



# Community Action Fund

## **COMMUNITY ACTION FUND YEAR END REPORT**

**April 2018 – March 2019**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The Community Action Fund aims to deliver small grants to community groups, in order to help residents and volunteers deliver projects which will enhance their local area, make it safer, and help achieve the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities as set out in Lancashire's Police and Crime Plan.

The fund was started in 2013/14 when £46,655 was allocated to 34 successful applicants in grants of up to £2,500.

As a result of increasing interest from community groups and organisations the Commissioner increased the fund to £100,000 to maximise the impact of the Fund whilst ensuring that it is at a level that can be fully allocated.

In April 2018 the Commissioner reviewed the Community Action Fund criteria which specified:

- Organisations who have more than £10,000 in unrestricted reserves are ineligible for Community Action Fund funding.
- The maximum grant organisations could apply for was £2,500.

The Commissioner increased the reserves limit to £25,000 and the grant maximum to £3,000.

Applications are considered on a monthly basis by the OPCC and LANPAC (Lancashire Partnership Against Crime). Following the meeting a decision report is submitted to the Commissioner with recommendations on the applications and once approved LANPAC informs applicants whether or not their application has been successful or whether further information is required.

### **2.0 Impact**

In 2018/19 the Community Action Fund received 77 applications with 48 grass root organisations being successful. A total of £111,625.16 was distributed to projects across Lancashire, with the additional £11,625.16 funding being contained within the overall PCC revenue budget.

The aim of the Fund is to support smaller organisations and community groups deliver projects and improvements within their communities.

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**3.0 Analysis**

**3.1 Geographic breakdown**

The highest number of successful grants came from organisations in the Preston and Blackburn with Darwen area which both seen 8 successful applications, £19,413.79 was distributed across Blackburn with Darwen whilst Preston received £19,195.

The remaining £73,016.37 was split between Fylde (seven approvals), Blackpool (six approvals), Lancaster and Pendle (four approvals each), Burnley, Ribble Valley and Wyre (three approvals), Hyndburn and West Lancashire (two approvals each) and South Ribble and Rossendale both having one successful applicant.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of applications approved</b>
<b>Blackpool</b>	6*
<b>Blackburn</b>	8*
<b>Burnley</b>	3*
<b>Chorley</b>	0
<b>South Ribble</b>	1
<b>Fylde</b>	7*
<b>Hyndburn</b>	2*
<b>Lancaster</b>	4
<b>Pendle</b>	4*
<b>Preston</b>	8
<b>Rossendale</b>	1*
<b>Ribble Valley</b>	3*
<b>West Lancashire</b>	2
<b>Wyre</b>	3*
<b>Pan-Lancashire</b>	1

\*Please note some organisations may deliver projects across more than one district.

**3.2 Priorities breakdown**

Each application's eligibility is assessed against the Commissioner's key priorities, and an assessment of the successful applications shows:

32 supported "Tackling crime and reoffending"

12 supported "Developing Safe and Confident Communities"

11 supported "Supporting vulnerable people and victims"

1 supported "Protecting Frontline Policing"

(Some applications supported more than one of the Commissioner's priorities)

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**3.3 Monitoring Information**

<b>PROJECTS APPLIED 2018-19</b>	
Project specially targeted at:	
Male	3
Female	5
Transgender	1
Not Specified	64
Young People (under 25)	40
25 – 65	1
65+	1
Not Specified	31
People with disabilities (physical, emotional or mental)	3
Not Targeted	70
LGBT	1
Not Specified	72
Race (including ethnic or national origins, colour and nationality)	1
Not Specified	72
Specific religion or belief	2
Not Specified	71

<b>PROJECTS FUNDED 2018-19</b>	
Project specially targeted at:	
Male	2
Female	4
Transgender	0
Not Specified	42
Young People (under 25)	29
25 – 65	1
65+	1
Not Specified	17
People with disabilities (physical, emotional or mental)	2
Not Specified	46
LGBT	0
Not Specified	48
Race (including ethnic or national origins, colour and nationality)	1
Not Specified	47
Specific religion or belief	1
Not Specified	47

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**3.4 Marketing Information**

Organisations were asked to confirm where they heard about the Community Action Fund:

<b>PROJECTS APPLIED 2018 / 2019</b>	
Police and Crime Commissioner Website	34
Local Council / CSP	13
Local Councillor	4
Local Neighbourhood Policing Team	10
Newspaper	1
Word of mouth	12
Social Media	0
Other (Please specify)	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FundingCentral.org.uk</li> <li>• CVS</li> <li>• Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Ribble Valley Branch)</li> <li>• School Governor</li> <li>• Similar grant fund to Cheshire PCC</li> <li>• Information from another successful applicant</li> <li>• Lancashire BME Network</li> <li>• Presentation from the OPCC</li> <li>• Funding Fair</li> <li>• Parish Council</li> </ul>	

(Please note an organisation may hear about the Community Action Fund in more than one way)

**4.0 Awareness of the Community Action Fund**

To encourage more organisations to apply, in particularly groups from deprived areas of the county, the Commissioner's office promoted the fund in a number of ways; case studies, Commissioner visits, social media, leaflet refresh, stakeholder engagement and press releases that gained attention from regional & local newspapers.

Following targeted promotion we have seen a huge increase in interest from organisations within East division, in 2017/18 Blackburn with Darwen only seen one successful applicant compared to 18/19 where 8 local organisations received Community Action Fund funding.

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**5.0 Organisations supported**

A wide breadth of organisations have been supported by the Community Action Fund, including sports and community organisations providing holiday schemes for young people in deprived communities to projects aiming to protect those most vulnerable within the community. Examples of the range of projects funded are provided in the Case Studies below.

**5.1 Case studies**

**a) Fleetwood Town Community Trust  
Wyre**



Fleetwood Town Community Trust were awarded £2,500 to deliver Street Soccer, a 50 week diversionary activity programme to young people. The trust works closely with the local policing team who attend most sessions with the aim to break down the barriers with youngsters. Fleetwood Town work with up to 120 young people weekly.

**Priority:** Tackling crime and reoffending

**b) Arts 2 Heal  
Blackburn with Darwen**

£2,200 was awarded to Arts 2 Heal for the Tied Together with a Scarf project which brought 24 women from different faith backgrounds together with the aim to break down barriers and increase communication between groups through creative workshops. The women listened to a range of guest speakers whilst designing and creating scarfs which were later given to the homeless.



**Priority:** Developing safe and confident communities.

**c) Laugh Live Love CIC  
Fylde**

Laugh Live Love CIC was awarded £2,185 for a 13 week social inclusion and support programme for vulnerable elderly members of the community. Sessions offered guidance and support on a range of issues including online safety, scam awareness and personal safety.

**Priority:** Supporting vulnerable people and victims

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**d) Lancashire Equalities Organisation  
East Lancashire**

£2,800 was awarded to Lancashire Equalities Organisation for the Man Reach Out initiative which aims to raise awareness, challenge behaviour and encourage men to seek support for all forms of domestic abuse through workshops and a campaign focusing on grass root communities.

**Priority:** Supporting vulnerable people and victims

**6.0 Evaluation**

All the applications approved clearly matched the criteria of the fund, and the fact that £111,625.16 has been successfully awarded to 48 organisations reflects the growing popularity of the fund and the commitment from the Commissioner to work with grass root organisations to tackle and support local issues.