



# Champions Annual Report

2021 - 2022

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**Lancashire**

County  
Council



# Lancashire County Council Champion Annual Reports 2021 - 2022

## Introduction

The Cabinet has appointed County Councillors who are not a member of the Cabinet to serve as Champions for the following matters:

- Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans
- Champion for Disabled People
- Champion for Mental Health
- Champion for Older People
- Champion for Parishes
- Champion for Young People

Each of the county council Champions is allocated a sum of £10,000 per annum for use at their discretion to finance their activities including:

- organising and attending meetings, seminars and conferences and other similar events;
- the payment of a grant or loan to individuals and outside bodies and organisations within the scope of their remit; and
- other incidental costs necessary to enable them to fulfil their roles.

Any unspent balance up to a maximum of £2,500 can be carried over from one financial year to the next giving a maximum budget of £12,500.

The approval of expenditure to be incurred by a Champion has been delegated by the Leader of the Council to the Director of Corporate Services.

## **Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans Alf Clempson**

### **My Responsibilities:**

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members to work with the organisations that support ex-servicemen and women to work even more closely together and to ensure that veterans and their families get the support they deserve'.

### **My Message:**

"I take a great interest in all applications made to the Armed Forces Champions fund. I always meet the group before I will agree to any funding. 2021/2022 was a slightly strange year as a result of the Pandemic but, many charities were still active and indeed in more need of funding than usual. I am very careful about who is funded because many charities and small CIC's do not make it over a year or two. I am careful to support sustainable groups who deliver a good service to the Armed Forces Community."

### **Activities Supported from my 2021/2022 Budget:**

#### **Preston & District Veterans Council – Accommodation and Transit - £800**

This Bid was made by the Preston and District Veterans Council and went towards taking four Lancashire D-Day Veterans to attend the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire which was linked by Television to the opening ceremony of the Normandy Memorial in Ver-Sor-Mer France. It helped with travel costs and accommodation. Local businesses were involved supplying the veterans with food for the journey. It was a real community effort, I was there to see the veterans away on the coach. This ceremony had national and indeed international significance and it was vital that Lancashire was well represented.

#### **DWS Lifeskills – Summer Sports sessions and health and well being program- £4000**

DWS Lifeskills continue to make a significant positive impact on the local Armed Forces Community. Part of this grant was to continue the well-being Program which included working with GP practices to identify veterans and then get them involved in many different events from quiz nights, to trips, fitness sessions and Kayaking. This grant was also to enable military children and families on Weeton Barracks to have sessions of multi-sports over the summer holidays and sessions of family rounders in the evenings during the same period. Sessions were also held over half term for children and adults. The funds provided equipment, travel and expert instruction.

DWS Lifeskills continue to carry out vital work in the Armed Forces Community, often going above and beyond their remit and funding, I am extremely keen to continue to fund this group because of the outstanding results and outcomes they achieve.

### **The Men's Shed Fleetwood – provide food for 6 months for the weekly Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club - £700**

Many veterans breakfast clubs charge a fairly hefty fee for the breakfast which not only stops some from attending but is not in the spirit of the event. The men's shed in Fleetwood put on a weekly breakfast for veterans, contributions can be made via a donation bucket for those who are able to, but the breakfast is free. This encourages more people to attend and talk about issues that may be affecting them. The men's shed provide a friendly, environment which encourages openness and attendance is always good. I am a regular visitor and have referred veterans as a result of attending. This is a vital meeting place in a deprived area where some really need help and guidance. This grant was to enable men's shed to provide breakfast items for at least 6 months.

### **2459 Poulton-le-Fylde ATC Sqn – Update computer system - £1000**

I am a massive fan of all cadet organisations and will try to support them whenever possible. The opportunities young people get from these organisations is amazing. This grant was to enable the Sqn to update its computer system and security. This was to ensure cadets could connect to the internet for training purposes and upgrade equipment.

### **Dig in – Branded uniform and safety footwear - £1,400**

I am a constant supporter of Dig in because of the results it achieves within the veterans community. I am a regular visitor and I have been impressed by the way they welcome, help and befriend veterans in need, sometimes providing much needed guidance and support. Uniforms and footwear were needed to carry out many of their tasks which they conduct in the community and this helps to fund them. Dig in is a well run organisation which has had an extremely positive impact on many veterans in Lancashire.

### **West Lancs, The Ark – Queens Jubilee Celebration Day - £500**

After visiting the Ark, it was clear to see the outstanding work they do. This bid changed from being a trip for the Armed Forces Community locally to enabling veterans and their carers to celebrate the Queens Jubilee. I will visit this group again and try to support them who in turn support veterans.

### **In Summary:**

In total expenditure for the above period was £8,400, I made sure I could roll the excess over to the following year. I take a very hands-on approach to my Champions role and this includes not only visiting the groups but sometimes even taking part and supporting them in any way I can. The Armed Forces Community here in Lancashire is growing thanks to these groups and their activities often funded by the champions grant.

**County Councillor Alf Clempson  
Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans**

<b>Schedule of Expenditure for 2021/2022</b>	
<b>County Councillor Alf Clempson – Champion for Armed Forces Veterans</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>
Preston and District Veterans Council - Accommodation and Transport	£800
DWS Lifeskills - Summer sports sessions and Health and Wellbeing Programme	£4,000
The Men's Shed Fleetwood - provide food for 6 months and their breakfast club	£700
2459 Poulton le Fylde Squadron - update computer system	£1,000
Dig In - Branded Uniform and Safety Footwear	£1,400
West Lancs The Ark - Queens Jubilee Celebration day	£500
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>	<b>£8,400</b>

## Former Champion for Disabled People Rupert Swarbrick

### My Responsibilities:

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members by advising on service issues which support and encourage active, independent and healthy lives for disabled people and to raise the profile of disabled people and their needs in the development of policy across the Council.

### Background

1. The original plan was to distribute grants, matched wherever possible, to make access to leisure, arts, culture and sport for disabled people more straightforward. The intended outcomes were to help improve activity, independence, participation, health and wellbeing, reduce social isolation/loneliness and improve community cohesion.
2. Areas like leisure, the arts and sport are often outside the scope of activities that the County Council is directly involved in and the Champions Grant could be an area where a matched contribution could be made to help make these activities more accessible and inclusive.
3. A draft programme, working with the was ready to launch seeking bids with our library service to help promote UK Disability History Month in November and the International Day of People with Disability on 3rd December. The Omicron variant emerged and this community, feeling particularly vulnerable, retreated back into the virtual world and the initiative fizzled out.

### Grants

1. Engaging with the Library service however was fortuitous. The bibliotherapy officer introduced a number of opportunities with our partner organisations which resulted in distribution of funds:
  - a. Funded BSL interpreters for 5 sessions of the revitalised Deaf Rights Group with support from the Deaf Link Service and LCC Sensory Impairment Team
  - b. 64 high contrast computer keyboards for Galloways – essentially black print on white background assists visually impaired
  - c. 4 Orbit readers for Galloways – a braille keyboard that also translates text from an SD card
  - d. 9 sensory tents with texture tower and glow sets & 15 sets of sensory glow pebbles for Cloverleaf Advocacy which provides self-advocacy and peer support to people with autism across Lancashire.
2. In partnership with Lancaster City Council made a match contribution to the development of a fully accessible play area in Greaves Park Lancaster

3. Contribution to a community magazine project in Skelmersdale to enable them to employ a wheelchair bound journalist.

## **Advocacy**

1. Deaf and Hard of Hearing community
  1. Supporting an ongoing review of how LCC engages with their client community in partnership with n-compass <https://www.n-compass.org.uk/> which has an SLA with the county to engage with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.
  2. Asked a question of the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care at May 2022 Full Council designed to improve access for the Deaf and HoH community to all LCC services by investigating the implementation of a free to the user on demand interpretation service at LCC sites.
  3. We have supported the revitalisation of the Lancashire Deaf Rights Forum by providing 5 sessions of sign interpreters.
2. Visual Impairment Forum
  1. Supporting Cabinet Member for Highways on the roll out of The Street Charter in Chorley.
  2. Promoting the roll out Real Time, a public transport announcement service, currently under investigation by Cabinet Member for Highways.
3. Lancashire Autism Partnership
  1. Appointed to co-chair the revitalised Lancashire Autism Partnership.
  2. This has involved a number of meetings to agree terms of reference and work plan and re-engagement with partners.
  3. R Swarbrick will remain as co-chair of this partnership for the time being.

**County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick**  
**Former Champion for Disabled People**

<b>Schedule of Expenditure for 2021/2022</b>	
<b>County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick - Former Champion for Disabled People</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>
N Compass Towards a Brighter Future – BSL interpreter	£1,250
Friends of Greaves Park - update new play equipment and play area	£2,000
Galloways Society for the Blind - large print keyboards and braille displays	£3,577
Cloverleaf Advocacy - Tents and camping equipment for libraries	£5,595
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>	<b>£12,422</b>



## Champion for Mental Health Stuart Morris

### My Responsibilities:

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members to raise awareness, to reduce the associated stigma and to support officers and partners across the county to improve prevention, engagement and treatment for Mental Health.

### My Report:

Over the past 12 months we have finally come out of the COVID pandemic, however, it has left in its wake a whole host of issues for us all both physically & mentally.

These issues have affected the way we live our lives now and into the future, more use of technology in communicating with family, friends and work colleagues... 'you're on mute!', 'my signal has dropped', 'broadband rage', 'I need a hug', 'sudden spike', a new variant', LFT's, face masks, vaccination.....how have we lived through it, some better than others.

Support was not always available, isolation, loneliness, food deliveries, we have been tested, but we have come through it.

Psychological disorders are organized in categories in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Some of the categories are mood disorders, personality disorders, anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, psychotic disorders and eating disorders.

In popular culture, psychological disorders are presented often (with varying degrees of accuracy). The film, 'A Beautiful Mind' was based on the true story of John Nash, played by Russell Crow, who suffered from schizophrenia. 'As Good As It Gets' depicted a man played by Jack Nicholson with obsessive-compulsive disorder, and 'Sybil' played by Jessica Lange was based on the true story of a young woman with dissociative identity disorder.

We may have found this funny at the time, but for those with these disorders they are life affecting which lead to frustration, anger, isolation and even sadly, suicide.

Choose a movie, TV show, or book about a character with a mental illness. If you are having a difficult time thinking of a movie or TV show, the following list may give you an idea:

A Beautiful Mind. As Good As It Gets. Sybil.  
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. The Perks of Being a Wallflower.  
The Good Doctor. House.

Only now in the last few years have we really dug down and openly discussed mental health, it affects us all whether you realise it or not.

From what might seem simple daily routines that if disrupted knocks you off balance your whole day could be in chaos.

Schools are a major concern of mine, with children today open to on-line abuse, bullying, photo shopping, body styling to name but a few, which to me seems like the wild west.

We must as Council stand up against this sort of behaviour in our schools, to make sure pupils feel safe, and parents are secure in the knowledge that all schools provide a safe and secure learning experience.

Over the last 12 months as the Mental Health Champion, I have been active in listening to as many organisations as possible to be able to understand the issues we have in Lancashire.

There are many issues, but we have a host of amazing people who through their passion to help have become vital role models in their communities.

Some initiatives started during the pandemic out of desperation for human contact, or the need to do something to help to keep local people connected and create 'Anchor Institutions'.

What is an anchor institution?

Guided by [community wealth building principles](#), anchor institutions can play a defining role in creating and reinforcing local economic ties.

The term 'anchor institutions' is used to refer to organisations which:

1. Have an **important presence in a place**, usually through a combination of::

Being largescale employers, the largest purchasers of goods and services in the locality, controlling large areas of land and/or having relatively fixed assets.

2. Are **tied to a particular place** by their mission, histories, physical assets and local relationships. Examples include Local Authorities, NHS trusts, Universities, Trade Unions, large local businesses, the combined activities of the community and voluntary sector and housing associations.

**Key phrases have epitomised society post pandemic:**

‘The pandemic has landed some overwhelming changes on us’ ‘Break free of them and talk to loved ones about a way forward’

‘No matter what life has thrown at us over the last few years, you can still make ends meet’

I would like to thank Marie Demaine for her help and support over the last year and creating the leaflet for all Councillors a list of bodies that are available to help those with mental health issues.

At the same time ‘The Lancashire Health Partnership’ has been created that meets quarterly across the County to bring together local initiatives, giving them a voice, exchange ideas and access some funds to help pay for equipment, building costs, staffing costs and even parking.

So, colleagues, thank you for listening today because someone with a mental health issue just needs someone to talk to, be heard and pointed in the right direction for expert advice and counselling.

From just one conversation a life can be turned around or saved.

If any of you need help or advice with specific case’s please feel free to point them in my direction, then I will be able to talk to them and give direction to the right organisation or charity that can offer professional advice.

Thank you

**County Councillor Stuart Morris  
Champion for Mental Health**

<b>Schedule of Expenditure for 2021/2022</b>	
<b>County Councillor Stuart Morris – Champion for Mental Health</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>
Hyndburn Stepping Out - Essential equipment for their lead walkers	£1,020
The Billy Project - Outdoor Gym Equipment	£1,000
Lemon Dance - hire of room	£2,000
Mens Shed Fleetwood - Establishment of two groups	£1,000
About the Town - Life Coaching Course	£1,200
Hope Street - Peer Support Group	£2,000
LADS United - towards the hire of the pitch	£1,000
Spring into Action - materials to deliver their sessions	£1,000
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>	<b>£10,220</b>

## **Champion for Older People Joan Burrows**

### **My Responsibilities:**

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members by advising on service issues across Service Areas which support and encourage active, independent and healthy lives for older people.

### **My Report:**

This is my fifth year in the role as Lancashire County Council's Champion for Older People. A role that has provided me with the privileged opportunity to get close to, and work closely with, Older People in their communities across Lancashire.

This report year started with us still living under COVID restrictions which has been tough for everyone. Then after months of us being cooped up at home, almost all restrictions in England ended in July, when we were asked to practise safe and responsible behaviours. I slowly started to get invitations to attend groups and events focusing on Older People. For some people, following month on month of isolated living, they were keen to get out and about again. For others going out meant exercising caution. My first visit was in July to the Preston 50+ Group for their outdoor walk then refreshments at a local cafe in Moor Park, this was quickly followed that same month with a visit to the Men's Shed in Thornton-Cleveleys. Other visits during the year have included the A59 Club, the Talking Tables initiative across various venues in Leyland and Penwortham, Elevenses in Whalley, Hilldale Community Centre in Parbold, Nifty Fifties in North Meols, St Stephens Coffee in Banks, St James' Church Coffee Morning Group in Lostock Hall, Kirkham Companions, Leyland Moss Side OAP's, the Blue Flamingo Cafe and Delivered North West both in Ashton on Ribble and Just Good Friends in Lytham St Anne's.

Older People, that's people over the age of 55 years, are a valuable part of Lancashire's economy whether that be through their ongoing employment, their work as volunteers, or as Carers within family units and they all deserve credit for this. Following retirement many people seek to give time in their communities and this year that time, freely given by Older People to Older People, has proven helpful to all. During the pandemic restrictions their time has been spent manning telephone lines - telephoning people confined at home for a chat to help ease their feelings of loneliness and isolation, delivering prescriptions - to people shielding and shopping for groceries as well as dog walking for them and others who couldn't, or didn't want, to leave home.

As Champion for Older People I am allocated a sum up to £10,000 per annum as a grant scheme, for use at my discretion, within guidelines set out by the Authority.

The Champion Grant fund is an extremely easy and popular way of providing small amounts of funding, to a wide range of groups, who need some vital support via a

simple process. I had less applicants this year given the impact that COVID had on groups meeting. Nevertheless, a total of £7,560 has been awarded and recipients this period have included some of the groups mentioned in my list of visits above as well as Hyndburn Stepping Out, Time 4 Craft, Hoole Village and Banks St Stephens Bowling Clubs, Stacksteads Countryside Park Group, Forget Me Not, Community Lives Matter, Brindle and Burscough Over Fifties Sports Clubs.

Monies have supported contributions to materials for a lending library and arts and craft sessions, kitchen equipment, board games, a microphone, a commercial aerator, refreshments, hire of a coach, sports equipment and guest speakers.

I cannot emphasise enough just how important this fund is to Older People, across the County, for whom just a little bit of money, the average grant was £300, can make a major difference to the work that they want to do and the lives of the people they support.

I continue to welcome having the ear of senior decision makers in our Authority. I brief the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members at given opportunities, in particular the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health and Wellbeing alongside the Directors of these departments. I need to ensure that Older People are at the heart of our Authorities activities and that their needs, wishes and preferences are fully taken into account in the development of policy across all areas of the Council.

The position of Older People's Champion for Lancashire is a high profile role. I have taken it very seriously. Restrictions being lifted have meant I have been able to get out and about again, something that I see as core to the work of a Champion, maintaining links and forging new links with groups that support Older People across Lancashire. I enjoy the informal chats and every comment made to me is fed back. Now life is returning back to normality there is still much to do. Older people have vast experience and are the majority, we must be seen as an asset not a burden. I will continue to work to promote positive images and combat stereotyping alongside people getting the right support when their circumstances in life change.

The appreciation for the work that I have undertaken is gratefully received and humbling, thank you.

**County Councillor Joan Burrows**  
**Champion for Older People**

<b>Schedule of Expenditure for 2021/2022</b>	
<b>County Councillor Joan Burrows – Champion for Older People</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>
Hyndburn Stepping Out – fleeces and polo shirts	£785
Fylde Coast Men's Shed - 1ft gully around their bowling green	£500
Hilldale Community Association - refreshments for coffee morning	£250
Time 4 Craft - Art and Craft materials	£50
Elevenses' Coffee Morning (Community Activities) - hire of coach	£200
Hoole Village Bowling Club - commercial aerator	£500
St Stephen's in the Banks - coffee Mornings	£300
Stacksteads Countryside Park Group - materials for lantern workshops	£500
New Friends for You (Talking Tables) - Christmas afternoon tea	£105
Hilldale Community Association - Bain Marie	£300
Forget Me Not – refreshments for monthly meetings	£250
Delivered NW - Christmas hampers	£300
North Meols Nifty 50 Sports Club - microphone, card reader and social activities	£500
Community Lives Matter - luncheon Club	£1,000
Blue Flamingo Café - Boredom Buster pack for the lending library	£420
Banks St Stephens Bowling Club - maintenance to bowling green	£500
Brindle Over Fifty Fives - guest speakers and entertainment	£300
Burscough Over Fifties Sports Club - sports equipment	£500
St James Coffee Morning - kitchen equipment, board games and music centre	£300
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>	<b>£7,560</b>

## **Champion for Parishes Paul Rigby**

### **My Responsibilities:**

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members by advising on ways to sustain and improve effective working relationships between the Council and Parish and Town Councils in Lancashire.

### **My Report:**

What a year, where does time go. Firstly the change of Leadership within the Council sees County Councillor Peter Buckley becoming Portfolio Holder for the Parishes. By releasing the funding allocation away from LALC has opened the door to welcome the Parishes into County Hall to attend conferences and discuss what Parishes would like to happen. This will be a more open way for all to move forward working together. It was good for Parish Councillors to have our new Leader welcome them, setting out her vision of what she wants from all parties. Portfolio holders and the Police and Crime Commissioner addressed the gathering giving their ideas on ways to improve working, telling them the important part they play. We addressed the new Parish Charter and what the Parish Councils want it to include. Everyone had their say and officers and members all contributed to the new Charter. The biggest problem was agreeing a new name, so we have decided to keep the old one. It was a fabulous day and very well attended.

In early spring we had another Parish Conference in County Hall, a highways special which was very informative. County Councillor Charles Edwards addressed the audience and the officers broke down the workings within the department. Thanks have to go to all officers for giving their time on a Saturday for this major topic. Credit must also be given to "Repot it" on the web site. The speed at which the work is done is impressive. The Charter was adopted by the floor and signed off. We now have to deliver on our promises, that is going to be a lot harder. Sending out the Charter to all Parish Councils was welcomed and well received. Perhaps there could be a bigger gap however between sending the news on bunting on lamp standards and the charges for the latter. I think Parish Councils were just having a go at me because the highways are so good in all areas!

Alison, Janet and Amanda have worked tirelessly to help me. I am sad Amanda has moved on within County Hall, taking up a fresh challenge for which I wish her well.

Obviously Grants have again proved popular. The list is so diverse and the help and encouragement it gives to all areas of our County is Fabulous.

Thanks to County Councillor Peter Buckley and all the Cabinet for their support, we have set the bar high and now is the time to deliver.



**County Councillor Paul Rigby**  
**Champion for Parishes**

<b>Schedule of Expenditure for 2021/2022</b>	
<b>County Councillor Paul Rigby - Champion for Parishes</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>
Cabus Parish Council – Leaflets promoting rural walks	£500
Woodplumpton Parish Council - defibrillator device for the Parish	£400
Catterall Parish Council - erect a flagpole	£300
Pilling Parish Council - Office equipment for village hall	£500
Cliviger Parish Council - Boundary markers	£500
Balderston Parish Council - replace bench and tidy area	£400
Weeton with Preese Parish Council - replacement of play area surface	£400
Elswick Parish Council - Hedgehog boxes and community allotment	£400
Yealand Parish Council - traffic calming measures	£250
Melling with Wrayton Parish Council - defibrillator device for the Parish	£500
Forton Parish Council - update play area	£1,000
Yealand and Redmayne Parish Council - new picnic bench	£300
Ramsgreave Parish Council - newsletter	£100
Downholland Parish Council - picnic bench	£300
Bretherton Parish Council - two wooden benches	£300
Kirkland Parish Council - replace dead trees	£400
Longridge Town Council - replace benches	£500
Higham Parish Council - LED lighting	£300
Scarisbrick Parish Council - replace benches	£300
Wennington Parish Council - Information Board	£300
Tatham Parish Council - Notice Boards	£400
Grindleton Parish Council - improvements to environment of village	£300

Bickerstaffe Parish Council - project to improve parish field	£400
Freckleton Parish Council - Speed Indicator Device System	£400
Salesbury Parish Council - Christmas trees	£88
Wilpshire Parish Council - Christmas trees	£89
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>	<b>£9,627</b>

## **Champion for Young People Scott Smith**

### **My Responsibilities:**

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members on efforts across Service Areas to provide high quality employment opportunities and apprenticeships for young people, and to encourage external organisations to do likewise.

It has been a privilege to serve as Lancashire County Council's Champion for Young People since our AGM in 2021. I can think of no greater responsibility of local government than its responsibility to its young people – those whose experiences define our County's future – and the opportunity to be a part of meeting that responsibility has been an honour.

As an organisation, we have a particular responsibility to our looked after children and young people, and they have left a particular impression on me, particularly through our work on the Corporate Parenting Board. The resilience of our care leavers – and their skill in advocating for what those coming through the system after them need – is remarkable, and a credit to the families and officers who've supported their journeys.

Predictably, when they ask what the role of Champion entails, the ears of community groups and other members prick up when I tell them about the Champion fund. This part of the role has been hugely enjoyable – it has taught me a huge amount about the issues our young people face and how best to address them.

Across the year I approved 14 grants worth £11,832, to organisations in 7 of our 12 districts. A full schedule is attached to this report, but I wanted to relate some highlights both of what the role entails, and of the incredible work being done across Lancashire to support and nurture our young people.

The very first request I received (and visit I made) was to the Blackpool and District Youth Football League, working out of Fylde. Over the more than twenty years that Karen Tebbutt has run the league they have engaged thousands of young people, and now are beginning to see different generations of the same families come through. My two visits, one to present medals and one to play Santa Claus close to Christmastime – were a joy.

In my home district of Rossendale, I was thrilled to support Primary Engineer – which links engineers working in industry to schools to promote STEM education. The funding I provided covered the cost of training and resources for 10 teachers, across 5 Rossendale schools, to deliver an engineering project to their pupils. This eventually reached 300 pupils across Rossendale, an area historically underserved by this kind of provision.

I was also fortunate to be able to support two Scout groups – one in Fylde and the other in the Ribble Valley, in purchasing new equipment to allow their groups to bounce back properly following Covid. As a product of the Scout Association myself, and with a family who remain very heavily involved, this is a cause particularly close to my heart.

Among the remaining projects and organisations I funded were: essential items for homeless young people through the M3 Project in Rossendale; an alarm system for Sea Cadets in Hyndburn; resources for Lostock Hall Brass Band, Preston; and a Christmas meal in Pendle provided by Positive Action in the Community.

While I didn't manage to visit each of the organisations I funded in my first year as Champion, I was repeatedly struck by the breadth and depth of expertise provided on a voluntary basis in support of our county's young people.

Two other highlights, not related to funding, stand out from the past year. The first was a visit to Burnley Boys and Girls Club, led by the inspirational Graham Vernon.

The young people there on the evening I visited had such a community spirit that it was impossible not to feel at home, and Graham and his team had transformed a dormant organisation into one which served hundreds of young people year in, year out, often from particularly challenging backgrounds.

The second was having the opportunity congratulate Jake Daniels on his decision to come out at the age of just 17. Jake is the first professional footballer, currently playing for Blackpool Football Club to come out since Justin Fashanu did in 1990, and thankfully his decision was met much more positively. It is no understatement to say that Jake's bravery will have changed the lives of young LGBTQ+ people in Lancashire, the UK and across the world, and it was a pleasure to say so on behalf of all at Lancashire County Council.

I feel extraordinarily lucky to have been asked by the Leader to continue in the role of Champion for Young People for the coming year (2022/23). Having learned from this year, I aim to spread grant funding as widely as possible across the County, and to visit even more organisations than I managed this year.

The work I've had the pleasure to witness across Lancashire has confirmed my views that our young people are best served by people they know, in the places where they live. I pledge to do whatever I can to promote that vision – and to ensure that Lancashire County Council does all it can as an organisation to serve our young people, whatever their background – over the coming year. I look forward to working with officers, members, and the Cabinet achieve it.

**County Councillor Scott Smith**  
**Champion for Young People**

<b>Schedule of Expenditure for 2021/2022</b>	
<b>County Councillor Scott Smith – Champion for Young People</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>
Blackpool and District Youth Football League - running costs of the league	£1,000
VISSION Rossendale - activities to support and improve the emotional and wellbeing of young people	£1,000
Smiley Explorer Scouts - new camping equipment	£1,250
The White Horse Project - various workshops for 11-18 year olds	£1,000
St Johns Cultural and Heritage Centre - Workshops	£1,000
2nd Kirkham (St Michaels) Scout Group - indoor table and chairs	£1,332
Lostock Hall Memorial Band - Resources	£500
Accrington Sea Cadets - Alarm system	£750
Primary Engineer Limited - engineering programmes in schools	£1,500
Whitewell Preschool Group - sand and re-vanish hall floor	£1,000
Stacksteads Countryside Park Group - Workshops to make lanterns	£500
Millgate House Care Home - Christmas Party	£500
PAC - Positive in the Community - Christmas meal and gift	£250
M3 Project - Wishlist gifts	£250
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>	<b>£11,832</b>