

Half a Million Flood Recovery Fund distributed

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund has already distributed £500,000. Half of this has been given directly to households and the other half to charitable organisations that have been flooded or have helped people who were flooded.

Initial emergency grants plus the £50 grants to children and young people have helped 454 households affected by the floods and the number is increasing on a daily basis.

Deb Muscat, Grants Development Officer, Cumbria Community Foundation said "We know that people will continue to suffer financial hardship and there are many different reasons why. For example our grants have helped people who have increased heating bills because they are living above damp, cold properties; people who have lost their job; people who are self employed and cannot earn a living as well as helping people whose homes has been flooded.

"Experience from around the UK shows that there are two main phases to flood recovery grant making. The first is the initial emergency and the second phase is when people move back into their homes and know how much the insurance companies have paid. This is a time when they realise that there are still some household items that they need to buy or maybe the insurance payment is smaller than hoped. Even if you have had an initial grant from the Fund you can apply for another one.

"People often think they know of someone worse off and don't apply. If you haven't had a grant and think you, a family member or friend is suffering some financial hardship then please get in touch with the Community Foundation on 01900 825760 or visit the website www.cumbriafoundation.org. Even if you are not sure – talk to our officers."

The fund has also helped out local organisations that have been affected by the Flood. Last week Churches Together in Cockermouth received a grant of £15,000. This will go towards the costs of running the Flood Support Centre and a new Street Angels project to visit and check up on residents who have been flooded to make sure they are getting all the support and help they need" said David Andrews, Grants Officer. He continued by saying "Maryport Inshore Rescue Boat also received a grant of £2,750 to replace lost and damaged equipment and Workington Ladies Guild received £900 that will help get isolated members to meetings.

"Groups play an important part in helping a community recover. One of the first grants from the Fund was £5,730 to the Cockermouth Georgian Fair. It is important that the volunteer organisers know that the event has enough money to go ahead. It is will also something for people to look forward to and get involved in. The Cockermouth Cricket Club has also received over £15,000 towards repairs and organisations like MIND and CADAS (Cumbria Alcohol and Drug Advisory Service) have received grants to help them support those who are not coping well with the stress of being flooded."