



Champions Annual Reports 2022-23



Lancashire County Council

Champions Annual Reports

2022 – 2023

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:

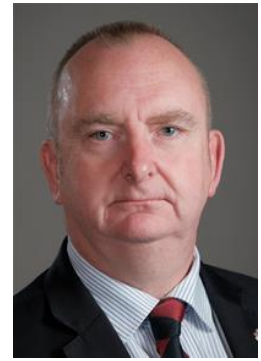
- organising and attending meetings, seminars and conferences and other similar events;
- the payment of a grant or loan to individuals and outside bodies and organisations within the scope of their remit; and
- other incidental costs necessary to enable them to fulfil their roles.

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 Law and Governance.



Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans County Councillor Alf Clempson



It has been an extremely busy and successful year throughout the Armed Forces Community in Lancashire. This culminated recently in the first Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Guide being printed, these were given to every County Councillor at the last full Council meeting. As can be seen in the guide, Lancashire County Council continue to lead the way in Lancashire with regards to highlighting and supporting the Armed Forces family. I continue to take on a great deal of work within the force's community.

This means often working with both large and small charities, Community Interest Companies and groups. This work helps my decision making on who to support with the champion's grant. Whenever possible, I will visit the group and often work with them, this is so I am absolutely convinced that any grant money given will be used in the correct manner. This process also affords me the privilege of not only meeting but seeing first-hand the outstanding work of many organisations. I take my role as the Armed Forces Champion/Member very seriously and always ensure the champion's grant is used throughout Lancashire and that all members of the military community can benefit, from the youngest cadet to the older World War II veterans.

Duke of Lancaster Association – Queen's Jubilee celebration BBQ - £500

Military Associations are very important and often provide a safe, friendly environment for veterans to mix with others who have not only served in the same Regiment, Corps or Service but who have been through the same challenges. I was happy to support veterans celebrating their Monarchs Jubilee, after all it is likely that every one of the veterans had served and sworn allegiance to HM Queen Elizabeth II and indeed taken the Queen's Shilling.

Belisama's Retreat – New handrails and improvements to pathway - £1,000

I have visited this Community Interest Company many times and have been extremely impressed with their work. Not all veterans want to attend association meetings and go to formal functions, Belisama gives veterans the opportunity to go back to basics, camp out, live simply for a while. This Community Interest Company is situated on the banks of the River Ribble but does have access issues. With this in mind, I was keen to help improve the situation, so the champion's fund helped with footpaths and new handrails.

St Anne's Informal Wren Group – Visit to National Memorial Arboretum - £850

It is extremely important to remember those who have fallen in the service of our country. These trips to places like the National Arboretum attract some members of these groups who would not always attend meetings and regular functions. Trips like this provide the opportunity for these members to mix with the regular group which can often be beneficial to their health and well-being. I attend a monthly quiz night with



many of the ladies involved with this group and I know how enjoyable and moving their trip was.

DWS Lifeskills – Health and Wellbeing activities - £3,990

This Community Interest Company has been operating for some time now and I have supported them with different projects. The overall aim is to engage with veterans of all ages in order to improve their general health and well-being. This could be when an older veteran comes out the hospital and needs some exercise to improve movement or it could be to help a cadet unit with their adventure training.

The champion's grant has supported this Community Interest Company in delivering, kayaking days, walking/trekking, quiz nights, trips to places of interest, projects with GP surgeries and a great deal more. Seeing first-hand what is achieved by this organisation, I have no hesitation in supporting them.

PCC of Broughton – Remembrance Sunday ceremony - £360

Again, like the Arboretum visit it is important to remember those who have fallen. This particular bid was to ensure that the people of Broughton could remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in their local community on Remembrance Sunday.

The cost and organisation of some local ceremonies and services is getting beyond some local communities. While this fund could not help with them all, I do believe it is right to help when possible.

Lancashire ACF – Replace flagpole - £500

I am always keen to support cadet organisations where possible and I believe that the Flagpoles in this bid are packed in a box to ensure they can be easily packed away and used on camps etc which is extremely useful for cadet units.

Men's Shed Fleetwood – Refreshments and venue for the breakfast club - £500

I am extremely grateful to the Men's Shed in Fleetwood for putting the weekly breakfast club on and to DWS Lifeskills who help with this. The Champion's fund has contributed to this several times and I will explain why. Many "veterans breakfast clubs" charge for the breakfast. I believe while these groups are good to get veterans together, they may not always attract those who may be in need of assistance. The club run by the Men's Shed is free. If veterans can contribute and want to, there is a bucket to put money in but there is no pressure to contribute. This is why the fund helps and why from these breakfast meetings we do get veterans who need assistance or just someone to talk to.

Healthier Heroes – 8 week equine therapy programme - £1,250

This organisation is now well established, and they have a history of success in some of the some of the most challenging cases. Again, I have visited this Community Interest Company often and have seen them develop. This fund has supported equine programmes before, and they can be extremely beneficial for those taking part.



Accrington Sea Cadets – Official opening day - £800

As I have stated, this fund always tries to support cadet organisations when possible. These units often provide young people with the opportunity to go places and take part in activities which would normally not be available to them. For this reason alone, I always try to support all cadet units in Lancashire. In supporting this particular open day, I hope more young people choose to join.

TOTAL SPENT - £9,750 – Available funding 2022/23 £11,600 therefore £1,850 carried forward to 2023/24.

County Councillor Alf Clempson
Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans



**County Councillor Alf Clempson
Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans
Schedule of Expenditure for 2022/2023**

Applicant	Amount of Grant
Duke of Lancaster Association – Queens Jubilee celebration BBQ	£500
Belisama's Retreat – New handrails and improvements to pathway	£1,000
St Anne's Informal Wren Group – Coach hire to National Memorial Arboretum	£850
DWS Lifeskills – Health and Wellbeing activities	£3,990
PCC of Broughton – Remembrance Sunday ceremony	£360
Lancashire ACF – Replace flagpole	£500
Men's Shed Fleetwood – Refreshments and venue for the breakfast club	£500
Healthier Heroes – 8 week equine therapy programme	£1,250
Accrington Sea Cadets – Official opening day	£800
TOTAL SPENT	£9,750



Champion for Disabled People

County Councillor Carole Haythornthwaite



During the financial year, 10 applications for a Champion's grant were received and approved. After being appointed to the role on 12 June 2022, I met David Anderson of Accrington Blind Society who had interest in working with the NHS. However, that, my first enquiry, did not result in an application, as the idea was not fully developed, and David did not believe they had sufficient accreditation at that point. I am pleased to report however that Hyndburn Mayoral fund recently awarded £5,000 to the Society.

1. **About the Town** – a grant of £1,080 was made by my predecessor Cllr Rupert Swarbrick in March 2022. The award was made to the editor of Skelmersdale's About the Town CIC publication, to meet extra premises costs of £90pcm, enabling a volunteer wheelchair user to become an employee.
2. On 6 July 2022, I agreed a contribution of £136.50 – hospitality costs of a large county wide meeting in County Hall, Savoy Suite held by **Lancashire Deaf Forum**. This was my first meeting of the group, and I was astonished at the communication skills members had acquired.
3. In the same month, Chris Tattersall of **Braille IT**, approached me for support towards a £20,000 project to deliver free accredited Braille classes to blind and visually impaired people, their parents, carers and anyone interested in learning Braille. The organisation also offers advice on screen reader software and the latest technology for those people. I was able to award £1,000 towards costs of accreditation, session staff, volunteer costs and stationery. Braille IT operates in four centres – Clitheroe, Accrington, Blackburn and Burnley.
4. Denise Gillies of **Dance Syndrome** applied for funds to enable continuation of inclusive dance workshops, dance leader training and performances. The organisation challenges perceptions of disability by drawing in people with learning disabilities and those who are socially isolated people, some with mental health issues. Dance Syndrome works across Lancashire and online across the UK. Cost of provision is ongoing, with the grant of £1,260 enabling 10 weeks of classes to be delivered.
5. After a visit to **Team Rise** and sight of their website, I was able to grant £2,000 towards costs of producing a pantomime, in which people with learning difficulty, people with autism and other service users took part. The project aimed to give users (across Lancashire) an opportunity to develop, explore their ideas, work together and socialise. Attending the pantomime in January this year, I could see how the group supported each other, gained confidence and also had a lot of fun. Sharon Lees, MD of TeamRise was "thrilled to bits" with the grant.
6. In November 2022 Sue Gardam of Preston's **N.Compass** asked for support for a stall at the AGM of the British Deaf Association at UCLAN. A grant of £345



was agreed, towards costs of hosting the event and providing an interpreter. The project was essentially a deaf link service supporting culturally deaf adults to overcome the barriers they face in accessing services. Sue works with services to establish sustainable access for the rest of the deaf community.

7. **Strive2Survive** (Tina Cowperthwaite) works in partnership with Disability Equality Northwest and planned to run workshops with deaf or hearing-impaired young people to shape a project to develop digital resources that could be used across Preston by partners. I was able to award £520, the full cost of the series of workshops, seem as a progressive initiative.
8. Andrew Brennand, of Lancaster's **Fairfield Association**, was referred to me by County Councillor Gina Dowding. Fairfield was granted £1,500 to replace existing play equipment with an ability whirl roundabout, proving better access for disabled children. (I recently met with Abi Mills, Lancaster City Council's new Champion for Disabled People, who acknowledged the improvement. Abi has considerable expertise and knowledge in advising on and procuring play equipment).
9. A grant of £745 was requested by Jane Dawson of **Visually Impaired Children's Support**, based in Accrington. I was pleased to award £400 towards costs of Christmas events, including some basic food preparation and a party.
10. Earlier this year, I was pleased to award £500 towards £1,100 costs of an audio loop system in **Grimsargh village hall**. The request was made on behalf of a social group supporting people living with dementia. A number of those people also have hearing difficulty or loss and therefore their experience of a group was less beneficial. As well as use in the hall, the loop system can be used when members are out on excursions.

In summary, a total of £8,741.50 was spent during the financial year, against an available allocation of budget of £10,078.

Carole Haythornthwaite
Champion for Disabled People



**County Councillor Carol Haythorntwaite
Champion for Disabled People
Schedule of Expenditure for 2022/2023**

Applicant	Amount of Grant
About the Town – office space for wheelchair users	£1,080
Lancashire Deaf Forum – Event at County Hall 20 June	£136.50
Braile IT – Running costs of the club	£1,000
Dance Syndrome – Running costs of the club	£1,260
Team, Rise – Costumes, props and promotional costs	£2,000
N Compass – Stall and interpreter at the UCLAN event	£345
Strive 2 Thrive – Series of workshops	£520
The Fairfield Association – Replace ability whirl roundabout	£1.500
Visually Impaired Children's Support – Christmas party	£400
Rosemary and Time CIC – Portable hearing loop	£500
TOTAL SPENT	£8,741.50



Champion for Mental Health County Councillor Stuart C Morris



Supporting Mental Health Groups in Lancashire: A Year of Dedication and Impact.

This report aims to document and highlight the significant contributions and support I have had the privilege to provide as Champion for Mental Health and Lancashire County Council to mental health groups in Lancashire, during 2022 - 2023. The dedication, compassion, in assisting those in need and organisations in their mission to enhance mental well-being and promote awareness within our community has been inspirational.

Throughout the year, I have actively volunteered my time and expertise to numerous mental health groups in Lancashire. The Council's commitment to community engagement has been instrumental in promoting mental health awareness and fostering a sense of belonging among those affected.

Examples of our involvement include:

We played an essential role in organising and facilitating support groups, providing a safe and inclusive space for individuals to share their experiences, find peace, and receive emotional support.

I attended workshops on various mental health topics, provided funding to equip groups with the knowledge and skills to identify early signs of mental health challenges and offering strategies for self-care.

With the help of our team at County and Dr. Sakthi Karunanithi (Director of Public Health for Lancashire) with initiative and creativity in helping fundraising events which contributed significantly to raising funds for mental health organizations. These funds enabled the groups to offer vital resources, counselling services, and mental health programs to those in need.

The tireless efforts in raising awareness about mental health issues have made a profound impact in the Lancashire community. By engaging in various advocacy



initiatives, such as the Lancashire Mental Health Partnership we have helped de-stigmatise mental health and encourage open conversations.

Some notable contributions include:

I shared my personal experiences and insights to foster understanding and empathy regarding mental health challenges.

We could though, use the power of media to raise awareness about mental health issues, highlight the work of local mental health groups, and share resources for support, which I feel we should do.

Also, we should use social media platforms to disseminate information, share inspiring stories, and promote mental health resources to reach a wider audience and engage individuals in meaningful conversations, especially the young who are more tech savvy. However, social media has caused many mental health issues within the young which we need to assess and give help to those who are affected by on-line bullying for instance.

We should also recognise the importance of collaboration, by actively using opportunities to partner with local organisations, healthcare providers, and government bodies. These partnerships will enhance the impact of mental health groups and create a cohesive network of support, my special thank you to our teams and Sakthi Karunanithi for all their hard work.

These collaborative projects between mental health groups, foster a collective effort to address mental health challenges. These projects aim to bridge gaps in services, increase access to resources, and promote cross-organization learning.

Through our networking skills, we have successfully engaged with stakeholders, including policymakers, to advocate for improved mental health services, policies, and increased funding for mental health initiatives in Lancashire.

Our unwavering commitment to supporting mental health groups in Lancashire, over the past year has had a significant and positive impact on the lives of many individuals. Through our volunteering efforts, advocacy, and collaborative initiatives, we have helped raise awareness, provided crucial support, and fostered a sense of community for those affected by mental health challenges. Our dedicated team serves as an inspiration and a shining example of how individuals can make a real difference in promoting mental well-being within their communities, of which I play a small role to the best of my ability.

Thank you

County Councillor Stuart Morris
Champion for Mental Health



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

Schedule of Expenditure for 2022/2023

Applicant	Amount of Grant
Bay Buddies – Health & Wellbeing programme	£2,000
0282 CIC Walk to Wellbeing project	£1,000
Carousel Music and Movement – Provide service for Hope Street Choir	£1,000
Dance Syndrome – Running costs of dance classes	£1,200
Kokni Muslim Association – Drop in centre	£1,000
TOTAL SPENT	£6,200



Champion for Older People

County Councillor Joan Burrows



To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members by advising on service issues across directorates which support active, independent and healthy lives for Older People.

This is my sixth year in the role as Lancashire County Council's Champion for Older People. A role that has provided me with a platform to promote a positive image of ageing and given me the privileged opportunity to get close to, and work closely with, Older People in their communities across Lancashire.

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 continue, and invest more time, in their hobbies and interest groups whilst others are looking for new interests and the opportunities to develop new skills and make new friends. Thankfully, in Lancashire, there are numerous groups providing activities to older people.

The groups that I have visited this year total fifty one (51) and have included Luncheon Clubs in Adlington, Pendle, Hesketh Bank, and Kelbrook and Sough; Coffee Mornings in Banks, Parbold and Leyland; Bowling Clubs in Walton le Dale and Hoole; Exercise Clubs - a great example being Nifty Fifties in North Meols, Friendship Clubs in Church and Oswaldtwistle, Salmesbury, Lostock Hall, Brindle, Lytham St Anne's, Cleveleys, Leyland, Lancaster and, a great example of reducing isolation and making new friends over coffee, the Talking Tables initiative which meets at cafes across South Ribble. Interest Groups are many and varied and worth mentioning are the Silver Surfers in Whalley, Knit and Natter Cafes in Preston and Leyland and the University of the Third Age (U3A) with groups across Lancashire. I have attended the meetings of Hyndburn Over 50's Forum, Pendle Seniors and Preston and District 50+ Group who continue to actively campaign with a number of members from the latter attending the annual National Pensioners Convention. In June 2023 the Convention will be held on our doorstep, in Blackpool. The aforementioned outlining some groups visited but, I hope, provides a flavour of the diversity of what's on offer in our County.

Alongside visits to groups, I have attended fourteen (14) events across the County. These have included the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, the Rotary Club of Garstang's launch of the booklet "Try Something New", the Stackshead Lantern Parade, UCLAN's Understanding Dementia Conference, Age Concern Central Lancashire's Annual Ball, the Hesketh Bank and Tarleton Helpers Age of Inspiration Event. The year also saw me attend a number of events celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Supporting our Authorities initiatives, I have assisted with the promotion of the LCC Pensioner Benefits Uptake Campaign and supported both the Postcards for Kindness and the Festive Cards for the Holiday Season initiatives. These are now in their fourth year and see more than 100 Care Homes sign up to take



part, a wonderful idea encouraging community spirit through the simple act of writing and sending a card.

As Champion for Older People, I am allocated a sum up to £10,000 per annum (2022/23 included an additional £2,500 brought forward from the previous year) 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. As a result of press releases and my efforts promoting the fund twenty-eight (28) groups have received grants this year totalling £11,978.50. Recipients have included some of the groups already mentioned with others such as Just Good Friends across Fylde, St Stephens in the Banks, the Salmesbury based A59 Club, Leyland Sporting Memories Group, Elevensies Community Lunch Whalley, Mandala Preston, the Homewise Society, Staksteads Countryside Park Group, Brindle Over 55's, The Pendle Club, Whalley Educational Foundation and the Blue Flamingo Cafe in Ashton on Ribble.

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 £444.00, can make a major difference to the work that they want to do and the lives of the people they support. Monies have supported contributions to percussion instruments, hot water heater, soup cauldrons, a visual dementia tour, lantern parade workshop materials, table tennis tables, cost of speakers, a PA system, crockery, production of a newsletter and art and craft materials.

Two civic events have been held in County Hall recognising the contribution Older People make in Lancashire. In May, to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth's 70-year reign, the Authorities Chairman and I hosted a Platinum Jubilee Big Tea and in October a Reception for Older People was held to celebrate the work of older volunteers who support their peer group. We were pleased to welcome 120 guests drawn from the groups I have visited across Lancashire.

I continue to welcome having the ear of senior decision makers in our Authority. I brief the Leader and Cabinet Members for Adult Services and Health and Well-being at given opportunities alongside Directors and Officers of these Directorates. 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. This year has also seen me sharing my knowledge gained with representatives of the Social Prescribing Unit/School of Health Sciences at UCLAN.

The position of Older People's Champion for Lancashire is a high-profile role. I have taken it very seriously. Restrictions that came with COVID are now all lifted, allowing me to get out and about again, talking and listening to Older People, something that I see as core to the work of a Champion. I have maintained links and forged new ones with groups that support Older People across the County. I really enjoy the informal chats and all comments made to me are fed back. 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



**County Councillor Joan Burrows
Champion for Older People
Schedule of Expenditure for 2022/2023**

Applicant	Amount of Grant
Just Good Friends – promotional materials	£600
St Stephens in the Banks – running costs of their coffee mornings	£300
Community Network and Outreach Service – Art and craft materials	£450
The A59 Club – hire of coach and meal for their trip to York	£400
North Meols Nifty 50's Sports Club – exercise instructor and equipment and new PA System	£1,000
Church and Oswaldtwistle Rotary club – coach hire	£395
Rosemary and Time CIC - percussion instruments	£150
Knitting café with Knit and Purl Jam - travel and refreshments	£234
St Mary Magdalen and St Teresa's Group - instant hot water heater	£350
Leyland Sporting Memories Group - tour of Manchester City FC	£362.50
Elevensies Community Lunch - Pie and Peas lunch	£390
West Lancashire Footpath Group - posters, leaflets, membership card and advertising	£300
West Lancashire Pensioners Forum - silver anniversary celebrations	£300
St Mary Magdalen and St Teresa's Group - soup cauldrons	£150
Mandala Preston CIC - Crafting and community sessions	£415
TOFFS - hire of bowling green, competitions and refreshments	£400
Homewise Society - Tea Party	£500
Hesketh Bank and Tarleton Helpers - production of newsletter	£400
Kelbrook Community Projects - hire of village hall and food for luncheon club	£500
The Pendle Club - new crockery	£400
The Blue Flamingo Café - Visual Dementia Tour	£840
Stacksteads Countryside Park Group - Lantern Parade	£500
Brindle Over 55's - Cost of speakers entertainment and room hire	£400
New Longton Social Club - recover snooker table	£528
Adlington Luncheon Club - Trip to Southport	£250
Whalley Educational Foundation - Silver Surfers Group	£864
St John's Community Hub - replace table tennis tables	£600
TOTAL SPENT	£11,978.50



Champion for Parishes County Councillor Paul Rigby



Hello all,

How time flies, the parishes can look forward to a stable setting now the recent local government elections are over. It is too soon to know how many Councillors their new positions on the Councils, getting to know new friends and perhaps remembering absent faces. Why are some Parish Councils struggling to recruit new Councillors, is it anything to do with Covid, are people more inward thinking? Is it something that may need studying further?

Back to my role as Champion for the Parishes, the full support of the Cabinet is much appreciated. Two more Parish and Town Council Conferences have been held in the last 12 months and were really well attended by Parish and Town Councillors from across the county. They were all quick to acknowledge the good work Lancashire County Council does in all areas of the County.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils had their Annual General Meeting in the afternoon of the spring conference, I thought it worked well with a seamless move to the Lancashire Association of Local Councils business. Working together this way will help Lancashire Association of Local Councils move forward on a budget they can sustain.

I did not quite spend all my Parish Champion budget last year; however, things are proceeding better this year. So, a big thank you to Cllr Williamson, Cllr Buckley and all the Cabinet for their support and help. Special thanks to the staff that do a wonderful job supporting our Parish and Town Council network, especially Alison and Janet. But thanks to all who help deliver the services of Lancashire County Council effectively.

Cllr Paul Rigby
Champion for the Parishes



County Councillor Paul Rigby – Champion for Parishes	
Schedule of Expenditure for 2022/2023	
Applicant	Amount of Grant
Old Laund Booth Parish Council – Ramp/lift at the Sports Pavilion	£600
Habergham Eaves Parish Council – Community project and notice boards	£400
Little Eccleston with Larbreck Parish Council – Solar powered and defibrillator cabinet	£600
Mellor Parish Council – installation of a defibrillator	£500
Parbold Parish Council – welcome signs	£400
Old Laund Booth Parish Council – Christmas party for the elderly	£400
Habergham Eaves Parish Council – seating and gardening equipment	£400
St Annes Town Council – Tulip bench	£500
Salesbury Parish Council – Christmas trees	£100
Wilpshire Parish Council – Christmas trees	£75
Newburgh Parish Council – speed indicator device system	£500
Coppull Parish Council – Picnic in the park	£500
Bolton le Sands Parish Council – outdoor static table tennis table	£385
Yealand Redmayne Parish Council – refurbish playground	£800
Upholland Parish Council – Bee friendly wildflower seeds	£190
Slaidburn and Easington Parish Council – Seating for the village green	£390
Mawdesley Parish Council – War memorial bench and 2d metal soldier	£200
Scarisbrick Parish Council – Metal flood supply cupboards	£500
TOTAL SPENT	£7,440



Champion for Young People County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe



I began my role as Lancashire's Champion for Young People at the beginning of December 2022 taking over from Councillor Scott Smith. This meant that I was only partially responsible for this financial year.

I granted 4 applications for funding during my tenure of this portion of the financial year. These were given to Vision Rossendale, St John's Community Hub, Stackstead Country Park and the Stem Club.

VISION Rossendale offer interventional mental health support for Primary Schools; they do not commit to a single school and deliver sessions for all children. This bolstering of young people's mental health is something I feel very passionate about. Often if a school is able to deliver wonderful education, mental health issues could hinder a young person fully engaging with that. A way of tackling mental health problems, building confidence and therefore engagement with subject delivery is invaluable and this £1000 grant will go a long way to seeing that happen. I am due to visit the next block of sessions delivered in a school in Rawtenstall in the near future.

St John's Community Hub applied for a seemingly very straightforward grant towards building improvements at their hub in Thornton, Cleveleys. On further exploration this hub provides a space for a great many different user groups. The funding is to be used for improvements to storage areas that help facilitate the different groups using the space. The grant also helps to insulate the building bringing down the running costs for all the groups concerned meaning their own fundraising facilities go much further. Building strong progression through the range of groups and activities offered at this location is what really caught my eye with this application. The fact a young person can engage in a group from being a toddler and progress through Brownies and cubs, dancing etc gives a lasting connection to their community and place.

Stacksteads Country Park applied for funding from the Young People's Champion fund and the Older People's Champion fund to support their lantern parade, this event has been running for a number of years and covers multiple facets. The culmination is a parade but the creation of lanterns happening through the year engages young people to be creative. As a creative person I often see the value in workshop and studio spaces for creative people to come together and inspire each other creatively so I am excited to join in the lantern making soon.

I was impressed by Stem Club having raised funding for the delivery of their activities around coding. This hybrid play learning for important engineering and data based knowledge is something that will surely grow in importance in the near future. The offer from Stem Club is around extracurricular activities in a geographic location where there is limited provision. Any young people wanting to engage in extracurricular activities should be encouraged, we readily support



sports subjects but this is not always the case with more academic or creative interests. The grant supports the group with a small amount of protective equipment and also a software license to enhance the learning process.

This short period of time as Young Peoples Champion has been one of fast learning and I have engaged with cabinet members for Children and Families and Education and Skills to understand the role in relation to their work.

I have engaged with the cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing as well as the director for public health, I have enjoyed these sessions immensely as we brainstorm around the way our roles overlap and drive ambitions for young people in relation to their health.

I have most enjoyed visiting local primary schools during a creative project delivered by the local BID and I am keen to explore further opportunities for young people by engaging with the business community across Lancashire. This is important in connection with the delivery of education, what's the point in learning if we don't know what we are working for? That would drive ambition!

I have visited Burnley College where I spoke with the Art and Design students about my own experience of Art & Design education and my subsequent career, a nice dovetail with my YPC role.

I was invited to Salmesbury Hall by West Lancashire Scouts to look at their exciting plans for redeveloping their facilities and it truly opened my eyes to the wealth of opportunity and activities delivered by the Scouts as a movement. A group I previously knew nothing about but one I see with fresh eyes.

I am continuing to reach out to different groups, and I am hoping to liaise very soon with Commando Rugby School who offer great forest school style learning.

Cllr Ash Sutcliffe
Champion for Young People



**County Councillor Ashley Sutcliffe
Champion for Young People
Schedule of Expenditure for 2022/2023**

Applicant	Amount of Grant
SafeNet – New laptops for homework sessions	£960
The Rotary Clun U12's Football – Assist with tournament costs	£500
Community Network and Outreach Service – provision for youth club activities meal	£1,000
Safenet – transport and packed lunches for family outings	£1,010
Clitheroe Dolphins Swimming Club – Coaching sessions	£900
Rochdale (Whitworth) 41 st Scout Group – replacement of disabled/emergency doors	£1,100
Bacup Natural History Society – Halloween and Christmas parties for low income families	£350
Rotary Club of Preston South – Youth speaks competition	£600
VISION Rossendale – Wellbeing sessions	£1,000
St John's Community Hub – Storage facilities	£1,000
Stacksteads County Park – Lantern Parade	£500
Stem Club – Android Tablets, protection and cases	£324
TOTAL SPENT	£9,244

