

Dear Colleagues,

### **Community Recovery Update**

I thought it may be useful to bring you up to date with the work going on around the county regarding the impacts of the floods. The work has now officially moved from the "response" phase (coordinated by Cumbria Police) to the "recovery" phase (coordinated by Cumbria County Council). As with previous flooding incidents there has been a combined effort between public and private sector, third sector and voluntary organisations and communities themselves in both the response and recovery. Third sector and voluntary organisations are making a huge contribution to the recovery effort, and are working closely alongside local communities and the public sector organisations.

CALC is represented on the Community Recovery sub- group which is a strategic officer group, chaired by Angela Jones, Assistant Director of Environment at Cumbria County Council. Representatives of the group include Cumbria Community Foundation, Third Sector Network, CVS, Citizens Advice, British Red Cross, Rotary, Churches Together, Environment Agency, District Councils. The overall objective is to work together to help residents and businesses recover from the impact of flooding. If you are still in need of help, please contact your local district council or go to the county council's flood webpages – the link is below.

There are also four Local Community Recovery Sub-groups and these groups have a very wide membership from local third sector representation alongside Member representatives from the District and County Council.

Parish councils are crucial in lending support for the response and recovery process, so thank you for all your efforts and hard work. You have an important role gathering and making known the concerns of your community and feeding them into the recovery process either through the local area team or via CALC. CALC is also grateful for the help you are providing in disseminating information and advice back to the community.

Work is still being carried out with communities to assess and report flood impacts, to ensure resources are prioritised and targeted and the need for government or financial support can be determined. Information is now available on how to apply for government support up to £500 per person who has been flooded. Please go to your district council websites for further details. There is up to £5,000 per household that is in need of additional flood defences for their property, again we are still waiting for information on how this will be distributed.

Also, in South Lakeland, Age UK are providing a vehicle to travel round the outlying parishes to give advice to communities affected by the flooding including on housing, insurance, trading standards and issues that residents still need answers on. In Carlisle the library vans will shortly be carrying out the same function. I have also attached a list of welfare contacts across the county in case anyone comes to you asking for help getting in touch with various departments or organisations. It is worth noting that many of the collection points for donations of food and clothing are now closing as Cumbria has been overwhelmed by people's generosity and have more than enough to distribute.

Also, a few parishes have queried whether they have the powers to donate to the flood appeal even if their parish has not been affected. The answer is yes, by using funds available under Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act.

Some useful links below:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/Floods2015/>

<http://cumbriacvs.org.uk/flood-recovery/flood-recovery-community-contact-points/>

<http://www.cumbriafoundation.org/>

Please do get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss and thank you again for all your help and support during this difficult time.

Kind regards

**Samantha**

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