

Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund hits the three quarter million mark

The phenomenal response to the appeal for Cumbria's flood victims means it has topped £750,000 just a week after it opened.

Cumbria Community Foundation staff have processed hundreds of cheques and online donations from across the UK and beyond.

The Foundation's office in Cockermouth has been staffed every day since the floods, with both permanent staff and volunteers.

Acting director of the Foundation, Deb Muscat, said: "It's amazing to have reached three quarters of a million pounds in such a short time. But the cheques continue to flow in and we want the tally to keep rising. We want to be there for anyone who needs us, even after the media spotlight has moved away from the county. The effects of these floods will be long lasting and people's kind donations mean we can fund projects which will support these communities into the future."

People can donate by logging on to thebiggive.org.uk, by calling in at any branch of HSBC Bank, Furness Building Society or the Cumberland Building Society, or by sending cheques or cash to Cumbria Community Foundation, Dovenby Hall, Dovenby, Cockermouth CA13 0PN.

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund provides help for people experiencing financial hardship because of the floods. The first phase of grant making is focussing on the elderly, disabled and families with under 5s.

The Fund will also help local groups helping support communities in different ways.

Anyone wanting information about the appeal and who and what will be eligible for funding should log on to Cumbria Community Foundation's website www.cumbriafoundation.org or call the dedicated phone line **01900 820827**