**Cumbria Community Foundation launches new fund with Fibrus to help address digital poverty in the region**

***Cumbria, UK. Monday 3rd April 2023 –*** Full fibre broadband company Fibrus, who is currently rolling out their network in Cumbria, is delighted to announce its partnership with the Cumbria Community Foundation. This new fund, which launches today and is named the “Fibrus Community Fund Cumbria” aims to award funding to local communities in need of support.

The fund’s main goal is to support those experiencing digital poverty in rural areas, with a particular focus on grassroots organisations and community groups. Successful grants will be allocated to support on-the-ground digital technology projects which make key differences to communities, enhancing people’s lives and well-being. A particular focus will be placed on children, young people and older people who could benefit from digital support.

Fibrus Chief Executive Officer, Dominic Kearns said:

*“Fibrus is committed to supporting the communities in which we operate. We will invest £60,000 in the Fibrus Community Fund Cumbria in 2023, to give back to some of the organisations doing wonderful work to enhance and support towns and villages across Cumbria.*

*We’re looking for projects specifically aimed at young people who need greater access to technology or connectivity, as well as initiatives that combat digital exclusion amongst those more vulnerable in our society. We hope many local groups and community organisations get involved and look forward to hearing more about your fantastic work.”*

Jenny Benson, Director of Programmes and Partnerships at Cumbria Community Foundation said:

*“We’re delighted to be working with Fibrus to deliver this important new grant making fund in Cumbria.*

*Digital connectivity has increasingly become a daily necessity for us to live our lives, particularly in rural areas. However, the most vulnerable members of our communities often struggle to afford, access or use digital technologies.*

*With Fibrus’ generous support, we will be able to offer grants to community organisations to enable them to help younger and older people become more digitally connected and to access a range of online tools, from grocery shopping and training, to new employment opportunities.”*

Fibrus launched a similar fund via the Community Foundation Northern Ireland in September 2021 which will have provided a total contribution of £120,000 by the end of 2023. Some examples of the projects supported so far include the provision of devices to help children with special needs communicate in a way more comfortable for them, and iPads for young people to support with education.

To learn more information or to apply to the fund visit <https://www.cumbriafoundation.org/fund/fibrus-community-fund-cumbria/>

**ENDS**

**Photo, as attached:**



**Notes to editor**

* Read more about and apply to the Fibrus Community Fund Cumbria: https://www.cumbriafoundation.org/fund/fibrus-community-fund-cumbria/
* Read more about Fibrus’ rollout in Cumbria here: <https://www.fibrus.com/news/fibrus-announces-major-broadband-rollout-for-cumbria>
* Read more about Fibrus here: [www.fibrus.com](https://www.fibrus.com/)
* Eligible postcodes:
* CA1, CA10, CA11, CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, CA16, CA17, CA18, CA19, CA2, CA20, CA21, CA22, CA23, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA28, CA3, CA4, CA5, CA6, CA7, CA8, CA9, LA9 LA10, LA11, LA12 LA13, LA16, LA17, LA18, LA19, LA20, LA21, LA22, LA23, LA7, LA8, NE49, TD9
* Photo taken at previous beneficiary of Fibrus Community Fund Northern Ireland – St Joseph’s PTA

**About Fibrus**

Fibrus Networks Ltd is transforming the digital infrastructure of rural and regional areas of the UK, by investing £700m to bring full fibre broadband to homes and businesses in town and villages across Northern Ireland and Northern England.

With switch to full fibre broadband underway Fibrus has a single focus building what is now the critical infrastructure of the 21st Century. For years phone and TV companies have run slow copper phone networks into their customers’ premises, and called that Fibre Broadband, Fibrus is a “Full Fibre” broadband company meaning that we only use a full fibre optic cable all the way to the premises creating a quality and reliability that cannot be achieved any other way. Full Fibre broadband is the “mains electricity” of the 21st Century and Fibrus Broadband will not be beaten on price or quality.

Already passing 250,000 homes across Cumbria and all six counties in Northern Ireland – Fibrus aims to reach 1 million homes in the future.

**About Community Foundation Cumbria**

Cumbria Community Foundation is a charity dedicated to meeting community need by grant aiding community and voluntary organisations in Cumbria. It was launched in 1999 and has given out more than £60 million in grant aid. It is an award-winning charity dedicated to improving community life by making grants to local charities. For further information visit: www.cumbriafoundation.org

**For further information, contact:**

For more information or help on how to apply please contact: Lisa Blackwell, Grants & Programmes Officer, lisa@cumbriafoundation.org or 01900 820828