

## **Funding available for flood victims this Christmas**

The Cumbria Community Foundation is inviting applications to the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund from organisations helping flood victims this Christmas. Funding is available for a range of activities including children's Christmas parties, community/neighbourhood get togethers, Christmas lunches for the elderly as well as group outings to the cinema, Christmas shopping trips and extra out of school activities and playgroups during the school holidays to enable parents to repair their properties. Funding is also available for organisations offering therapeutic/counselling support services and other forms of care services for flood affected individuals and families.

To date the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund has made 123 grant awards totalling £75,450 to flood affected individuals and families experiencing financial hardship throughout the county. All grant applications are processed quickly, often on a same day basis, and individual grants have so far ranged from £150 to £1000 with the majority of grants to applicants in Allerdale and some in the South Lakes and Eden. Grants for groups are available for up to £5,000 with occasional grants up to £10,000.

In its first emergency phase, the Fund has prioritised applications from the elderly, the disabled and families with young children, helping them with emergency funds to buy clothing, bedding, and other essential household items. The Fund is now moving into its second phase and is inviting applications from anyone suffering financial hardship as a result of the floods, including groups supporting flood victims. Whilst businesses themselves are not eligible to apply, personal and family hardship resulting from a loss of income from a business and increased family expenses such as essential household items, travel and child care costs are eligible for support from the Fund.

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund was launched by the Cumbria Community Foundation and MP Tony Cunningham the day after the floods hit Cumbria. The Fund total currently stands at £1.2 million and includes major donations from the County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, Northern Rock Foundation, Francis C Scott Charitable Trust and local businesses such as a founding donation of £50,000 from Nuclear Management Partners and a £100,000 donation from James Walker & Co. Recent donations have been received from the Red Cross, O2 and Innovia Films.

Any individual, family or organisation wishing to apply to the fund, or make a donation, may do so via the Foundation's website at [www.cumbriafoundation.org](http://www.cumbriafoundation.org) or alternatively call 01900 825760 for assistance.