

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16



**Peter Taylor**  
Chairman

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF LANCASHIRE

CHARITY NO: 702233 COMPANY NO: 333713

### Message from the Chairman — Peter Taylor

It is my pleasure once again to introduce Community Futures' Annual Report. The continued success of any organisation lies in its staff and Community Futures is no exception; under the innovative leadership of Denise Partington our staff ensure that our services are of high quality and reach all parts of the community of Lancashire. On behalf of my fellow trustees I offer them my sincere thanks and appreciation.

Community Futures is a very different organisation to what it was 10 or even 5 years ago and it's this skill to be able to change which has ensured our very survival over the past few turbulent years. The 'jewel in our crown' has to be our developing work with children through our Early Years Support of Pre School, Holiday, Breakfast and After School Clubs. It is no exaggeration to say that trustees are often astonished to hear of the work undertaken and the sheer numbers of children benefitting. Whilst this is a completely new direction for us in recent years, it is more of a coincidental return to our original roots and our establishment in 1934.

Those of you who were present at last year's AGM will be aware that our former chair and vice-president David Tattersall tendered his resignation pending his move to Gloucester. His position being refilled immediately by the unanimous election of Frank McGinty, our newly retired Finance Director.

The trustees have met and complied with all the requirements and obligations of the Charity Commission and Companies House. A full copy of our annual report and accounts will be available on the Commission's website in the near future. Your trustees and our president Lady Shuttleworth, are actively involved with the organisation throughout the year. Meetings are lively and very well attended and I must record my thanks to my fellow trustees for their support, encouragement, commitment and good humour at all times. We are always looking to recruit new trustees to fully reflect the community we serve, if you are at all interested please contact Denise Partington who will be more than happy to supply you with further details.

#### Inside this issue:

CEO report & financial Information	2
Purposes, Mission Statement & Strategies	3
Business Support, Childcare & Community Development	4
Training, Grant Panels, Funding, Governance, Village SOS	5
Public Benefit	6 & 7
Trustees, Staff & Partnerships	8

### Message from the Chief Executive — Denise Partington



The key word of the year is Change. I always try to look at change as a positive thing – an opportunity to review the way I work but also to take risks and work outside my comfort zone. That said, I started this year with some trepidation. We had to re-structure roles to ensure that strategic and operational management was robust enough to cope with the increase in child care services and ensure that we had the skills to do it. Never shy of a challenge, I am pleased to say we rose to it valiantly

Another challenge this year has been to be more visible – get out and about more! I was pleased to be elected to the Executive Board of South Ribble Voluntary Community and Faith Sector Network and have enjoyed working with some incredibly dedicated people to ensure that people in South Ribble are fully engaged in their communities. Also, Community Futures now sponsors the Ribble Valley Business Awards – a wonderful opportunity to lend our support to some extremely innovative and rewarding community businesses.

I hope you enjoy this report. It contains a flavour of the work that we do for and with the people of Lancashire and we are proud to present it to you, our members, for your approval. It represents the work of very dedicated trustees, staff, members and volunteers, all of whom continue to give their very best. They have my sincere thanks.



### Financial Information

The trustees confirm that this summary is extracted from the full accounts, which were approved by the trustees on the 1st July 2015. **Copies of full accounts are available on request.**

Income	£	Expenditure	£	Balance Sheet	£
Community Projects	253,252	Community Projects	280,216	Fixed assets	323,986
Childcare Activities	511,981	Childcare Activities	343,956	Current assets	120,427
Investment Income	446			Creditors	(16,767)
				Pension Liability	(205,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>745,679</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>624,172</b>	<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>337,000</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>£337,000</b>		

## Purposes

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the communities in Palatine County of Lancashire and elsewhere (hereinafter called the area of benefit) primarily but not exclusively by the advancement of education, research, development, advocacy and training, the protection and enhancement of the environment, the preservation of good health, the relief of sickness and relief of those in necessitous circumstances.

## Mission Statement

"Community Futures aims to promote and develop social, economic, cultural and community activity in Lancashire, working with voluntary groups and in partnership with public authorities".

## Strategies

This year the Trustees and Management Staff have worked to the following strategies:

1. Continued provision of excellent, high standard services and resources to meet the needs of resident partners at Brentwood House remains a priority
2. Further extension and development of childcare provision in line with educational purposes
3. Provision of good quality advice on governance, charity registration, training, funding, strategic planning, property management and service development across the county
4. Continued financial support to organisations through payroll and accounting activity
5. Continued advocacy work through business support to various groups
6. Continued development of work undertaken through various grants, contracts and service level agreements
7. Promotion of energy efficiency. Learning about renewable energy systems and solutions is fundamental in helping de-carbonise the UK. We have a very proud history of working with community groups across the community creating more sustainable and secure energy systems and solutions with the ultimate goal of improving the environment and improving the sustainability and improving the sustainability and viability of community buildings
8. Continued work with VCFS organisations to ensure sustainability, good governance principles and meeting local need remains key to the work of Community Futures
9. Full cost recovery as a principle of good business





## Business Support

Payroll and other office services continue to be an area of growth within the organisation with more and more voluntary bodies needing cut costs and seek alternative ways of providing these their services. By building up a strong clientele we are able to offer services at a competitive price than could be purchased in the private sector which helps groups to be (a) more viable, (b) have more funding to achieve their core aims and (c) look to their own long term sustainability.

*'The best teachers are those who show you were to look, but don't tell you what to see.'*

## Childcare



Yet again this has proved to be another very successful year in terms of childcare. More childcare settings have been taken on and integrated into our working processes. Staff have welcomed the challenge and have undertaken a variety of courses, both mandatory and discretionary, to extend the quality of each provision and ensure high standards of childcare are provided. We now cater for babies up to 11 year old children and are established throughout Lancashire delivering nursery, pre school, out of school and holiday club provision. More details about each setting can be found on our website.



## Jigsaw Nursery

## Community Development

Community Futures has been directly involved in assisting 7 localities to develop their neighbourhood plans, offering advice and guidance where required and offering to undertake data analysis of results from questionnaires. By working closely with each area, all in different locations across the county of Lancashire, we have been able to ensure that communities can positively engage with local authorities to develop strategies that contribute to thriving and vibrant neighbourhoods. In addition, we continued to support other on-going projects both in Lancashire and in other locations to ensure sustainability and ability to meet continuing and growing need in the present economic climate.



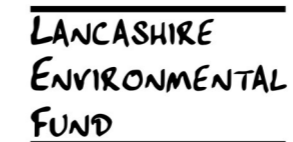


## Training

A further 21 people were trained across Lancashire , bringing the overall total to over 60 agents across the county proactively working to bring about positive change. This was made possible through an Lancashire County Council funded One Lancashire programme of activity. In addition, 14 bespoke training packages were delivered to a variety of organisations of differing sizes, experience and ability. Each of these groups has gone on to become more robust and better able to plan for their future sustainability in the short, medium and longer terms.

## Grant Panels

During the last financial year staff and trustees at Community Futures has continued to offer support administered or contributed to various grant panels to aid and assist those most in need across Palatine Lancashire. The most notable of these are the following:-



Ashton Stepping Stones

Brentwood House Trust

Lancashire Environmental Fund

## Funding and Governance

Over the reporting period Community Futures has continued to develop and grow its advice and guidance in respect of governance and funding. This has resulted in over 150 organisations receiving assistance to update, interpret and overhaul their governance structures. Of those, 27 have achieved full charity status and the majority have also gone on to secure external funding to develop their organisations or projects. A vast number of activities were completed through the One Lancashire CISP Project.

## Village SOS Project

Work has continued over the year in respect of the Village SOS Project reported on at last year's AGM. Unfortunately timescales and manpower have meant this has been a slowing moving element of our work. At the end of the reporting year we had received over 6 referrals from across Lancashire and work is underway, in one form or another, to try to assist these organisations to develop and meet the needs of their beneficiaries.



## **Public Benefit**

Over the past 12 months Community Futures has endeavoured to ensure that it has met the public benefit principles set down by the Charity Commission. These are present in this Annual Report as follows:-

### **PRINCIPLE 1: There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits**

#### **Principle 1a: Definition:**

It must be clear what the benefits are

#### **Activities Undertaken:**

The benefits from this year's activities have included the following:-

Skills training for staff, particularly in childcare areas of the business to improve their skills and to continue their professional development; assisting groups to meet legislative and other requirements; assisting organisations to secure funding for their continued sustainability to meet community need; undertaking various pieces of work with groups to ensure the protection and enhancement of the environment which has included energy audits, Entrust registrations and project management work on behalf of some groups; the management of various funding pots established to relieve need, sickness and conditions of distress.

#### **Principle 1b: Definition:**

The benefits must be related to the aims

#### **Activities Undertaken:**

All the above mentioned benefits tie into the objects of Community Futures as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association on which governs the organisation.

#### **Principle 1c: Definition:**

Benefits must be balanced against any detriment or harm

#### **Activities Undertaken:**

No detriment or harm has been identified but a regular review of work programmes against objects and risks has been undertaken over the past reporting year to ensure this is the case. This is particularly relevant in respect of the childcare activities undertaken where safeguarding of those trusted to our care is of paramount importance.

## Public Benefit (continued)



### PRINCIPLE 2: Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public

#### Principle 2a: Definition:

The beneficiaries must be appropriate to the aims

#### Activities Undertaken:

The aims of Community Futures have always been and continue to be very wide. This is to ensure the most number of people and groups can benefit from the range of activities which have been conducted in any year. This is the same for this reporting year. During the year Community Futures has targeted groups and individuals to assist in various ways described in Principle 1.

#### Principle 2b: Definition:

Where benefit is to a section of the public, the opportunity to benefit must not be unreasonably restricted (a) by geographical or other restrictions; or (b) by ability to pay any fees charged

#### Activities Undertaken:

The benefits of the organisation are available to all groups and individuals in all locations, primarily but not exclusively Lancashire. Events this year have been held in various geographical locations to ensure maximum attendance and have been free of charge.

#### Principle 2c: Definition:

People in poverty must not be excluded from the opportunity to benefit

#### Activities Undertaken:

During the year Community Futures has worked closely with parents, guardians and carers to ensure all children can access the services provided under childcare activity. Training sessions where a charge has been levied have been kept to a minimum to cover room hire and tutor costs other training events have also been provided free of charge on a first come first served basis.

#### Principle 2d: Definition:

Any private benefits must be incidental

#### Activities Undertaken:

There are no private benefits



## Quality as Standard



### Staff 2015-16

#### Head Office

Denise Partington - CEO  
Mark Gutteridge - Business/Finance  
Donna Carney - Community  
Finlay Hodge - Community  
Heather Paton - Payroll  
Marion Bolton - Administration  
Sophie Woodruff - Administration  
Rachel Booth - Administration

**Childcare staff are listed in the accompanying child care report activity**

### Trustees 2015-16

Peter Taylor—Chairman  
Ismail Hasham—Treasurer  
Mike Otter—Vice Chairman  
Margaret McLeod  
Gordon Harter  
County Cllr Albert Atkinson  
Susan Hughes OBE

### Partners 2015-16

Brockholes Wood Primary school  
Burscough Bridge Methodist School  
Disability Equality North West  
Independent Community Advocacy Network North (ICANN)  
Lancashire Association of Village and Community Halls  
Lancashire BME Network  
Lancashire County Council  
Lancashire Environmental Fund  
Lancashire LGBT  
Lancaster Health and Wellbeing Partnership  
Morecambe Bay Health Trust  
One Lancashire  
Preston Pride  
St Leonard's C of E School, Langho  
South Ribble VCFS Network  
The Roebuck Primary School

**With many thanks to all our members, partners and other stakeholders for your continued support during the last financial year**

#### We're on the Web:

[www.communityfutures.org.uk](http://www.communityfutures.org.uk)

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF LANCASHIRE

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