



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
IN WALES  
SEFYDLIAD CYMUNEDOL  
YNG NGHYMURU

# FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

## IMPACT REPORT MARCH 2015

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# INTRODUCTION

The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund is a key element of the Community Foundation in Wales' endowment portfolio, building a long-term source of funding for communities across Wales.

We are delighted that after the first year of managing this Fund we can report on some excellent initial grants made, alongside responsible, intelligent stewarding of the capital. This has seen the endowment grow whilst generating income from dividends and fixed interest to put towards future grant-making, enabling us to invest more money to help individuals and communities across Flintshire to flourish.

Our vision is for a Wales with a thriving voluntary and community sector where local people have the financial resources to deliver projects addressing local needs. For the Foundation, the transfer of the Flintshire trusts wasn't the end of a journey, but rather the beginning. We want to nurture a new generation of philanthropists in order to deliver the long-term sources of funding that communities in Flintshire need. Under the umbrella of the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund we have launched two new Funds in Flintshire: the **Hawarden**

**Trust for Sickness and Poverty Relief;** and the **Dory Fund**, sparked by a private client with a successful Flintshire business who wanted to provide education bursaries to enable students to pursue excellence. The development of new Funds for Flintshire is underpinned by our North East Wales Strategic Development Group which is made up of local business people, council representatives, professional advisors, including Flintshire resident Patricia Carlin from the County Council's Community and Enterprise Portfolio, and is chaired by a Foundation Trustee, Lloyd Fitzhugh, who is Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Clwyd.

The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund is an excellent example of how philanthropy, and in particular, endowment, can bring benefits to individuals and communities in perpetuity, giving people the confidence and reassurance to invest their time and talent in worthwhile causes which make a real impact.

We continue to be appreciative of the excellent and supportive working relationship with Flintshire County Council, and we commend it for its

visionary approach in transferring the total assets of £204,455 – a model which has been endorsed by other local authorities in Wales over the last five years, most recently in Wrexham, following similar decisions in Denbighshire, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport and Powys.

## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IN WALES

The Community Foundation is a unique charity, privileged to be working alongside people who are motivated by wanting to make a difference in Wales. We use our knowledge of needs and the voluntary sector to manage high impact grant programmes designed to achieve sustainable outcomes, awarding grants on behalf of our clients which enable local people to achieve inspiring change in their communities.

Established in 1999, the Foundation now awards grants of over £2 million each year to charities and community groups on behalf of our donors and clients. The Foundation's philanthropy advice and grant-making services are quality assured through a programme endorsed by the Charity Commission.



The Community Foundation in Wales is a member of UK Community Foundations, a network of 48 community foundations covering all parts of the UK (with one community foundation serving Scotland, one for Northern Ireland, and our foundation in Wales). Last year Community Foundations in the UK distributed £65 million through 21,000 grants to community groups and organisations. In 2014, £450 million was collectively held in endowment funds by Community Foundations on behalf of donors.

**‘The people that give through community foundations increasingly want to use their resources to see real local change in the places they live, and are now seeing community itself as a viable cause for investment’**

Stephen Hammersley CBE, CEO of UK Community Foundations



Colin Everett, Liza Kellett, Lloyd FitzHugh, Christine Sheibani & Cllr Chris Bithell at the Flintshire Fund Launch, November 2013

# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IN WALES NEWS

We are pleased to report that our grant-making has continued to increase year on year, distributing almost £2.2 million last year – a new ‘high’ – to over 433 groups and individuals, supporting over 4,600 volunteers and 38,000 beneficiaries. Our endowment portfolio currently stands at over £10m, a long-term, sustainable source of funding for communities across Wales.

The establishment of the Fund for Wales, a national endowment fund for Wales, makes Wales the first nation in the world to have its own dedicated community focused endowment fund. HRH Prince of Wales is the patron of the Fund and we are now mid-way through a three-year £1 million match challenge from BIG Lottery to encourage philanthropy through donations to this Fund.

## NEW FUNDS AT THE FOUNDATION

We were delighted to recently announce our first one million pound private donor, establishing a Fund at the Foundation for communities in rural West Wales. A truly remarkable act of philanthropy which we hope will act as a beacon to other philanthropists across Wales.

In north east Wales, we have established three new Funds in the last nine months. Operating under the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund, the Hawarden Trust for Sickness and Poverty Relief provides crisis support for people in the parish of Hawarden. The trustees transferred £277,000 to the stewardship of the Foundation, from which £20,000 was designated for immediate grant-making. We are working with the Council’s Social Services Unit to promote the Fund and signpost applicants to the Foundation. Two successful Flintshire business people have set-up the Dory Fund, valued at over £200,000, to enable students to receive bursary support to pursue excellence in their chosen educational fields. One Flintshire student recently received a grant from this Fund to cover fees and maintenance to study for a law degree in London.

We also commend Wrexham County Borough Council for agreeing to transfer its education trusts to the Foundation. These have similar themes to the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund and mean we now have under one umbrella a long-term source of education

funding for each Local Authority area of north east Wales.

## EDUCATION & ENTERPRISE

The creation of the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund complements an existing suite of 12 endowment Funds across Wales which share a core theme of education. We have learnt a lot about education needs, gaps, and the impact of bursaries over the last five years and we are now looking to consolidate our learning by developing an education strategy which enables us to maximise the potential of our education portfolio to meet the key needs facing students today. We recently attended a leadership conversation, organised by Learning Pathways Cymru, looking at the role of education beyond the school gate, in particular the valuable link between schools and the broader community in nurturing improved educational attainment. Education was also a core theme of Philanthropy Week Wales 2014. A highlight being our student focus group, in partnership with Aberystwyth University, exploring the value of student bursaries and the issues and challenges that students are facing around funding their education.

We have had fruitful discussions with, and have submitted a proposal to a major UK Foundation centred around a grants programme to identify and nurture projects which stimulate education and enterprise. And we were delighted to recently receive a legacy bequest to support student bursaries for young people who have demonstrated excellence in a particular academic field.

Santander UK continues to recognise the Community Foundation in Wales as a valued partner in delivering its social enterprise support programme. In the last year this has enabled three Flintshire based social enterprises to access funding to support their growth. DangerPoint, based in Talacre, was one of these beneficiaries and received £50,000 for a two year programme focussing on the marketing and promotion of this safety awareness social enterprise.

## **PHILANTHROPY WEEK WALES**

Our annual philanthropy week is an opportunity for us to celebrate philanthropy in all of its forms. Each year we host multiple events across Wales to highlight the difference philanthropy is making to communities across the nation.

During our third annual Philanthropy Week, held at the beginning of November 2013, we promoted the concept of Giving Circles; an event held at Mostyn Hall, Flintshire, raised £10,000 to be distributed to the Wales International Harp Festival and a pioneering local kitchen garden project.

The real highlight, though, was the launch of the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund, held in partnership with Flintshire County Council.

Representatives of Flintshire Council, local businesses and philanthropists gathered at the reception, which was kindly hosted by Airbus UK, to learn more about the new fund, and the work of the Community Foundation in Wales in Flintshire more broadly.

Christine Sheibani, an inspiring local philanthropist, spoke at the event about her giving and her support of welsh community projects. Colin Everett, Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council and Councillor Chris Bithell, Flintshire's Cabinet member for Education, commented on the strong partnership between the local council and the Community Foundation in Wales, and looked forward to this fund stimulating more philanthropic giving in Flintshire.

# FUND HISTORY & OVERVIEW

## HISTORY

The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund was established in September 2013 following the decision by Flintshire County Council to transfer the assets obtained following the closure of a range of historic trust funds to a new 'umbrella' Fund at the Community Foundation in Wales. The Fund was officially launched in November 2013 at Airbus in Broughton.

The value of the endowment on transfer was £178,998. After careful stewardship under the expert eye of our specialist fund managers and investment committee the value of the assets at December 2014 now stands at £184,682, a capital gain of 3.2%. With dividend income of £9,584 it gives a total return to the Fund of 8.5%.

## OVERVIEW

Flintshire Community Endowment Fund grants are awarded at an annual grants panel. The Fund has its own grants panel which is made up of six members, each with good knowledge and experience of the needs within Flintshire. The members are nominated by the Council and serve for a minimum period of three years. The current members are:

- Karen Armstrong, Flintshire Council Officer
- Trevor Jones, Flintshire Council Officer
- Aaron Shotton, Leader, Flintshire County Council
- June Brady, Flintshire County Voluntary Council
- Tim Newhouse, Flintshire County Councillor
- Christine Sheibani, local businesswoman and philanthropist

The Panel is chaired by a senior staff member of the Community Foundation in Wales. Panel recommendations are presented to the Foundation's board of trustees which reviews and ratifies grant decisions. The input and knowledge of panel members has been invaluable and ensured that all grant decisions are made locally, informed by knowledge of local needs and priorities.

All grants are awarded subject to strict terms & conditions and are monitored after six months to ensure compliance with the terms of the grant and to measure the impact of the grants on individuals and communities.

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

## INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

The value of the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund on transfer in Autumn 2013 was £178,998. An additional £20,000 was top-sliced in order to provide immediate grant-making over years one and two.

In accordance with our investment strategy, which manages risk through a diversified portfolio split between two investment managers, the endowment was invested with Rathbones (a segregated fund) and M&G Investments (pooled).

The Performance of the investment managers is monitored on a regular basis by the Foundation's Finance Manager and scrutinised quarterly by the Finance, Risk & Investment Committee. A full review of our Investment Managers is carried out every three years.

The value of the endowment as at 31 December 2014 was £184,682, a 3.2% increase since the point of investment in late 2013. To date, the endowment has

generated £9,584 in investment income from dividends and interest, which will support future grant-making. This gives a total return figure performance of 8.5% over the first fourteen months of managing the trust. This capital performance should be viewed in the context of an underperforming UK market, not helped by the slump in world oil prices, along with a sluggish Eurozone and geo-political concerns in Ukraine and the Middle East, which affected market performance at the start of the year.

Our total return across our investment portfolio over the last three years has averaged in excess of 8%, outperforming the annualised benchmark over this period of 6.8%. The initial grants round

## INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Foundation's investment strategy is to offer Fund holders a grant making capability that increases with inflation whilst maintaining the real value of both its capital and income for charitable purposes over an economic cycle through a diversified portfolio with a moderate risk profile.

awarded seven grants totaling £4,830. After the deduction of annual management fees the income available for grant making as at 31 December 2014 is £19,889.

## MANAGEMENT FEES

The fees levied by the Foundation for managing the endowment and grant programmes (for promoting the funds and advising potential applicants through due diligence and assessments, managing the decision-making panel, administering grant awards, and monitoring and evaluating our grant investments) are our standard charges and were agreed by Flintshire County Council at the proposal stage. They are as follows:

- 3% of the value of the endowment on transfer
- 1.25% annual charge on the value of the endowment, to be taken on the anniversary of the transfer
- 10% of the income annually for running the grant-making programme.



# FUND STATEMENT

	Income & Expenditure	Capital	Total
<b>Income</b>			
Initial capital endowed		£178,975	£178,975
Top-sliced income for grant-making	£20,000		£20,000
Dividend income	£9,584		£9,584
Interest	£141		£141
<b>Total income</b>	£29,725	£178,975	£208,700
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Grants	£4,830		£4,830
Annual management fee (endowment)	£2,656		£2,656
Annual management fee (income)*	£2,350		£2,350
<b>Total expenditure</b>	£9,836		£9,836
Gains/(losses) on investments		£5,707	£5,707
	£19,889	£184,682	£204,571

\*Management Fee on Year 1 income includes £20,000 top-sliced income.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

In addition to our trust transfer service which has been endorsed by seven local authorities in Wales, we also offer a professional fund management and grant programme service to trustees of charitable trusts, where the trustee is bound by law to remain the custodian of the trust.

Powys County Council was one of the first local authorities to embrace our fund management service for its Welsh Church Act endowment.

The initial value of the trust on transfer to us in October 2009 was £1,643,763. At the most recent market valuation (December 2014), the endowment is now worth £2,114,382, an increase of 29%. During this period, we have made £220,181 available to distribute in income from the endowment for grant-making to Powys communities.

The Foundation undertakes all the investment, grant-making and due diligence activities required of a trustee, reducing what can be a considerable time and financial burden on local authorities.

## SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED

Name	Amount	Grant Summary	Theme
Grace Hallows	£750	To represent Flintshire at a Girl Guiding environmental event in Greece	Education inclusion projects with support for individual students
Amy Lewis	£750	To represent Flintshire at a Girl Guiding environmental event in Greece	Education inclusion projects with support for individual students
Plas Derw Trust Ltd	£700	To provide woodland education sessions including Forest School to aid the educational development of young people not in main stream education	Educational development of school aged children and young people
2480 (Holywell) Squadron Air Training Corp	£750	To facilitate the development of young people through learning a range of subjects and activities on the cadet training syllabus	Educational development of school aged children and young people
Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Specialist High School	£380	To provide a canoe exploration of a section of the Llangollen Canal as part of the John Muir Award	School based projects that support health matters and healthy living
Cylch Meithrin Terrig	£750	To provide young children with the opportunity to learn through play in the medium of Welsh	Educational development of children in the early years
Broughton Pre-school Playgroup and Toddlers	£750	To offer early years education to pre-school children and support to families	Educational development of children in the early years
	<b>£4,830</b>		

# ANALYSIS

Below is the analysis of grant support provided by the Foundation to Flintshire based individuals and community groups.

The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund awarded seven grants in 2013/14 to the value of £4,830.

The grants have supported activities in the following areas:

**Educational development of children in the early years:** for example grants to Cylch Meithrin Terrig and Broughton Pre-School Playgroup and Toddlers.

**Educational development of school aged children and young people**, including grants to 2480 (Holywell) Squadron Air Training Corp and Plas Derw Trust Ltd.

**School based projects that support health matters and healthy living**, such as the grant to Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Specialist High School.

**Education inclusion projects with support for individual students in the form of**

**bursaries, travel assistance, sport, prizes for attainment and educational materials or other resources**, grants were awarded to Grace Hallows and Amy Lewis to represent Flintshire at a Girl Guiding environmental event in Greece.

## LEVERAGE FOR FLINTSHIRE

Over the last 12 months we have demonstrated a strong commitment to developing thriving communities in Flintshire by matching people who care with causes that matter.

We have established two new Funds: the **Hawarden Trust for Relief of Poverty and Sickness**; and the **Dory Fund**, a private client with a successful Flintshire business supporting students studying higher education. The Hawarden Trust has recently made three grant awards to two individuals suffering financial distress, who were referred through Shelter Cymru and to Douglas Place Luncheon Club to provide a hot meal for elderly and lonely residents in the community.

Where possible we have looked to add value to the work of the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund by leveraging additional funding from individuals, families and trusts which use the Foundation as a vehicle for their philanthropy. An additional £285,000 has been awarded to 49 community projects operating across Flintshire since 2012.

Flintshire Foodbank has received a grant of £30,000 from Comic Relief's strategic two-year grant programme, which has been supplemented by smaller grants from the Dulverton Trust and from a Giving Circle convened by the Foundation in partnership with a prominent Denbighshire businessman and philanthropist. Plas Derw Trust also received a grant from this Giving Circle, as well as from the Dulverton Trust.

The Domestic Abuse Safety Unit in Deeside is in its second year of funding from the London-based Henry Smith charity, which awarded £84,600 to the Unit on our recommendation.



# CASE STUDIES

## 2480 (HOLYWELL) AIR TRAINING CORPS

The Air Training Corp is a British Cadet organisation. 2480 (Holywell) Air Training Corps is a member organisation, it meets on two evenings a week and occasionally on weekends to provide a range of both indoor and outdoor activities to promote learning, including a core syllabus of subjects (called the Classification Syllabus) such as map reading and expedition training, BTEC qualifications and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

29 young people have benefitted from this project with the support of 2 volunteers. A grant of £750 was awarded in January 2014 towards the purchase of equipment to support learning, such as laptops, printers, flip charts, exercise books and pens.

A significant proportion of cadets come from homes with no access to a vehicle. Many are rurally isolated and live in households with low incomes. There are

few facilities locally, with Cadets offering the young people something positive to do with their recreational time.

The Classification Syllabus mentioned earlier is a mandatory syllabus that takes a cadet through a staged programme of learning to achieve the next level.

Attaining these classification levels gives the cadets self confidence and a sense of well-being and pride. The learning enhances and complements the school work of cadets in terms of spelling, public speaking and overlaps with school subjects such as geography.

**‘The wider benefits come from gaining qualifications as a result of the learning which will allow them to, for example, attend annual camp and experience flying in a light aircraft.’** – Susan Davies, Second in Command, 2480 (Holywell) Air Training Corps.

There is also a good sense of team work and readiness to volunteer in community events such as litter picks, assistance in town shows and parades.



# CASE STUDIES

## GRACE HALLOWS and AMY LEWIS

As members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Buckley Guides, Grace and Amy have served their community for several years. In the summer of 2014 they had the opportunity to join an international volunteering project to Greece. They travelled to Tinos, a small island east of the mainland and stayed in the village of Kardiani.

The Guides were tasked with clearing two neglected paths into the town over 10 days, to help preserve the natural history of the island and ensure that residents and tourists could better enjoy the beautiful landscape.

*'During the international volunteering project I learnt many new skills and made some wonderful friendships. The trip was a different and fun experience which will help me during life.'*

*We began clearing the steps leading down from the village to the path. They were covered with soil and plants but when we uncovered them we found they were all made of marble. During our time in Tinos we found out they had a lot of*

*marble, we went to their marble museum and a marble craftsman. We continued to work down the path and we had to remove all overgrown areas and any trees or bushes blocking the path. As we would walk back from our finishing point each day we would see our progress, which gave us a sense of accomplishment. Some days we were working in 37 °C heat which was a struggle but we were all encouraging each other to continue which made it a lot easier.*



*Each evening we would visit a different village on Tinos and see their traditions which were very interesting and I think it was good to experience a different culture.*

*We also stayed in Athens for two nights and got to see the city, we visited the Acropolis and the Acropolis museum which was amazing to see and experience, even though it was tiring.*  
**- Grace Hallows**



Amy and Grace were awarded certificates by Concordia, the volunteering organisation that arranged the trip, as an acknowledgement of their perseverance, team work and dedication to the project. They are now studying for their GCSE's in their final year of secondary school.



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