

SHEPLEY GROUP PUT BACK INTO THEIR COMMUNITY

Successful Cumbrian business Shepley Engineers Ltd. is proving its corporate social responsibility by creating a grant-making fund at the Cumbria Community Foundation.

The £25,000 donation will form the basis for a new endowed fund The Shepley Group Fund which will benefit worthwhile causes in Cumbria's communities forever. The fund will also attract a 50% government top-up thanks to a new incentive scheme called the Grassroots Endowment Challenge.

Shepley Engineers and its subsidiary companies West Cumberland Engineering and PPS Electrical have been established in Cumbria for over fifty years specialising in nuclear engineering, decommissioning and the architectural restoration of historic buildings such as St. Pancras Station and Sefton Palm House. They are a major employer in the county and currently have over 400 staff, most of whom are native Cumbrians living in Allerdale, Copeland, Carlisle and Barrow.

Paul Scott, Managing Director of Shepley Group said of the new fund, "We remain committed to our corporate social responsibilities and I am convinced this partnership with the Cumbria Community Foundation who will administer the fund will help us achieve our objectives in this area". Small local charities like play groups, youth clubs, first responders and village halls will benefit from the fund.

The Foundation are hoping that the example set by Shepley Group and by other businesses such as Nuclear Management Partners, who recently announced a £2.5 million fund at the Foundation, will encourage more businesses to come forward and invest in their communities, particularly at this time when the need for support is increasing.

The Director of the Cumbria Community Foundation, Andy Beeforth, said "The Grassroots scheme means there's never been a better incentive to set up a fund at the Foundation. But this offer is only on the table for a limited period. Because payments can be spread between now and March 2011 businesses can build a fund even in these uncertain times."

In addition to setting up the fund, Shepley Group is also introducing social awareness training within its apprenticeship programmes. The Group currently has 26 apprentices at various stages of development and staff are very much looking forward to working with the Foundation on a pilot scheme which will maximise the potential of mutual benefits in the area of apprentice volunteering. Paul Scott continued "We recognise that this is a long term commitment but I believe we have chosen our partner very carefully and that our future relationship will maximise the potential to Cumbria and its many deserving causes".

For more details, call Elaine Wise, Development Director on 01900 825760 or 07805 881436
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Shepley Group Managing Director Paul Scott (left) celebrates their new fund with Foundation Director Andy Beeforth

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