

SIX NUMBER BIG LOTTERY FUND GRANT
FOR BLACKPOOL, WYRE AND FYLDE
COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Voluntary Community and Faith organisations in Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde are to benefit from a bumper half million pound boost from a BIG Lottery Fund grant.

Lottery chiefs have just announced that the Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), has been granted £498,868 over five years to significantly increase the support it currently provides.

The lottery grant will enable the CVS to recruit new members of staff. Their role will be to support Voluntary, Community and Faith sector organisations, through outreach work in the delivery of training with their future development including governance, funding issues, sustainability and charity law.

A total of 38 organisations across England will share £15.4 million in awards from the Big Lottery Fund's BASIS programme in this round of funding that will help voluntary groups and charities to deliver a better service.

Chief Officer of Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde CVS, David Keylock, said: "We are delighted because this money will significantly improve the service we are able to offer.

Chairman of Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde CVS, George Holden, said: "Voluntary and Community groups are unsung heroes that put in a lot of hard work with little recognition. This funding means we can make a real difference to the level of help and support we can give them.

"CVS is the voice for the voluntary and community sector and we represent over 500 groups across the Fylde Peninsula region and beyond. We play a key role in Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements which shape major decisions."

The funding from the Big Lottery will enable CVS to employ two new members of staff who are based in the community – one in Blackpool and the other serving Wyre and Fylde. A part time office-based administrator will also be employed.

The outreach workers will ensure that previously hard-to-reach and newly formed organisations have access to the support services that this project will provide.

Sanjay Dighe, Chair of the Big Lottery Fund England Committee, said: “The BASIS programme is providing funding to a diverse range of organisations to build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector, making it better equipped to help people from all walks of life. Working at national, regional or local levels, the funded projects are expanding the skills and capabilities of the sector, ensuring organisations can be even more successful in achieving their goals.”

ENDS

Issued on behalf of

The Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Council for Voluntary Service

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Note to editors

The work of the CVS covers four main areas:

Development - of the local voluntary and community sector

Services - to local voluntary and community organisations

Liaise - between these organisations

Representation - both direct and indirect, of local voluntary and community sector views and needs to various bodies and agencies