

Flood Fund gives out over £1m

The Community Foundation has now given out over £1,250,000 from the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund.

Almost 700 households and over 70 organisations around the county have received support from the Flood Recovery Fund.

Mr H has received two grants from the Fund. "We live in a bungalow and all we had was the clothes we stood up in. We lost everything in the house and the garden. The first grant in December paid for clothes and bits and pieces for our temporary accommodation.

"We have lost many photographs and our wedding album was badly damaged. We have been told that some of our wedding pictures can be restored. We will be using our second grant to pay for new wedding photos as well as the other things not covered by our insurance settlement we want to use this second grant for. I can't tell you how much this money means to my wife and I. We can't thank you enough."

The Fund has been able to support all sorts of different situations. Some people have lost their income, some their furniture. Other people have been struggling to pay higher rent in temporary accommodation or higher heating bills because they live above flooded rooms.

The Fund is still receiving over 50 applications a week. Often these are from people who are returning home and they have not received the insurance settlement they had hoped for, or they realise that they are still sort of an item of furniture of two. Many of these people have visited the Impact Housing furniture store which has brand new carpets, fridges, cookers and paint as well as donated furniture, kitchen units etc.

"Every day the Community Foundation hears stories of people who need help. We know that some have been too busy to ask and others have been too proud. We also know that some people are coping now but will need help later in the year when they move back and start to put their homes together. People who have been flooded should be reassured that they will still be able to apply to the Fund for help" explained Deb Muscat, Grants Development Officer.

If you need to know more about the Fund please call the Community Foundation's office and talk to a Grants Officer on 01900 825760.

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund has so far received donations totalling £2.48m.