

FOUR-FIGURE FUNDING BOOST FOR AGE UK TEESSIDE

The work of an independent charity that supports older people across Teesside has received a four-figure boost from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation.

Age UK Teesside provides a wide range of services for people over the age of 50 who live across Middlesbrough, Stockton, Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool which are designed to enable older people to improve their lifestyle.

The Middlesbrough-headquartered organisation works to tackle social isolation by providing opportunities to broaden social networks, meet new people and try new activities, while it also promotes healthy living and campaigns on a range of issues that are of interest to older people.

Its welfare and benefit advisers also help service users manage a range of different financial issues, with the team helping local older people to access more than £1m in unclaimed benefits to which they're entitled every year.

Age UK Teesside has a 25-strong team delivering its services, which is backed by more than 200 local volunteers.

It is using the £3,000 Society grant to help meet the rising cost of providing support and advice across the region in the face of the current cost of living crisis, and to ensure that older people are able to get to locations where they can receive this help face-to-face.

The funding is being provided through the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, which offers grants to charities and community groups located in or around the communities served by the Society's branch network.

Age UK Teesside's services cost around £500,000 every year to deliver, with money raised through fundraising activities, grant applications and its online shop.

Chief executive Anne Sykes says: “Our services are designed around the things that older people tell us they want and need, and in a part of the North East where there are many areas with high deprivation levels, they’ve never been more crucial than they are today.

“Addressing financial challenges is always a key part of our work, especially in situations where one half of a married couple who’d always looked after the money side of things has passed away and their spouse doesn’t have the full picture about their financial situation.

“One of the most important things for us is enabling people to get to places where we can help them in person, which not only is the most efficient way of doing so, but also enables us to more easily identify any other issues that they might be facing, so we can put holistic solutions in place which try to address them all.

“After all the restrictions we’ve had in the last two years, getting people out of their homes is often a challenge, but we have a brilliant team of volunteers that can help get our service users out and about, which also helps to tackle issues with social isolation at the same time.

“Newcastle Building Society has been a long-term supporter of the charity and we’re really grateful that they’re continuing to contribute so much to what we do.

“Receiving such a substantial lump sum like this takes away some of the worry about funding our work and gives us confidence that we can cover the costs of the services we provide.”

Lynne Moore, manager at Newcastle Building Society’s High Street branch in Stokesley, adds: “Age UK Teesside’s support, advice and care enables hundreds of older people across the area to live better, healthier and happier lives.

“Its commitment to our community is unrivalled and we’re very pleased to be strengthening our relationship with the team still further.”

Since its launch in 2016, Newcastle Building Society’s Community Fund at the Community Foundation has contributed over £2.1m in grants and partnerships to a

wide variety of charities and projects across the region, including the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and the Prince's Trust.

The grants are so far estimated to have had a positive impact on more than 151,000 people.

- ends -

For further information on Newcastle Building Society, please contact:

Chris Hoy
Newcastle Building Society
07483 452461

Julian Christopher
Footprint Public Relations
07891 005034

About Newcastle Building Society

Newcastle Building Society* is the biggest building society in the North East, with a network of 30 branches and assets of more than £4.9bn. We've been here for our members for over 150 years.

As a leading local employer, we're committed to growing our region's talent and being a great place to work where people can realise their potential. We hold Platinum IIP and won the Excellence and Positive Impact Award at the 2022 CIPD North East of England HR&D Awards. We were named Company of the Year in the Northumberland and Tyneside category of the North East Business Awards 2022.

We help people to own their home, to save and to plan their finances through our range of products and services. We believe in the role of the high street at the heart of our communities and are proactive in making financial information and financial advice accessible across our region.

Our Financial Advice is provided through our Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited division**.

We're dedicated to helping our North East communities make positive changes; since 2016 the financial support through grants and donations from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation to benefit local causes has surpassed £2.1m

www.newcastle.co.uk

*Newcastle Building Society Principal Office: 1 Cobalt Park Way, Cobalt Business Park, NE28 9EJ. Newcastle Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Newcastle Building Society is entered in the Financial Services Register under number 156058. You can check this on the Financial Services Register or by contacting the Financial Conduct Authority on 0800 111 6768. Call 0845 734 4345 or visit us online at: www.newcastle.co.uk

**Newcastle Building Society introduces to Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited for investments, pensions, inheritance tax planning, financial advice and life cover.

Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited is an appointed representative of Openwork Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.