projects Barrow**

To encourage young people to access sporting activities

The aim of this project is to provide a programme to encourage young people in the 14-19 age groups to access and remain involved in sporting activities as they bridge the gap between youth and adult sport. Our activities will focus on the delivery of alternative limited contact forms of sport, including tag rugby and street rugby, for which there is currently no local provision, encouraging new participants, as well as those at risk of leaving the game. A large focus of the project is on providing access to educational activities and accreditation through sport, providing the participants with life skills that are transferable from the sporting environment to the workplace. The delivery will be undertaken by professional coaches with experience of engaging hard to reach groups in sporting activities. The grant will also be used to fund leadership awards and accreditation for the young people, providing them with a recognised qualification and signposting to further activity.

Barrow Community Trust £2,614

The Street Rugby project is proving to be a great success. We had planned to start the project shortly after the initial instalment was received in November, but unfortunately the poor winter prevented us from starting in any meaningful manner until February. However, the project is now back on track and exceeding the outcomes we had envisaged by this point. The initial groundwork, undertaken in partnership with local schools, allowed us to engage with 99 young people and signpost to the out-of-school-hours Street Rugby sessions - we now have 17 youngsters regularly attending street rugby sessions from the Hindpool and Risedale wards. Groundwork has almost been completed in schools in Ormsgill, where we have a new Street Rugby club starting shortly. In addition to the young people engaged, we have recruited well amongst local adults-other-than-teachers (AOTTs), and have one AOTT now volunteering at the Risedale Street Rugby club and six AOTTs volunteering at the Hindpool Street Rugby club, with signposting in place to existing grassroots rugby teams, giving some element of sustainability to the work. Numbers are growing slightly on a weekly basis, and are boding well for the completion of the work later this summer, particularly the training and development aspects of the project. Despite not receiving the full grant that we had requested, I am pleased to say that we are managing to run the project at three

locations as originally intended, and should be able to hit and exceed the outcomes in our initial bid.

### **09232b Youth with Altitude Alston**

Rent of premises and training

We would like to continue to rent the Scran Shed youth space in order to provide the young people of Alston Moor with advisory, support and training services as well as a place to meet safely. We would like employ a sessional youth worker through Eden Community Outdoors for one additional evening per week. We'd also like to provide training for the young people involved in the project to develop the youth café. Services provided at the Scran Shed project are described below. Drop in service - ask questions, receive advice or information about any subject on a confidential one to one basis with a youth worker. Youth café - a safe place for young people to meet, chat and just chill out. Free internet access. Youth workers and information available if you want. Theme weeks which offer information and advice and sometimes games and activities if you want. We would also like to improve the capacity of The Scran Shed by opening up the basement area which needs improvement.

Alston Moor Community Fund £500

The grant has allowed this group to pay rent on a café space where training and social, informal education and fun activities could take place for young people. In the past five months, the main outcomes of this have been: three young leaders are working towards the OCN Introduction to youth work and are volunteering regularly in the sessions; four young people have completed a day's training on stock control and planning a menu to improve the income of the youth café. A young person's story:

"The Scran Shed has given me opportunity and experience, for example I have become a young leader and a trustee of two youth organisations. Being a leader has given me confidence which has helped me with my childcare course at college. Without this project I would have been getting drunk and causing havoc, but coming here has allowed me to build relationships with other young people in Alston in a safe place. When I was given a key to the youth space so I could work on projects anytime I felt trusted for the first time in my life."

### **09477 Millom Pensioners' Club**

Roof refurbishment inside and outside

The grant is to pay for the refurbishment of the Pensioners' Club roof, inside and outside. It is a corrugated roof and all fixing screws require removing, replacing and sealing. The inside of the roof will require a new suspended ceiling with associated works. The inside of the building will require redecoration with new curtains and fittings.

Grassroots Grants and Kipling Fund for older people £5,000

As a result of using the funding towards making the roof waterproof and having a new and excellent interior ceiling, we are now in the process of improving the decoration of walls and furniture to offer a better facility. All the users of the facility are very pleased

at the new look and it is encouraging more people to visit and use the facility. Receiving this financial support has breathed a new vigour into the Pensioner's Club Committee. They are now keen to carry on improvements and tidying up storage cupboards and areas that have not been touched in decades. All users of the facility are going out to tell others of this great facility in Millom and encouraging others to use it.

### **09549 Derwent and Solway Housing Association**

Discretionary fund for extraordinary expenses

We would like to support displaced and isolated communities with a discretionary fund for extraordinary expenses eg providing funding for mobile technology to allow those with no landlines to process their insurance claims; - provide carpets for those with no home contents insurance; provide activities for vulnerable older people whilst they are displaced in temporary accommodation; providing handheld mobile telephones for displaced tenants to ensure they can still contact emergency / support facilities such as Careline; work in partnership with North Workington Community Recovery Committee on text alert system so people are kept updated on important developments such as transport links, health care etc and a range of other IT based solutions such by displaying up to date community information in each of the affected districts.

Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund (groups) £10,000

Feedback has shown that the texting facility was useful and worthwhile and has been an essential communication tool especially in Cockermouth to both residential and commercial flood victims and many agencies have benefited from this. Flood recovery workers would welcome the continuation of the scheme moving forward as so much effort has gone into collecting mobile numbers of those affected and there continues to be events for information and advice people need to be invited to. To date there have been over 11,000 text messages sent out and our stock needs replenishing. It would be good to continue the service till the end of the year of activity on the relief work.

### **09700 Carlisle Multicultural Group**

Chinese New Year celebration in Carlisle Market Hall

We would invite a team of professional performers of lion/ dragon dance and they can perform Chinese martial arts. We would encourage local people to play with the lions or dragon. There will have food and gifts stalls, Chinese paintings, art and crafts stalls, games stalls. We would involve local people such as students, young people, elderly to organize the activities. We will invite all the local voluntary organizations and NGO, city council to participate.

Grassroots Grants £5,000

The owner of the next door Crème Café was so happy to offer our local community folks hundreds of free cups of tea and scones. The owner of opposite Fuji shop volunteered to take some beautiful photos. Most of local folks have never watched Lion Dance before, let alone the significant meanings of Ching Ming Festival - to show respect for our ancestors. Now all the Ching Ming Festival has been printed and published in the local paper and I put it up on the show window. Walkers keep on watching and reading

the paper from the window. Mark Costello from CVS has helped a lot and he asked CMG to donate £500 to Nepalese Group for their New Year celebration. It is good feelings to give our £500 from funding money. Nepalese Group chairperson Lakh Gurung was reminded to that CCF. The success of this activity has motivated me to organise another big celebration with even more detailed planning - mid autumn festival celebration for family reunion in August 2010.

### **09726 Ambleside Bowling Club**

Repair machinery and replace damaged carpet and fittings

Repair machinery used for the maintenance of the bowling green. Replace damaged carpet tiles and fittings to the interior of the clubhouse and redecorate.

Decontamination of the bowling green due to sewerage in flood water.

Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund (groups) £3,000



Westmorland Gazette 22.04.10:

Flood-hit bowlers are back in business after five months

A flood-hit Lake District bowling club is back in business - boasting a new green and refurbished club house. Only five months ago water surged through Ambleside Bowling Club's home and left its green at Rothay Holme in ruins. One of the most essential pieces of equipment - the mower - suffered £900 of damage and the club's carpets, furnishings and decorations were all saturated. Members applied to Cumbria Community Foundation's flood relief fund for aid. It responded with a £3,000 grant, and a further £500 was donated by Masons. Former Westmorland and Lonsdale MP Tim Farron cut a ribbon to re-open the green - one of his last engagements before the General Election was called. Mr Farron told members that the re-opened club was a testament to their endurance and commitment after all the distress and disruption of the floods. With 60 members ranging in age from their 40s to late 80s, he said bowls was a truly democratic

sport. Ambleside plays on at least two evenings each week from April to August, with 30 members playing in two leagues.

### **09793a Maryport Inshore Rescue Boat**

Replace lost and damaged equipment used during floods

We would like to re-engine our Landrover because it was used in the Cockermouth floods and was swamped with flood water and now is unusable despite various attempts to fix it. Then use the Landrover to part exchange for a new Landrover. Also to replace two dry suits which were torn during the rescue and replace a hand held VHF radio which was lost.

Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund (groups) £4,750

We are now back to being mobile again and able to respond to callouts, since the grant we have been able to attend callouts, marshal the Keswick to Barrow walk and the Workington to Keswick walk for which we receive a good donation for our services. Eight people have been able to participate in emergency response driver training and gain certification for blue light driving using our vehicle. We have used the vehicle to attend an art exhibition and move pr equipment to the event. We are marshalling the Carlisle Steam Fair at the end of May for three days and displaying PR and equipment in return for a donation. We are attending the Cumbria Farmer Network PR event on the 12 June. We will be taking part in Maryport Carnival if it goes ahead. The vehicle will be used to take part in training exercises planned with other rescue organisations. We have replaced the equipment lost and damaged during the floods. We have been able to reach out and visit the wider community and increased our involvement and interaction with the public at all age group levels, making them aware who we are and what we do. We also increased our learning opportunities through taking the emergency driver training and raised our profile because people see the vehicle out and about.

### **10121 Workington Playgoers' Club**

Costs incurred by postponing production of Fawlty Towers

Recover costs incurred due to necessity of postponing production of Fawlty Towers which should have started on November 30th.

Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund (groups) £956

We were able to publicise the re-arranged date of our performance which resulted in almost record breaking attendance. As mentioned more people than usual were able to attend our performances which broadened the level of interest in our theatre. We intend building on these greater numbers by extending our mailing list and, in future, opening the doors to a wider range on interests.

## **2. Trustee visit**

(Not a recent application)

### **03590b PAC Ltd**

Summer holiday project for young people

PAC provide a range of services supporting young people who are at risk of reception into care, socially excluded, in the looked after system, involved in the Youth Justice System or excluded from mainstream education. Currently PAC are not able to continue to support many of these young people during school holidays. This is often a time when family relationships break down or young people commit crimes. 10 weeks of holiday provision will help to provide a continuing supportive environment for these young people. The project will give 20 hours of arts and media based activities in a 1 to 1 environment for 10 young people (2 sessions per week during summer, Christmas and Easter breaks). An existing member of staff will undertake this work to maintain and continue to develop relationships with the young people.

Local Network Fund £9,778

I represented the CCF at the opening of the new premises on the 18 June.

PAC is a Carlisle based charity providing specialist support for young people throughout Cumbria. Funding is partially from the Children's Services department and other statutory agencies and partially from grants. Currently there is a three year grant from the Scott Trust, but this expires in October this year.

I was able to talk at some length to the CEO, to the four young people, currently being helped, who were there, and to the city's new MP John Stevenson.

Many of those young people who are helped do not attend school and the aim, inter alia, is to work with them to enable them to return to education. I asked whether there had been any failures and was told that there have not. I also asked if it would be possible for a young person to "self refer", but it is not. In that way, therefore, PAC is a secondary referral agency.

Three of the young people to whom I talked were rather self-conscious and reserved, but the fourth was disarmingly open about the circumstances in which he came into care, as he still called it. All felt that they were being helped. Their impressive art work was on display and each was rightly proud.

With John Stevenson I discussed generally the problems of young people in Carlisle and also the effect which the forthcoming regime of financial austerity is likely to have on charities, including grant making charities, such as the CCF. CH

### **3. Things that have not gone so well**

#### **08411 Eden Mind Ltd**

Recruiting, training and supporting volunteer advocates

Eden Mind hosts the Cumbria Minds' Independent Advocacy Scheme on behalf to the six Cumbria local Mind associations. The scheme advocates for people with mental distress across the county. There is a need to recruit more volunteers so that more help can be extended to those in mental distress (particularly from rural and economically disadvantaged areas) to make their need known, and provide them with information and choices, Volunteers will be recruited, trained and supported by the advocacy team. Volunteer travel and other costs (including mobile phones for personal safety) will be paid.

Foundation grants £5,000

Recruiting suitable volunteers for advocacy has proved to be problematic, both in terms of retaining volunteers and with the introduction of the National Advocacy Qualification which has seriously brought into doubt the future of volunteers in this field. Out of the 40+ volunteers that engaged with the project only three have gone on to carry out long term fully fledged voluntary advocacy work for our service within mental health, a further one going on to get employment with us as an advocacy worker. Eight others returned to work after the training and several others decided not to pursue volunteering with the project once training was over. Seven volunteers have provided general support to the advocacy scheme via office support, marketing and management committee support. What we can say was a success was that the majority of those who trained with us to a greater or lesser degree experienced mental health issues and all reported a considerable increase in confidence and skills as a result of the basic advocacy training. All also felt better able to advocate for themselves. Underlying these difficulties has been ongoing staffing changes within the advocacy project. Unless significant additional financial resources are secured we do not intend to further develop volunteer advocacy within our service. A by product of this has been the introduction across our whole organisation of a much more thorough lone working system and the introduction of a guardian angels service that covers lone workers across all services and not just advocacy. More service users have been supported to engage with the management group of the advocacy scheme. Volunteers provided more volunteer opportunities with Cumbria, particularly to those with experience of emotional distress; enabled several volunteers to gain employment and move on in their personal recovery; increased understanding of advocacy among those trained and improved the self-advocacy skills of all those who attended. Generally provided further advocacy support to those experiencing severe and enduring mental health problems and increased access to other services within those experiencing severe and enduring mental health problems.

The Advocacy Scheme has had a very difficult period during the last 15 months due to particular staffing problems (which has also resulted in the paperwork trail for this grant disappearing). Thankfully we have now resolved these difficulties and the Scheme is back on track. We have greatly valued the support of the Foundation in the past, and you have been able to seed some of our key services within Eden (and advocacy across Cumbria). I hope that the problems we have experienced around this grant do not lead you to question our ability to use money awarded in prudent and creative ways.