

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)**



**DATE: MONDAY 15 DECEMBER 2014**  
**LEAD OFFICER: LAURA THURLOW, DEPUTY DIRECTOR**  
**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SURREY**

**SUBJECT: THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SURREY**

**DIVISION: ALL**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Summary of the work of the Community Foundation for Surrey, in raising the level of funding available locally, for distribution to local communities and individuals in need.

This includes:

- Funds established through philanthropic giving in Surrey;
- 'Surrey Uncovered' report and ongoing research into local community needs;
- Surrey Flood Recovery Appeal; and
- Current initiative to establish a Spelthorne Community Fund.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to note :**

- (i) the report for information.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Community Foundation's work to inspire local philanthropy and build permanent resources is centred upon improving the lives of people across the county.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

1.1 This item is for information.

1.2 The Community Foundation for Surrey (CFS) was established in 2005 with the aim of helping those in need by strengthening and supporting local communities. It is an independent charitable trust and an accredited member of a national network of UK Community Foundations – one of the fastest growing philanthropic movements in the United Kingdom.

1.3 The Foundation's mission is to inspire local giving for local need and the charity works working with individuals and businesses who want to support their local communities and see their money make a difference.

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- 1.4 Since CFS was established 9 years ago, the Foundation has successfully built endowment funds of over £8.7million and awarded grants across the county totalling more than £4.5million.

### **2. ANALYSIS:**

#### **Funds established through philanthropic giving**

- 2.1 CFS has a growing programme of local Donor-advised Funds and the Foundation's professional team provides a bespoke service for each Donor – connecting them to local voluntary groups and projects within their respective areas of interest and giving objectives.

There are also collective funds, where a number of donors come together to support local communities, or particular issues/themes.

- 2.2 From this programme of local funds, CFS awards grants to local charities and voluntary groups at a grassroots level across the width of community need. This includes supporting facilities for young people, sports equipment, reducing isolation for older citizens, improving community facilities, projects for the disabled and more.

Small grants are also awarded to individuals with a disability to overcome barriers to employment, and to enable disadvantaged young people to access training and employment.

All of these grants are made possible through philanthropic giving.

#### **'Surrey Uncovered' research into local community needs**

- 2.3 CFS' research report, 'Surrey Uncovered' and a bespoke section on the Surrey-i website, created in partnership with Surrey County Council, highlight the real local need within Surrey and provide a powerful case for increasing local philanthropy.

The Foundation's ongoing research also enables CFS' grants to be focused upon tackling known community needs and providing support to the most vulnerable and isolated people across Surrey.

#### **Surrey Flood Recovery Appeal**

- 2.4 In addition to the Foundation's ongoing work with local Donors and programme of grant-making, CFS launched the Surrey Flood Recovery Appeal in response to the significant local need among those communities in the county which were affected by the flooding last winter.

Donations to the Appeal totalled in excess of £177,000, including support from Surrey residents, local businesses, charities and local authorities.

- 2.5 The funding raised through the Appeal has, and is, providing financial assistance to voluntary organisations in flood-affected communities as follows:

- Enabling the continuation of services to vulnerable people including older people's lunch clubs, befriending schemes and other community services and activities, particularly to support vulnerable people;
- Providing information, advice, counselling and other support and community service to help people cope with the emotional stress caused by the flooding in the short and medium term;
- Repairing and restoring well-used community facilities which have been flood-damaged (in the absence of other available funding – such as through Sport England, or through insurance);
- Supporting local communities to develop future resilience.

In addition, funds have also supported individuals affected by the flooding, to ease their immediate difficulties and aid in their recovery. This form of financial assistance has been distributed through a partnership between CFS and local Citizens Advice Bureaux in flood-affected areas.

### **Initiative to establish a Spelthorne Community Fund**

2.6 CFS has awarded grants totalling £240,000 into the Borough of Spelthorne, which represents 5% of the Foundation's overall grant-making since establishing. In recognition of this under-representation, and in response to the Foundation having to date no Donors located in the Borough, CFS is launching a new initiative – to establish a Spelthorne Community Fund.

The intention is to provide local communities in the Borough with a sustainable source of funding that will, over time, make a significant contribution to meeting the needs of community and voluntary groups in Spelthorne.

A local Fund for Spelthorne would be able to tackle some of the key issues locally and meet community needs throughout the Borough.

2.7 The Fund will be established within CFS and driven by a local 'Spelthorne Community Fund Panel' consisting of local representatives, with support and help from CFS. The panel will work to inspire philanthropy, build donations and make grant awards to local community and voluntary groups that are tackling community needs.

2.8 CFS is currently seeking Founding Donors to support this initiative, as well as contacts and connections across the Borough.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

Not appropriate for this report.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 CFS Chairman, David Frank and Deputy Director, Laura Thurlow have consulted with Assistant Chief Executive of Spelthorne Borough Council, Liz Borthwick and Cllr Jean Pinkerton, who are supportive of this initiative.

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- 4.2 Work is currently underway to establish a local Spelthorne Community Fund Panel with local representatives to take this initiative forward, following which meetings will begin with local business and individuals to engage Founding Donors to the Fund.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

Not appropriate for this report.

### **6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

Not appropriate for this report.

### **7. LOCALISM:**

- 7.1 As noted above, the intention in establishing the Spelthorne Community Fund is to provide local communities in the Borough with a sustainable source of funding that will, over time, make a significant contribution to meeting the needs of community and voluntary groups in Spelthorne.

A local Fund for Spelthorne would be able to tackle some of the key issues locally and meet community needs throughout the Borough.

### **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

### **9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 9.1 Voluntary groups and those in need of grant funding – to contact the Community Foundation for Surrey's Grants Team to enquire about the possibility of funding available to support their needs.
- 9.2 Suggested contacts and connections in the Borough, including potential Founding Donors and individuals who may wish to join the Spelthorne Community Fund Panel which is being formed – to contact Laura Thurlow, Deputy Director at the Community Foundation for Surrey.

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

10.1 An update on progress can be provided at a future meeting, if desirable.

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**Contact Officer:**

Laura Thurlow, Deputy Director, Community Foundation for Surrey  
01483 409230

**Consulted:**

Cllr Richard Walsh  
Cllr Jean Pinkerton  
Liz Borthwick, Spelthorne Borough Council  
Terry Collier, Spelthorne Borough Council  
Joanne Jones, Spelthorne Borough Council

**Annexes:**

Surrey Flood Recovery Appeal – Interim Report  
Spelthorne Community Fund – Proposal

**Sources/background papers:**

'Surrey Uncovered', Community Foundation for Surrey, 2013 – Available:  
<http://www.cfsurrey.org.uk/surreyuncovered>

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