



About Northern Rock Foundation

Northern Rock Foundation is a charity and company limited by guarantee with an independent Board of Trustees that makes all decisions on governance, finance and policy. Our aims are to tackle disadvantage and improve quality of life in North East England and Cumbria. We do this by investing money, time and expertise in charitable activities using several tools including grants, loans, training, research and demonstration work. We gather and share learning from the activities we fund and, where appropriate, we seek to inform and influence wider policies and practice. Our work is carried out by a professional staff team of 13 based in Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Foundation was established when Northern Rock demutualised in 1997. Up to December 2007, the bank gave, by covenant, 5% of its annual pre-tax profits to the Foundation, totalling more than £190 million. The Foundation will receive a minimum of £15 million a year in 2008, 2009 and 2010 from Northern Rock, as part of the arrangement under which the bank was taken into temporary public ownership. Maintaining this arrangement is a condition of any sale of the bank in that period. The Government has asked the bank's board to identify a viable long-term future for the Foundation.

This review includes a summary of the Foundation's accounts for 2007. A full set of our audited accounts is available from our office, or on the Foundation's website.

Information about our current grant programmes and other activities is shown on page 56; further information is available on our website, or by contacting our office.

Contacts

Northern Rock Foundation

The Old Chapel

Woodbine Road

Gosforth

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE3 1DD

Tel: 0191 284 8412

Fax: 0191 284 8413

Minicom: 0191 284 5411

Email: generaloffice@nr-foundation.org.uk

Website: www.nr-foundation.org.uk

*Cover image: North East Community Forests, funded under Strong and Healthy Communities (see page 12).
© Simon Veit-Wilson*



Contents

About Northern Rock Foundation	inside cover
Chairman's statement	2
Foundation Director's review of the year	4
Programmes	
■ Money and Jobs	6
■ Independence and Choice	10
■ Strong and Healthy Communities	12
■ Building Positive Lives	14
■ Safety and Justice	16
■ Culture and Heritage	18
■ Better Buildings	22
Policy and influence	24
VCS Training and Development	26
Special initiative: tackling reoffending	28
Staff matched giving	29
2007 approved grants, commissions and loans	30
2007 grant analysis	48
2007 summary financial statements	52
Trustees and staff	54
Programmes and activities from 2008	56

Chairman's statement

Northern Rock Foundation has established itself as a major source of support for the many, many projects, charitable in nature and outside the scope of mainstream statutory services, which set out to transform our quality of life in North East England and Cumbria. It has enabled thousands of people, often in an unpaid capacity, to pursue their individual ambitions to make these better places.



Alastair Balls

Many of these projects are now visible, from refurbished village halls to grand artistic venues, from reclaimed gardens to re-roofed castles. But many more are less obvious, in the form of social justice: projects which help the less well-off members of our society – the excluded, disabled people and those

who struggle to achieve their independence and a better sense of their own self worth; and schemes to help those who wrestle with mental health problems, debt, addictions or abuse of one kind or another, repeated periods of imprisonment or simply difficulty in finding and holding down a job. In the North East particularly, where massive physical and economic change has taken place leaving many communities dislocated and individuals displaced, help to overcome these difficulties is essential. We have seen this as our challenge.

The Foundation also believes it has a duty to bring the facts about these challenges to the surface, and to disseminate our experience – often hard won – of the good and the not-so-good ways of tackling them. Recently, we have done this in relation to rehabilitation measures for ex-offenders, assistance for victims of

domestic abuse, management of credit unions, and care and treatment of the elderly with dementia. Where appropriate, we have taken these findings up with local agencies, and sometimes with government departments nationally. Occasionally, the work of the Foundation has won awards for its boldness and innovation.

The sine qua non of all this has been the far-sighted generosity of Northern Rock plc, unique in its scale, which covenanted, from its beginning, 5% of pre-tax profits to an independent foundation to work for the betterment of the area. My fellow Trustees and I would also wish to recognise the skill, talent and dedication of our Director, Fiona Ellis, and our whole staff team, in initiating and developing a programme of this scale, breadth, depth and imagination. The Foundation now has a fund of knowledge and experience in this field second to none, something recognised nationally amongst other well-known names in the field of social philanthropy.

Towards the end of 2007, much of this appeared to hang in the balance for reasons well known to everyone. In the spirit of our benefactor's wishes, the Trustees had spent largely as we received and our reserves were limited. Hence we were forced to substantially reduce the level of our grant-making in 2008. In February 2008,

the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the Government's decision to take Northern Rock into temporary public ownership. As part of the arrangement, the Chancellor said that the Foundation would be guaranteed to receive from Northern Rock a minimum of £15 million a year in 2008, 2009 and 2010. He also said that the bank's new board would be expected to identify a viable long-term future for us. For the sake of the region and the beneficiaries of Foundation grants, we are very pleased that provision has been made to enable us to continue our work, albeit at a much reduced level, for the next three years and beyond.

But in recognising the value of that continuing provision from Northern Rock's new directors and owners, we would also offer grateful thanks for the tremendous foresight and commitment of the bank's founders, Board members and staff, who, over 10 years, made such a huge investment in charitable causes via the Foundation. Northern Rock plc was consistently one of the top corporate givers in the UK, and that generosity should never be forgotten.

Personal development at SHAID in County Durham, funded under Building Positive Lives (p15). © Simon Veit-Wilson



Foundation Director's review of the year

It is absolutely inevitable that all views of the Foundation in 2007 are coloured by the last four months of the year. But it would be wrong to dwell exclusively on those difficult times, particularly since there is now a resolution to Northern Rock's situation which ensures a future for us. So, in this Annual Review, I would like to draw your attention to some of the successes in the year and to the fact that, at the end of 2007, we celebrated 10 years and over £160 million of investment in the voluntary and community sector.



Fiona Ellis

We began the year full of optimism and enthusiasm. Our Trustees had agreed a new way of working that would allow us to support and develop grant-holders who needed extra help, and work with more confident grant-holders using joint influence and experience to promote the value and achievements

of the sector. We decided to capitalise on our independence to commission more research and we planned to use publications, advocacy and networking to drive home some of the most important policy and practice findings arising out of 10 years' investing in the sector. What is more, thanks to the success of Northern Rock plc and to prudent house-keeping by successive Boards of Trustees, we could do this properly. Of course, we all know that money alone does not solve problems – though it certainly helps. Our true wealth has always been the intellectual and social capital we get from working with fantastically inventive, dogged and resilient voluntary sector leaders and workers. The combination of our resources and our sector colleagues' expertise made us excited about what might be achieved in the coming years.

In September, however, everything changed. We were forced to review and to re-budget. We cut back on some planned expenditure, mainly in the areas of experiment and development we had planned. Yet we still spent over £22 million in the year – a very considerable sum in any grant-maker's book.

Despite having to curtail expected spend towards the end of the year, the Trustees still took some bold steps. They recognised that plans for our proposed research on the scale and dynamics of the voluntary sector were far advanced. There was a general acknowledgement that this would be a critical contribution to the sector's health locally and nationally. It could therefore form part of a tremendous legacy that the Foundation could give, no matter what our own eventual fate. The research has several aims, not least of which is to create a template for the use of all regions who want to chart the third sector and its continuing development.

For 2008, we took a cautious view, which until we knew more about our future, was wise. But despite the reduction in our grants budget to an initial £7 million, now to be £11 million, in the light of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement in February, there is much to celebrate. Although we have had to close some programmes, our policy of giving multi-year

grants means that Foundation-funded work will continue in many areas. Some of our special initiatives also go on; their evaluations will eventually emerge in our new research series *Think*.

Nevertheless, the Trustees are stewards of charitable money and, at the beginning of 2008, had to make some very hard decisions about reducing staffing to reflect our changed circumstances. Reluctantly, we have had to say goodbye to some of our excellent people: Pete Barrett, Anne Burleigh, Sara Clark, Sarah Curran, Wendy DGLISH, Pauline Johnson, Susan Leonard, Ruth Mansfield, Hannah Stapley, Sue Vaughan, Jo Woolley and Susan Young. We hope that others will take advantage and snap them up – their experience, skill and congeniality should not be wasted. Others – Anji Sowerby and Helen Sutcliffe – have already taken up new challenges. The saddest news, though, came earlier in 2007, when one of our longest-standing staff members, Carole Rock, died following an illness. We remember her with tremendous fondness.

It has been a difficult last few months, but we have been buoyed up by the extraordinary kindness, compassion and unselfishness of grant-holders and friends. Spontaneous displays of support in newspapers, letters and campaigns to MPs et al have heartened us all enormously. We cannot thank you enough. As grant-makers we always like to think we have partnering, trusting and mutually helpful relationships with grant-holders; if we ever doubted it then your response to our problems tells us what great colleagues you are and what true partners.

... and though

*We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are,
we are –*

*One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.*

Alfred, Lord Tennyson – Ulysses

Who cares if Tennyson is an unfashionable old Victorian poet! His Ulysses fits the temper of our times here at the Foundation. Our resources are not what they were but our appetite and our desire to be of use is just as it was. Whatever we have, we will use to achieve the same social purposes we have always pursued.

Blackwell Sailing engages people with learning disabilities, funded under Independence and Choice (p10). © David Hall



Money and Jobs

Research has shown that in the most deprived areas, money that comes in often flows straight out again because economic activity is at such a low level. Northern Rock Foundation has long believed that it is important to encourage initiatives which address this challenge. In simple terms, that means funding projects which attract money into an area and keep it there. Money comes into a community as payments for goods and services, as wages, as grants or welfare benefits. The rate at which it 'leaks out' can be reduced by providing a range of things locally: goods and services, affordable financial services and support for enterprise.

It was the Foundation's first Chairman, Reay Atkinson, who began our investment in local economic renewal. As the former head of the DTI in the region, he understood the levels of poverty that had arisen with the demise of coal mining. Following his lead, the Foundation's Trustees took the decision in 1999 to invest £1 million to support innovative approaches to enterprise generation and to address barriers to social inclusion in the region's former coalfield communities.

The Coalfields Programme was received with scepticism by some of the more world weary. What could this new Foundation know about the struggle that had gone on within these communities? However, by August 1999, the Foundation had received applications totalling over £4.5 million and, by the end of the year, Trustees had made grants worth £1,204,159.

The success of the Coalfields Programme led to the introduction of the Urban and Rural Regeneration Programme in 2000. This ran for over two years and awarded around £7 million. The Foundation was able to take advantage of new Charity Commission guidelines on

regeneration introduced at the time to broaden its role as a champion of local economic renewal. And following reviews in 2002 and 2006, the Foundation's Trustees maintained their interest in the field through the Money and Jobs programme, launched in 2003, which has been gradually honed to focus on those interventions which have shown themselves to be most effective.

Development trusts are a good example. These locally led regeneration organisations provide a dynamic vehicle to enable communities to manage regeneration initiatives at a ground level. Grants made by the Foundation have helped to establish new development trusts in some of our most deprived urban communities. In addition, the Foundation supported the continuing growth of development trusts in rural communities in County Durham and Northumberland. The growth in the number of rural development trusts in Northumberland has been recognised by the Northumberland Strategic Partnership which now has a representative from their number sitting as a permanent member.

*Easington Youthbuild Partnership in County Durham.
© Simon Veit-Wilson*





*Debbie Lamb of the DTA with Peter Kay of the Ouseburn Development Trust in Newcastle.
© Simon Veit-Wilson*

Support for development trusts continued in 2007. The Trustees awarded £96,985 over three years to The Fawside Foundation, based in Allendale in Northumberland. Deneholme is a large Edwardian building set in five acres of grounds on the outskirts of the village. It used to be run as an outdoor centre by Northumberland County Council. Unfortunately, cutbacks forced the council to close the facility. In response, Fawside took over Deneholme, and with the support of Tynedale Council, it raised sufficient funds for its purchase and refurbishment. The Foundation's award will enable Fawside to market the venue to ensure that it continues to bring visitors' money into the local economy.

Three years ago, the Foundation made its largest single award under the Money and Jobs Programme to the Acumen Community

Enterprise Development Trust. The brainchild of Kate Welch OBE, Acumen has grown rapidly from its base in east Durham. Today it employs 80 people and has a turnover of around £3.5 million. Kate recognised that there was a need to create an organisation that would act as a link between the local community and the myriad government initiatives trying to get people back into work in the area. Building on its success, Acumen has also branched out into other areas, including housing for those in need.

In December 2007, the Foundation made a further award of £140,300 to Acumen on behalf of Easington Youthbuild Partnership (EYP). Other members of the Partnership include Accent North East, Centrepont, Easington and Horden Neighbourhood Pathfinder and Easington District Council. This project's origins date back to 2005, when Centrepont published the report of a year-long action research project involving 550 of the most disengaged young people in Derwentside and Easington, County Durham. As part of the research, they were presented with a number of options for increasing the affordable housing available to young people. The study concluded that the most useful solution would be one which combined housing with skills development. Following the research, a feasibility study was carried out which concluded that there were insufficient training opportunities for young people interested in learning various building trades. The feasibility study also looked at where the scheme might be based. Easington was chosen because of the levels of need and because of ACEDT's strong reputation.

A steering group was formed which became a formal partnership in March 2007. The partnership's proposal is to lease eight properties from Accent Housing for three years on a peppercorn rent. Over the period, the houses

will be renovated by young people as part of a wider training programme which will also include help with basic skills if necessary. At the end of the programme, the young person will be helped into an apprenticeship with a building firm. And, when renovated, the houses will be rented to young people in housing need, with support provided by Centrepoint.

The Foundation also supports the Development Trusts Association (DTA), which works hard to support members locally and to promote development trusts at a national policy level – aims it has in common with us. In 2007, the Foundation made a three-year award for the DTA to continue to employ regional staff in the North East and a second three-year award to support new and existing organisations in Cumbria.

Over the last eight years, the Foundation has funded many voluntary organisations to provide benefits advice. In 2007, the Foundation made grants totalling over £750,000 for services in Northumberland, Sunderland, Teesside and Cumbria. A good illustration is the award of £134,286 over three years to Citizens Advice Allerdale to base advice workers in various

GP practices. As a result, the organisation will be able to respond to increased numbers of enquiries and help more people to secure the benefits to which they are entitled.

Since 1999, the Foundation has worked with many voluntary organisations to help disadvantaged people find work, set up in business, reduce their debts and regenerate their neighbourhood. The Foundation has also supported locally led regeneration organisations to develop enterprises, generate income and build community-owned assets. We did so because Trustees recognised that it was important to put money in the pockets, ambition in the sights and opportunities in the way of people who have not had them. At the end of 2007, the Trustees took the very difficult decision to close the Money and Jobs programme. The issue of worklessness is now a Government priority, as is financial inclusion. Over the last eight years, the Foundation has led the way in supporting local communities to tackle the problems they face. We hope that others will recognise the value of the legacy that has been left.

Richard Walton

Citizens Advice Allerdale.



The Fawside Foundation. Both © Simon Veit-Wilson



Independence and Choice

The Independence and Choice programme aims to give people with mental health problems, people with learning disabilities, older people and carers a choice of excellent services that help them to become, or remain independent. The Foundation has funded work in these areas for several years. When we re-examined our priorities in 2006, we found that these groups still had some of the greatest needs, and that the charities supporting them continued to find it harder to raise money than those in other fields.

The availability, range and quality of services for these groups varies greatly across the region. We think that everyone should have access to the best help, which is why we prioritise projects in areas where there is little or no provision. One we funded in 2007 that worked in partnership to meet an unmet need was the Moving on Support Scheme. Eden Mind, Age Concern Eden, Eden Carers and Eden Community Alarms all identified that their clients needed befriending support. They had all struggled to develop their individual services because of the relatively small number of people living in this rural part of Cumbria. By joining together, they have been able to develop a viable befriending service in Eden.

We think it is crucial that people who use services are involved in their management, design and delivery. Blackwell Sailing is one of the organisations we funded in 2007 that excels at this. It provides adults with learning disabilities with the opportunity to learn to sail on Windermere and to go walking. Members sit on the management committee, volunteer with the project and help to maintain and restore the boats.

The Foundation made the largest number of grants in this programme during the year to organisations working with people with mental health problems. Dementia Care Partnership (DCP) is one example. It supports 500 people with dementia in the North East. DCP obtains most of its income from contracts with statutory agencies. However, it wants to begin to generate additional income from trading, which it plans to use to develop a wider range of services. We gave DCP a grant to employ a head of development to take forward these plans.

Another organisation which received a grant that successfully generates income from trading is Growing Well (GW). It provides training opportunities for people with mental health problems through its organic horticulture business near Kendal, Cumbria. GW grows produce, which it sells to local farm shops and green box schemes, and it runs training courses in horticulture for the local community. GW's clients have the opportunity to get involved in every aspect of the business: from growing produce to giving guided tours. Many other organisations we work with are beginning to explore trading as a potential income stream; however we would urge caution: it is not an

approach suited to everyone. The skills needed to run a charity can be very different from those required to run a profitable enterprise, and it can be difficult to develop trading activities that match an organisation's charitable objectives.

2008 promises to be yet another year of change for organisations working with vulnerable people. We hope that the Government's dementia strategy, which will be published in the summer, will lead to people with dementia and their families receiving more support. We also await with interest the results of the evaluation of the Government's Individual Budget pilot schemes. We think that this new method of providing support could have a major

impact on the lives of vulnerable people and on the sustainability of many of the charities that support them. It is unclear at this stage whether that impact will be wholly positive.

Under our policy strand, we have funded a pilot project and an independent evaluation of KeyRing's East End Community Co-op in Newcastle. The Co-op aims to develop new ways of supporting people with moderate and severe learning disabilities. One aspect of the evaluation will look at whether Individual Budgets can be used to provide this type of support. We will share the results widely.

Louise Telford

Growing Well.
© Simon Veit-Wilson



Strong and Healthy Communities

Since 2003, under the Prevention programme the Foundation had prioritised good health and well-being, through schemes to encourage better dietary habits, activities to improve fitness and work to enhance the quality of people's local environment. With obesity, lack of exercise and awareness of environmental issues very high on the national agenda, and at the forefront of people's minds during our review, Strong and Healthy Communities was developed to provide investment for on-the-ground, practical approaches to help people and groups tackle these issues.

There was huge interest, and we received more applications for grants under Strong and Healthy Communities during the year than for any other programmes. Our aim was to encourage people to make improvements to their own health and living conditions through four themes: community activity, physical activity, local environments and healthy eating.

Under community activity, we supported work that helped to strengthen social capital – the 'social glue' that helps people and organisations to come together, build trust, develop community spirit and engage in relationships

with others. For example, a grant awarded to the Isabella Community Association in Blyth, Northumberland, has enabled the centre to develop and increase local activities, in turn encouraging more residents to become active in their area.

Under our physical activity theme, we were especially interested in people taking more general regular exercise as part of their day-to-day lives. The Foundation made a grant to Sustrans to encourage people in the Ashington area of Northumberland to cycle more often and access the nearby Sustrans cycle route.



Sustrans. © Simon Veit-Wilson

A grant to North East Community Forests supported the local community in urban Gateshead to develop a 'green exercise' project, encouraging people to make use of spaces like parks near where they live through healthy walks and 'prambles'.

The Foundation also supported physical activities targeting more specific health problems. A highly successful project, funded alongside the Football Foundation, saw the FA and the five local universities bringing together students to help drug addicts recover through participation in football, providing healthy snacks and promoting a more structured lifestyle.

The aim of our environment theme was to support people to improve and make use of their local open and green spaces, make them better places in which to live. The Foundation awarded a grant to Cumbria Youth Alliance to employ a John Muir Trust worker to develop the John Muir Award across Cumbria, working with young people to help them engage with and understand their local areas.

*The John Muir Award.
© Simon Veit-Wilson*

Finally, our healthy eating theme aimed to encourage access to and an understanding of how to grow, prepare, buy and cook fresh food. The Comfrey Project received a grant for its horticultural work with asylum seekers and refugees, which offers a place where these often vulnerable and isolated groups can make new friends as well as improving their physical and mental well-being.

Sadly, given the Foundation's changed circumstances, Strong and Healthy Communities is one of the programmes that Trustees closed at the end of the year. However, through this and previous grant-making, the Foundation has been able to support interesting and successful work by voluntary groups in building social capital, promoting well-being and improving local environments. Much of this work will continue to be funded through grants which will run for several years to come.

Sue Vaughan



Building Positive Lives

The Building Positive Lives programme draws on four years of grant-making under the Foundation's Prevention programme, which was designed to tackle social decline in the region. The greatest number of awards had been given to tackle youth disaffection, but an analysis during our review of programmes in 2006 showed that many were actually addressing society's disaffection with young people, rather than the causes of young people's disaffection, lack of motivation or low aspirations.

An expert seminar about young people, organised as part of the review, concluded that many statutory agencies only dealt with specific segments of a young person's life and that voluntary organisations could give support in a more holistic way across several life transitions. It recommended that the Foundation should support young people from adolescence at 11 through to economic independence at around 25, focusing on activities outside the remit of the statutory sector, such as building confidence, tackling

conflict and recognising personal rather than academic achievement. The seminar also endorsed life-skills training, mentoring, detached youth work, support for young parents and self-development as important methods to help the most disadvantaged young people improve their aspirations and achievements. During the Foundation's consultation, we identified other groups that could benefit from similar interventions and approaches, all of which formed the basis for the new programme.

STARCH. © Simon Veit-Wilson



The premise of Building Positive Lives is that for some people, life circumstances – homelessness, substance misuse, experience of prejudice and discrimination, disadvantage in youth – make it difficult for them to overcome barriers, do well in life, feel good about themselves and form positive relationships. Our aim was to help people facing such disadvantage to lead more fulfilling lives. Learning from past grant-making, we identified a number of interventions which we believed would work best: crisis support; advice projects; schemes that help people find and keep a home; conflict mediation; mentoring and befriending and personal development programmes, including life-skills and using the arts to engage people. All of these interventions were to be delivered on a one-to-one basis.

In 2007, we received applications spread across the whole of the Foundation's area of benefit, all of the target groups and which used most of the identified interventions. In Stanley, County Durham, Single Homeless Action Initiative in Derwentside (SHAID) delivered an award-winning personal development and life-skills programme for young people to prevent them becoming homeless. In Walker, Newcastle, Kids Kabin, a children's art project supported over a number of years by the Foundation, has developed a personal development programme for participants as they became teenagers enabling them to become volunteer leaders at the centre.

South Tyneside Asylum and Refugee Church Help (STARCH) offers individual support at times of crisis to refugees and those seeking asylum. It also offers opportunities for them to make contact with local people, forming positive relationships and reducing isolation. Streetwise Opera, a national organisation now working across the North East, also helps its clients form



Kids Kabin. © Simon Veit-Wilson

positive relationships, build confidence and develop self-esteem. It works with homeless people using the performing arts to create high-quality public performances in partnership with professionals. In 2007, it expanded to work with homeless people on Teesside.

Manna House in Kendal, Cumbria also helps homeless people to cope with an increasing problem in South Lakeland. It offers crisis support, housing advice, mentoring and an opportunity for people to reduce their isolation. Phoenix Futures' residential centre in South Tyneside offers treatment, care and rehabilitation to people addicted to drugs and alcohol. The Foundation supports a life-skills and personal development programme for residents, which helps prepare them for life back in the community.

The Building Positive Lives programme will continue in 2008. As evidence of progress starts to come in from the grants made, we hope to be able to share knowledge about which approaches work best in particular circumstances.

Pauline Johnson

Safety and Justice

The Safety and Justice programme grew out of the Foundation's long-standing interest in domestic abuse, which had already seen us fund numerous projects, two pieces of nationally significant research and a £4-million initiative. The feedback from our consultation in 2006 was overwhelmingly positive; people were pleased that we were focusing on an unpopular and uncomfortable area of work and wanted us to do more.

Through talking to practitioners and policy-makers we knew there were other crimes which shared the characteristics of domestic abuse i.e. high levels of repeat victimisation, low levels of reporting to criminal justice agencies, poor conviction rates and an enormous impact on victims, many of whom were already particularly vulnerable. Our aim was to continue to support work addressing domestic abuse, but also to apply the lessons learned in that field to tackling sexual violence, sexual exploitation, child abuse and hate crime. Not only do these crimes share some similar characteristics, individuals are also often victimised in more than one way: children who grow up in violent homes are more likely to be abused themselves; women involved in prostitution are more likely to be victims of sexual violence. Our aim was to increase services for victims/survivors whilst improving our own and others' understanding of the impact of these crimes and how best to prevent them. The projects below are just a sample of those we supported in 2007.

There are few services which specifically address hate crime in our region and we made few grants under this priority. One exception is Gay Advice Darlington, whose criminal justice work provides a model of what can be achieved.

Keen to encourage development of more services, we facilitated a discussion amongst practitioners and policy-makers in the region, focusing on what support hate crime victims needed and who might meet those needs. This will continue to be a priority in 2008.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) are highly trained professionals who focus on those most at risk, working intensively with them and co-ordinating the input of other agencies to ensure their safety. The first IDVAs in our area were employed in 2005 in Gateshead and Eden as part of the Foundation's domestic abuse initiative. This role is now recognised as best practice nationally, and we were pleased to fund IDVA posts for Middlesbrough and for West and South Cumbria in 2007.

For years, work to help survivors of sexual violence has been systematically under-funded. When the programme opened, we quickly received applications from four out of the six dedicated services in the North East and Cumbria, all of which we were able to support. Keen to encourage joint working between agencies, we gave two Cumbrian projects additional support to help them find ways of working together.

There are many who believe that prostitution simply isn't an issue in parts of the North East and Cumbria because there is no visible 'red light' district. We were keen to understand what was really going on, and commissioned Barefoot Research and Evaluation to look at the scope and nature of sex markets in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear. The research shows that sex markets operate across the area, but do not fit the stereotype of street prostitution. Money is also often not the main currency: sexual acts are being exchanged for somewhere to stay or in return for drugs or alcohol. The findings have been shared with the relevant statutory authorities and a summary is available on our website. We were also pleased to support the development of the GAP project which, under the umbrella of Tyneside Cyrenians, is doing ground-breaking work supporting women who are exploited through prostitution.

Professor Marianne Hester of the University of Bristol, whose research on domestic violence in the North East is supported by the Foundation.
© Simon Veit-Wilson

Under our child abuse priority, we made a range of grants from Kidsafe UK which delivers prevention programmes to primary-school children across Cumbria to SECOS in Middlesbrough which works with young people abused through prostitution. We were particularly pleased to support the development of a Children's Society and Barnardo's joint project, SCARPA, which works with young people at risk.

Our priorities in 2008 will remain the same, with an emphasis on encouraging the development of services where currently there are gaps, for example, provision for survivors of sexual violence in Northumberland and Sunderland.

Cullagh Warnock





Culture and Heritage

From its first year of grant-making, the Foundation supported the arts. Prism Arts in Cumbria was one of the earliest recipients of an award, and over the next four years, we worked with others who used the arts to give disadvantaged people a voice. Among them, Equal Arts, in Tyne and Wear, responded to older people's interest in creative projects, and Open Clasp and Them Wifies both produced powerful theatre pieces about the lives of women and girls.



In 2001, the Foundation introduced a new programme – Living in the North East. While the majority of our work then (as now) was about addressing the needs of disadvantaged people, as their resources grew, Trustees wanted everyone in the North East to benefit from the Foundation’s grants. Cultural regeneration can raise pride in, and ultimately the economic activity of, a region. But Trustees’ interests were not entirely concerned with economic outputs; they also wanted to back the idea that cultural events are fun, and to see the North East and Cumbria grow their reputation

for exciting and challenging arts activity. In the next two years, the Foundation supported the Avison Society to promote the work of one of Newcastle’s previously unsung musical heroes, and others including the Samling Foundation, Tyneside Cinema and Dodgy Clutch Theatre Company. These organisations had in common excellent artistic programmes and a policy of welcoming a wide range of audiences.

Towards the end of 2002, the Trustees met to reflect on what the Foundation had achieved and to plan their future grant-making in the

light of the changing funding and policy context. Arts Council, England and most of the major cultural funders strongly prioritised participative and community projects and those that encouraged opportunities for minority groups. There were good reasons for doing so, but it meant that there was a considerable gap in support for high-profile cultural activity that would more generally improve life. The Trustees decided, going forward, to support artists and cultural professionals to produce their best work, to stay in the region and help to make it an interesting area in which to live and work. They looked for proposals that reflected the ambitions of the artist or curator and allowed them to concentrate on the quality of their work. Although we wanted what was produced to be as high profile as possible, we acknowledged that for some excellent work there would always be small audiences. Given all this, we did not expect cultural organisations to show how they could address social, educational or economic ills as well!

The programmes that developed – Aspiration, then Culture and Heritage – initially saw applicants hesitating to apply for what they really needed. Sadly, many voluntary sector organisations, including cultural ones, had become accustomed to asking for the smallest amount of money possible to deliver a project. We have worked hard to ensure that our grants were realistic enough to enable work to be delivered to the best standard possible. We funded core, consultancy, salary and project costs. Our reward is the knowledge that we have played an important part in developing the remarkable and vibrant cultural scene that everyone can enjoy in the region today.

The Foundation has been able to develop long-term partnerships with many organisations because we focus on a specific geographic area. Newcastle/Gateshead and Middlesbrough are our major urban centres and we have contributed to many of their cultural initiatives. Culture 10, in which we have been a partner and major contributor, has brought artists from around the world to the region, including Julian Germain, Spencer Tunick and La Fura dels Baus. Middlesbrough's mima is currently showing an exhibition of national significance about the Bauhaus movement. Amber Films, based on Newcastle's Quayside, was awarded a five-year grant to strengthen and develop as an organisation, and the Foundation has supported the city's Tyneside Cinema to develop a number of projects over six years. The Trustees have awarded two grants to Opera North to bring their award-winning productions to Newcastle, and to develop new ways of allowing audiences to experience what has sometimes been considered as an elitist art form. We have helped Tyne and Wear Museums bring touring exhibitions from the National Gallery Collection to the Laing Gallery in Newcastle. Our Craft Acquisition Fund has enabled the Gateshead's Shipley Art Gallery and mima to buy new work – and the resulting collection is already attracting national and international interest.

But we have not forgotten our extensive rural population. Lake District Summer Music runs a three-week summer school and music festival, attracting musicians with very strong national and international reputations. The Foundation has awarded two grants to support the core costs of the organisation and to provide an

opportunity to review and strengthen its staff structure. The Kendal International Women's Arts Festival attracted artists of the calibre of Patti Smith, Jane Glover and Tanka Gupta. The arts programme we have run in partnership with English Heritage and others, curated by Judith King, has made national headlines, and featured artists and designers such as Stella McCartney in 2004 with Fashion at Belsay, and Geraldine Pilgrim and Mike Figgis at Picture House in 2007. On a different scale, but just as relevant, Allenheads Contemporary Arts and Fold have both promoted international and resident visual artists; meanwhile Joanna McGregor and Red Priest are just two of the artists who make Brinkburn Festival, in Northumberland, the wonderful event that it is.

We have a wealth of home-grown talent in the region, but when refocusing their programme for 2007, the Trustees were aware of the difficulties that the cultural sector has in offering professional development, which is so vital to keeping creative people here. In response, we supported two Clore Leadership Fellowships and awarded grants to Designed and Made, Empty Space, and Mushroom Works. By inviting the research team from Mission, Models, Money

to the region, we have also helped cultural organisations to think and plan for a more sustainable future.

The North East and Cumbria have, over the last 10 years, shown the quality of work that can be produced when the right support is given. We are pleased to have worked with other funders including Arts Council England in the North East and North West, and the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as cultural organisations themselves, to realise these creative ambitions.

Fiona Ellis, our Director, has always been a particular champion of our cultural work. Much is owed to her vision, and to the efforts of my predecessor, Carol Bell, who is now at Culture 10. Although the Trustees, very reluctantly, had to close Culture and Heritage at the end of 2007, with the guarantee of stability over the next three years, we are now planning to restore a culture programme later in 2008. I look forward to working with such generous, hard-working professionals again.

Penny Vowles

International Women's Arts Festival at the Brewery Arts Centre, Cumbria. © Ania Grom-Yoncali



Better Buildings

Northern Rock Foundation has funded capital projects for many years. Some of the large-scale projects we have supported have helped transform the landscape of our region, including Woodhorn Museum, Northern Stage, mima and Live Theatre. In 2007, the Trustees planned to continue supporting building projects, by investing both in developments that raised the profile of our area but also community buildings that could have a transforming effect at local level.

We knew from our consultation held in 2006 that many people in our region have a strong interest in environmental issues. With this in mind, the Trustees decided to prioritise capital projects that could show a strong commitment to energy efficiency or renewable energy. The new Age Concern Northumberland Centre in Ashington has some interesting 'green' features. The Centre is being built on a brownfield site and will incorporate rainwater harvesting and a solar thermal heating system. A high standard of glazing and insulation in excess of minimum standards will help to reduce energy consumption. Gateshead CAB has taken advice from the Carbon Trust and its new building will aim for the highest rating from BREEAM –

British Research Establishment Ltd, which aims to improve the environmental sustainability of buildings. BREEAM produces a list of criteria for architects and clients to aim for before they can claim a rating. At present, Gateshead CAB is looking into features such as a heat recovery system, super-insulation, wind turbines and photovoltaic panels.

Smaller community centres have also produced good schemes for renewable energy use or energy efficiency. Whiteburn Shanks Centre is situated in a very remote location in the Cheviots, with no mains electric, gas or water supply. It has installed photovoltaic cells, a new diesel generator and an ultra-violet cleansing

*Refurbishment in progress at
Dacre Hall at Lanercost, Cumbria.
© Simon Veit-Wilson*





*Construction of the Kielder Observatory, Northumberland.
© Simon Veit-Wilson*

system for the water supply. There are plans to install a wind turbine. The Trust will publicise the changes it has made on its website so that other groups can learn from the project.

The Foundation has also supported more modest, but nevertheless important, refurbishment projects. Glanton Memorial Hall, Harrington Youth Club and Stapleton Hall have all renewed their boilers and improved the insulation so that community groups can enjoy better facilities for activities and hopefully reduced future utilities costs. The refurbishment of Dacre Hall at Lanercost shows that these features can also be incorporated into historic buildings.

The Trustees also wanted to encourage good and appropriate design. Kielder Forest's dark, night-time skies and lack of light pollution have led to the increasing popularity of events such as Star Camp and Night Watch. Kielder Partnership was particularly keen to develop its Observatory building to feature interesting

design and organised an open competition to encourage imaginative responses from architects. The competition attracted 225 entries and Charles Barclay Architects were successful. Timber for the building will come from Forest Stewardship Council approved sources. The energy needs of the building will be provided from renewable sources, including a wind turbine and solar panels.

Building projects often demand a great deal of time from staff and volunteers, and can be very daunting to manage. In some cases, we have been able to help organisations plan for this by awarding small additional grants or advice and support. We have rarely been the biggest funder of major projects, but our grants help to lever in funds from other trusts and foundations. The new or refurbished buildings will leave a valuable resource and legacy for people in our region to enjoy and use.

Penny Vowles

Policy and influence

How should trusts and foundations go about using knowledge gleaned from the work we fund to inform wider policy and practice? That question taxed us during our 2006 review, when the challenge to do more policy and advocacy work came from all sides, most notably from our own grant recipients.

Charitable funders achieve their aims by investing in others. The legitimacy of any knowledge to which we lay claim comes from our relationships with grant recipients and the learning we gain from their work. So, abandoning grant-making was never on our cards. Instead, in late 2006, Trustees decided to introduce a work strand that would include research, development and promotion of learning, much of it directly commissioned.

The first major challenge in doing this as a regional funder is that so much policy and practice is driven from London. We already spend considerable time and money travelling the east coast main line for events and meetings in the capital (traffic in the other direction, despite notable exceptions, is still woefully lacking). Nevertheless, we see our closeness to our area as our greatest advantage: not only are we well informed about realities on

the ground, we are also part of a fantastic laboratory where new approaches get designed and tested, then shared with others. How should we, then, balance regional concerns with national profile?

Our Third Sector Trends Study was conceived with just that in mind. The debilitating lack of consistent and robust evidence about the scale, contribution and dynamics of the voluntary and community sector is a national problem, but one which was acutely highlighted when we and colleagues campaigned about the impact of an estimated loss of £50 million to our region's sector when national and European regeneration funds dwindled in the run up to 2006. We kept being asked: who will be affected and how? We were struck then by the useful role we could play by commissioning research that provided the data to answer just such questions, and many more besides. During the time it has taken to design and commission our Study, the Government's interest in the same field has led to the commissioning of a national Third Sector Research Centre. Our project will make a unique contribution to the research community by studying the sector at a depth never before attempted; but it will also be a pathfinder, as we'll freely share our results and our developing methodologies with colleagues elsewhere, thus adding to a much wider body of knowledge.

We're particularly privileged to be working with such a good research team on this Study. It is led by Professors Tony Chapman and



The Foundation's new research series, Think.



*The Third Sector Trends team; from left: Les Hems (Guidestar UK), Carole Howells (Newcastle CVS), Judith Brown (consultant), Professor John Mohan (Southampton University), Professor Tony Chapman (Teesside University), Cathy Pharoah (advisory group chair), Professor Fred Robinson (Durham University), Karl Wilding (NCVO).
© Simon Veit-Wilson*

John Mohan, respectively of the Universities of Teesside and Southampton, and includes Durham University, NCVO, Guidestar UK and local CVS. Cathy Pharoah, the renowned voluntary sector researcher, is our chief advisor – she certainly deserves our appreciation for her tremendous enthusiasm and clear mindedness thus far.

We have also contributed, modestly, to some national initiatives, ensuring a voice for northern concerns, but putting our money into a broader pot. Most notably, we have joined a consortium of independent funders investing in the Young Foundation's work on mapping Britain's unmet needs. None of this affects our commitment to spending our grant budgets solely in the North East and Cumbria, but the flexibility to work with colleagues nationally through research and joint policy initiatives is a useful extra tool.

But we don't always need to commission big new investigations. Indeed, many respondents to our 2006 consultation challenged us to do more with what we already knew. In 2007, we tried doing this in a number of ways. Under our new *Think* banner, designed to promote learning from our work and research in our areas of interest, we published a report,

originally commissioned for our own use, on the lessons learned from our Money and Jobs programme. We also repeated the successful formula of bringing together frontline workers, academics and policy-makers in 'expert seminars' designed to inform our thinking and theirs on particular topics. This tool helps us reflect and explore opportunities for new work, but also enables people to meet in a neutral environment and begin conversations that we know continue elsewhere.

Although we go forward with a reduced grant-making budget, the Foundation's Trustees are determined to maintain and indeed expand their contribution to wider policy and practice. There will be some further research commissioning, but our principal focus will be on making a success of our Third Sector Study. But perhaps most important of all, as programmes close and grants come to an end, we'll be doing all we can to, in the words of our chairman, harvest knowledge from grant recipients and our staff, and share the lessons learned as widely and as effectively as we can.

Rob Williamson

VCS Training and Development

Northern Rock Foundation's Trustees have always recognised the importance of being more than just grant-makers. From the start, they put in place schemes to support organisational capacity in the voluntary and community sector, including initiatives on quality assurance and professional development, and training for trustees, staff and volunteers. The Foundation's 2006 review, and the development of Capacitybuilders and the BASIS programme from the BIG Lottery Fund, offered Trustees the opportunity to adopt a new approach to meeting the training and development needs of the sector in the North East and Cumbria.



Trainees from management and leadership courses provided in partnership with Project North East and Mark Butcher Associates. © George Bosnyak and Mark Butcher

Instead of an open grants fund, Trustees approved a programme of activity based on our experience and analysis of cross-sectoral issues and the sector's management and governance capacity. We commissioned training and consultancy, and offered strategic awards. With a budget of £2.2 million, four distinct areas of work were planned: regional infrastructure support, training in management, leadership and procurement, research and capacity building. This final strand – known to us as 'The Programme Manager's toolkit' – provides a pot of money to be used at the Programme Manager's discretion to provide short-term help for grant applicants and recipients through mentoring, troubleshooting, IT support and so on.

We, alongside a number of fellow trusts and foundations, have been concerned about weaknesses in applications from small, unsupported or newly formed BME and refugee and asylum seeker groups. Some applications have lacked robustness and sufficient

understanding of charity and employment law, budgeting and organisational and personal development. Sometimes these groups have been ill-advised to pursue a particular funding strategy. A study jointly funded by a few trusts identified a need for targeted capacity building and training for such groups, so they could compete with their peers, secure funding for their services and ensure that in the longer term their clients' needs could be mainstreamed. Conversations with the Regional Refugee Forum North East resulted in us awarding a grant of £569,849 over three years to employ staff to support such groups across the North East.

In Cumbria, we were kept fully informed of the merger of the county's CVS. This was not a seamless exercise. Much work went on behind the scenes as trustees, staff and volunteers were consulted, surveyed and briefed as to the benefits of such an approach. Across the county, there was recognition that some CVS were stronger and better resourced than others,

but the demands on their services were growing and often outstripped supply. Sharing expertise, policies and practice, as well as knowledge, made sense. The Foundation, working with the newly formed Cumbria CVS, identified ways of assisting with the merger and providing training for all those involved.

In 2006/2007, procurement of public services was high on everyone's agenda. Project North East provided training to the sector which resulted in some organisations tendering and successfully obtaining contracts for their work. Another challenge is how the sector can demonstrate to purchasers what better value looks like. A grant to Norcare is supporting work to look at the benefits of having in place social performance indicators which are attuned to the needs of service users and demonstrate a more effective use of money. Norcare will disseminate its findings across the sector.

For many of the organisations supported through our tackling offending initiative, sustainability and getting their services mainstreamed has been a major issue. The National Offender

Management Service (NOMS) has not turned out to be the honey-pot many people thought it would be. Obtaining contracts with NOMS at a time when it has to make savings of 3% throughout the UK is difficult, however prisoners on release return home to local authorities where they need housing, health services, education and employment. The Foundation commissioned work to look at the barriers that exist for voluntary organisations working with offenders – what do they need to do to ensure that the statutory sector recognises this often marginalised group and financially supports their resettlement? Tony Jameson from the North East Change Centre, working with the VCS and statutory agencies, is hoping to come up with some answers.

Obtaining sustainable funding has been the sector's primary aim. It's a problem that won't go away, but the Foundation has provided the sector with some tools to tackle the problem head on.

Anne Burleigh

The Learning Team, providing help to grant applicants and recipients through the Foundation. © Simon Veit-Wilson



Special initiative: tackling reoffending

Northern Rock Foundation has never had a dedicated grants programme on penal reform or offending. Instead, we have made investments through several special initiatives, and grants under some of our regular programmes, to help organisations to find better ways to tackle offending, and to support offenders, ex-offenders, their families and communities. This long-term commitment has allowed us to build strong partnerships, fund some excellent projects and provide evidence that to tackle reoffending, a community-wide response is necessary.

In 2007, the Foundation made a £1-million investment in five organisations: The International Centre for Prison Studies; NACRO and the Depaul Trust (The Pyramid Project); U-Choose and Smart Justice. These were all originally funded as part of a 2004 initiative, and were supported for a further 12 to 18 months so that the learning from their work could be shared more fully, built into mainstream service provision and, in partnership with the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), contribute to the reduction of reoffending in the North East.

NACRO and the Depaul Trust are continuing their joint Pyramid Project which has allowed both organisations to co-ordinate a life-changing range of services to prisoners passing from custody, 'through the gates' and into the community. NACRO has responsibility for adult prisoners whilst Depaul Trust has been working with young offenders. All seven of the NOMS' pathways (accommodation; drugs and alcohol; health; education, training and employment; attitudes, thinking and behaviour; children and families; and finance, benefits and debt) are addressed by this innovative partnership.

Achievements during 2007 include 100% of young people released from Deerbolt Young Offenders Institute getting somewhere to stay on their first night out of prison and beyond. All ex-offenders at a high risk of reoffending have had access to services including housing, benefits agencies and primary health care. Links like this normally break down on release. Two of the last intakes into Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Foundation programme have been young people from this project.

As this current round of funding moves towards conclusion, in 2008 we will be publishing an impact report to capture and share the learning and changes that have come about through these initiatives. Negotiations with other funders and statutory agencies continue, and we hope that the wide-ranging achievements of these new community-wide approaches will be recognised by further funding, acknowledgment and support.

Hannah Stapley



Corporate charity fundraising for Cancer Research UK.
© Allan Glenwright

Staff matched giving

In 2007, the Foundation's Trustees continued their policy of matching every £1 donated by Northern Rock plc employees with £2 of Foundation funds, meaning charities received three times the amount initially raised.

Some staff donate a regular monthly amount through the Give As You Earn (GAYE) scheme, which also attracts a small Government subsidy as well as the Foundation's match, and so is an excellent and tax-effective way to put money straight into charities. But by far the majority of the donations come from the fundraising efforts of staff, which range from expeditions to far-flung locations, to a steady stream of jumble sales, bake sales and supermarket bag-packing.

Over 10 years, staff of Northern Rock have given a tremendous amount through the scheme. By the end of 2007, the total raised by staff when matched by the Foundation reached £4.4 million. The total raised and matched in 2007 alone was £1.9 million.

Sadly, given the change in the Foundation's circumstances, and its effect on all our activities, at the end of 2007, the Foundation's Trustees decided they also had to scale back their staff matched giving scheme. The scheme will continue in 2008, but matching will return to the £1 for £1 level – which was how it ran from 1998–2005.

Rob Williamson

Top ten supported charities 2007

Organisation	Total awarded £
Finn Family Fund	666,667
Cancer Research UK	165,920
Great North Air Ambulance Service	120,328
Tiny Lives	110,910
Community Foundation	107,520
Royal Grammar School	80,066
The Children's Heart Unit Fund	35,762
The Northern Brainwave Appeal	34,410
NSPCC	31,226
MacMillan Cancer Relief	29,704

2007 approved grants, commissions and loans

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Money and Jobs			
Social Enterprise Sunderland	To support the strategic development of a business support project working in the more deprived parts of the city.	3	£287,995
ETEC (Sunderland) Ltd	Towards a project to help disabled people find work.	3	£175,204
Development Trusts Association – NW	To support the growth of new and existing development trusts in Cumbria.	3	£170,198
Alnwick and District Citizens Advice Bureau	To continue to deliver a welfare benefits campaign targeting older people living in Northumberland.	3	£148,342
Acumen Community Enterprise Development Trust Ltd	Towards the start-up costs of a project providing construction training and supported accommodation for disadvantaged young people in Easington, County Durham.	3	£140,300
The Five Lamps Organisation	To provide a loan fund as part of a financial inclusion project for people in debt living on Teesside.	2	£137,800
Citizens Advice Allerdale	To employ an advice worker to be based in GP surgeries in and around Workington in Cumbria.	3	£134,286
Fiscus North Limited	Towards the provision of welfare benefits and debt advice to people considering moving into self-employment or employment in Sunderland.	3	£125,512
Furness Enterprise Limited	Towards a business coaching programme assisting unemployed and long-term incapacity benefit claimants in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.	3	£120,000
West View Advice and Resource Centre	Towards the running costs of a neighbourhood advice centre in Hartlepool.	3	£117,138
Development Trusts Association	To provide continued support to new and emerging development trusts in the North East.	3	£116,782
The Five Lamps Organisation	To continue a job search programme in Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees.	3	£105,000
Jewish Community Council of Gateshead	Towards the appointment of a development trust manager.	3	£98,932
FAWSIDE	To develop and promote a residential centre based in a development trust in Northumberland.	3	£96,985
East Durham Partnership	Towards the capital and revenue cost of expanding a recycling project in Easington, County Durham.	1	£96,910
Community Campus 87 Ltd	Towards the salary of a development worker at a young people's construction training project on Teesside.	3	£95,133

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Gentoo Group Limited	Towards a benefits take-up campaign aimed at Sunderland Housing Group's tenants.	1	£82,204
Ford Pallion Millfield Community Development Project	Towards the revenue costs of an emerging development trust in Sunderland.	2	£81,650
Amble Development Trust	Towards the running costs of this locally based regeneration initiative in Northumberland.	3	£75,000
Blyth Valley Disabled Forum Ltd	Towards the continuation and expansion of a welfare rights service for people with learning disabilities and mental health problems in the Blyth Valley district, Northumberland.	3	£73,897
Hartlepool Citizens Advice Bureau	To provide welfare benefits advice.	2	£70,782
Newcastle University	To continue to fund the Centre for the Rural Economy's Northern Rural Network.	3	£60,576
The Future Regeneration of Grangetown	Towards a training and mentoring programme to enable unemployed people from Grangetown in Middlesbrough to find employment.	1	£36,000
Age Concern Sunderland	Towards a shortfall of funding for running costs of a recruitment agency for the over 50s.	1	£24,436
Shiney Advice and Resource Project	To cover a cash shortfall at a neighbourhood advice project in Sunderland.	1	£20,000
Northumbria Youth Action	To pilot a welding and fabrication course.	1	£20,000
Cumbria Farmer Network (Rural Futures) Ltd	To train young people in theory and practice to enable them to set up as self-employed farm assistants.	1	£19,950
Acumen Community Enterprise Development Trust Ltd	To develop a model to enable voluntary organisations working in the North East to collectively bid for regional employment contracts.	1	£19,700
The Hextol Foundation	To support the development of an organisation which provides employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities in Tynedale, Northumberland.	1	£19,170
Furniture Reclamation and Delivery Enterprise (k/a FRADE)	To support the expansion of a business which provides affordable furniture to disadvantaged individuals and families in Darlington and surrounding areas.	1	£17,500
East Durham Partnership	To undertake a feasibility study to look at the expansion of a recycling project in County Durham.	1	£14,945
Social Enterprise Sunderland	To provide three months' interim funding to a business support project in Sunderland.	1	£12,500
Money and Jobs total	32 grants		£2,814,827

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Independence and Choice			
MIND (National Association for Mental Health)	For two part-time employees to support local Mind associations in the North East and Cumbria in their work with people with mental health problems.	3	£219,366
Dementia Care Partnership	To employ a head of development for the organisation, which supports people with dementia in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.	3	£130,136
Carlisle People First Limited	To continue funding the Cumbria-wide network for women with learning difficulties.	3	£125,626
The Princess Royal Trust for Carers	Towards the salary of the Development Manager who supports carers' centres in the North East.	3	£111,524
Advocacy In Gateshead and South Tyneside	To employ a full-time case advocate to support adults with learning disabilities.	3	£109,206
New Directions	To continue to employ a full-time project co-ordinator and towards the core costs of the organisation, which supports people with mental health problems in Stockton-on-Tees.	3	£103,979
Gateway into the Community	For the salary of a co-ordinator and towards office costs for the charity in Tynedale, Northumberland, which supports disabled people.	3	£101,101
Sunderland Carers' Centre	To recruit and employ an operations manager.	3	£100,841
The Main Project	To employ a project manager and a project worker for the organisation which supports young people with an autistic spectrum disorder and their families on Teesside.	2	£96,800
Sunderland Headlight	For the salary of the full-time development manager and towards the associated costs of the post that supports people with mental health problems.	3	£96,195
Darlington MIND	To employ a full-time co-ordinator for the Whole Life project, which provides one-to-one support for people with mental health problems.	3	£94,839
Caring Hands	Towards the core costs of the organisation, which supports older people in the east end of Newcastle.	3	£94,286
Mind in Furness	To continue to employ a community services manager and towards the running costs of the organisation in Barrow, Cumbria.	3	£92,888
Prism Arts	Towards the core costs of Starfish Theatre Company, run by people with learning disabilities, which performs across Cumbria.	3	£90,000
Teesdale Day Clubs	Towards the cost of staff to maintain, improve and sustain the organisation's work with older people in County Durham.	3	£80,544
Growing Well	Towards the core costs of the organisation, which supports people with mental health problems in south Cumbria through a horticulture social enterprise.	3	£78,270
Zayis Raanon	Towards the core costs of the organisation, which supports Jewish older people in Gateshead.	3	£75,000

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Alzheimer's Society North Tyneside Branch	To continue to employ a family support worker for this organisation that supports people with dementia and their carers.	3	£72,000
Newcastle Council for Voluntary Services	Towards the core costs of the citizen advocacy project, which supports vulnerable people.	2	£67,980
Search Project	Towards core costs and to employ a sessional worker for this organisation, which supports older people in the west end of Newcastle.	3	£67,402
Eden Mind Ltd	Towards the cost of the Moving On Support Scheme, which is a local partnership service providing befriending support to the elderly, carers and those with mental distress in Eden, Cumbria.	3	£64,423
Sedgefield Locality Carers' Centre	To employ a part-time parent/carer support worker for Sedgefield, County Durham.	3	£61,802
Craft Works! Community Association	Towards a programme of workshops, training and support for adults with mental ill-health and learning disabilities in south Durham.	3	£59,843
Carlisle Mencap	Towards the costs of a leisure and befriending group, which supports adults with learning disabilities.	3	£42,097
Northumberland STARS	To fund the project manager and to develop the organisation which provides low-level help to older people.	1	£36,990
Contact Morpeth Mental Health Group	Towards the salary of the existing office manager at this project in Northumberland.	3	£32,362
Blackwell Sailing	Towards providing sailing and leisure opportunities for adults with learning disabilities in South Lakeland.	3	£30,000
Hartlepool Art Studio Ltd	Towards the core costs of the organisation, which runs activities for people with mental health problems.	1	£27,971
North Shields Library Club	To expand current work to provide opportunities for older people experiencing social isolation in North Tyneside.	3	£27,000
South Cumbria Mental Health User and Carer Forum	Towards the core costs of this self-advocacy organisation for people with mental health problems and carers.	1	£20,000
Chopwell and Blackhall Mill Live at Home Scheme	Towards the salary of the assistant manager for this scheme which supports older people in the outer west parts of Gateshead.	3	£15,000
Alzheimer's Society Durham and Chester-le-Street	For the salary costs of a part-time administrative secretary.	1	£14,730
Connaught Opera	Towards the costs of a professional opera company to tour the North East and Cumbria bringing benefit to older people in community care settings.	1	£9,810
Mencap	Towards the core costs of the North East Parent Support Service, which provides specialist advocacy support to parents with learning disabilities who are involved in child protection issues in the North East.	1	£6,647
Mind in West Cumbria	To advertise the manager's post, which is being funded by the Foundation in national and local newspapers.	1	£2,952
Mind in West Cumbria	To re-advertise the new manager's post which will be funded by the Foundation.	1	£2,952
Independence and Choice total 36 grants			£2,462,562

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Strong and Healthy Communities			
Sport Universities North East England	To work with partners to create a programme of regular physical activity for recovering drug users and released prisoners in the North East.	3	£219,798
Cumbria Youth Alliance	Towards funding an environmental award scheme.	3	£150,000
North of England Refugee Service	Towards the costs of a project on integrating refugees and existing communities in the North East.	3	£100,000
Rugby Football Foundation	To develop rugby for girls and BME communities across socially deprived areas in the North East and Cumbria.	3	£100,000
Sustrans Limited	Towards the development of a programme of physical activities, including walking and cycling, in Ashington, Northumberland.	3	£100,000
North East Community Forests	Towards the salary and overhead costs of the Green Exercise programme.	3	£99,000
Groundwork West Durham	To employ two project workers to develop an environmental project called Pride not Prejudice in Bishop Auckland, County Durham.	3	£98,499
Eagles Community Foundation	To support girls in Tyne and Wear to become more active and educated through participation in basketball.	3	£92,936
Isabella Community Association	To continue employing a Centre Manager in Blyth, Northumberland.	3	£89,049
Dawdon Youth and Community Centre	Towards the salary costs of a Centre Manager in Dawdon, Easington, County Durham.	3	£86,839
Shilbottle Skills Centre	To fund the salary of the Skills Centre Manager in Shilbottle, Northumberland.	3	£76,077
St Mark's Community Association	For the salary of a manager to sustain and develop activities at the centre in Sunderland.	3	£66,835
Hands and Feet CIC	Towards the director of dance's salary and core costs of this organisation, which runs activities in South Tyneside.	3	£60,000
Scotswood Natural Community Garden	Towards the salary of a learning officer for an environmental project in the west end of Newcastle.	3	£60,000
Wingate and Station Town Family Centre	To develop environmental activities for families and young people to promote healthy lifestyles and well-being in County Durham.	3	£56,731
Tantobie Community Association	To employ a sports development worker in Tantobie, County Durham.	3	£52,558
Tyne Rivers Trust	Towards salaries and running costs of an environmental organisation in the Tyne catchment area.	3	£51,000
Hartlepool Asian Association	Towards core costs.	2	£50,000
St. Chad's Community Project	Towards the salary of a family support co-ordinator in Bensham, Gateshead.	3	£43,622
Teams And Bensham Community Care Project	Towards the running costs of a food co-operative in Teams, Gateshead.	3	£39,660

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
West Moor Residents' Association	Towards employing a manager for a new community centre in Westmoor, Newcastle.	3	£38,876
Community Regeneration Trust North East	Towards salary costs of an allotment project officer in South Tyneside.	1	£30,000
Dott 07	Towards the revenue costs of an 'urban farming' and healthy eating project in Middlesbrough.	1	£20,000
The EQUAL Partnership	Towards the salary of the community capacity worker in Derwentside, County Durham.	3	£20,000
Barrow & District Council for Voluntary Service	To improve health by organising regular walking events in Barrow, Cumbria.	2	£20,000
The Good Life	Towards consultancy support and project running costs for the organisation which promotes healthy living and eating in North Tyneside.	2	£20,000
Newcastle Chinese Healthy Living Centre	To provide a healthy activities worker and towards the costs of promoting healthy living and physical activities in Newcastle's Chinese community.	2	£19,984
Vipers Community Foundation	To appoint a programme co-ordinator for a sports scheme for children across the North East region, promoting healthy activities and ice hockey.	1	£19,500
The Woodland Trust	To develop an area of woodland in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.	2	£19,012
Pegswood Social Welfare Centre	To fund an existing member of staff to co-ordinate healthy activities for older people and to develop the sustainability of the welfare centre in Pegswood, Northumberland.	3	£18,587
The Comfrey Project	Towards salaries and general running costs to work with asylum seekers and refugees on a food project in Newcastle and Gateshead.	2	£18,272
Middlesbrough Sportability Club	Towards the staff costs for a sport and recreation club for disadvantaged and disabled children.	1	£10,910
Pendower Good Neighbour House Project	Towards work with a disadvantaged community in the west end of Newcastle.	3	£10,500
The Country Trust	To continue to facilitate educational countryside visits for children and to expand the scheme to benefit school children on Tyneside and in Durham and Sunderland.	2	£10,000
North East Triathlon	Towards a pilot project to develop the capacity of triathlon coaches in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear, and to increase participation in the sport as a result.	1	£8,000
Saint John's Parish Centre	Towards the running costs of a parish centre in North Tyneside.	1	£6,000
Strong and Healthy Communities total	36 grants		£1,982,245

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Building Positive Lives			
Depaul Trust	Towards the costs of Nightstop Depaul, which will offer emergency accommodation for young people across Tyne and Wear.	3	£206,489
Streetwise	For the salaries of three part-time counsellors to work with disadvantaged young people at this organisation in Newcastle city centre.	3	£168,383
Moving On (Durham) Ltd	To provide housing advice, pre-tenancy support and group work to young homeless people.	3	£150,000
Centrepoint County Durham	Towards the salary of a project worker and the running costs of a rent-deposit guarantee scheme across the North East.	3	£149,382
Eye of the Fly	Towards the staff costs of the organisation's personal development work with young people across the North East.	2	£140,000
Hartlepool Citizens Advice Bureau	Towards the salaries of one full-time and two part-time tenancy support caseworkers and towards the core of this service helping homeless people.	3	£129,760
The Junction	Towards the salaries of staff who manage a range of information and support services for disadvantaged young people aged 25 and under in Redcar and Cleveland.	3	£123,610
Newcastle YMCA	Towards the salary of a full-time mentoring project co-ordinator and associated core costs for this organisation in Tyne and Wear.	3	£120,776
Phoenix Futures	For the salary of a full-time skills and employability worker based at a residential rehabilitation centre for substance misusers in South Tyneside.	3	£120,000
Open Clasp Theatre Company	Towards drama workshops and performances developing self-esteem and confidence in women facing prejudice and discrimination in the North East.	2	£120,000
YMCA North Tyneside (Pyramid Project)	Towards the salaries of a full-time personal development tutor, part-time support worker, a crèche and the core costs of the project which works with disadvantaged people.	3	£120,000
The Scarman Trust North East	Towards the salary of a full-time regional director and core costs for this organisation supporting disadvantaged people.	2	£112,348
NE Music Factory CIC	Towards the salary of a full-time general manager for this organisation's work benefitting disadvantaged communities through music and cultural activities.	3	£106,173
North East Regional Alcohol Forum	For the salary of a regional co-ordinator for this Sunderland-based organisation offering advice and support on alcohol misuse.	3	£101,601
Streetwise Opera	Towards Streetwise Live workshops with homeless people across the North East and the salary of a part-time regional co-ordinator.	3	£99,000

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Kids Kabin	For the salaries of two part-time workers and a contribution towards the core costs of this organisation's creative personal development work with disadvantaged young people in Walker, Newcastle.	3	£89,026
700 Club	For the salary of a mentoring co-ordinator and some core costs of the Emma project, which supports homeless people in Darlington.	3	£88,420
ADDvance	For the salary of a full-time outreach worker to support substance misusers with ADHD/ADD in Hartlepool.	3	£86,722
Single Homeless Action Initiative Derwentside	For the salary of a full-time life skills coordinator and some core costs for this organisation in Derwentside, County Durham.	3	£82,166
Action for Blind People	Towards the salary of an additional full-time housing co-ordinator for the Action Team supporting visually impaired people in housing crisis across the North East.	3	£78,534
Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau	To fund a caseworker to provide a flexible, accessible support, advice and casework service to vulnerable and hard to reach young people.	2	£75,100
The Cedarwood Trust	Towards the salary of a development officer/administrator for this organisation which works to prevent homelessness and support disadvantaged people on Meadow Well estate in North Tyneside.	3	£75,000
First Step – North East	Towards the costs of a mentoring and befriending project with black and minority ethnic women in the west end of Newcastle.	2	£72,576
The Albert Centre	Towards the salary of a service user co-ordinator and a contribution to core costs for this centre working with substance misusers across Teesside.	2	£70,000
The Rising Sun Trust	Towards the salary of a part-time manager and some core costs of the New Horizons project which works with substance misusers in Workington, Cumbria.	3	£69,509
Cumbria Youth Alliance	Towards the costs of the Skills for Working Futures personal development programme for young people.	3	£60,000
Manna House	Towards three part-time posts to offer housing advice, personal development and a mentoring service for homeless people in Kendal, Cumbria.	3	£60,000
Mobex Network	Towards the salary of a development co-ordinator and the running costs of this organisation's support for work with young people in the North East and Cumbria.	3	£52,000
Doorways Youth Project	Towards the salary of a project co-ordinator and some core costs of this organisation which offers advice and support to young people in Saltburn, Tees Valley.	2	£50,000
The Place2Be	Towards the salary of a parent support worker helping substance misusers in east Durham.	3	£45,000

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Project Northumberland	Towards two part-time staff to deliver a personal development programme for disadvantaged young people on Tyneside.	3	£42,000
Rothbury and Coquetdale Youth Project	Towards individual support for young people using this project in Northumberland.	3	£33,000
North Tyneside Disability Forum	Towards a personal development programme for disabled young people.	3	£20,000
S.T.A.R.C.H.	Towards the core costs and activities of this organisation working with asylum seekers and refugees in South Tyneside.	3	£19,950
Blue Sky Trust	Towards a personal development programme for female asylum seekers with HIV in the North East.	1	£19,800
Southern African Women's Association	Towards the development costs of a community choir for asylum-seeking and refugee women living on Teesside.	1	£14,451
Sunderland African Association	Towards core costs and IT equipment costs to support a befriending programme.	2	£10,612
Building Positive Lives total	37 grants		£3,181,388

Safety and Justice

GRANTS

The Children's Society – National	To work with young runaways, sexually exploited children and young people in the Newcastle area.	3	£292,693
Barnardo's SECOS Project	For work with young people at risk of sexual exploitation, including young men, in Middlesbrough and Stockton.	3	£285,000
Tyneside Cyrenians	To provide an outreach and support service for female sex workers.	3	£163,772
The Centre	Towards securing and developing services for victims of sexual violence in County Durham.	3	£150,000
Gay Advice Darlington	To employ a criminal justice worker to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of hate crime in County Durham and Darlington.	3	£132,307
Victim Support Cumbria	To provide an independent domestic abuse advocacy service in south and west Cumbria.	2	£130,076
South Tyneside Council for Voluntary Service	To fund two part-time domestic abuse support workers, one of whom will support women from black and minority ethnic communities.	3	£123,658
Derwentside Domestic Violence Service	For additional staff for this domestic abuse support service based in Stanley, County Durham.	3	£115,753
Acorns	Towards the costs of this service offering support to children and young people aged 6–18 years affected by domestic abuse in North Tyneside.	3	£109,090

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Eva Women's Aid Ltd	Towards the co-ordinator's salary for this service which provides counselling and support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Redcar and Cleveland.	3	£108,713
My Sister's Place	Towards salary and related costs of an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate in Middlesbrough.	3	£103,608
Kidsafe UK	To provide child protection programmes to primary school children and their parents in Cumbria.	3	£81,000
West Cumbria Rape Crisis	Towards the core costs of this organisation offering support to victims of sexual violence in north and west Cumbria.	1	£65,774
Safety Net Advice and Support Centre	Towards the core costs of this organisation supporting young victims of sexual violence in Cumbria.	3	£64,909
South Cumbria Rape and Abuse Service	Towards the running costs of this organisation providing support to victims of sexual violence.	1	£63,900
Three Rivers Housing Association	To provide services, support and facilities for children and young people surviving domestic abuse in Durham.	3	£45,000
Eva Women's Aid Ltd	Towards the cost of the sexual violence support service in Redcar and Cleveland.	1	£20,000
The Centre	Towards the running costs of the organisation which works with victims of sexual violence in Darlington and County Durham.	1	£17,172
Women's Health in South Tyneside	To provide group support for women around abuse and violence.	1	£15,031
Someone Cares	Towards the running costs of this organisation supporting adult survivors of childhood abuse on Tyneside.	3	£12,000
Durham University	Towards the costs of a conference about sexual violence, for practitioners and commissioners in the North East.	1	£7,747
Total grants	21 grants		£2,107,203
COMMISSIONS			
Barefoot Research and Evaluation	For a study to determine the scope and magnitude of the sex market across Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.	1	£23,353
University of Bristol	To build on previous research looking at perpetrators of domestic abuse in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear over the last five years.	1	£19,321
Total commissions	2 commissions		£42,674
Safety and Justice total	23 grants and commissions		£2,149,877

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Culture and Heritage			
Opera North Limited	To support the programme in the North East.	3	£275,000
Tees Valley Regeneration	Towards the design and construction of the first Tees Giant in Middlesbrough.	1	£200,000
Northern Film and Media	Towards developing the skills of film-makers in the North East.	3	£180,000
Durham County Council	Towards completion of the first phase of restoration work at Hardwick Park, County Durham.	1	£169,451
Living History North East	Towards the post of project director.	3	£142,911
Generator North East	Towards training and performance opportunities for young musicians in the North East and Cumbria.	2	£120,000
Northern Lights Film Festival Ltd	To employ an artistic director to develop the festival, held in and around Newcastle.	3	£120,000
Mushroom Works CIC	To employ a development manager for artists' studios in Newcastle.	3	£104,598
Dance City	Towards a programme of regional and international dance in the North East.	2	£100,000
The Empty Space	To deliver a range of services to support artists based in the North East.	2	£100,000
The Public Catalogue Foundation	To raise the profile of important oil painting collections in the North East and make them available to the widest possible audience.	1	£100,000
Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival	To employ core staff and support the running costs of the organisation in Northumberland.	3	£99,981
Kalapremi UK	Towards the salaries of the programme manager and administrator, and the core costs of the organisation based in Stanley, County Durham.	3	£90,000
Northern Design Exchange	Towards the core costs of the organisation based in Newcastle which provides professional development opportunities for creative artists in the North East.	2	£86,866
Words By The Water Ltd	For the annual Literature Festival in Keswick, Cumbria.	3	£83,000
Keswick Music Society	To participate in the Orchestras Live scheme, bringing musicians of a high quality to Cumbria.	3	£60,000
Pakistan Cultural Society	Towards the cost of sustaining the organisation and to recruit a project co-ordinator.	2	£60,000
Designed & Made	To establish a gallery of contemporary applied arts and design in Newcastle.	1	£50,000
Kendal Arts International	To develop an international street arts festival in Kendal, Cumbria.	1	£30,000
Bowes Railway	Towards the construction and installation of a new passenger platform and access ramps at Springwell, Gateshead.	1	£25,360
Café Culture	Towards the running costs of the programme in the North East.	3	£22,500

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Monkfish Productions	To fund a multimedia spoken word programme in Newcastle.	1	£20,000
Northern Stage	Towards a pilot project for a collaborative partnership between three Newcastle theatres and the Royal Shakespeare Company.	1	£20,000
The Cumbria Network	To employ part-time staff to develop the Network as an information source for artists in Cumbria.	3	£20,000
PuppetShip CIC	Towards core costs to develop the project based in Newcastle.	1	£19,950
The Folly Trust	To present VELOCITY, a festival of digital culture that circles the Morecambe Bay area with a series of networked art projects and events in south-west Cumbria.	1	£19,930
Tees Valley Arts	Towards a festival of world music and culture celebrating diversity in the Tees Valley.	1	£19,620
The FATHoM Project CIC	Towards the cost of a premiere at Dance City, Newcastle, with choreographer Adam Benjamin.	1	£19,500
Tyne and Wear Heritage Open Days Steering Group	Towards the promotion of Heritage Open Days in Tyne and Wear.	3	£19,500
Woodhorn	Towards a six-month exhibition at Woodhorn Colliery Museum, Northumberland.	1	£19,000
AM Live Music Limited	Towards the costs of staging five Candlelit Christmas concerts in the North East and Cumbria.	1	£18,500
South Lakes Development Trust	Towards the cost of the Windermere on Water event.	2	£18,000
Littoral	Towards the KS07 festival in Cumbria, celebrating the work of Kurt Schwitters.	1	£18,000
Europa Nostra UK	Towards the Europa Nostra Congress 2008 to be held in Newcastle and Gateshead.	1	£15,000
MMM/Deft	Towards the scoping phase of a national capacity building project for cultural organisations.	1	£15,000
Stanley Blues Ltd	To support the 15th Stanley Blues Festival in County Durham.	1	£15,000
Reg Vardy Gallery	Towards an exhibition of Darryl Montana's Mardi Gras in Sunderland.	1	£14,700
Kendal Arts International	Towards the 2007 Kendal International Street Arts Festival.	1	£10,500
Art Circuit Touring Exhibitions	Towards a contemporary environmental arts project working with four artists in Bellingham, Northumberland.	1	£10,000
Cumbria Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Towards a series of one-day events promoting environmental heritage skills.	2	£7,300
Badapple Theatre Company Ltd	Towards a tour of six rural venues in Cumbria and the North East of <i>Song for Geordie</i> .	1	£5,000
Culture and Heritage total	41 grants		£2,544,167

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Better Buildings			
Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau	To build a new advice centre.	1	£250,000
Age Concern Northumberland	Towards phase two of a new resource centre for older people in Ashington, Northumberland.	1	£200,000
Lanercost Village Hall	Towards the final phases of improving Dacre Hall, Lanercost, Cumbria.	1	£172,193
The Heron Corn Mill Beetham Trust	Towards the the redevelopment of a barn in south Cumbria, for community use.	1	£163,813
The Customs House Art Centre	Towards the refurbishment of the Customs House in South Tyneside.	1	£161,730
Barnabas Safe & Sound	To purchase a building to house services for young people in Morpeth and the surrounding area in Northumberland.	1	£150,000
Berwick Community Development Trust	Towards the purchase of the William Elder Building in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland.	1	£150,000
Vane Tempest Sports and Social Welfare Centre	To provide a new community facility in Seaham, County Durham.	1	£110,000
West Cornforth and District Community Association	Towards the renovation of the Association's building in County Durham, including a new roof and a new heating system.	1	£104,000
Kielder Partnership	Towards the construction costs of the Kielder Observatory in Northumberland.	1	£70,000
South Tyneside Arts Studio Ltd	To complete refurbishment work.	1	£60,000
Tees Music Alliance	Towards the refurbishment of the Georgian Theatre in the cultural quarter of Stockton-on-Tees.	1	£60,000
Thirlmere Recreation Hall	Towards the refurbishment of the village hall in Cumbria.	1	£46,200
Grayrigg Coronation Hall	Towards the second phase of the extension of the Hall in Grayrigg, Cumbria.	1	£40,000
Mill Room Broughton Beck	Towards insulating the Mill Room building in Ulverston, Cumbria, and installing an economical and environmentally friendly heating system.	1	£38,000
Ouston Community Association	Towards essential building repairs and refurbishment of a community centre in County Durham.	1	£30,011
Liverton Mines Community Centre	Towards refurbishing a community centre in Liverton, Teesside.	1	£20,000
Historic Chapels Trust	Towards the repair and improvement of Biddlestone Chapel, Northumberland, for increased community use.	1	£20,000
Bruvvers Theatre Company	Towards the completion of a 180-seat theatre-in-the-round in Newcastle.	1	£20,000
Glanton Memorial Hall	Towards the refurbishment of a village hall in Glanton, Northumberland.	1	£12,000

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
The Whiteburnshank Trust	Towards the costs of a wind-powered turbine and storage tank at Whiteburn Shank in Kidland Forest, Northumberland.	1	£10,729
Stapleton Hall	Towards completing the refurbishment and extension of Stapleton Hall, a community facility in Carlisle, Cumbria.	1	£10,000
Harrington Youth Club	For a new energy-efficient heating system, enabling greater use of this community facility in Allerdale, Cumbria.	1	£8,815
Better Buildings total	23 grants		£1,907,491

Exceptional

The Wildlife Ark Trust	To develop a squirrelpox vaccine for red squirrels in conjunction with the internationally recognised Moredun Research Institute near Edinburgh.	1	£100,000
Exceptional total	1 grant		£100,000

Policy and Influence

GRANTS

Institute for Public Policy Research North	Towards the ippr north Commission on Public Sector Reform.	2	£100,000
The Young Foundation	To contribute to a national project seeking to map existing and emerging unmet needs in Britain, with a specific focus on supporting research within North East England and Cumbria.	2	£30,000
Total grants	2 grants		£130,000

COMMISSIONS

The University of Southampton	To carry out the Foundation's Third Sector Trends Study in partnership with a team led by the University of Teesside.	2	£262,807
Social Futures Institute	To carry out the Foundation's Third Sector Trends Study in partnership with a team led by Southampton University.	3	£211,295
The Housing and Support Partnership	To carry out an evaluation of the Key Ring Newcastle Community Living Co-operative. The co-op is a new model of providing support and housing to people with learning disabilities.	2	£51,289
Social Audit Network Limited	Towards a comparative study between the North East and Merseyside looking at the extent to which social auditing is being used and how well it meets the aims of those organisations and their stakeholders.	1	£29,800
Third Sector Trends Study	To provide the Foundation with a contingency fund to support the Third Sector Trends Study.	3	£25,898

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Barefoot Research and Evaluation	To update research on maintaining positive relationships between children and their parents in prison, based on evidence from the North East.	1	£13,438
Third Sector Prospect	To appoint Third Sector Prospect's Cathy Pharaoh as chair of the Foundation's advisory group for its state of the voluntary sector research programme.	1	£12,338
Institute for Public Policy Research North	To provide baseline data on how the North East compares to other nations and regions of the UK on recognised measures of social capital.	1	£7,873
David Wilkinson	To produce for publication a report on the lessons learned from the Foundation's grants for tackling worklessness and financial exclusion.	1	£5,123
Clore Duffield Foundation	For research into education policies within cultural organisations.	1	£5,000
Respect	To develop a definitive evaluation study of domestic abuse perpetrator programmes.	1	£2,665
Total commissions	11 commissions		£627,526
Policy and Influence total	13 grants and commissions		£757,526

Special Initiatives

Depaul Trust	To provide resettlement support to offenders whilst in prison and leading up to and following their release in the North East.	1	£413,710
NACRO Crime Reduction Charity	To support the resettlement of offenders whilst in prison and leading up to and following release in the North East.	1	£355,441
The No Way Trust Limited	Towards assisting offenders in the North East with a variety of activities designed to challenge their behaviour and support them on release.	1	£105,849
King's College London	To continue the Justice Reinvest research project with a view to bringing its findings to the attention of regional and central government.	1	£100,000
Prison Reform Trust	Towards the Smart Justice campaign in the North East raising awareness about the ineffectiveness of prison and promoting alternative solutions to crime.	1	£25,000
Special Initiative total	5 grants		£1,000,000

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
VCS Training and Development			
GRANTS			
Regional Refugee Forum North East	To provide one-to-one training and support to refugee and asylum seeker and BME communities in order to build their capacity.	3	£569,849
Project North East	To provide training in full-cost recovery, leadership and governance, building capacity and procurement.	1	£536,500
Cumbria CVS	To support the countywide merger of CVS and provide a range of training to the voluntary and community sector.	1	£348,381
Voluntary Organisation Network North East (VONNE)	To employ a senior policy manager to specifically deal with procurement and the voluntary sector.	2	£155,761
Voluntary Organisation Network North East (VONNE)	Towards the costs of organisational development within VONNE.	1	£50,000
West Harton Churches Action Station Ltd	To fund the Funding and Sustainability Advisor for South Tyneside.	1	£19,885
Voluntary Action Cumbria	To employ a consultancy to assist VAC to maintain and develop its strategic role.	1	£19,596
The Community Work Assessment Consortium For North East	To evaluate previous work undertaken by CWACNEE and develop a business plan.	1	£13,000
Cumbria Community Foundation	To continue to support the Cumbria Prohelp initiative offering professional support to voluntary and community groups in Cumbria.	1	£10,000
Norcare Ltd	Towards a pilot looking at the benefits of social performance indicators as a way of demonstrating better value to local government procurement managers.	1	£9,600
Learning and Support	28 grants to help organisations address management or governance issues, or to engage in learning from other organisations or via training and conferences.	1	£34,559
Total grants	38 grants		£1,767,131
COMMISSIONS			
Mark Butcher Associates	To provide high-quality training for those new to management, emerging managers and not-for-profit sector leaders.	1	£231,704
p3 Coaching	To provide leadership training and support to potential leaders encouraging them to become actively involved in strategic planning on behalf of the sector across the North East and Cumbria.	1	£130,201
The Learning Team	To provide support and assistance for organisations going through a step change or experiencing difficulties.	1	£50,000
The Learning Team	To provide mentoring to senior staff members and ongoing support to organisations experiencing difficulties or change.	1	£45,000

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	YEARS	GRANT
Mark Butcher Associates	To run an eight-day management development programme for the benefit of personnel from North East cultural, arts and heritage groups.	1	£44,086
North East Change Centre	To explore the barriers to services moving from short-term projects to mainstream provision.	1	£28,200
The Learning Team	To continue to provide troubleshooting and mentoring support until the end of 2007.	1	£20,000
Centre for Criminal Justice Studies	To research lessons learnt from the work and growth of the ROTA and Pyramid Project and to share good practice.	1	£6,000
CRARG	To undertake a review of the Safer Families Project.	1	£5,114
SJ and A Change Consulting	Towards a recruitment support day and Deneholme sub-group meeting.	1	£2,350
Total commissions	10 commissions		£562,655
VCS Training and Development total 48 grants and commissions			£2,329,786

Loans

Cumbria Asset Reinvestment Trust	To increase the amount of capital available for lending to new and existing businesses.	5	£300,000
Total loans	1 loan		£300,000

Summary

Total main grants, policy grants, training grants, exceptional and special initiatives	272 grants		£19,997,014
Other grants	Staff matched giving and Northern Rock discretionary fund		£2,100,000
Total grants			£22,097,014
Total commissions	23 commissions		£1,232,855
Total loans	1 loan		£300,000
Total grants, commissions and loans			£23,629,869

*Emma Roebuck, criminal justice worker at Gay Advice Darlington – supported under Safety and Justice.
© Simon Veit-Wilson*



2007 grant analysis

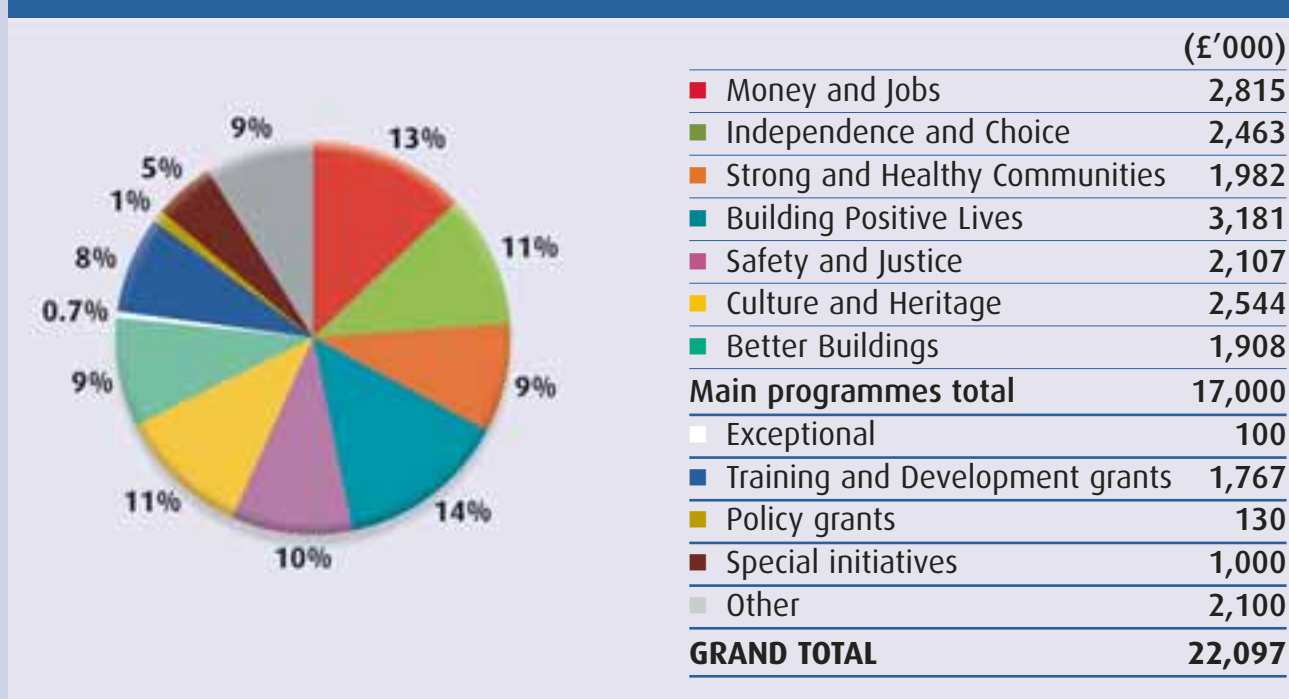
Summary of applications received

In 2007, the Foundation received 715 applications under the seven **main grant programmes** (i.e. those where organisations applied for funding within criteria set out in our published guidance). Of these applications, 317 (44%) were ineligible. Compared to previous years, there were fewer applications overall, but a much higher rate of ineligibility – only 25% were ineligible in 2006. However, both changes may result mainly from applicants taking time to get used to new programmes. The external factors affecting the Foundation in autumn 2007 may also have led to a reduction in applications.

Amount awarded 2007

The total invested by the Foundation through grants, commissions and loans in 2007 was £23.6 million. The Trustees awarded £17 million in grants through their main programmes, and a further £3 million in grants for policy and training work, special initiatives and under the Exceptional category. £2.1 million was awarded through the staff matched giving scheme and a discretionary fund managed by Northern Rock plc. As well as grants, the Trustees commissioned activities supporting their programme aims totalling £1.2 million and awarded loans worth £0.3 million. These commissions and loans are listed alongside grants in the previous section.

Amount awarded 2007



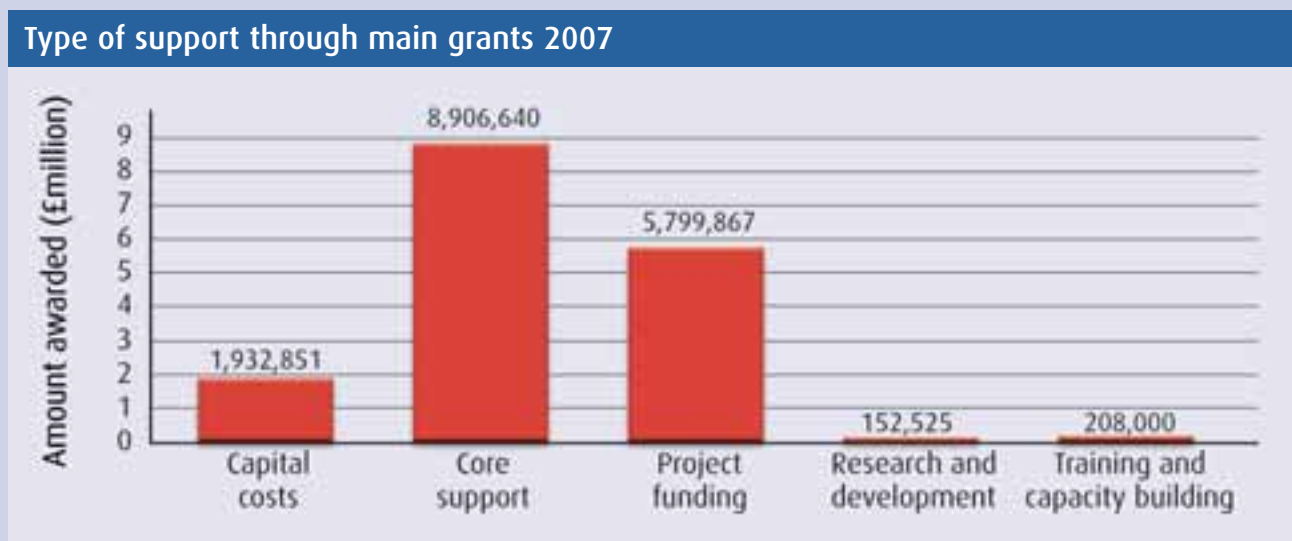
2007 main grants by region and per capita

In 2007, we continued the previous trend of spending the biggest proportion of our grants in Tyne and Wear, which has over a third of our region's population. However, spending per head continues to be highest in our two most rural counties: Cumbria and Northumberland. We spent the least amount per head in County Durham, from where we consistently receive fewer applications.

2007 main grants approved by region and per capita (‘Region-wide’ refers to grants that benefit people in more than one county in our area.)						
Geographical area	Amount approved 2007 (£'000)	Number of grants	% of amount approved (%)	Success rate of eligible applications (%)	Population (2006 mid-year estimate)	Amount approved per capita (£)
Cumbria	2,524	41	15	49	496,150	5.09
Durham	1,890	24	11	35	500,710	3.77
Northumberland	1,799	25	10	47	309,870	5.81
Tees Valley	2,513	31	15	41	657,540	3.82
Tyne and Wear	5,190	69	31	42	1,087,580	4.77
<i>North East and Cumbria area-wide</i>	<i>3,084</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>3,051,850</i>	<i>1.01</i>
Total	17,000	226	100	45	3,051,850	5.57

2007 main grants by type of support

As in previous years, the majority of our grants in 2007 were for core support. The majority of our capital expenditure was made through the Better Buildings programme.



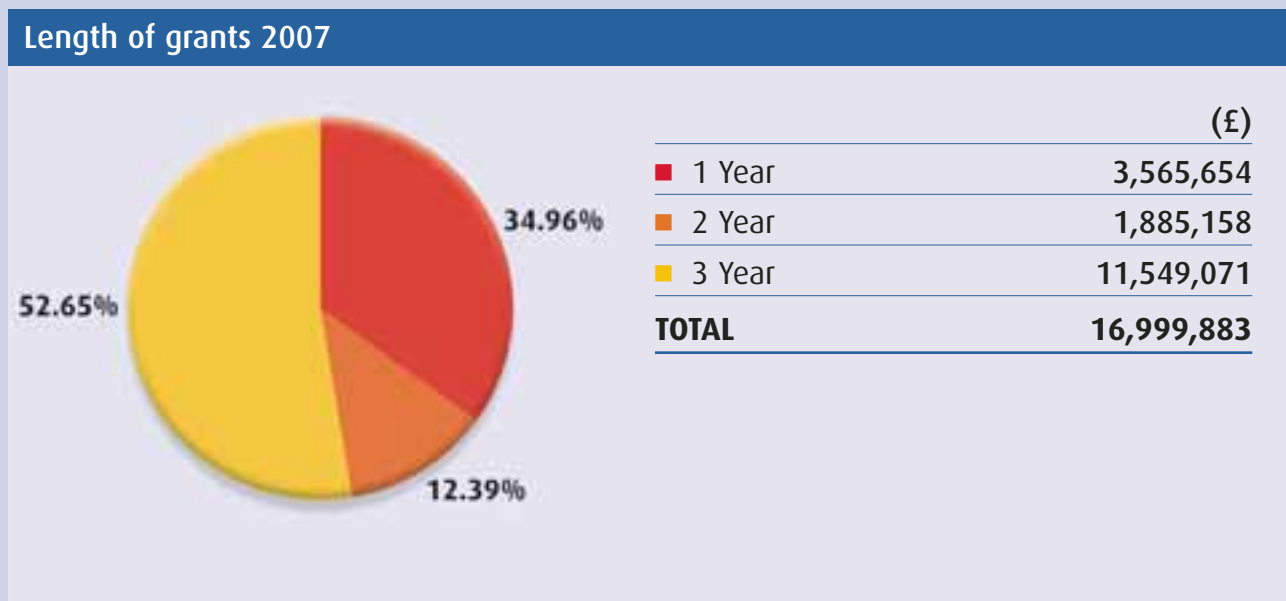
2007 main grants – repeat funding

The data shows that despite the introduction of new programmes, the majority of our grants were made to organisations with whom we had a prior funding relationship. Over a quarter of the amount awarded was to continue existing work. However, we also invested in 88 organisations whom we had not funded before, many of them applicants under our Better Buildings programme.



Length of main grants made 2007

In 2007, the majority of our funding was invested through three-year grants. However, as the chart above shows, we also provide continuation funding in many cases.



*Manna House in Cumbria –
funded under Building Positive Lives.
© Simon Veit-Wilson*



2007 summary financial statements

Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Total funds 2007 £'000	Total funds 2006 £'000
Incoming Resources		
Covenant from Northern Rock plc	14,803	31,337
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>		
Investment Income	1,634	1,395
<i>Other incoming resources:</i>		
Other Income	60	52
Total Incoming Resources	16,497	32,784
Resources Expended		
<i>Cost of generating funds:</i>		
Investment management costs	69	61
<i>Charitable activities</i>	23,937	28,785
<i>Governance costs</i>	207	82
Total Resources Expended	24,213	28,928
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(7,716)	3,856
Other Recognised Gains and Losses		
Realised gain on Investments	115	63
Unrealised gain on Investments	767	947
	882	1,010
Net Movements in Funds	(6,834)	4,866
Balances brought forward 1 January	36,168	31,302
Balances carried forward 31 December	29,334	36,168

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

The Trustees consider that all of the Foundation's funds are unrestricted.

Balance Sheet

at 31 December 2007

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Fixed Assets		
Investment in Northern Rock plc	–	–
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,006	1,054
Investments under fund management	25,690	19,145
Programme-related investments	3,754	3,940
	30,450	24,139
Current Assets		
Debtors	75	16,762
Short-term deposits	24,197	24,913
Investments	–	6
Cash at bank and in hand	335	139
	24,607	41,820
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(17,874)	(20,560)
Net Current Assets	6,733	21,260
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	37,183	45,399
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Grants authorised and not yet paid	(7,849)	(9,231)
Net Assets	29,334	36,168
Unrestricted Funds		
General Reserve	28,135	33,537
Revaluation Reserve	1,199	2,631
Income Funds	29,334	36,168

The above information is a summary of the financial transactions of the Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2007 and does not purport to be full or audited accounts. Our auditors PKF (UK) LLP have given an unqualified audit report to the accounts, which are available to download from our website www.nr-foundation.org.uk or by contacting Alison Graham at our office.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 12 May 2008.

Trustees and staff

Trustees

Alastair Balls (Chair)

David Chapman

Barbara Dennis
resigned March 2007

David Faulkner

Jackie Fisher
appointed October 2007

Tony Henfrey

Charles Howick
retired December 2007

Christopher Jobe

Lorna Moran

Frank Nicholson

Barbara (Mo) O'Toole
appointed October 2007

Julie Shipley

John Stevens
*appointed May 2007;
resigned August 2007*

Sally Thomas
appointed January 2007

Foundation staff at March 2008

Fiona Ellis
Foundation Director

Rob Williamson
*Director of Policy and
Communications*

Alison Graham
*Director of Finance and
Resources/Company
Secretary*

Louise Telford
Programme Manager

Penny Vowles
Programme Manager

Richard Walton
Programme Manager

Cullagh Warnock
Programme Manager

Rachel Kyle
Office Administrator

David Allan
IT and Building Administrator

Gemma Appleby
Programme Assistant

Caroline Percy
Finance Assistant

Shirley Carling
*Senior Administration
Assistant*

Kerry Gent
Administration Assistant

(Back wall from bottom left) Alastair Balls, David Faulkner, Frank Nicholson, Jackie Fisher, Tony Henfrey, Charles Howick. (Stairs from top right) Christopher Jobe, Sally Thomas, Mo O'Toole, Julie Shipley, Lorna Moran.





Staff leaving during the year to March 2008

Anne Burleigh
Deputy Foundation Director

Anji Sowerby
*Acting Director of Finance
and Resources*

Susan Leonard
Office Manager

Pauline Johnson
Programme Manager

Sue Vaughan
Programme Manager

Sara Clark
Programme Officer

Pete Barrett
Programme Officer

Hannah Stapley
Policy and Research Officer

Ruth Mansfield
Directors' PA

Joan Woolley
Communications Assistant

Helen Sutcliffe
Programme Assistant

Wendy Daghish
Grants Administrator

Susan Young
Finance Assistant

Sarah Curran
Administration Assistant

Consultants and freelance staff

Phyllida Shaw
Rock Reports journalist

Carol Meredith
Grants assessor

Hilary Florek
PR consultant

(Back row from bottom left) Richard Walton, Cullagh Warnock, Caroline Percy, Sara Clark, Pete Barrett, Carol Meredith, Penny Vowles, Susan Leonard, Ruth Mansfield. (Middle row from front) Rob Williamson, Rachel Kyle, Susan Young, Anji Sowerby, Jo Woolley, Louise Telford. (Front row from top right) Hannah Stapley, Kerry Gent, David Allan, Gemma Appleby, Sue Vaughan, Fiona Ellis, Helen Sutcliffe, Anne Burleigh, Shirley Carling, Pauline Johnson.

Both © Simon Veit-Wilson

Programmes and activities from 2008

Grant programmes

- **Independence and Choice**
Giving people with mental health problems, people with learning disabilities, older people and carers a choice of excellent services that help them to become or remain independent.
- **Building Positive Lives**
Helping people who lack self-confidence or motivation, or who face discrimination, to have the individual support they need to lead more positive and fulfilling lives.
- **Safety and Justice**
Reducing the incidence and impact of domestic abuse, sexual violence, prostitution, child abuse and hate crimes, by investing in better support for victims.
- **Culture and Heritage**
Inspiring, enjoyable and diverse culture programmes and events that raise our region's profile and make it a better place for everyone to live and enjoy life.

Other activities

- **Policy** work informs and influences the environment in which the activities we support take place. As a neutral body we also provide independent research and analysis, and space for organisations to learn from each other.
- **VCS training and development** aims to increase the effectiveness of the voluntary sector through leadership and management training and through capacity building support.
- **Special initiatives** concentrate on particular issues in depth. They allow us to develop work and test new approaches alongside evaluation and advocacy of emerging good practice.
- **Loans and other investments** provide alternative tools for supporting charitable activities.

More information about all aspects of the Foundation's work can be found on our website www.nr-foundation.org.uk

*Sport Universities North East works to help ex-offenders and addicts through participation in sport, funded under Strong and Healthy Communities (p13).
© Simon Veit-Wilson*



Registered office:

Northern Rock House, Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL

Registered charity:

Number 1063906

Company limited by guarantee:

Number 3416658

Independent auditors:

PKF (UK) LLP, Farringdon Place
20 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3AP

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank plc, Lloyds TSB, City Office
PO Box 72, Bailey Drive
Gillingham Business Park, Kent ME8 0LS

Northern Rock plc, Northern Rock House
Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL

Solicitors:

Farrer & Co., 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3LH

Short, Richardson & Forth LLP, 4 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1DE

Ward Hadaway Solicitors, Sandgate House
102 Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3DX

Investment advisors:

Group Treasury, Northern Rock plc
Northern Rock House, Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL

Investment managers:

Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited
Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh EH12 5HD

Financial advisors:

Europa Partners Limited
33 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4JS

Northern Rock Foundation

The Old Chapel

Woodbine Road

Gosforth

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE3 1DD

Tel: 0191 284 8412

Fax: 0191 284 8413

Minicom: 0191 284 5411

Email: generaloffice@nr-foundation.org.uk

Website: www.nr-foundation.org.uk