

Flintshire Funds

Impact report

April 2024



Contents

- 1. News**
- 5. Fund overview**
- 9. Financial report**
- 12. Summary of grants awarded**
- 26. Case study - Speakers for Schools**
- 28. Case study - Northop Hall CP School**
- 30. Case study - Woodwork to Wellness**
- 32. Case study - The Club House Management Committee**
- 33. Your support**

Our Communities Together

What a year it has been! The Cost of Living Crisis has impacted all of us in more ways than we could think possible. Whilst the cost of utilities, food, transport, fuel, mortgages and insurance and the majority of our outgoings have increased massively, the level of income for most people has hardly increased at all.

The Bevan Foundations Report [A snapshot of poverty in summer 2023](#) paints a very bleak picture of the situation in Wales.

In the spring of 2023, we partnered with Newsquest Media Group to run a fundraising campaign within its publications across Wales.



The campaign was supported by donations from the general public, other funders such as Moondance Foundation, the Waterloo Foundation and Steve Morgan Foundation as well as businesses such as Welsh Water, Dragon Taxis, Wind2 and NatWest Bank PLC. Welsh Government also supported the fund with a £1m donation in March 2023.

When launching the fund, it was really important to manage expectations; we knew that supporting everyone was an impossible task. Therefore, we chose to support organisations running projects that offer the biggest impact.

Organisations supporting individuals and families beyond the service they deliver, organisations that are working in partnership with others to offer a more holistic approach that help to build support networks to improve longer term resilience and courage to face the future.

We wanted the funding to be more than just a 'sticking plaster' so have chosen to offer longer term support of up to three years funding to support group activities and services rather than shorter term crisis grants to individuals. To date we have awarded more than £1.2 million to local grassroots community groups in Wales, with another round of funding currently open to applications.

Organisation like Pennysmart CIC based in Chester, Flintshire, play an indispensable role in our communities. They are the safety nets for those who are facing tough times, providing not just sustenance, financial hardship and debt crisis support, but also a glimmer of hope.

Pennysmart CIC will focus funding from the Cost of Living fund into areas of extreme deprivation across North East Wales, such as Caia Park, Rhyl and Shotton. It will provides benefit and debt crisis services to clients facing challenges such as increased utility bills, council tax, and private sector rents, and those heavily rely on benefits but struggling to navigate the complex benefits system. Their goal is to secure a combined financial gain of £150,000 (£2000 per household) by increasing benefits, reducing bills, and facilitating debt write-offs for 75 households within the 3 areas, in the 3 years of funding.

Collaboration with community-based referral partner organisations, including social landlords, social prescribers, community connectors, and local authority teams, enables them to address the interconnected challenges faced by vulnerable households dealing with issues such as homelessness, domestic violence, mental health, addictions, learning disabilities, unemployment, and social isolation.

So far, we have run 2 rounds of funding, with another scheduled for later in 2024. We have awarded £62,240 across Flintshire from this programme.

Revitalising Trusts

We continue to partner with Welsh Government and the Charity Commission to identify charities in Wales that have not been using their charitable funds in recent years.

Upon finding these charities, trustees are offered support to help the charity get back up and running. If this is not an option, the funds are redistributed to causes in line with the aims of the inactive charity or transferred to us at Community Foundation Wales to manage for the long-term benefit of local communities.

We've seen a steady flow of smaller transfers coming across that are being absorbed into our Fund for Wales, a fund that offers support to groups that may struggle to attract funding from elsewhere, such as very small, grassroots community groups or new organisations that can't show a track record of work.

Most importantly this fund will support core costs such as rent and utilities, insurance and governance costs etc, to help take some of the pressure off and enable them to focus on the needs of those they work with.

New team members

In terms of the team, Ffion left in June 2023, to further her education, and pursue a career in Counselling, she has been greatly missed.

We appointed Asha Vijendran in September 2023, to take up the role of Head of Grants, Asha comes to us from the Welsh Refugee Council and has already made an impact as she helped us guide our move to cloud-based IT systems and processes.

Asha has a passion for automating and streamlining processes, which will free up some valuable time for developing more meaningful relationships with our grantees on a more personal level. Something the team is very excited about.



Clare Davies, who was our Grants Officer looking after the North Wales funds including Flintshire Funds, left in March 2024, to pursue her passion of working with older people.

We were extremely lucky following a very short but successful recruitment window, to appoint Alice King to join our team as a Grants Officer to take over Clare's portfolio.

Alice started with us in April 2024. She is a Welsh learner, with a passion for travel and a good knowledge and understanding of community needs. Alice is looking forward to working with and getting to know the Flintshire Funds panel.



Flintshire Focus

In addition to the £62,240 awarded into Flintshire from Our Communities Together – a Cost of Living Fund, we have also awarded a further £36,000 from Principality Future Generations Fund and £16,000 from Fund for Wales to support a wide variety of groups across the county.

This coming year, to enable our grant-making to have a more focused and greater reach, we have decided to split the grant-making for individuals away from the grant-making available to groups. We've decided to do this, as we've been concerned that our funds have not had the reach we'd like with regard to targeting individuals.

Flintshire currently offers grants of £200 to individuals, we intend to increase this to £500 in line with our other funds for individuals.

We will also be introducing a 20:80 split, with 20% of available funding being allocated to individuals and 80% to groups on an annual basis. We will maintain the distribution percentage at 6% this year, in recognition of the impact of the cost of living crisis on budgets.

We will be advertising all of our educational funds for individuals in a Nationwide approach to target young people following their exams, when they are looking forward to going on to further and higher education.

- **Funding from Flintshire Funds for individuals will open in June 2024 and will close in late August.**
- **Funding for community groups and schools will be open from April to June.**

Communications on these changes will be shared with the Panel and promoted widely to encourage applications. We will make a decision on the need for a further round following both panels if sufficient funding is available.

Fund overview



Andrea Powell

Director of Programmes

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 Community Foundation Wales.

The fund was officially launched in November 2013 at Airbus in Broughton. The value of the endowment on transfer was £178,998. This fund now falls under the Trusteeship of Community Foundation Wales.

In March 2018, the Clwyd Welsh Church Act Fund was also transferred to Community Foundation Wales. The Fund was to cover the Welsh Church Act funds for Flintshire, Wrexham and Denbighshire. The value of the fund on transfer was £537,497. Flintshire County Council remains the Trustee for this fund.

The distribution percentage based on the population is as follows:

- Denbighshire – 25.4%
- Flintshire – 40.3%
- Wrexham – 34.3%

Community Foundation Wales was also instructed to undertake the grant-making element for Flintshire, using the skills of the panel already set up for the Community Endowment Fund.

In 2019, following conversations with Wrexham County Council, we also undertook the grant-making element for Wrexham, using the skills of the panel set up for the Wrexham Community Endowment Fund.

We make a payment to Denbighshire County Council for grant-making as Denbighshire Council for Voluntary Services undertake the grant-making element of the fund for Denbighshire.

Although not a County Council transfer, in 2013 we were transferred the endowment for the Hawarden & District relief in Need Fund, to the value of £255,594. The grant making for the fund is managed internally by the grants team at Community Foundation Wales.

As the name suggests, the Fund supports those in Hawarden and District who may be in crisis and/or vulnerable and are struggling with limited resources. A list of grants from this fund are listed on Page 18.

Overview

Flintshire Community Endowment Fund & Flintshire Welsh Church Art Fund (Flintshire Funds) grants are awarded twice a year.

The fund has its own grants panel which is made up of five members, each with good knowledge and experience of the needs within Flintshire, specifically focused on education and community, as the objectives for both funds cover these areas. The members are nominated by the Council and serve for a minimum period of three years.

The members during the last financial year were:

- Nicola McCann, Strategic Partnerships Advisor, Flintshire County Council
- Trevor Jones, Flintshire Council Officer within the Department of Education
- Heather Hicks, Flintshire County Voluntary Council.

The panel is chaired by a senior staff member of Community Foundation Wales. Panel recommendations are presented to Community Foundation Wales' board of trustees which reviews and ratifies grant decisions.

The input and knowledge of panel members has been invaluable and ensures that all grant decisions are made locally and informed by knowledge of local needs and priorities.

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

When applicants in Flintshire apply for funding, for ease, we advertise the 2 elements of the fund together, with one application. Applicants only need submit one application for funding.

If successful, the panel will allocate the grant to one of the funds or both if relevant. The focus of each fund is quite different, therefore it's rare for a group to be offered funding from both.

The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund supports: (open to groups and individuals)

- Projects that provide the educational development of school aged children and young people
- Projects that provide the educational development of children in the early years
- School based projects that encourage healthy living

The Flintshire Welsh Church Act Fund supports: (open to groups only)

- Projects that contribute to the refurbishment and upkeep of churches, chapels and community/village halls within the county.
- Projects working to address disadvantage to benefit Flintshire residents.
- Projects providing social and recreational activities for Flintshire residents.

The following shows the levels of applications received and awarded in each of the past 3 years:

Grant	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
	Total number of apps	Number of Welsh apps received	Total number of apps	Number of Welsh apps received	Total number of apps	Number of Welsh apps received
Flintshire Funds applications received	16	2	25	1	22	1
	Groups	Individuals	Groups	Individuals	Groups	Individuals
	16	0	18	7	21	1
Flintshire Community Endowment Fund grants awarded	5	0	8	7	7	1
Flintshire Welsh Church Act Fund grants awarded	6	N/A	9	N/A	11	N/A
Successful applications Total	11	0	17	7	18	1
Overall Success Rate per Year	69%		96%		86%	

Financial report



Smitha Coughlan
Head of Finance

Performance to date (the last 12 months)

The last 12-months have yielded very positive performance for the investment portfolio (c. 14.6%), largely coming in the second half of the financial year, where the market grew in confidence that inflation and interest rates had reached their peak levels. Equities have also enjoyed two very strong tailwinds.

The first is the strength of the US economy, with the US recording almost 5% growth in Q3 2023 and over 3% growth in Q4 2024. The US locomotive has been strong enough to offset the negative market sentiment led by recessions in Germany, the UK, and Japan. In the US, the S&P 500 has reached its all-time high, as have markets in Europe and Japan. There has been a spillover effect due to valuation differentials between US equity markets and the rest of the world, with the latter appearing relatively cheap.

The second tailwind has been the 'revolution' in artificial intelligence (AI). Capabilities are improving and expanding dramatically, whilst developments may prove to have a huge impact on productivity across many economic sectors. Seven large stocks (the 'Magnificent 7'), accounting for around 30% of the S&P 500's entire market capitalisation, drove markets higher in 2023, largely due to their perceived benefits from developments in AI.

Outlook

Looking forward, investors contemplate the stubbornness of inflation levels and whether target levels of inflation can be achieved without inducing a recession (a 'soft landing'). Today, it seems more likely than not that this can be achieved globally, even if policymakers accept success as achieving a stable inflation range instead of a strict 2% target.

The key risk remains that the economy could slip into a mild recession (a hard landing), which may be induced by an external shock, a political change, or a policy mistake from the Federal Reserve. Labour markets remain tight, many companies are re-writing their supply chains, and geopolitical risks are rife.

Despite these risks, we are cautiously optimistic in our outlook. Bond yields are now more attractive, leading us to increase 'duration' in our bond exposure, and we have added to equities to a modestly 'overweight' position, particularly in the US, in line with their more positive economic news.

Fund overview – Flintshire Community Endowment Fund

Fund balance	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Fund balance on 1 April	252,023	220,541	243,930*	TBC
Grants awarded in year	(11,400)	(10,750)	TBC	TBC
Admin fees (charged to the fund)				
Admin fee endowment @ 1.50%	(3,670)	(3,376)	TBC	TBC
Admin fee grants @ 10%	(1,330)	(1,175)	TBC	TBC
Investment performance				
Investment income	5,931	5,900**	TBC	TBC
Investment gain / (loss)	(21,012)	32,789**	TBC	TBC
Fund Balance on 31 March	220,541	243,930*	TBC	TBC
Funds available for distribution				
Balance on 30 September (prior year)	269,780	244,679	225,070	TBC
Distribution %	5%	6%	6%	TBC
Balance x distribution %	13,489	14,681	13,504	TBC
Multiyear grants awarded last year	(3,900)	(3,000)	(2,000)	TBC
Multiyear grants awarded 2 years ago	-	(1,900)	(1,000)	(2,000)
Total available for Distribution in year	9,589	9,781	10,504	TBC

* Unaudited figure

Fund overview – Clwyd Welsh Church Act Fund

Fund balance	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Fund balance on 1 April	676,431	618,590	659,420**	TBC
Grants awarded in year	(25,888)	(35,582)	TBC	TBC
Admin fees				
Admin fee annual @ 1.50%	(9,840)	(9,467)	TBC	TBC
Admin fee grants @ 10%	(2,289)*	(3,558)	TBC	TBC
Investment performance				
Investment income	15,918	16,555**	TBC	TBC
Investment gain / (loss)	(35,742)	72,882**	TBC	TBC
Fund Balance on 31 March	618,590	659,420**	TBC	TBC
Funds available for distribution (Tri-Counties)				
Balance on 30 September (prior year)	699,822	655,993	631,107	TBC
Distribution %	5%	6%	6%	TBC
Balance x distribution %	34,991	39,360	37,866	TBC
Multiyear grants awarded last year	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Total available for grant award in year	32,991	37,360	35,866	TBC
Funds available for distribution (Flintshire – 40.3%)				
Available for distribution	14,101	15,862	15,260	TBC
Awarded and paid in year	(9,000)	(10,585)	TBC	TBC
Multiyear grants awarded 2022/23	-	(1,000)	(1,000)	-
Multiyear grants awarded 2023/24	-	-	(3,000)	(2,000)
Annual underspend re-invested	5,101	4,277	11,260	TBC

Fund balance	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Funds available for distribution (Wrexham - 34.2%)				
Available for distribution	12,002	13,500	12,988	TBC
Awarded and paid in year	(6,000)	(6,000)	TBC	TBC
Multiyear grants awarded 2022/23	-	-	-	-
Multiyear grants awarded 2023/24	-	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
Annual underspend re-invested	6,002	7,500	10,988	TBC
Funds available for distribution (Denbighshire - 25.4%)				
Available for distribution	8,888	9,997	9,618	TBC
Awarded and paid in year	(8,888)	(9,997)	TBC	TBC
Multiyear grants awarded 2022/23	-	-	-	-
Multiyear grants awarded 2023/24	-	-	-	-
Annual underspend re-invested	-	-	9,618	TBC

***Fees are correct at the time of being raised. Where grants are cancelled, the fee will not reflect 10% of the awarded figure.**

**** Unaudited figure**

The figures above represent the Clwyd Welsh Church Act in its entirety, which comprises balances in respect of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham.

In respect of Flintshire, grants awarded were £6,000 in 2021/22, £11,000 in 2022/23 and £15,585 in 2023/24.

For the purpose of investment the fund is treated as a whole fund and is not apportioned to the fund partners. In 2021/22 there was a gain of £21,908 which reflects the continued recovery of the fund following the COVID pandemic. In 2022/23, there was an investment loss of £35,742 which resulted from high inflation and market reaction to geopolitical concerns such as the Ukraine war.

Markets have performed well in 2023/24 due to investor confidence that inflation and interest rates had peaked and would begin to stabilise. This is reflected in the investment gain of £72,882.

Summary of grants awarded

Flintshire Community Endowment Fund

2021/22 - Multi-year grants

Grant Applicant	Project Summary	Paid 2022/23	Paid 2023/24		
Emerge Community Artists	Emerge Community Arts provide music and performing arts projects which support young people and adults who have learning disabilities and/or mental health issues.	£1,000	£1,000		
North Wales Horse Watch	North Wales Horse Watch provide advice and support to equine and rural communities. Applied for multiyear funding to help cover the cost of education resources and project marketing.	£900	£900		
*Speakers for Schools	Speakers for Schools is dedicated to supporting the social mobility of young people facing disadvantage. Partnering with local schools, businesses and industry leaders they work to make a tangible difference to communities.	Withdrawn			
Total		£1,900	£1,900		
		£3,800			

*This organisation pulled out of operating in Wales

Flintshire Community Endowment Fund

2022/23

Grant Applicant	Project Summary	Paid 2022/23	Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	
Home-Start Flintshire	Funding to expand the school readiness programme 'Big Hopes Big Future' (BHBF) to offer more taster groups to parents and pre-school children. This programme reflects and complements the Early Years Foundation Phase and will lead to volunteers being able to support identified families in the family home on improvements for children across the four domains of 'school readiness' i.e. language and cognition; behavioural adjustment, daily living skills and family support.	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	
Ysgol Bryn Gwalia	To purchase equipment which will develop fine motor skills in the Early Years. The equipment will enable the build of an outdoor learning space where children can be creative in a 'workstation' area with tools and 'real tools', giving the pupils an opportunity to think, learn and problem solve.	£1,000			
KidsBank	Funding will meet a growing need during the current cost of living crisis, to cover the costs of the purchase of school uniform, stationary, shoes, PE kits (to include trainers), lunch boxes, water bottles, exercise books and other school items for families living in poverty.	£1,000			

Grant Applicant	Project Summary	Paid 2022/23	Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	
The Rockworks Music Academy Ltd	Funding contributed towards the first phase of a build to renovate Penyffordd and Penymynydd War Memorial Institute into a bespoke music room and recording studio. The reburishment will provide charities and community groups recording and rehearsal spaces that are not currently available in the area.	£1,000			
Cylch Meithrin Terrig	Funding towards the cost of forest school sessions for children attending the cylch meithrin helping them to learn and problem solve whilst having fun in a safe environment.	£1,000			
WISP	Funding towards the cost of providing inclusive creative youth dance sessions to support young people living with additional needs to come together, build lasting friendships, gain confidence, empower their voices and build communication skills along with other important life skills, whilst while having fun and exercising.	£1,000			
WACE Chester CIC	Funding towards the cost of a course of 10 sessions to improve people's wellness, especially their mental health. The sessions will comprise of elements like mindfulness walks, foraging, talking around a campfire, nature crafts and cooking.	£1,000			

Grant Applicant	Project Summary	Paid 2022/23	Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	
Northop Hall CP school	Funding will support activities and resources to develop pupil's understanding of diversity, in order to help young people to develop empathy and tolerance and improved understanding of difference.	£1,000			
Individual	Funding towards the cost of representing Wales at the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023.	£200			
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Individual	Funding towards the cost of representing Wales at the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023.	£200			
Individual	Funding towards the cost of obtaining a dance qualification.	£200			
Individual	Funding towards the cost of travel to represent Wales at Table Tennis tournament.	£200			
Total		£9,400	£1,000	£1,000	
			£11,400		

Flintshire Community Endowment Fund

2023/24

Grant Applicant	Project Summary		Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Young and Mindful CIC	Funding towards the cost of delivering 10 weeks of Mindfulness Based Self-Education courses in Castell Alun, Alun Mold, and Hawarden High schools. The course is aimed at young people aged 11-18 years empowering them to gain skills to improve resilience whilst strengthening their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.		£1,000		
Outside Lives Ltd	Funding towards providing on site forest school activities for the children of Ysgol Gwernmynydd. Activities are held within a 5-acre woodland site, home to a wildlife garden, ancient trees, a pond, outdoor kitchen, children's clubhouse, wellness yurt, polytunnel and numerous growing spaces.		£1,000		
Gwyl Daniel Owen Festival	Funding towards the cost of providing a freelance writer to deliver 6 creative writing workshops in Maes Garmon and Alun high schools . Workshops will enable young people to enter a piece of their creative writing in either Welsh or English in the public Daniel Owen Young Writers Competition, with the work of winners being performed during the Daniel Owen Festival.		£1,000	£1,000	£1,000

Grant Applicant	Project Summary		Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Ysgol Merllyn	Funding towards the cost of improving an outdoor space to encourage children engage in active play during school breaks, as well as benches and a seating area for quiet time to chat and read. This will increase imaginative and creative play improve fitness, encourage new friendships and help to develop communication skills.		£1,000		
Argoed Playgroup and Toddlers	Funding will enable this playgroup to provide resources and secure storage of resources to improve the learning experience of children attending the playgroup.		£550		
Drury Primary School	Funding towards developing an outdoor space to create a food growing project. The project will educate children throughout the school on biodiversity needs, it will inspire curiosity and investigation which promote enquiring minds and enable them to achieve more.		£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
Ysgol Derwenfa	Funding towards developing the outdoor classroom in the Nurture room to provide children with a safe and relaxing space that they can access help to develop their emotional literacy and aid them to regulate their emotions when they are in crisis.		£1,000		

Grant Applicant	Project Summary		Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Individual	Funding towards the costs of a fully trained Assistance dog, who will support this individual's needs and offer deep sensory input, companionship, comfort and support in unfamiliar situations.		£200		
Total			£6,750	£2,000	£2,000
			£10,750		

Flintshire Welsh Church Act Fund

2022/23

Grant Applicant	Project Summary	Paid 2022/23	Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Buckley Cross Methodist Church	Funding towards the cost of renewing the lighting system throughout the community hall building with eco friendly lighting, thus reducing its carbon footprint.	£1,000			
Bethania Baptist Church	Funding towards the purchase of a Fire Exit door which will public building regulations. The door will help provide a safe venue for all those attending our services and mid-week activities.	£1,000			
Parkfields Community Centre, Mold	Funding towards the cost of providing a community cafe for local people to access a warm space for hot food and drink. Will help to reduce isolation and loneliness, by providing somewhere for people to meet others and talk.	£1,000			

Grant Applicant	Project Summary	Paid 2022/23	Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
St Mary's Church, Ysceifiog	Funding towards the cost of removing uncomfortable pews and purchasing replacement chairs and tables. The space will become more comfortable and user friendly enabling greater use and a more community focused space for all.	£1,000			
Flintshire Food Bank	Funding towards the core costs of running a community foodbank to address the need of the most vulnerable people in the community	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	
The Clubhouse Management Committee	Funding towards the cost of replacing chairs within a community hall on Bryn Gwalia estate, to ensure they are more comfortable and suitable of the needs of their elderly community members.	£1,000			
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Buckley	Funding towards the cost of replacing external lighting in the car park and grounds to increase the safety of anyone using the Church Hall, especially in the winter months.	£1,000			
Kings Christian Centre, Mold	Funding towards the cost of improving the gardens in front of the chapel to enhance the area and enable easy maintenance by community volunteers.	£1,000			

Grant Applicant	Project Summary	Paid 2022/23	Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Woodwork to Wellness	Funding towards the core costs of Woodwork to Wellness, a project based in Saltney, which supports people who are experiencing difficulties with their physical and mental health, including ex-service men and women and people with serious illness.	£1,000			
Total		£9,000	£1,000	£1,000	
		£11,000			

Fund	Funding	Paid 2022/23	Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Wrexham Welsh Church Act Fund	To community groups across Wrexham	£6,000			
Denbighshire Welsh Church Act Fund	Grant to Denbighshire County Council who distribute this funding	£8,888			
Total		£23,888	£1,000	£1,000	
		£25,888			

Flintshire Welsh Church Act Fund

2023/24

Grant Applicant	Project Summary		Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam	Funding towards the cost of a family event through the medium of Welsh to support the educational development of early years and school aged children and also encourage healthy living. Activities will be based on the character Magi Ann, one of Wales' favourite toddler characters. All resources are suitable for second language speakers as well as first language Welsh people.		£650		
River and Sea Sense	Funding towards the cost of delivering Water Safety School Assemblies across Flintshire schools. The assemblies will provide basic yet powerful information to ensure pupils learn to be safe around open water in particular.		£960		
Action for Children	Funding towards providing support and activities children with disabilities and their siblings to play and development in a non-judgemental, inclusive environment. Activities are based on life skills, wellbeing support, social interaction and developing personal and interpersonal skills.		£1,000	£1,000	£1,000

Grant Applicant	Project Summary		Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Chloe's and Sophie's Special Ears Fund	Funding towards the cost of delivering Deaf Awareness Assemblies in Flintshire schools. Funding will enable the purchase of a selection of books which all have Deaf characters in them. The books will be used within the assemblies to enhance the knowledge of hearing children on what it is like to be Deaf, to support inclusion and increase empathy.		£1,000		
1st Wepre Guides	Funding towards the core costs of a guide group supporting young people from a highly deprived area to provide a challenging and varied programme of activities that improve confidence, encourage self-thinking skills and problem-solving capabilities.		£1,000	£1,000	
First Choice Housing Association	All First Choice Housing Association's Tenants are living with a disability or vulnerability, the vast majority of whom have a learning disability and are supported 24/7 by support staff. Funding will provide supermarket vouchers to tenants who are most 'at risk' with regards to food poverty.		£975		
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Buckley	Funding towards the cost of repairing a large 20 foot high feature window in the church hall, The window is a risk to health & safety. Planning regulations prevent the replacement of the window, therefore repair is only option		£1,000		

Grant Applicant	Project Summary		Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Community Heart Productions	Funding towards the cost of providing creative activities, volunteering and citizenship for a Kids Club project in St Andrews Community Hub in Garden City, an area that is short of opportunities for children and faces a range of socio-economic issues. The club provides a safe space where children can access a meal, take part in activities, gain confidence, learn, build social networks.		£1,000		
Bethel Baptist Chapel, Holywell	Funding towards the ongoing refurbishment of a church hall providing a range of community activities including a 'coffee morning' for older people and a youth group.		£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
Parkfields Community Centre, Mold	Funding towards core cost of heating, electricity and water for the centre which provides a warm place with food and drink for people who cannot keep their homes warm, or who come to the centre to reduce isolation and loneliness.		£1,000		
Art & Soul Tribe CIC	Funding towards the cost of providing transport costs to arts and nature based interventions to local vulnerable community members needing mental health & trauma support. Travel expenses for our participants have become a real barrier to engagement and participation.		£1,000		
Total			£10,585	£3,000	£2,000
			£15,585		

Grant Applicant	Funding aim		Paid 2023/24	Due 2024/25	Due 2025/26
Wrexham Welsh Church Act Fund	To community groups across Wrexham		£6,000	£2,000	£2,000
Denbighshire Welsh Church Act Fund	Grant to Denbighshire County Council who distribute this funding		£9,997		
Total			£26,582	£5,000	£4,000
			£35,582		

Hawarden and District Relief in Need Fund Grants Awarded

April 2022 - March 2024

Type	Applicant	Summary of grant	Awarded
Group	Wood Memorial CP School	School trips and residential support for disadvantaged families	£5,000
Group	Wood Memorial CP School	School trips and residential support for disadvantaged families	£7,740
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£350
Individual	Family	Crisis grant	£234
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£1,440
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£771
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£1,000
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£200
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£1,260
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£1,500
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£980
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£500
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£3,000
Individual	Family	Crisis grant	£370
Individual	Male	Crisis grant	£580
Individual	Female	Crisis grant	£260
Total			£25,185

Speakers for Schools

Flintshire Community Endowment Fund

Speakers for Schools received grants across 8 of our education funds in 2022, amounting to funding of £12,500 for the year 2022/23.

The funding supported work in each local authority in Wales, with a focus on closing the opportunity gap and levelling the playing field for all 11-19 year olds from state schools and colleges by providing fair access to fully funded work experience and inspirational talks that will help young people to reach their full career potential.

They work to champion social mobility and improve diversity in the workplace. It's sitting alongside a pilot, working the wards with nurses or listening to a CEO share their story of success and how they overcame adversity, these impactful interventions inspire young people, bringing the world of work to life, increasing their aspirations for the future.

Whilst the end of year one monitoring hasn't given specific Flintshire related statistics or case studies, the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund has helped Speakers for Schools to provide Welsh students with a wide range of UK-wide work experience opportunities, alongside access to its inspirational in-person and online talks. In terms of reach this academic year, the funding has helped the charity to offer 790 placements to Welsh students and enabled new partnerships with 78 schools in Wales.

In September 2022, it launched a Work Experience for All campaign. In partnership with YouGov they analysed data collected from 18 to 30-year-olds who did work experience in secondary school and/or in a post-16 setting.

This data very much reflects the focus of the Welsh Government's careers and work-related experiences toolkit, demonstrating that work experience reduces the chances of becoming unemployed from 11% to 7%, improves essential skills such as creativity and problem-solving and helps young people gain confidence in themselves, improving their future job prospects.

They noted to be working with the Welsh Leaders in School and College Leaders Council to ensure that support for schools in Wales continues to be relevant. It also met with Careers Wales, who remain a strong partner, keen to work alongside to help the young people of Wales to flourish.

Nick Brook, CEO of Speaker for schools said:

While talent is spread evenly across the county, opportunity isn't. Where you are born and who you are born to are strong predictors of performance at school and future life chances.

Due to the Education Relationship Manager for Wales moving on to other employment, Speakers for Schools has taken the decision that from January 2023, it has relocated resources and no longer has colleagues on the ground in Wales.

This is extremely disappointing, although it has committed to continue to support Wales within this new structure and to have a wide range of UK-wide experiences available to Welsh students and continued access to our inspirational talks online and in-person. In reality, without the support of a specific worker with a focus on Wales, the opportunities available to Welsh students are very much reduced.

None of the Work Experience placements listed on the website are in Wales. We have therefore made the decision not to award years 2 and 3 of grant funding from the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund as we cannot guaranteed that funding would benefit students from Flintshire specifically.

This grant has helped me attend the world scouting jamboree. Having been in such an event I feel more confident in myself. Learning about different cultures and meeting people from round the world was nothing short of fantastic!

Northop Hall CP School

Flintshire Community Endowment Fund

Following consultation with school pupils, it was clear that there was a lot of questions, a lack of understand of and empathy for those from diverse backgrounds. Funding from the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund enabled the school to take up opportunities to learn from others for both teachers and pupils alike.

The reported that the work on "Show racism the red card" with Wrexham football club was extremely beneficial. Football players are influential role models to many young people, so having these important messages shared by people they admired made a big impact.

The pupils gained a greater understanding of the impact racism can have on individuals and communities and helped them to appreciate the importance of inclusivity and diversity. The sessions helped pupils, parents and staff to understand and promote an atmosphere of tolerance, respect and understanding.

Some quotes from pupils included:

"We should not judge people on what they look like, it's what on the inside that matters."

"I feel sad hearing about people who are treated unfairly."

"I understand why it's important to stand up for others"

In addition, we worked as a school on the book "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio which has helped pupils to learn about accepting and embracing physical and visible difference, promoting empathy and understanding. During this work on diversity and the exploration of a range of disabilities we gathered some feedback from pupils:

"People with disabilities can do amazing things, the paintings which we looked at were awesome."

"I learned that being different is OK. It's what makes us special."

"Can we have more projects like this? It's important to understand each other."

The project opened up crucial discussions between pupils and teachers and also between teachers and parents. It helped all members of our school community to feel comfortable sharing their thoughts around inclusivity.

Many pupils wanted to share their own unique qualities and were able to talk about what they found challenging and what others could do to support them.

Many parents shared how helpful the diversity project had been. They reported that it had opened up important discussions at home about people's similarities and differences and the need for tolerance and respect.

Through our work on the diversity project, we have gained a great deal of expertise as staff and connections with people in the wider community. We therefore feel that we can keep running topics on diversity and keep the key messages and values prominent in our school community. The school will self-fund any expenditure in the future on this topic.

Woodwork to Wellness

Flintshire Welsh Church Act Fund

The focus of this 'Men's Shed' type project based in Saltney, is to support people recovering from serious illness; who feel lonely or isolated; are struggling with mental health or addiction.

It welcomes people who are unemployed; ex-servicemen; ex-offenders; people who have experienced homelessness; those unsuited to traditional education & people with physical or learning disabilities. It helps people to make handcrafted items out of wood.

It works to address disadvantage and create social activities for a group of people who feel isolated and excluded. Unable to work, as a result of ill health or disability, many members reference that they feel 'useless.'

The project helps to rebuild self-esteem and prevents isolation. Making physical objects out of wood is rewarding. Time and again people hold up something they've made and feel good about themselves and what they have created.

Individual members see improvements in their mood, internal beliefs and self worth. Within the community there are reduced levels of isolation, increased community engagement with the project, it's success is continuously spoken about both inside and outside of the 'Shed'.

The organisation works in partnership with many local organisations. The local foodbank runs out of the shed. They have run local projects with Chester Zoo, The Scouts, Schools and Churches etc.

The group has a strong track record of generating income through its own activities including sales of the items made by those attending the project, although grant funding like that from the Flintshire Welsh Church Act Fund is critical to helping ensure the core costs of the project are supported to ensure this critical project can continue into the future.

Colin's story (Not real name)

"I am 65. I am a type 1 diabetic since I child and was recently diagnosed with MS . I am a wheelchair user and have to be hoisted from chair to bed, etc. My upper body still functions. I now have no vision to speak of in my left eye and limited vision in my right. I do feel 'very hard done to'. I ask myself, "why me, as if the diabetes and all the problems resulting from that aren't enough?" I have bouts of helplessness and depression.

I look forward to going to the shed as it gets me out of the house to do something I enjoy. I feel very welcome and I am grateful for all the help that I receive there. I particularly enjoy the banter and I give out my own share too, the camaraderie, the laughter and the discussions that go on there.

Over time I have made various planters including two airplane and one train planter. I have made clocks for my family and a jewellery box for my daughter and nesting boxes for neighbours. I feel really good as I always have something on the go and friends inundate me with commissions! I feel really good when I have finished an item."

Colin's wife

"I am Colin's wife and carer. The shed has been a life saver as far as I am concerned. My husband really looks forward to going there so that he can carry on with his creativity and his projects.

He enjoys spending time with a group of men which I think is very important for his mental wellbeing. As for me, I know he is safe and he's happy. I tell him that the 'shed' is his workplace too! I am able to have some time to myself which is very important as a carer."

Colin's son

"I am Colin's son. I am really happy with the way the shed has helped Dad. It has given him a sense of purpose, a sense of achievement, a sense of value and a sense of self-worth."



“

I look forward to going to the shed as it gets me out of the house to do something I enjoy. I feel very welcome and I am grateful for all the help that I receive there.

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The Club House Management Committee

Flintshire Welsh Church Act Fund

The Club House is situated at the heart of the Bryn Gwalia residential area, a former designated 'communities first' area of deprivation. The focus of the group is to provide suitable facilities to support the educational, recreational and social needs of local people.

It has community rooms for hire including a large hall and smaller meeting rooms and has more recently expanded the community garden that surrounds the centre to support well-being activities having installed raised bad to support the needs of all those who attend the gardening club.

They have strong partnerships with charities and voluntary groups across Flintshire, many of whom hire rooms to run their activities. A new hirer, Versus Athritis, informed them that the chairs at the centre were unsuitable for the comfort and safety of their clients and they may need to consider finding another more suitable venue.

The centre was able to purchase 15 stackable, cushioned chairs with armrests for ergonomic support. New chairs prompted the group to freshen up the room they were in.

Now, this newly decorated room of light grey walls with it's new light weight slate grey Devonshire wooden frame stacking armchairs, is an inviting space where people from the local neighbourhood can come together for social events, educational classes, recreational activities or for drop-in support.



Your support



Andrea Powell
Director of Programmes

As ever, we thank you again for your continuing support of Community Foundation Wales.

Your fund makes a difference across Flintshire and more widely across North East Wales, particularly with the Clwyd Welsh Church Act Fund as you will see within the case studies featured in this report.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. We look forward to promoting the Flintshire Funds again this year and to distributing funds to those that clearly show how the funding will impact the lives of those most in need of support.

Diolch yn fawr.



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Charity Number 1074655
Company Number 03670680
Community Foundation Wales is the trading name of The Community Foundation in Wales