



CUMBRIA COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

THE FIRST SIX MONTHS



CUMBRIA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Deputy Sister Maria Heslop and colleagues at Carlisle's Cumberland Infirmary perform her version of Andy Williams' hit Can't Take My Eyes Off You which promoted hand washing and staying at home

WHAT IS CUMBRIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF) is an independent charity which connects people who care with causes that matter.

The Foundation exists to tackle poverty and disadvantage and strengthen Cumbria's communities by inspiring philanthropy - connecting people who give with inspirational, life-changing projects.

We have responded four times previously to emerging need in times of crisis by launching successful disaster appeals.

Our grants are made possible by the generosity of individuals, families, businesses and charitable

trusts. We manage more than 100 grant-making funds and support over 500 community projects per year on behalf of our fundholders.

Since 1999 we have invested more than £46m into almost 4,000 groups and 8,000 individuals.

We provide a simple approach to effective charitable giving.

As one of the UK's leading, accredited community foundations, we have the expertise and local knowledge to help individuals, families, companies, charitable trusts and public-sector bodies invest in their communities.

INTRODUCTION

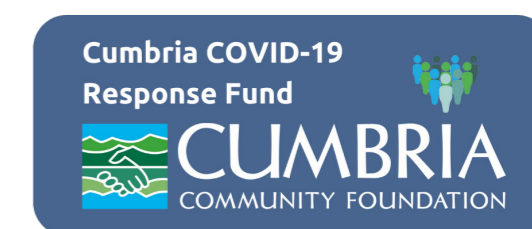
Coronavirus was confirmed in Cumbria on March 3rd 2020. The identification of that first case marked the start of a crisis for local communities unlike any in living memory.

Its reach across all sectors and into everyone's lives has been unprecedented, and although the initial emergency phase of the pandemic here can be considered to have ended, the virus remains a present threat and many challenges lie ahead.

In this impact report we give an insight into the lockdown period in Cumbria, outline Cumbria Community Foundation's work and tell the stories of some of the organisations which received funding and how it helped them.

The response of individuals, agencies and charities across the county has been extraordinary. And Cumbria Community Foundation has been at the frontline of that response. Thanks to the generosity of its donors and the speed of its response, the Foundation has been able to deliver vital funds to help thousands of people, shoring up and sustaining the collective fightback.

The Foundation's Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund was launched on March 17 and has raised £1,753,275 as of September 30. Almost half a million pounds has come from the National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal. More than £1,000,000 from the fund and an additional £364,00 from re-purposed Community Foundation funds have been spent on COVID-19 grants. More than 58,000 people have been helped.



£1.4M the amount given out by CCF to 165 organisations in the county after starting their fund

RESPONDING TO HISTORIC CRISES

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented an historic challenge, creating problems unseen in previous crises.

It has required an unprecedented effort from across our communities and Cumbria Community Foundation is privileged to have been at the very forefront of this response.

We have made grants to 165 organisations in the county so far. A quarter of those hadn't applied to us before and it includes many which are new and were set up specifically to support their local communities during the pandemic.

We have helped approximately 58,000 vulnerable people, which is more than 10 per cent of the county's population.

We are building on the great success and the generosity of people's giving and the generosity of people stepping forward as volunteers. Community groups and volunteers have never been more important and have shown themselves in the most fantastic way.

One of the positives is the brilliant way the county council, the district councils and the private and public sectors have come together and seamlessly connected to grassroots volunteers. We are proud to be part of this multi-agency approach.

What was a surprise was the number of families who came forward asking for help with food. There is a view that there were already families who were struggling but didn't feel able to come forward, until COVID-19 enabled them to do that.

It has been amazing to see how many people and organisations have responded to provide food, from big commercial organisations to food banks and charities, which means that the food supply hasn't come into question.

I have been involved with the National Emergencies Trust and have seen something of what has happened in other parts of the UK. I don't know anywhere that has been as well connected, and utilised what is essentially 'people power', so well.

Normally in a report like this I would be able to say that the flood waters have gone away and the shops have reopened, most people are back in their houses and it was horrible but hopefully it's not going to happen again for a long time, and we are back to normal.

But the impact of this pandemic, the needs generated and the fact it is national and global, and affects everyone in the community, the fact that the impacts of the recession have barely hit yet, means we find ourselves in a very different context.

Cumbria Community Foundation will focus on three priorities now: mental health; addressing families in poverty and financial hardship; and young people and education.

One big concern we have is that we can only spend money well if there are groups there to fund. The sustainability of some of the organisations and charities is a real issue. We were part of a group that did a survey of charities at the start of the lockdown and 60 per cent had less than six months reserves.

“

We have helped more than 58,000 people, which is more than 10 per cent of the county's population. ”

Andy Beeforth, OBE
CEO, Cumbria Community Foundation



Many charities have not been able to fundraise and so the funds that the Foundation has been able to provide have been vital, not only in supporting services but also keeping staff paid and organisations running.

The role of the Foundation has never been more important in promoting philanthropy. The organisations that we have funded have demonstrated the value of giving grant aid to local charities and organisations – they are close to local need, cost effective and get the job done.

We will continue to be a focus for supporting people most in need as we move forward.

We will focus on making sure people don't go hungry, and that their emotional wellbeing is being looked after as much as it is possible, and giving young people the best chances to maximise their learning and employment.

I want to say thank you to everyone who has so generously donated. We can only support our local communities if we have the funding to give out. This hasn't gone away, and if you can give, please do.

Details on page 25, 'Support the Fund'.



601.4 the rate of infection per 100,000 population in Cumbria as it passed 3,000 cases; the average for England was 501.4.

FUND DONATING FROM DAY ONE

Cumbria Community Foundation has responded to major crises before, but none quite like this.

“This is totally different to anything we have had to deal with in the past,” said Kevin Walsh, chair of the panel running the Foundation’s Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund.

“With the expertise we have already got with emergencies such as the floods and foot and mouth, we realised there would be demand that would outstrip the statutory provision and existing third sector provision.

“With floods you can see the hardship when people are flooded out, but with COVID-19 it’s just affecting all strands of society in different ways and we realised this early on.”

CCF appointed a panel and launched its response fund with an appeal for donations in March.

“We launched the fund with £100,000 of our own funds and then invited others to donate,” said Kevin.

“We started to get donations right away and so had money to spend right from day one. That has just kept going both from local and national sources.”

The fund panel of nine met weekly on Zoom to consider applications for money.

“Community food groups popped up and we supported some of them with food distribution or food purchases to

make sure that those in hardship have access to food.”

“We already knew where the areas of deprivation were, such as West Cumbria and Barrow and parts of Carlisle, and COVID-19 has exacerbated issues there,” said Kevin.

“What we didn’t expect was that the South Lakes and Lake District National Park areas would also be adversely affected because the hospitality industry was hit during lockdown.

“There was a massive increase in Universal Credit applications in those areas and we saw food banks in places like Ambleside which we wouldn’t normally think would happen.”



Kevin Walsh with members of SHINE (Support and Help in Nourishing Everyone) group in Brampton

* Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund panel members: Kevin Walsh, Glenys Marriot, Jayne Moorby, Suzanne Wilson, David Beeby, Helen Carter, John Whittle, David Moore and Roger Hart.

“**This thing hasn’t gone away. There is a long way to go yet.**”
Kevin Walsh



Typically, the panel was assessing applications and awarding grants to successful groups within a week.

“We received one lovely comment which was, ‘While other funders are still trying to decide the font for their application forms, CCF have turned it around and got the money out’.”

The fund remains open.

Kevin said: “This thing hasn’t gone away. There is a long way to go yet.

“I think it has been emotional at times. It has been a bit of an emotional rollercoaster.

“It’s been one of those situations where we have just had to come up to the mark. And we have done that, and we will carry on doing what we need to do.”

CARLISLE CREDIT UNION

The shift online during lockdown is encapsulated in the experiences of Carlisle & District Credit Union.

The not-for-profit institution, which offers affordable loans to members, had recognised last autumn that it needed to make online applications available so was already taking steps before COVID-19 changed everything.

Chief executive Mandy Johnston said: “It was perfect timing with regards to when COVID-19 happened. But a lot of people don’t operate online and don’t have access to a computer or scanner. So we put plans in place to do home visits. We would go out with an application, pop it through the door and ask them to pop it back.”

£11,500 from Cumbria Community Foundation helped pay for a mobile app and an electronic signature.

“It will make a lot of difference because with people being isolated, if they can’t scan it, they can’t send it back,” said Mandy.

She was able to work throughout lockdown, keeping the Union’s Lowther Street office open with staff socially distanced and on staggered shifts.



SURVEY RESULTS

In August, Cumbria Community Foundation surveyed 150 groups that had received grants in response to COVID-19, to find out what they thought about how the fund was managed and how it helped them. Here's what 113 of them said:



How helpful were CCF staff?

93% said extremely helpful or very helpful.



How would you rate your experience of the applications process?

95% said it was very good or good.



Communication with CCF staff during the grant application process was good?

93% strongly agree or agree.



You felt your needs were understood?

94% strongly agree or agree.



Responses from CCF were timely and efficient?

96% strongly agree or agree.



Did the grant help you collaborate with other organisations?

59 of 110 said yes. They listed more than 100 other groups and charities they collaborated with.



How many people did the grant help you support?

58,629 (total)

“We had a lot of support from CCF before applying and a very quick turnaround with the application.”

“CCF are the most flexible grant funders in Cumbria. Easy, quick and efficient means more time for me to do the job I need to do to make a real difference.”

“Process was easy and quick, we were able to respond to the crisis our clients were in really quickly.”

“The collaborative bid had a huge impact upon our partnership working. It really wasn't just a financial value, it really brought organisations closer together as there was a tangible sharing of resource. It was a hugely important moment in cementing partnership working and empowering community groups (new and old) to go and keep people fed and medicated. The positive impacts are still being felt.”

Barrow Borough Community Resilience Forum received £74,850 to support the 'Barrow the Place' initiative involving public and third sector organisations, multi-agency groups and partners and hundreds of volunteers all working together to help people and families in crisis.

What difference did the grant make to your organisation?

88%

strongly agree or agree

The grant helped us respond to the pandemic more quickly

96%

strongly agree or agree

The grant helped us provide better support

93%

strongly agree or agree

The grant helped us address the needs of communities affected by the pandemic

78%

strongly agree or agree

The grant helped us provide new services

80%

strongly agree or agree

The grant helped us continue existing services

80%

strongly agree or agree

The grant helped us provide emotional support to people or communities affected by the pandemic

WHAT DID THE GRANT HELP YOU WITH?

Supporting isolated older/vulnerable people



Supporting people in financial hardship and challenging circumstances



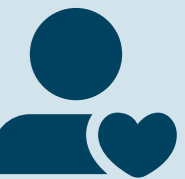
Providing mental health support



Providing food and other essentials to vulnerable people



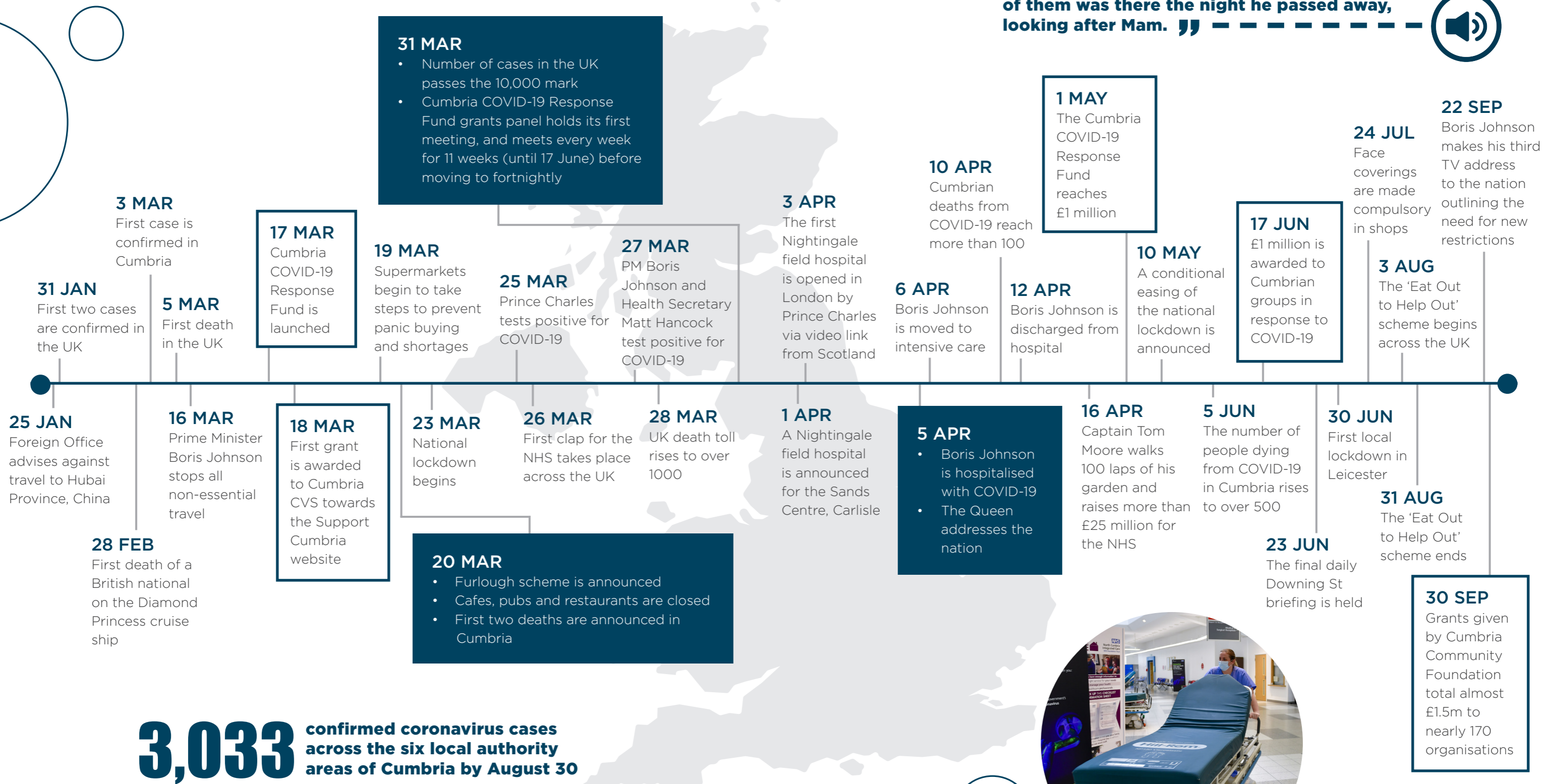
Supporting disadvantaged young people



Supporting victims of domestic violence and abuse



COVID-19 TIMELINE



LIFE ON PAUSE

Full lockdown was a strange time that few will forget. A collective hush seemed to descend as normal life was suspended and we watched a virus that no-one fully understood sweep inexorably across the world right to our doorsteps.

The simplest things we took for granted were suddenly a privilege – shopping for food, hugging loved ones, going outside.

Professional photographer Stuart Walker set out to document this new world.

His images transport us back to the eerie silent streets, the Thursday nights clapping and banging pots in support of the NHS and key workers, the sober queues dotted along pavements to corner shops.

He captures the heartbreak – and dignity – of lockdown funerals and bereavement.

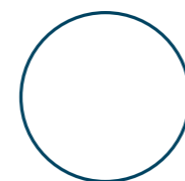
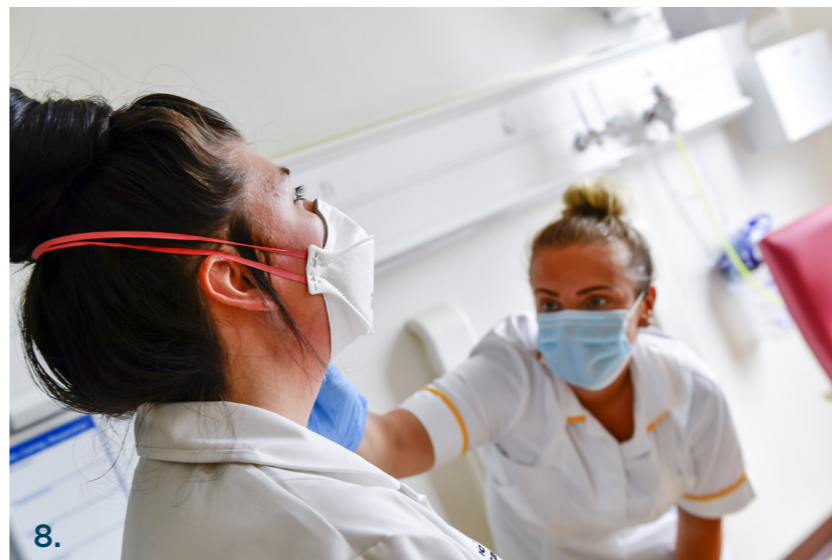
Masks and visors, goggles and gloves, turned hospital staff into Hazmat silhouettes, but their eyes shine out.

As if in war, businesses and individuals mobilised, volunteer groups feeding the vulnerable, factories like high-end bag maker Chapman's turning their hand to making PPE.

We learned to expect testing centres in incongruous places like car parks and found ourselves listening as never before to scientists. Stuart takes us to the frontline of the battle against COVID-19 in laboratory and hospital. And to the classroom where four children, the advance guard from a school of more than 100, sit apart bent studiously over their work.

His pictures capture the spirit of collective determination, the gestures of resistance and, despite much harm, a refusal to be defeated; the street entertainers, the postie in fancy dress, Carlisle's 900-year-old cathedral turned into a laser display of gratitude





14,000

the number registered out of work in Cumbria in August, nearly twice the pre-pandemic figure in March

AT THE CENTRE OF COMMUNITY

Ambleside Parish Centre has been a pivotal hub for its local community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

From delivering hot meals to delivering the news, volunteers from the centre have been a welcome sight for people in and around the Lake District town.

Early in the lockdown, the centre joined forces with Windermere School to provide food for residents of Ambleside, Grasmere, Hawkshead and the Langdales who were vulnerable, self-isolating or had no access to transport.

Regular activities at the centre were replaced with a community support service for older people and vulnerable families, with more than 90 volunteers helping out. The centre also became a point for a food share, food bank, and a book and puzzle swap, and volunteers also manned phone lines to offer a 'befriending' service.

Another new initiative, a community newsletter, was launched in these uncertain times. It outlined local services and included pen pal articles from those who were self-isolating. The 13-year-old photocopier at the centre was no longer fit for use though, so funding from Cumbria Community Foundation also helped to get the newsletter printed, as well as going towards the centre's usual running costs.

Centre manager Caroline Gunning said: "The funding allowed us to stay open, and it helped us to provide hot meals for those in need.

"We've relied a lot on volunteers, and of course we are very grateful to them.

"One of the main things that we've introduced is our newsletter, which has been a big help for people who can't access the internet. Guidelines and information have been constantly changing, so this has been a good way of keeping them informed and letting them know what services are available in the area."



Centre manager Caroline Gunning at Ambleside Parish Centre

CREATIVE RESPONSE

Ragtag Arts, based in Kendal, came up with a project to solve one of the most difficult problems for parents during lockdown - how to keep young children busy.

Partly funded with £1,200 from Cumbria Community Foundation, the team put together nearly 300 craft packs for families who have primary school-aged children.

These packs included basic craft supplies such as PVA glue, scissors, pencils, and oil pastels, a selection of creative resources (felt, fabric, buttons, ribbon and collage materials), and pre-cut activities (masks, crown, frame and door hanger). Two different packs were made, one aimed at Key Stage 1, and the other at Key Stage 2.



It's not the first time the Foundation has helped the organisation. When brother and sister Josh Simpson and Emily Dewhurst decided to move to Cumbria to set up Ragtag and Kendal's first Scrapstore in 2016, funding from the Foundation was instrumental in them making the move.

The Scrapstore, located on the Mealbank Mill Industrial Estate since 2018, uses safe, clean waste from local businesses that would otherwise end up in landfill and turns it into affordable arts and crafts materials.

BAGS OF SUPPORT

South Lakeland mental health charity and organic vegetable farm Growing Well was able to provide remote support to its 'volunteers' (beneficiaries) through lockdown, and recruit a new Commercial Grower, thanks to a £9,000 grant from CCF.

The charity's support staff kept in touch with 60 volunteers from March to July by phone and Zoom while the site at Low Sizergh Farm was closed to volunteers and most staff. Part of the grant provided IT and communication equipment for homeworking staff, and iPads were made available for volunteers without digital equipment at home.

Meanwhile, a skeleton team of growers, aided by staff redeployed to the field, continued to supply its 70 'Crop Share' customers with a weekly bag of fresh, organic fruit and vegetables, despite being without 200 hours a week of labour normally provided by its volunteers.

Lockdown produced a huge spike in interest in local food. Growing Well now has more than 90 Crop Sharers, and the rest of the grant allowed them to invest in a new Commercial Grower to help supply more customers and develop new commercial contracts. This will increase earned income from the farm and the charity's sustainability, following large losses in event, training and fundraising income due to COVID-19.



'WE WORKED 150 DAYS WITH NO TIME OFF'



Angela Good and Stephen Rumney from South Workington Youth Partnership

South Workington Youth Partnership is a youth, disability and community charity, operating out of Moorclose Community Centre.

At the height of the pandemic, the charity was supporting around 2,000 people each week, and even now is still providing food for 50 families twice a week.

Manager and development officer Angela Good said: "We run two pantries, while supporting people in other ways, such as helping people get free school meals, Universal Credit and with council tax payments.

"I've had to help people with their shopping and getting their prescriptions - basically anything people need help with.

"All the disabled people we work with went into complete lockdown, and it was up to the likes of us to visit them, deliver to them, bake with them, and bring them extra resources, craft activities, and extra treats."

South Workington Youth Partnership received £7,500 from the COVID-19 Response Fund to help with staffing costs, as all other sources of income streams had dried up.

"The grant we received helped to support the staff, and without it, we probably wouldn't have been able to carry on. There are no other income at the moment, and we need to pay rent as well as other extra bits and pieces," said Angela.

"We had just built up our day services to where I thought we had it cracked and then this happened.

"We weren't able to furlough staff because they are sessional workers, and some of these staff are now on Universal Credit. Things are starting to get going again and our disabled members are hopefully starting to come back to us over the next few weeks.

"Of course, we know that it could all happen again and people need to start being more responsible to stop that happening.

"We've worked more than 150 days without a day off, because we can't not deliver to people.

"It's been a very tough time, and we are grateful for all the support and help we can get."

801 the number of cases in Carlisle by the end of August, the worst affected area



ECHOES OF AN OLDER CRISIS

For Veronica Waller of The Farmer Network there is relief that one of her biggest fears at the start of the coronavirus outbreak didn't happen.

"We were really worried about farmers going down with COVID-19. Because many of them work on their own, we were worried they wouldn't have enough labour without bringing in older family members.

"In practice, fortunately, we didn't get many requests for help because farmers did isolate and didn't get COVID-19."

Instead, the impact was on the businesses into which farms had diversified.

For many in agriculture, the pandemic has parallels with another crisis nearly two decades ago.

Now a senior project manager with The Farmer Network, in 2001 Veronica was working for the NFU during the foot and mouth outbreak, out of which the not-for-profit Network was born. It also prompted many farmers to set up other businesses, which in 2020 found themselves so vulnerable in lockdown.

She cites the help given to a woman whose farmhouse B&B income vanished. The Network also organised seminars for livestock farmers about the now closed auction marts and for sheep farmers on what to do with the wool they couldn't sell. Dairy farmers who supplied large coffee chains or food companies were also particularly impacted.

When Cumbria Community Foundation offered help, Veronica was quick to accept. "I applied for £9,500 to help us provide support services in Cumbria. That money has helped to set up an emergency labour scheme, fund people's time to listen to farmers' concerns, set up seminars to talk about issues and attend online meetings with Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnerships."

She added: "CCF are brilliant. They understand the area and the organisations and the communities in Cumbria and they are extremely quick to respond."



A young boy helps round up sheep, one of the photos submitted for The Farmer Network's Facebook competition

COPING WITH GRIEF FROM A DISTANCE



Staff and volunteers of Cruse Bereavement Care Cumbria

Few organisations can have felt the raw grief of people who have lost loved ones during the pandemic in the way that Cruse Cumbria has.

Paul Goodman, chair of the bereavement counselling service, speaks of the “appalling” situation that left people unable to say goodbye to relatives or friends at funerals and anger at Government policy, particularly regarding care homes.

“The great majority of the work we do with bereaved people is to provide face-to-face counselling and, of course, that hasn’t been possible since lockdown. So all the work now is being done on the telephone or on Zoom.

“I think the bereavement volunteers who haven’t done telephone counselling before have adapted extraordinarily to the new circumstances. My hunch is that once life gets back to normal, we’ll begin to see people face to face again but we will also continue to do telephone counselling. By necessity we’ve learnt it.

“Like all organisations, we’re quite conservative and people were reluctant to do telephone work until they absolutely had to. And now people feel

confident doing it. I think that’s a good thing.”

The shift to remote working has had an unexpected benefit in that the traditional imbalance of volunteers towards the west of the county no longer matters.

At the start of lockdown, Paul adds, demand for Cruse’s services actually dropped off. “It’s completely counter-intuitive but initially, not just in Cumbria but nationally, referrals to Cruse went down. We think it’s because people weren’t going to GPs. People were told not to go to GPs and GPs weren’t making referrals [to Cruse].

“Now referrals are up to where they were and GP practices are getting back to normal we are expecting there will be an increase in the autumn and that’s why we’re training new volunteers.”

Help with training is where Cumbria Community Foundation came in. As Cruse is a charity which receives no statutory funding, a grant of just under £5,000 was invaluable in teaching volunteers phone counselling. It will also assist in setting up Friends of Cruse support groups.

“CCF is a very significant organisation that supports us and allowed us to keep going through some very lean years,” said Paul.

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN



“You can definitely socially distance at the top of a mountain!”

When Janet Folland and her colleagues in Allied Health Professionals decided to raise money for Cumbria Community Foundation’s COVID-19 Response Fund they wanted to do something with a flavour of Cumbria which everyone could take part in. The answer: climb all 214 Wainwrights within August.

With a spreadsheet to tick off each climb, Facebook and Twitter pages to raise their profile and online fundraising, the 98 involved worked their way through Alfred’s list. Steps, distance, and height climbed were all logged and they cleared litter from the fells as they went.

The most completed in a day was 15 by one particularly hardy group but Janet was keen to make the challenge as inclusive as possible.

“Just going up any of the Wainwrights for some people is a huge challenge, even the smaller ones. For some to go up Binsey is an achievement and that also has to be celebrated.”

The group passed its £3,000 target in mid-September with plans for individuals to continue fundraising and then do a similar challenge next year.

Janet said: “The response has been absolutely phenomenal. We had people out every single day walking in all weathers to support what we are doing. I’m very proud of what we’ve achieved and very proud to be part of this community.”

KEEPING IN TOUCH WAS KEY...

Communication is the key theme when Saj Ghafoor discusses her experiences during the pandemic.

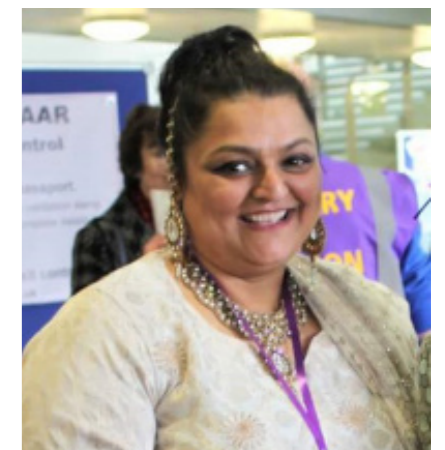
Lockdown left the founder of Multicultural Cumbria worried for both her own organisation, which could no longer access its offices, and for members of the BAME community suddenly isolated, some with little or no English to make sense of what was happening.

Help arrived in the form of a part-time digital assistant, funded by a grant of just under £11,000 from Cumbria Community Foundation, who relieved the pressure on Saj and her colleague Tina Borgia whose health was beginning to suffer.

Saj herself contracted COVID-19 at the end of March and was seriously ill for six weeks.

Now recovered, she says the positive aspect of the crisis has been that Multicultural Cumbria has “shown our strength” with the police and NHS approaching them as a route to engaging with the BAME community.

“It’s raised awareness within the wider community that there are people out there that do need support and kindness and friendship. From BAME people’s perspective, when they’ve seen stories from people of their own background they’ve felt reassured that there’s someone somewhere that they can connect to.”



‘WE KEPT GOING TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE’

“...suddenly when grants became available again it was like a light at the end of the tunnel.”



Video credit: ITV Border



Funding from Cumbria Community Foundation has helped put food on the table - literally - for some of the most vulnerable people in the county during lockdown. When the pandemic hit, Cumbria Meals on Wheels, as with many charities and support organisations, faced both severe restrictions on providing its services and a serious financial shortfall.

“Lots of [charities] lost a lot of money throughout lockdown,” said project manager Trish Price. “We’re not here to make lots of money but we need to make enough to keep going. So many of us were just about existing and surviving.”

“So suddenly when grants became available again it was like a light at the end of the tunnel. You could see it continuing, rather than just living from hand to mouth all the time.”

The grant came in the form of £10,000 to help Meals on Wheels keep going. It was used to kit out their new base in Shady Grove Road, Carlisle.

Mrs Price called what they offer “a lifeline” for many during the unprecedented crisis of recent months.

“Most people didn’t see anybody. So many people have families who are living away, or who live in another country even. Often the customers themselves were shielding and the family couldn’t come and see them so we were often the only person they saw.”

Cumbria Meals on Wheels, which started out as Fair Meals Direct in 2014, is now looking forward to a more secure future thanks to the Foundation’s funding.



Stephanie Lithgow, Helen Clarke and Trish Price of Meals on Wheels Cumbria based in Shady Grove Road, Raffles, Carlisle



SAFA

As with many organisations, the lockdown transformed the way SAFA worked almost overnight.

The Cumbrian-based self-harm awareness charity conducts the vast majority of its counselling face-to-face from its headquarters in Barrow or offices across the county.

SAFA received £13,500 from the COVID-19 Response Fund to help set up the video technology and phone hotline, as well as pay for a part-time member of staff.

Project manager Kath Threlkeld said: “CCF provided funding for us to mobilise our counsellors to provide an emotional support telephone helpline. This was used not only by some of the people on our waiting list, but could be accessed by anyone in Cumbria who had been adversely affected by the pandemic.”

“

We’ve helped about 80 people in our community; some families, some single people, some people just coming out of hospital.”

”



Maria of St Luke’s Carlisle

'RESIDENTS TURN TO US IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY'

The Appleby Emergency Response Group was formed in the aftermath of the flooding of 2015 and 2016.

The team of volunteers work in conjunction with the emergency services and other appropriate authorities and are ready to support people affected by emergencies in the Parish.

Project Manager Laura Allan said: "Our purpose is to assist the community to prepare, respond and recover from an emergency.

"We have received well over 1,000 requests for assistance since we went live on 23rd March 2020.

We have been supporting those in the community who are self isolating and do not have the support of family, friends or neighbours.

"Our volunteers have been absolutely outstanding, and the sense of community spirit has been admirable."

The Response Group received just over £9,000 to help cover the costs of having so many new volunteers and providing them with adequate equipment and fuel.

"The grant was used to employ additional administration support, to assist with volunteer costs, mileage allowance and additional operational costs to provide Hi-Vis, PPE and printing costs." said Laura.

Things have quietened down now for the group, and the volunteers have stepped back since lockdown restrictions were lifted. However, they know that their services could be called upon again if a second wave of the virus were to strike.



The Response Group swapped dealing with floods to a pandemic

"As restrictions have continued to be lifted, we decided to give the volunteers a well earned rest, however we are still here and have not abandoned the residents of Appleby.

"The group runs solely on funding and donations - without these, the group would not be able to continue." added Laura.

"We have a higher than average ageing population many of which have underlying health issues who have been self-isolating and are continuing to do so even though some restrictions have been eased. We provide a lifeline for these people, delivering shopping and prescriptions together with other simple tasks like posting letters, paying cheques in etc.

"The group is now a well established and recognised charity which the residents of Appleby turn to in times of emergency. It is critical that we secure regular funding to be able to continue to provide this service."

SUPPORT THE FUND



The story of how COVID-19 has impacted on our county is far from over. Our communities still need your support.

There are various ways to donate to the Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund and every penny makes a difference, thank you.

Online

Visit our Virgin Money Giving page to make a contribution: virginmoneygiving.com/fund/Cumbria-Covid19-Response-Fund

Phone

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

Send a cheque

Please make cheques payable to Cumbria Community Foundation and write 'Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund' on the back. Send cheques to our office: Cumbria Community Foundation, Dovenby Hall, Dovenby, Cockermouth, CA13 0PN. Please note there may be a delay in banking any cheques sent.

If you are a tax payer, please also send a Gift Aid Declaration available from our website.

Bank transfer

If you wish to pay by bank transfer, please contact the office on 01900 825760 or email enquiries@cumbriafoundation.org for our bank account details.

Fundraise

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

You can download our Cumbria COVID-19 Fundraising Guide from our website.

FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

All funded organisations up until 30th September 2020.
Full details of the awards are available on our website.

1st Crosscraze Guides 1 grant	£600
1st Hawkshead Guides 1 grant	£675
1st Wigton Baden-Powell Scouts 1 grant	£3,000
5th Kendal Guides 1 grant	£100
Affinity Credit Union 1 grant	£8,000
Age UK Barrow and District Limited 2 grants	£29,871
Age UK Carlisle and Eden 4 grants	£49,405
Age UK South Lakeland 2 grants	£35,000
Age UK West Cumbria 3 grants	£41,017
Allonby Angels 1 grant	£500
Alston Moor Emergency Response Group (AMERG) 1 grant	£4,400
Alston Moor Food Bank 1 grant	£1,000
Always Another Way, Cumbria Limited 1 grant	£4,000
Ambleside Parish Centre 2 grants	£12,416
Appleby Emergency Response Group 1 grant	£9,030
Arnside Volunteer Group 1 grant	£2,000
Around the Combe Community Group 1 grant	£5,000
Aspatia Dreamscheme 2 grants	£6,218
Barrow & District Credit Union 1 grant	£9,959
Barrow and Districts Society for the Blind Limited 1 grant	£2,500
Barrow Borough Community Resilience Forum (BBCRF) 1 grant	£74,580
Barrow Citizens Advice Bureau 1 grant	£15,246
Bay Trust Radio 1 grant	£885
Bipolar UK 1 grant	£1,500
Borrowdale Parish Council 1 grant	£379
Bowness and Windermere Community Care Trust 1 grant	£5,400
Bowness Community Group 1 grant	£250
Braithwaite Volunteers 1 grant	£500
Brampton and Beyond Community Trust 1 grant	£4,500

Brampton Parish Council 1 grant	£3,000
Brathay Trust 2 grants	£16,850
Cancer Care North Lancashire & South Cumbria 2 grants	£35,240
Carer Support South Lakes 1 grant	£3,000
Carlisle and District Credit Union 1 grant	£11,205
Carlisle Carers Limited 1 grant	£2,218
Carlisle COVID-19 Community Help Group 3 grants	£45,792
Carlisle Eden Mind Limited 3 grants	£32,000
Carlisle Key 1 grant	£2,000
Carlisle Mencap Limited 2 grants	£10,596
Chrysalis (Cumbria) Ltd 1 grant	£5,000
Citizens Advice Allerdale 4 grants	£28,137
Citizens Advice Carlisle and Eden 4 grants	£37,750
Citizens Advice Copeland 3 grants	£9,934
Cockermouth Emergency Response Group (CERG) 1 grant	£4,890
Copeland Age and Advice Service (CAAS) CIC 3 grants	£14,000
Cowran Care Limited 1 grant	£1,500
Crosby Ravensworth Community Support Network 1 grant	£886
Cruse Bereavement Care Cumbria 1 grant	£4,860
Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFS) 1 grant	£2,000
Cumbria Alcohol and Drug Advisory Service (CADAS) 1 grant	£11,000
Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service 2 grants	£7,200
Cumbria Family Support 1 grant	£1,500
Cumbria Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs 1 grant	£3,000
Cumbria Gateway Limited 2 grants	£3,668
Cumbria Law Centre 2 grants	£20,000
Cumbria Wildlife Trust Limited 1 grant	£15,000
Cumbria Youth Alliance (CYA) 3 grants	£17,800

Derian House Children's Hospice 1 grant	£25,000
Dignity in Dementia 1 grant	£2,812
Distington Fareshare Group 1 grant	£800
Drop Zone Youth Projects 1 grant	£250
Eden Carers 1 grant	£1,684
Eden Sight Support 1 grant	£2,000
Eden Valley Hospice 1 grant	£10,000
Egremont Town Council COVID-19 Support 1 grant	£1,000
Every Life Matters 2 grants	£8,800
Flimby Community Vulnerable Person's Group 2 grants	£4,000
Ford Park Community Group 1 grant	£5,000
Friends of Bassenthwaite School 2 grants	£1,000
Friends of Bram 1 grant	£10,000
Furness Carers 1 grant	£3,500
Gateway Church (Kendal) 1 grant	£6,700
Gilsland Village Hall 1 grant	£500
Girlguiding Cumbria South 1 grant	£785
Girlguiding Grange and Cartmel District 1 grant	£144
Glenmore Trust 1 grant	£1,500
Grange-over-Sands Community Lunch 1 grant	£6,000
Greysouthen Village Hall 1 grant	£1,250
Growing Well Limited 2 grants	£16,184
Heron Corn Mill (Beetham) Limited 1 grant	£4,964
Home to Work Limited 2 grants	£8,500
Hospice at Home Carlisle and North Lakeland 2 grants	£31,596
Hospice at Home West Cumbria 1 grant	£25,000
Kendal Community Emergency Planning Group 2 grants	£7,337
Kendal Windows on Art (KWoa) 1 grant	£1,000
Kent Estuary Youth 1 grant	£2,150
Keswick Community Emergency Recovery Partnership 2 grants	£6,995

King's Church Cockermouth 1 grant	£2,000
Kirkby Stephen & Upper Eden Good Neighbours Scheme 1 grant	£500
Kirkby Stephen Community Support Association 1 grant	£800
Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association (LDSAMRA) 1 grant	£30,000
Light Up Lives CIC 1 grant	£2,849
Love Barrow Families CIC 1 grant	£4,000
Manna House (Cumbria) 1 grant	£1,878
Maryport and Solway Sea Cadets 1 grant	£800
Maryport Community Emergency Response 1 grant	£5,000
Meals on Wheels (Cumbria) 2 grants	£9,907
Mirehouse Community Centre Association (MCCA) 1 grant	£4,668
Mirehouse Residents Group 1 grant	£5,850
Multicultural Cumbria 4 grants	£26,376
Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group 1 grant	£2,730
Oak Tree Animals' Charity 1 grant	£500
Penrith Mountain Rescue Team 1 grant	£600
Penrith Town Council 1 grant	£3,000
People First Independent Advocacy PFIA 3 grants	£29,900
Period Poverty North Cumbria 1 grant	£999
Phoenix Enterprise Centre 1 grant	£5,600
Promoting Autonomy & Change (PAC) Ltd 1 grant	£10,000
Ragtag Arts CIC 1 grant	£1,200
Ramsden Robins Pre-Nursery Group 1 grant	£1,000
Rookhow Quaker Meeting House and Bunkbarn 1 grant	£250
Rosehill Youth Theatre and The Solway Hall 1 grant	£3,000
Rosemere Cancer Foundation 1 grant	£25,000
S.H.I.N.E. (Support, Help in Nourishing Everyone) 1 grant	£8,000
SAFA Cumbria 2 grants	£13,500

Safety Net (UK) 2 grants	£13,358
Samaritans of Carlisle 1 grant	£6,544
Sandylands Residents Association 1 grant	£350
Sight Advice South Lakes 1 grant	£1,328
Signal Film and Media Limited 1 grant	£10,000
South Cumbria Breastfeeding Support 1 grant	£5,200
South Lakes Action on Climate Change Towards Transition (SLACC tt) 1 grant	£4,000
South Lakes Citizens Advice 2 grants	£31,479
South West Cumbria United Area of Churches 1 grant	£1,500
South Whitehaven Youth Partnership 1 grant	£1,038
South Workington Youth Partnership 1 grant	£7,500
Space2Create 1 grant	£500
Springfield Domestic Abuse Support in South Lakeland 1 grant	£4,195
St Augustine of Canterbury Church, Alston 1 grant	£900
St Herbert's Church, Currock 1 grant	£3,000
St John's Church (Hensingham) 2 grants	£10,000
St John's Hospice North Lancashire & South Lakes 2 grants	£30,000
St Luke's Church, Carlisle 2 grants	£6,000
St Mary's Hospice 2 grants	£35,000
St Patrick's Church, Patterdale 1 grant	£1,000
Susan's Farm CIO 1 grant	£2,785
The Birchall Trust 2 grants	£2,943
The Community Cupboard Kirkby Lonsdale 1 grant	£5,000
The Farmer Network Limited 1 grant	£9,500
The Gateway Group 1 grant	£43,445
The Laurie Brewis Trust 1 grant	£6,000
The Phoenix Youth Project 1 grant	£4,172
The Salvation Army, Barrow 1 grant	£25,000
The Salvation Army, Penrith 2 grants	£11,000

Tigerlily Trust 1 grant	£2,926
Time to Change West Cumbria 1 grant	£10,000
Together We CIC 1 grant	£8,263
Triple A Project (All About Autism) 1 grant	£2,184
Ulverston Mind Limited 1 grant	£1,362
Walney Community Trust 1 grant	£1,000
Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team 1 grant	£500
Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited 1 grant	£6,347
West Cumbria Carers 1 grant	£3,793
West Cumbria Community Action Trust (WCCAT) 1 grant	£2,000
West Cumbria Domestic Violence Support 2 grants	£13,532
Whitehaven Community Trust 1 grant	£10,000
Whitehaven Egremont and District Credit Union 1 grant	£1,190
Whizz-Kidz 1 grant	£10,000
With Singing In Mind 1 grant	£885
Women's Community Matters 1 grant	£3,000
Workington Community Emergency Response Group 1 grant	£5,000
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust 1 grant	£10,000
Young Cumbria 1 grant	£2,800

TOTAL

**219 grants totalling
 £1,452,083 given to 165
 organisations**



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.

Cumbria Community Foundation,
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