



Cheffins Community Fund: Update

A fund established by Cheffins, managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, offering grants to local charities and community groups.

Cheffins very own 'children in need' grants

Introduction

This is the latest update on how money from Cheffins has been distributed to charitable groups across the region.

Representatives from Cheffins offices are invited to visit each project to see first-hand how even the smallest amount can mean so much difference to these groups.

Grant criteria

The Cheffins Community Fund offers small grants to local voluntary and community organisations working to help people in need in or around Cambridge, Ely, Newmarket, Haverhill and Saffron Walden.

Visiting a local project

Lauren King, senior negotiator, from Cheffins in Newmarket, visited the Ellesmere Opportunity Group in Stetchworth to present a commemorative plaque. Full details and photo on page 2.

Harry Potter, music therapy, national helpline and Cheffins Community Fund

Helped by £650 from the fund, a group of 7-11 year olds with a cleft lip and/or palate, enjoyed a Harry Potter themed activity day. Hosted by the [Cambridge branch of the Cleft Lip and Palate Association \(CLAPA\)](#) children took part in activities based on the popular theme, such as riding on the Hogwarts Express, wearing the sorting hat, waving wands and making magical potions.

On average three babies are born in the UK with a cleft everyday and around 90 babies a year are born with the deformity in East Anglia.

CLAPA-Cambridge is run by volunteers and works closely with the regional Cleft Team based at Addenbrooke's Hospital. It provides support for sufferers of a cleft lip and/or palate condition and their families, from infancy through to adulthood across the East Anglian Region.

£500 will go towards the national helpline running costs of [Fledglings Family Services](#), a charity dedicated to helping parents of disabled children and those with special needs children.

Based near Saffron Walden, a six-strong staff, plus a small team of dedicated volunteers offer a service by phone and by email to provide information and advice to help families find simple, affordable solutions to day-to-day difficulties, wherever they live.

Weekly music therapy sessions for children (2-19) in East Cambridgeshire will take place at [Highfield Special School](#) thanks to a grant of £500. Boys and girls attending the school have varying disabilities—some have moderate, severe or profound learning difficulties and some children have autism. Some may have associated behavioural problems, physical disabilities, sensory, communication or medical problems.

Playgroups benefit from Community Fund

A grant of £510 will enable the **Saffron Walden Opportunity Playgroup** to purchase a laptop computer and adapted software that is suitable for a child's development and interest, to replace the existing computer that was very heavy and prone to breaking down.

The Playgroup is open to children from babies to 5 year olds, with a wide range of special needs and disabilities and their siblings who can come and play together. Children with special needs may struggle to use traditional toys. Technology, such as the software on the new laptop, with a large mouse and a special 'switch for those with physical disabilities, can overcome these difficulties.



(L/R) Jane Wright, Lauren King, Ian Young and Anne Ridgeon (CCF trustee)

A grant of £500 has enabled **Accuro** in Saffron Walden to purchase an Infinity Box to add to other items in its 'sensory tent' for children who attend the Saturday Club— a weekly playgroup for disabled children providing a variety of activities including arts and crafts, soft play, sandpit and water play.

Although beneficial for all the children, the Infinity Box will be especially appropriate for a child with cerebral palsy who is unable to walk and who gains great pleasure from sensory equipment such as this very special box.

With £390 the **Ellesmere Opportunity Playgroup** can now pay for transport for three/four families per week to the Stetchworth Ellesmere Centre as well as pay the insurance for a place where special needs children can play together and parents can meet, offering support and friendship to each other.

Lauren King, senior negotiator at Cheffins, Newmarket branch visited the playgroup in October to see its work, played with the children and presented a plaque to playgroup secretary Jane Wright.

Lauren was particularly good at 'the worm game'!

New logo CCF recently launched a new logo that will now appear on all our future newsletters

Get Involved

You can get involved in a number of ways:

1. Encourage local community groups to apply for a grant from the Cheffins Community Fund or any of the other funds that CCF manages.
2. Undertake some fundraising activities and raise money for the Cheffins Community Fund.
3. Find out more about the projects that have received a grant from the Cheffins Community Fund and think about volunteering.

The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, an independent charity (1103314), makes grants to local grass root community groups. Individuals, families, business, public sector organisations, and other charitable trusts make this possible by setting up Funds with us.

Our purpose is to provide a grant making and fund management service to our donors, while supporting projects that make a real difference to the quality of life for local people. Since set up in early 2004 the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, working in partnership with local and national businesses, charitable trusts, local government and individuals, has distributed over £4m to over 1000 groups across Cambridgeshire.