

21 January, 2025



## Newcastle Building Society puts communities first with £1m donation to help tackle region's biggest challenges

***Newcastle Building Society announces a £1m donation to help improve lives for people across the region, by tackling some of the biggest challenges facing communities in the North East, Cumbria, and North Yorkshire.***

The donation into the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund boosts the total value of the investment to more than £3.5m, making it one of the largest of its type in the country. The fund, which is held by the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, is expected to pay out around £150,000 each and every year to charities tackling issues linked to food poverty, work and opportunity, debt management, homelessness, and sustainability.

Andrew Haigh, chief executive at Newcastle Building Society, said: "Providing grants to charities supports the organisations working directly with people in need, and helps target the key issues in our communities. The Community Fund is one of the most powerful ways we deliver the Society's purpose to connect our communities with a better financial future. We're delighted to make this additional donation to the fund, allowing us to do even more in our communities, and locks in a reliable source of significant income for our incredible local charities in 2025, and for generations to come.

"Our long-term partnership with the Community Foundation means we benefit from their unique expertise in maximising returns from the fund and helping direct support to local communities across the region."

In the past decade the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund has benefitted hundreds of charities and many thousands of people in communities served by the Society's expanding branch network.

Rob Williamson, chief executive at Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, said: "Newcastle Building Society is our largest corporate donor and we've enjoyed a significant long-term relationship over the past 35 years. The Society's commitment to the region through the Community Fund directs support to a huge range of projects, creating opportunity and helping people all over the region. The use of an endowment fund allows businesses to make a long-term

commitment to their communities and provides a sustainable source of funds for the charity sector.

“Newcastle Building Society’s latest contribution to their fund will make a huge difference in our region, targeting some of the most pressing issues we face.”

The deadline for applications for the next round of grants from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund is 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025. For more information or to nominate a charity for funding, visit [www.newcastle.co.uk/powering-communities/community-grants](http://www.newcastle.co.uk/powering-communities/community-grants)

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**Notes to editors:**

Newcastle Building Society Community Fund grants made in 2024:

**Northumberland:**

- Community and Voluntary Action Blyth Valley - £5,000
- Northumberland Pride - £5,000
- Berwickshire Swap - £4,000
- YMCA Northumberland - £5,000
- PCC Parish of St Nicholas Cramlington - £4,097

**Tyne and Wear:**

- Friends Action North East - £5,000
- English for All - £5,000
- Ouseburn Trust - £4,923
- Rainbow Homes North East - £5,000
- Love Dunston - £4,036
- Skills 4 Work - £4,924
- Meadow Well Connected - £5,000
- Whitley Bay Big Local - £5,000
- Impact Family Services - £4,999
- Emmaus - £4,887

**Tees Valley:**

- Tees Valley Women’s Centre - £5,000
- The Hope Foundation - £5,000
- Lilyanne’s Wellbeing - £5,000

**County Durham:**

- Angel Trust - £5,000

**Cumbria:**

- Meals on Wheels Cumbria - £4,000
- Carlisle and Eden District CAB - £5,000

**North Yorkshire:**

- Ryedale Community Food Bank - £5,000
- Hambleton Foodshare - £5,000

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**About Newcastle Building Society**

Newcastle Building Society is the biggest building society in the North East, with a network of 32 branches and assets of more than £6.2bn. We've been here for our members for over 160 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. We are a Real Living Wage employer and were the first building society in the UK to become an accredited Living Pension employer earlier this year. We have been named Regional Building Society of the Year for eight consecutive years from 2017 – 2024 by What Mortgage? and also won Best Overall Personal Finance Brand at the Personal Finance Awards for two years running 2023/24 and 2024/25. In 2024 Newcastle Building Society became the first UK business to receive international accreditation for mutual value measurement, recognising our ongoing commitment to creating value for our members and communities.

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, as our branch network grows, we are increasingly proactive in making financial information and financial advice accessible across our regions.

Financial Advice is provided through our Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited subsidiary. Face-to-face financial advice is available at each of the Society's 32 branches. For the third year running, Newcastle Financial Advisers has been awarded Top Rated Firm status by VouchedFor - the UK's leading review site for Financial Advisers.

We're dedicated to helping our communities make positive changes; since 1995 the financial support through grants and donations from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund

at the Community Foundation to benefit local causes has surpassed £1.7m. Our total community contributions in 2023, made up of grants, match funding, and our ongoing partnership donations, was more than £350,000.

Newcastle Building Society is committed to creating a culture of belonging, where people can bring their whole self to work and be respected and valued for who they are. Our colleague-run networks include the Race Network, LGBTQ+ Network the Disability and Awareness Network, Women in Leadership Network, Menopause Network and Parent and Carers Network, all of which help steer Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy within the organisation.

[www.newcastle.co.uk](http://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.