

Newcastle Building Society announces £50,000 grant funding to help communities recover from impact of pandemic

Charities helping hundreds of people across the North East and Cumbria have received a major funding boost after Newcastle Building Society announced details of the latest round of grants distributed through its Community Fund.

Fifteen organisations tackling issues around employability, food poverty and debt have been awarded a total of £50,512 from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation, which provides grants to charities and community groups located in or around the communities served by the Society's branch network.

Grants ranging from £2,000 to £4,000 have been made to groups including Coatham House in Redcar, the International Community Organisation of Sunderland and South Tyneside Churches KEY Project.

Other groups to receive funding include Auckland Youth and Community Centre in Bishop Auckland and the Billingham and Stockton Borough Foodbank.

Andrew Haigh, Newcastle Building Society's chief executive, said: "Our communities have faced unprecedented challenges over the past 18 months and although the picture is improving for many people, the need to support the charities and groups that help so many in our region is as vital as ever.

"The issues around employability, food poverty and debt can have serious implications for families anywhere. As a member-owned organisation, with deep roots in our communities, I'm proud we're able to make a substantial funding award through our Community Fund and focus on the brilliant local organisations who deliver significant support and long-term solutions to families across our region."

Other charities receiving funding include Gateshead-based Regal Respite, North Tyneside Disability Forum, Carlisle Key in Cumbria and South-Tyneside-based Churches Together.

Since its launch in 2016, Newcastle Building Society's Community Fund has also contributed over £2.1m in grants and partnerships to a wide variety of charities and projects across the region, including the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and the Prince's Trust. The grants are so far estimated to have had a positive impact on more than 151,000 people.

Su Legg, senior philanthropy advisor at the Community Foundation Tyne and Wear and Northumberland, said: "The Coronavirus pandemic has challenged charitable organisations, especially their ability to fundraise for their running costs whilst demand on their services has never been greater. With this in mind, we've worked with Newcastle Building Society to pinpoint where best to focus support from its fund at the Community Foundation and, armed with the understanding of the most pressing issues within the communities it serves, this year we've focussed vital support to boost employability opportunities – especially affecting young people; address issues linked to debt, and offer support to relieve the increase in food poverty in our region."

For more information visit www.newcastle.co.uk

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Organisation	Area	Amount Awarded	Project
North Tyneside Disability Forum	Tyne & Wear	£3,000	providing employability training to disabled people in North Tyneside
South Tyneside Churches KEY Project	Tyne & Wear	£3,000	Piloting a six-month employability project for homeless young people in South Tyneside
International Community Organisation of Sunderland	Tyne & Wear	£2,941	improving the employability prospects of migrants and people from ethnic minorities in Sunderland
Coatham House	Teesside	£2,940	a volunteering programme for young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Redcar
Auckland Youth and Community Centre	Teesside	£3,000	Nominated grant – towards organisational charitable activities in developing its employability project
Carlisle Key	Cumbria	£3,000	Nominated grant – towards organisational charitable activities in developing young people's employability skills
Churches Together in South Tyneside	Tyne & Wear	£3,000	For foodbank running costs for disadvantaged residents of South Tyneside
The Cedarwood Trust	Tyne & Wear	£3,000	for employing a sessional kitchen assistant to expand the provision of food to vulnerable people in North Tyneside
Regal Respite	Tyne & Wear	£3,000	Providing kosher food and ingredients to low-income orthodox Jewish families in Gateshead
The Mercy Project	Tyne & Wear	£2,991	running a half-term holiday club, focussed on providing food, for disadvantaged families in the West End of Newcastle
Billingham and Stockton Borough Foodbank	Teesside	£3,000	Nominated grant – towards organisational charitable activities
Gateshead Foodbank	Tyne & Wear	£3,000	Nominated grant – towards organisational charitable activities

Footprints in the Community (Redcar Foodbank)	Teesside	£3,000	Nominated grant – towards organisational charitable activities
Citizens Advice Sunderland	Tyne & Wear	£2,500	Providing detailed budgeting and financial capabilities advice to the people of Sunderland – grant will fund 6- months running costs.
Jewish Community Council of Gateshead	Tyne & Wear	£2,500	Debt advice and support to the Orthodox Jewish community in Gateshead – grant will fund 6-9 months running costs
Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau	Northumberland	£3,000	towards debt management support for families in West Northumberland – grant will fund 6-9 months running costs.
Berwick Youth Project	Northumberland	£3,640	Providing financial advice to young people living in and around Berwick.

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About Newcastle Building Society

Newcastle Building Society* is the biggest building society in the North East, with a network of 30 branches and assets of more than £4.9bn. We've been here for our members for over 150 years.

As a leading local employer, we're committed to growing our region's talent and being a great place to work where people can realise their potential. We hold Platinum IIP and were voted Number 2, Best Places to Work in the North East in 2019.

We help people to own their home, to save and to plan their finances through our range of products and services. We believe in the role of the high street at the heart of our communities and are proactive in making financial information and financial advice accessible across our region.

Our Financial Advice is provided through our Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited division**.

We're dedicated to helping our North East communities make positive changes; since 2016 the financial support through grants and donations from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation to benefit local causes has surpassed £2.1m

www.newcastle.co.uk

*Newcastle Building Society Principal Office: 1 Cobalt Park Way, Cobalt Business Park, NE28 9EJ. Newcastle Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Newcastle Building Society is entered in the Financial Services Register under number 156058. You can check this on the Financial Services Register or by contacting the Financial Conduct Authority on 0800 111 6768. Call 0845 734 4345 or visit us online at www.newcastle.co.uk

**Newcastle Building Society introduces to Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited for investments, pensions, inheritance tax planning, financial advice and life cover. Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited is an appointed representative of Openwork Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct