Like other sectors, Cumbria’s charitable organisations are likely to face challenges in the coming weeks and months. There will be an increase in demand for their services while they are already under resourced and at capacity, with some having to completely change the way they operate.

Many are reliant on volunteers and will struggle if they must self-isolate, become ill or have caring responsibilities. Many will also see a drop in their income due to cancelled fundraising events and reduced rental and activity income. The Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund will provide funding to charitable projects across the county that are supporting people affected by the deadly virus to help them deal with emerging issues from Coronavirus.

The Cumbria Covid-19 Response Fund was launched on the 17th March 2020 with a donation from Cumbria Community Foundation of £100,000. Our target is to raise £3,000,000 to support the most vulnerable and isolated members of our communities through the coronavirus crisis.

Thank you to everyone that has supported the Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund. We are working hard with charities and groups to make sure local needs are met during this time.

You can view a list of supporters here: www.cumbriafoundation.org/fund-supporters

We are working closely with the National Emergencies Trust who are raising funds nationally through the Coronavirus Fundraising Appeal and then distributed locally through community foundations.
In most rural communities across Cumbria, the population is older than the national average, putting a higher percentage of the community at risk of COVID-19.

This is the case across the Northern Fells region.

The Northern Fells Group received £2,729 from the Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund to expand its Lend a Hand service in response to the huge number of people self-isolating.

AGE UK WEST CUMBRIA

Many older people in Cumbria are self-isolating during the COVID-19 pandemic, but charities are expanding their services to meet the needs of these people and those who are unable to leave their homes because of isolation and poor mobility.

Age UK West Cumbria received £10,000 from the Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund to support its COVID-19 Community Helpdesk and Support service. A response team is answering queries and requests for help via a dedicated helpline number staffed 8.30am to 4pm weekdays. The team will also provide a befriending service for those feeling lonely and isolated.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Jane Mindar, said: We want to make older people in West Cumbria feel supported as the COVID-19 crisis is very frightening, especially for those who are isolated and lonely.

“We want to connect people with services in their local area alongside offering telephone befriending to help people feel less isolated and stop this daunting time effecting their mental health.”
CARLISLE MENCAP
Carlisle Mencap received £4,040 to continue support people with learning disabilities and their families remotely during the COVID-19 crisis. Using online platforms, it is running virtual groups to promote emotional resilience. A virtual gym and virtual craft club for members who usually get a chance to meet physically is proving popular.

Families can join a virtual coffee morning, where they can talk to staff, ask for advice, including autism specialists, as well as peer support from each other. The project will run over 15 hours a week offering support to various groups at differing times to suit them.

Sheila Gregory, Carlisle Mencap CEO, said: “The present crisis is exacerbating the loneliness and anxiety which is already dominant in the lives of people with a learning disability or autism. They find the situation difficult to understand, especially staying indoors. We are very concerned about physical and mental health during this time.

“Our families are going into crisis, so it’s vital we support parents and other family members as well. This funding will help us to keep giving as much support as we can to our community at this time.”

BARROW BOROUGH COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM
The Barrow Borough Community Resilience Forum works closely with the Local Resilience Forum and includes representatives from six charities: The Well, Love Barrow Families, Women’s Community Matters, Drop Zone Youth Project, Age UK Barrow and self-harm awareness charity SAFA. It received £74,580 to ensure that all parts of the borough have access to support, advice, and practical help.

In addition, organisations with expertise in key areas such as older people, mental health, families and addiction issues will be called on to work together to support those most at risk. Much more needs to be done to support families with children in this time of national crisis.

As unemployment rises over the coming weeks and months, many more families will require welfare support to get by. 12,000 children across Cumbria live in poverty and in Barrow, it's one in three.
Your challenge

If you want to participate in your own challenge for the Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund, you can set up a fundraising page linked to our Virgin Money Giving page: www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/Cumbria-Covid19-Response-Fund

Scroll down to where it says: 'Fundraise in support - Create a fundraising page in support of Cumbria Covid-19 Response Fund and make a real impact' and click the red 'start fundraising' button.

People have held virtual quizzes and sporting events, shaved their heads, run a birthday fundraiser and donated money saved from not commuting. Whatever it might be, we would like to here all about your challenge so please tag us on social media as follows:

Facebook: @cumbriacf

Twitter: @cumbriacf

Instagram: @cumbriacf
How to donate

Online - via Virgin Money Giving
Click here to donate or to create your own fundraising page linked to ours.

Cheque - payable to Cumbria Community Foundation
Send a cheque along with a Gift Aid declaration (if you are a tax payer) to Cumbria Community Foundation, Dovenby Hall, Dovenby, Cockermouth, CA13 0PN
Please state Cumbria COVID-19 RF on the back.

Phone
Donate via credit/debit card over the phone by calling 01900 820825. Lines are currently open Monday – Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Bank transfer
If you wish to pay by bank transfer please contact enquiries@cumbriafoundation.org for our bank account details.
Please sponsor me to complete my challenge in aid of the Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund (Charity No: 1075120)

Name: ______________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________ Postcode: ____________________________

Email: ______________________________________________________ Tel: _________________________________

If I have ticked the box headed 'Gift Aid', I can confirm that I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer. I have read this statement and want the charity named above to reclaim tax on the donation detailed below, given on the date shown. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. Please remember to abide by social distancing rules while they are implemented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name (First name &amp; surname)</th>
<th>Home Address Not your work address (this is essential for Gift Aid)</th>
<th>Postcode</th>
<th>Amount £</th>
<th>Date Paid</th>
<th>Gift Aid? (✔)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
<td>Home Address</td>
<td>Postcode</td>
<td>Amount £</td>
<td>Date Paid</td>
<td>Gift Aid?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(First name &amp; surname)</td>
<td>Not your work address (this is essential for Gift Aid)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total donations received</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(for office use only) Total Gift Aid donation</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We are one of 46 community foundations across the UK, and over 1,700 similar foundations around the world. We work with fundholders to provide a permanent, flexible and growing source of local charitable funding that will directly address the needs of Cumbria’s most vulnerable people.