

The Lancashire Flood Recovery Fund and Appeal 2015

An appeal by the Community Foundation for Lancashire

Growing stronger communities together



The Community Foundation's Lancashire Flood Appeal for the Lancashire Flood Recovery Fund supports those in need in the county who are victims of flooding from December 2015 onwards.

Launched by Community Foundation for Lancashire on 8 December 2015, the Flood Appeal raises funds to directly support individuals and families in hardship and vital community organisations and resident groups in the areas affected by storms and flooding from December 2015 onwards. It provides emergency response support and clean-up support via charitable donations and grants.

More details are available at: www.lancsfloodappeal.org.uk

The Community Foundations for Lancashire and Merseyside together are one registered charity with the number 1068887. The Community Foundation for Lancashire's brand leads this special appeal for the county under the joint charity number.

1.0 AIM

The Community Foundations have established the Lancashire Flood Recovery Fund 2015. This is for charitable purposes in connection with the relief of hardship within the county of Lancashire caused directly or indirectly by storm damage and flooding in December 2015. Priorities for grant making are:

- Individuals and families suffering financial hardship and;
- Community relief and 'rebuilding' projects.

We are working closely with other agencies involved.

2.0 APPEAL TARGET

It is difficult to assess the likely financial requirements so soon after the flooding. However, it is clear that substantial financial losses will have been incurred. The Community Foundations launched the Appeal with £5,000 from its own funds and Lancaster Council committed £10,000 from the Lancaster Community Fund to prime the Appeal. We aim to raise around £300,000.

3.0 IMPACT AND NEED

Although it is too soon to assess the full impact of the damage it is clear that this is a major disaster. In early December Lancaster and Wyre were initially experienced flooding and damage, covering a total population of 246,000 people and by the end of December 2015 eight districts of Lancashire were affected, covering a population of 887,000 people. We are aware that there are many smaller pockets of damage in other parts of the county. Houses, business premises and community facilities have all been damaged. The effect of flooding will cause significant financial hardship and emotional distress. Businesses and community groups will be unable to trade. The

Community Foundations will closely monitor the impact of the floods over the coming days, weeks and months. We are currently convening with the major voluntary groups involved in the recovery effort. We are also working with the major providers of statutory services to assess the impact on their residents and service users.

4.0 THE HALLMARKS OF THE FUND

The management and operation of the Fund will be informed by Charity Commission Publication CC40 Disaster Appeal: Guidance on starting, running and supporting charitable disaster appeals August 2012.

In operating, the Fund bears these hallmarks:

- It provides a specifically Lancashire focus for donations;
- It provides a central 'clearing house' for requests for charitable support;
- It operates a simple grant application procedure and responds speedily;
- It attracts support from national and regional funders;
- It is locally managed and accountable.

5.0 FUND RAISING FOR THE FUND

The Fund was established with an initial £5,000 from the Community Foundations' own funds and Lancaster Council committed £10,000 from the Lancaster Community Fund to prime the Appeal. The Appeal is being promoted and supported by the Lancashire Evening Post (J Press) Newspaper Group across the county and nationally by the Daily Mail.

Funds will be sought from:

- The general public;
- Grant making trusts;
- Individuals and businesses;
- Existing and new national funding programmes;
- Community fundraising events.

The Fund can receive restricted donations, ie funds given for specific purposes and which recognise specific donors.

The Community Foundations will make special mention for major donations and partners as required.

Donations from tax payers can be made via Gift Aid, increasing the value of each £1 donated by 25p.

Funds raised will be distributed to contribute such items as clean-up costs, emergency repairs, clothing, food and drink, heating and heating equipment, childcare equipment and basic furniture in Lancashire.

All funds raised will be donated directly to the Recovery Fund for direct distribution to the communities in Lancashire affected by storms and flooding from December 2015. All funds will be administered by the Community Foundations for individuals and families suffering financial

hardship and community organisations and resident groups delivering community relief and 'rebuilding' projects. The Community Foundations will cover their minimal and modest charitable expenses as required as registered charity number 1068887.

6.0 GRANT AID

Application Process

Application forms for community groups and individuals are available by telephone on 0151 232 2444, e-mail via admin@cflm.email or via a dedicated website at www.lancsfloodappeal.org.uk. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Urgent appeals for assistance will be considered as quickly as possible.

Fund Criteria

The criteria are informed and guided by Charity Commission Guidance; Public Benefit: the public benefit requirement September 2013 and guidance given in Charity Commission booklet The Prevention or Relief of Poverty for the Public Benefit (December 2008).

Decision Making

Requests for financial assistance will be assessed by the Community Foundations' professional team of staff. Decisions on grants will be made at the Community Foundations' discretion or via a locally appointed panel, facilitated by the Community Foundations.

Individual applicants must fall within the guidance provided under charity law. This does not mean that they must be destitute. An applicant who cannot afford the normal things in life, which most people would take for granted, would probably qualify. A sudden reduction in living standards could well lead to this situation. Grants will not be made which would have the effect of reducing state benefits to which an applicant might be entitled.

The Community Foundations believe that, understandably, many people who are suffering hardship as a result of storm damage and flooding may be reluctant to apply to the Community Foundations. An application can be made by one person (eg. clergy) on behalf of another.

In the event of it appearing to the Community Foundations that the purposes of the Fund have been fulfilled as far as may be, and the Trustees so resolving the Fund, any balance then standing in the Fund shall thereupon be held by the Community Foundations for its general charitable purposes, ring-fenced for the communities of Lancashire and ideally in terms of disaster relief.

7.0 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR LANCASHIRE'S APPROACH

The Community Foundations have developed its Fund and Appeal plans from the learning gained by Cumbria Community Foundation including:

- The importance of a dedicated fund to secure and distribute financial support to community groups and individuals;
- The important role voluntary and community organisations play in supporting communities during times of need;

- How valuable small grants are in providing both financial and emotional support to individuals experiencing hardship;
- How wide ranging and long lasting the emotional impact of such a disaster can be to individuals;
- The impact on voluntary and community organisations during times of need (loss of income, opportunities to expand services and respond to need).

8.0 LANCASHIRE FLOOD RECOVERY FUND 2015/16

Gaining learning from Cumbria Community Foundation, support will be needed and given in two phases which are outlined below.

Phase One: Immediate Support

Individual grants for households in priority groups (over 70s and under 5s and people with disabilities) and those without contents insurance (and occasionally buildings insurance). Group grants to front line services such as Red Cross, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Law Centre, furniture and white goods recycling and activities for children and young people.

Phase Two: Supplementary Support

Individual grants for households whose income has been affected over a long term period and households who have continued to experience increased household expense due to relocation resulting from the flood.

Phase Three: Post Flooding

Community-led flood defence work for public benefit.

Group grants to organisations who have suffered damage to their property, those providing emotional support and counselling and community celebrations once residents have returned to their properties.

9.0 WORKING THE MEDIA

The Appeal is being promoted and supported by a number of media outlets at a local, regional and national level. The Community Foundations enter into these media activities and partnerships as an independent registered charity operating under charity law. Throughout any media coverage the fund and appeal will be referred to as the 'Lancashire Flood Recovery Fund' or the 'Lancashire Flood Appeal' 'administered by the Community Foundations'.

Nationally the Community Foundation has entered into a partnership with the Daily Mail for their 2015 Christmas Appeal, alongside other Community Foundations. A percentage of the proceeds from the Daily Mail 2015/16 Appeal will be donated to the Lancashire Flood Recovery Fund to undertake all activities outlined in this document to support those communities affected.

Locally Lancashire Evening Post (J Press) Newspaper Group across the county promotes the appeal to its readership, alongside other local news agencies.

The Community Foundations will endeavour to provide regular news stories of fundraising and community support as appropriate and available and with permissions for media activities and

partnerships to share the results of the Fund and Appeal with the public. News stories cannot be guaranteed due to the nature of this being an emergency appeal and due to the need to respect the wishes of people and communities affected.

10 THE FUTURE

It is still too soon to know how much damage has been caused, nor the extent of its adverse effects. A flexible response is therefore required. The Trustees and Staff of the Community Foundations are determined to do all in their power to meet needs in terms of disaster relief in the fields in which the Fund will be applied across the county of Lancashire.

Author: Cathy Elliott Date: 4 January 2016