

Wales Council of the Blind

Roundup

Spring
2016

Special
Supplement

Finding Funding

This supplement is not intended as a comprehensive list of funding sources and types, but it gives an overview. It has been organised into two main areas:

Local Groups, clubs and organisations

Grants for Individuals

Local groups, clubs and organisations

Wales Council for Voluntary Action

Helping the third sector identify and secure funding is a key role for Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). They have given us this overview of the support they can offer.

If you're a Welsh charity, voluntary group or community group that is looking for funding advice or information, WCVA and the County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) can help.

WCVA and the CVCs is a network of support organisations across Wales helping people to make a positive difference to their communities. WCVA works at a national level, while CVCs work at a local level.

One of the key roles of this support network is to help the third sector identify and secure funding. Armed with a full range of funding sources and the skills and information needed to support a strategic approach, WCVA and the CVCs offer advice, training and support to help organisations to become financially sustainable.

Free guidance is available to trustees, staff and volunteers including funding searches, practical assistance with funding applications, advice on how to diversify income, fundraising strategies, business planning, financial management, tendering, trading, and joint working.

To find out more contact WCVA's Helpdesk on 0800 288 329 or email help@wcva.org.uk to access support from WCVA or your local CVC, visit the website – www.wcva.org.uk/funding - or follow [@WCVAFunding](https://twitter.com/WCVAFunding) on Twitter.

General Advice

The following general advice for groups new to fundraising is taken from the WCVA website www.wcva.org.uk/funding.

What types of fundraising are there?

Fundraising covers many things from sponsored events and charitable donations through to writing grant funding applications, charitable trusts and trading. The information at the website helps you identify appropriate funding sources, provides guidance on how to access funding and where to get more information.

How much work is involved in fundraising?

The amount of work required for fundraising varies enormously between different funding sources and the amount you need to raise. Funding sources such as raffles or asking for donations can be quick and easy, whereas running an appeal for a new roof may take over a year to achieve and require considerable motivation.

Requirements for funding applications can vary; some are complex requiring accompanying materials, such as a business plan, whereas others, such as Awards for All from the Lottery or grants from your local county voluntary council (CVC) are designed to be accessible to smaller and newly established groups.

How much money can we access?

The money that can be generated from fundraising varies from a few hundred pounds to millions. The amount you are likely to attract is generally in proportion to your present income. So if you are raising money for the first time, do not expect to achieve huge sums. Funders like to see a track record of success and have the confidence that a group can manage larger grants.

A good starting point is the 'Finding and getting money section' of WCVA's website at <http://www.wcva.org.uk/advice-guidance/finding-and-getting-money>, where you can download factsheets on all aspects of the subject from developing a strategy to making applications and running events.

County Voluntary Councils (CVCs)

Each of Wales' local authority areas has its own CVC, which provides an online funding portal where charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations can search for themselves. The CVCs also produce a range of factsheets giving advice on various aspects of fundraising, produce regular newsletters, and run occasional funding surgeries and training.

You can find a complete list of CVCs with links to their websites on WCVA's site: <http://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/advice/cvcs>.

Contact numbers:

Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW)
01978 312556

Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656
810400

Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS)
01267 245555

Cardiff Third Sector Council (C3SC)
029 2048 5722

Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations (CAVO) 01570
423232

Conwy Voluntary Services Council (CVSC)
01492 534091

Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC)
01824 702441

Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC)
01352 744000

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) covering
Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport
01633 241550

Interlink (Rhondda Cynon Taff)
01443 846200

Mantell Gwynedd

01286 672626

Medrwn Môn (Isle of Anglesey)

01248 724944

Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services

01639 631246

Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS) 01437

769422

Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO)

01597 822 191

Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS)

01792 544000

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance

01495 742420

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (Vale of Glamorgan)

01446 741706

Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT)

01685 353900

Please note membership is required to access the services of some CVCs, although this is generally at a low cost or free.

Big Lottery Fund: Making a £30 million difference to communities in Wales

The Big Lottery Fund is a major source of funding in Wales. In the following article, they tell us about their future plans.

The Big Lottery Fund has announced that it has more than £30 million available to support groups in Wales who want to make

lives better for their communities. This year is an exciting time for the Big Lottery Fund. It has started work on its Strategic Framework which outlines its vision for how it will work with communities over the next six years.

The Fund has launched **Create Your Space** which will use **£8.8 million** to transform local natural environments in Wales.

And it has just finished communicating with communities to help shape a **£13.5 million** programme launching this autumn which will help address rural poverty in Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire.

Grants of up to £5,000 will continue to be available in Wales through the Big Lottery Fund's 'Awards for All' programme as well as larger amounts of up to £1 million through People and Places.

Big Lottery Fund Wales director John Rose said: "We want people to be aware of the opportunities our funding provides constituencies across Wales and the incredible difference it makes for people and their communities.

"In 2016, we will reach out to even more people with this £30 million and remember we really want to hear from you too so please get in touch if you have an idea that will help make a positive difference in your area."

Find out about funding available in Wales by visiting www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/wales following @BigLotteryWales on Twitter or liking the Facebook page www.facebook.com/biglotteryfundwales.

Lloyds Bank Foundation

The Invest and Enable grant programmes are available through Lloyds Bank Foundation. The next round of applications opens on 25th April.

Invest provides longer term core or delivery funding for charities which meet the programme aim and are delivering clear outcomes as a result of their work.

It will fund 'core' organisational costs (including running costs and salaries). By 'core' costs they mean those related to the day to day running of your charity. It also funds costs associated with the direct delivery of your work.

£10-25k per year over 2-6 years.

Enable provides shorter term grants to strengthen charities which meet the programme aim, helping them to deliver their mission more effectively.

What Enable funds: Development costs

'Development costs' can include a wide range of costs related to organisational development and improvement. Examples include: staff training, business and service developments, development of monitoring systems, independent examinations, organisational mergers and shared services, consultancy support and quality standards.

Up to £15k over 1-2 years.

There is an online eligibility checklist and application process at www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/how-to-apply/

If you wish to speak or correspond with a staff member, please contact the central London office:

- Phone: 0870 411 1223
- Fax: 0870 411 1224
- Phone (via TypeTalk): 18001 0870 411 1223
- E-mail: enquiries@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk
- Address: Pentagon House, 52-54 Southwark Street, London SE1 1UN

Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust

The Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust was established through an agreement between the Millennium Stadium plc and the Millennium Commission when the Stadium was built. It aims to improve the quality of life of people who live and work in Wales. The Regional Round Open (Wales) is now open and grants of up to £7,500 are available for not-for-profit organisations in Wales that have a remit to serve a region or local authority-wide area.

Funding is available for projects in the following four areas:

Sport - The Trust is keen to support volunteer-based projects, particularly from ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. The Trust recognises the difference that coaching can make to the development of a sport and is keen to fund equipment and coaching costs if the need has been clearly identified.

The Arts - The Trust aims to give more people the opportunity to enjoy the diversity of performing and visual arts in Wales. It particularly favours proposals which expand and improve arts provision in parts of the country less well served than others and will give priority to organisations which strive to work together to share experiences, practices and ideas.

The Environment - The Trust encourages applications relating to recycling, developing green spaces, the development and promotion of green practices and the promotion of public transport schemes.

The Community - The Trust will give priority to organisations that are looking to tackle social, personal, economic or cultural barriers within their own communities. In particular, projects that lead to greater independence and give people more control over their lives will be given priority. It welcomes applications that give people a voice to express their needs and hopes and is keen to help disabled people to challenge barriers and to be active and visible in their local communities.

The deadline for applications is 29 July 2016 (12 noon).
<http://www.millenniumstadiumtrust.org.uk/how-to-apply/>

By post: Trust Administrator, Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust, Suite One, 4 Bessemer Road, Cardiff, CF11 8BA.
Telephone: 029 20 022 143
Email: info@millenniumstadiumtrust.org.

10 questions to ask before applying for funding

Finding and applying for appropriate funding opportunities can be very time intensive. Cardiff Third Sector Council (C3SC), the umbrella organisation that promotes, supports and represents the third sector in Cardiff, has put together this useful guide to the key points that you need to think about before making an application.

1 Are we eligible to apply?

It sounds obvious, but many funding applications are rejected because they:

- ask for costs that fall outside the scope of the grant programme
- fail to provide information required in the application
- are from types of organisations the funder cannot support

Read the guidelines carefully and contact the funder if in doubt.

2 Do we meet the criteria and/or priorities?

If a funder says they are only interested in supporting the elderly, don't waste time by applying for a project for any other purpose. Again, if in doubt contact the funder for advice.

Take a look at the organisations the funder has supported before, as this builds a picture of the types of projects they support.

3 What is this funder really looking for?

Beyond the basics of criteria and eligibility, what do you know about this funder? Have you made a clear case for support? Have you tailored your approach to the individual funder?

Be clear about your application's main selling points.

4 Have we got enough time to apply for this grant and do the funded work properly?

Responding to funding opportunities takes time; you should consider carefully whether you have the resources to dedicate to it. If there are time constraints in relation to when the funded activity must happen, you should consider if you can set up and deliver your project within these timelines. Be prepared to walk away if the timing isn't right.

Bear in mind that you are likely to need to consult with community members or work with partners.

5 Would this project be the best use of this funding opportunity?

In many cases organisations need funding for several projects at once. How do you decide what you apply for, what might be suitable for a loan, and what activity might you fund through income from trading or bidding for contracts? Grants can be valuable in funding types of activity which are impossible to support through other channels – although they are not the only source of income.

To make the best use of opportunities you need to be aware of your wider funding needs and consider each opportunity in this context.

6 What terms and conditions might be attached to any offer?

Some funders will ask for little other than an acknowledgement of their support. But funders who expect funded organisations to meet certain standards will often be happy to explain in advance what these are. It's unlikely to cause any major problems but it's important to check in advance – as there could be implications for how you manage your project.

Make sure you can accept the terms of the grant before you apply.

7 Have we included the full costs of this project in our application?

Do you know what your full costs are and have you asked the funder to meet them? It's easy to overlook the costs of management and administration, which underpin the project for which you are applying. There are still funders who will only consider direct project costs, but increasingly funders recognise that organisations need to cover their full costs.

Make sure you know and understand the principles of Full Cost Recovery before you start.

8 Aside from this grant, are there any other ways we could fund this activity?

Grants can be incredibly useful but also limited in terms of what they support, how long they take to apply for and when they are available. Sometimes a loan can help you respond to a need or

opportunity quickly, or a contract may exist for similar activities. It's worth considering all your options before applying for a grant.

Knowing your other options means you have a head start if you are rejected, and also when considering how to make the project sustainable in the future.

9 If we get this funding, what will happen when the grant ends?

A lot of organisations use grants either to fund ongoing activity or to set up new activity which they would like to continue. Many funders are concerned about the sustainability of the activity (and organisations) they support and will be more open to applications that include the costs of preparing a project for life after the grant ends.

Be prepared with a strategy for how you might continue the project's activity once the funding has ended.

10 If we are successful, could we meet the terms and conditions of the grant?

Some funders – particularly public or Lottery – may have conditions about how to account for your grant and manage activity they are funding. This may have additional costs or other implications for your organisation.

Find out what standard conditions might be attached before you apply.

Find out more about C3SC and download the full version of the Funding Factsheet at www.c3sc.org.uk

Other fundraising approaches

Other types of fundraising that can be considered are appeals for corporate donations, public appeals through publicity, house-to-house collections or static collection boxes, raffles, and

sponsored events. The Institute of Fundraising is a good source of information on what you need to consider when doing this, in particular on the legal aspects that need to be considered. Their website is <http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/home/>.

Charities are making increasing use of the internet as a way of raising funds. Here are some examples of how this can be done:

Crowdfunding.

Crowdfunding seems to attract a lot of attention as a novel way of financing a project, whether it be a movie or a technological innovation, and the model is well-suited to community-based projects as it fosters a sense of ownership from the outset. Also, the nature of this kind of fundraising is such that the publicity machine for the project is in motion from the start and awareness and interest gets built over time. These factors can give the project a head start once the funding target has been reached.

The following is paraphrased from 'New Funding Sources: an introduction for Trustees' produced by New Philanthropy Capital and the Clothworkers' Company.

What is crowdfunding?

Crowdfunding is a form of alternative finance that enables the funding of projects or organisations from a large number of small contributions (typically individuals over the internet) rather than from a few large contributions (ie. mainstream lenders or funders). The process is enabled via online platforms (eg. Crowdfunder and Kickstarter), which host individual's/organisation's pitches for funding and connect them to potential supporters/funders.

Individuals may then pledge sums of money to the cause. Peter Baeck, setting out evidence from NESTA's research on alternative finance, identifies four distinct models:

Reward based: Enables people to contribute to projects and receive non-financial rewards in return. Example platforms: Crowdfunder, Kickstarter, We Fund.

Lending based: Projects or businesses seeking debt apply through the platform, uploading their pitch, with members of the crowd taking small chunks of the overall loan. Examples: Funding Circle, Lending Circle, Kiva.

Equity based: Enables the crowd to invest for equity, or profit/revenue sharing in businesses or projects. Examples: Crowd2Fund, Lending Circle, Microgenius (Community Shares Unit).

Donation based: Allows charities, or those who raise money for social or charitable projects, to gather a community online and to enable them to donate to a specific project. Examples: Chuffed, Global Giving, Just Giving.

Benefits of crowdfunding:

Engaging new supporters – reaching people who would not otherwise have engaged with the cause:

- creating new advocates – it's natural for new supporters to advocate for the cause;
- extending geographical reach – the internet opens your cause up to the world;
- drawing-in match funding – other funders are attracted because crowdfunding is a measure of popularity;
- accessing non-financial support – other support such as volunteering can be obtained.

Crowdfunding fails for around 55% of campaigns, so it might be regarded as high risk if your organization depends on it to fund a project. To aid success, use these tips:

Be realistic – about the funds you need to raise and the number of backers needed to achieve this;

Be prepared – make sure the whole organization understands the campaign and buys into it. Ensure that reward schemes are followed through and that consistent messages compatible with the organisation's ethos are given out by everyone;

Prepare the crowd – use social media to build anticipation and awareness before the campaign starts;

Reward your backers – develop rewards/experiences that connect backers' interests to a charity's mission and day-to-day activities;

Maintain the momentum – have a communications plan to ensure the message reaches new people and introduces new content as the fundraising deadline draws closer.

Peter Baeck's crowdfunding report, 'Crowding In', is at www.nesta.org.uk/sites/default/files/crowding_in_report.pdf

Fundraising via internet shopping

You can get free cash donations for your cause by asking your supporters to shop via a number of websites and support your cause. It will not cost you or your supporters an extra penny – it all comes from the retailers. Typically, these websites will keep a portion of the commission received for themselves and pass the rest on to you. It is a great way to get supporters to donate extra cash to you at no extra cost to them.

An example of this is easyfundraising.org.uk, which has raised over £9 million for causes throughout the UK. Using the system is

straightforward. First, register your good cause. You'll get a special easyfundraising page, which you can share with your supporters and invite them to join. When you and your supporters shop online with the partner retailers, you will get donations from the retailers - depending on the items purchased. There is a huge number of partner retailers including big names such as John Lewis, M&S, Amazon, Thomson Holidays and Apple. Every three months, your donations are totalled, and assuming a certain total is reached, a payment is sent via your chosen method.

Online Giving websites

There are several websites which enable charities and voluntary groups to set up a fundraising page and collect donations from supporters. Two of the best known are Just Giving and Virgin Money Giving. However, the amount that you receive can vary considerably, so it's worth making sure that you are getting the best deal. The website Moneysaving Expert has produced a guide to online giving websites, which you can find at <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/charity-fundraising-sites>

It has carried out an analysis of the nine biggest sites, and rates Givey as the one which gives the highest donation to charities (£12.50 from a £10 donation with Gift Aid). It has no charges for the charity itself, though donors are charged a 5% transaction fee on top of the amount of the donation.

Timebanking

Although we have focussed on raising funds, an alternative approach to getting resources which some groups may want to consider is Timebanking, a time-based currency system.

Individuals earn time credits by giving practical help and support to others. One hour of service given earns you one credit which can then be exchanged for an hour of something that you need. In each case, everyone's time is equal. There are several

organisations which provide support to this approach, such as Spice (<http://www.justaddspice.org/>) which operates in Wales.

Case Study: Visual Impairment Merthyr

In 2007 we had a grant from the 'Grants for All' scheme to promote reading by VI people. The money was used to purchase 50 CD players which bookmarked where one had left off listening, so that it was easy to pick up the theme in the right place. This was part of an initiative to stimulate more activity by VI folk.

Five years ago we had a grant of £2,200 for equipment for VI and for hard of hearing people to be demonstrated in our Rehab centre. This was a joint initiative with the local deaf group.

Five years ago we also had a grant from the Development Fund, to provide the Finding Your Feet course. This was an amount of £9,200 that funded fifty participants. We taxied them in, hired the venue as necessary, and provided refreshments and lunch. The lunch gave them a chance to discuss what they had learnt.

We have visited Sight Village twice and also two resource centres, providing buses each time.

Grants for individuals

In this section, we start by looking at organisations which can help individuals find sources of financial support.

Help with finding grants

Turn2us

This organisation does not offer financial support itself, but it holds details of hundreds of grant-giving national, regional and local charities. In most cases, charitable funds have been set up to help particular groups of people who have something in common. This may be a specific illness or disability, a job or profession that the individual currently or previously worked in, nationality or faith, or a more general grouping such as 'older people' or 'children'.

You can search their database yourself by going to the website www.turn2us.org.uk and following the links to 'Grants search'. If you cannot access the web, you can contact Turn2us on their free telephone helpline, 0808 802 2000.

Turn2us runs regional workshops across the UK to help front-line workers and volunteers ('intermediaries') to use their tools and services to support people in financial need. Any groups or clubs who are interested should contact Michelle Brookes via email at: michelle.brookes@turn2us.org.uk.

Blind Veterans UK

Blind Veterans provides support to former service people with sight loss. Their regional welfare and grants team help find support for veterans, both from within Blind Veterans UK and from other organisations. To find out more, ring

0800 389 7979 or visit www.blindveterans.org.uk.

Contact a Family

The Contact a Family free Helpline 0808 808 3555 can advise you on organisations which give grants to families with a disabled child.

RNIB

RNIB's Helpline, 0303 123 9999 may be able to help you find a grant-giving charity. They have also produced a factsheet on this topic which you can download from their website, <http://www.rnib.org.uk/information-everyday-living-benefits-and-concessions-grants/grants-other-organisations>.

Grant-giving organisations

There is a large number of organisations that give grants. In this section, we give details of some which are particularly relevant for people with vision impairment. The list is not comprehensive.

RNIB

RNIB offer grants to provide blind or partially sighted people with useful technology that can help them live independently. This includes accessibility software, magnification software, and talking equipment. You must be registered with your local authority as blind or partially sighted, and be in receipt of a means tested benefit.

For full details of the criteria and how to apply, visit the RNIB website, <http://www.rnib.org.uk/benefits-and-support>, and look under 'Grants'. This web page also has details of other concessions which may be helpful. You can also telephone RNIB's Customer Knowledge and Information Team on 020 7391 2020, or send an email to ckit@rnib.org.uk.

VICTA (Visually Impaired Children Taking Action)

VICTA make grants available to enable children and young people who are blind or partially sighted to reach their full potential. Whether it is for a Braille or a computer, we want all children and young people to have the opportunity to learn and grow. VICTA want to encourage the development of independent life skills and therefore provide grants for equipment such as talking household items, magnifiers, navigation aids and activity breaks. With the right support, we believe all children and young people can develop the confidence to take their place in the world.

VICTA provide grants across the UK and have been delighted to support children and young people across Wales towards the purchase of equipment. In 2015 we had successful applications for several items including a laptop with magnification software for a 19 year old and a Perkins Braille for a 13 year old.

A VICTA applicant said:

“I have recently received my new desktop computer and Super Nova Software, it is really fantastic! It has made my life so much easier. I am now able to do my homework independently with no help and internet browsing is so much easier! It has made things a lot more manageable and has pushed me to do more via the computer now that it is accessible. Thank you so much!”

– Lucy Hobson, VICTA grant recipient

If you are interested in applying for a VICTA grant you can do so via our online form on the website. Please visit www.victa.org.uk/grants/ where you will also find guidelines and information about the application process. You can also email admin@victa.org.uk or telephone 01908 240831 for more information.

Blind Children UK

Blind Children UK offers a grants programme to help children and young people access the most appropriate technology and sensory equipment. Please contact them to find out how they can

help you on 0800 781 1444 or email services@blindchildrenuk.org.

The Family Fund

The Family Fund supports families with disabled children by providing grants to cover essential items including computers, tablets, kitchen appliances, beds, bedding, family breaks and much more. In 2014/15 they helped 5,192 families in Wales. Web www.familyfund.org.uk. Telephone 01904 621115.

The Amber Trust

The Amber Trust was set up to help all blind and partially sighted children to access and enjoy music. Amber Music Awards exist to provide financial grants to individual children and young people (up to the age of 18 years) in support of this vision. The awards must be used to cover music-related expenditure such as the purchase of musical instruments, lessons and specialist software.

Award meetings to consider applications are held once a year. <http://www.ambertrust.org/>.

Gardners Trust for the Blind

The Trust gives grants to registered blind or partially-sighted people who live in the UK. Applications can be submitted either directly by the individual or by a third party, but they must also be supported by a third party who can confirm the disability and that the grant is needed. They are considered in March, June, September and December and should be submitted at least three weeks before the meeting. Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 117 Charterhouse Street, EC1M 6AA. Telephone: 020 7253 3757

The Snowdon Trust

The Snowdon Trust is a charity that assists physically and sensory disabled people to access vocational and academic courses in the UK by awarding grants. These can be for equipment and essential study needs. They only give awards where funding cannot be met through other channels.

Tel: 01403 732 899

Email: info@snowdontrust.org

Web: www.snowdontrust.org

Telephones for the Blind Fund

Telephones for the Blind is a charity providing mobile phones, grants towards line rental and / or installation of BT landlines, for the blind and visually impaired residents of the United Kingdom. Applications must be made by a Support Worker, Social Worker or Rehabilitation Worker.

Email: info@tftb.org.uk Web: <http://www.tftb.org.uk/index.htm>.

British Wireless for the Blind Fund (BWFB)

Anyone who is registered either blind or partially sighted, over the age of eight, living in the UK and in current receipt of a means-tested benefit qualifies for a free radio set from BWBF. Web: www.blind.org.uk. Telephone 01622 754757.

Local trust funds

There are locality-specific sources of help that would be too numerous to list here. For example:

The Community Foundation in Wales

There are funds of this nature in a number of local authority areas. They have different criteria but may be appropriate for an individual application for aid.

Web: www.cfiw.org.uk/eng/home. Telephone 02920 379580

Email: info@cfiw.org.uk.

Local Blind Societies

Some local blind societies provide grants, so it is worth contacting your local group.

North Wales Society for the Blind (NWSB)

NWSB operates 3 grant schemes for people with sight loss living across North Wales and powys. The first scheme is generic and the applicant can apply for up to £100 for items specific to their sight loss. The applicant must be on means-tested benefits to

apply. The second scheme is for children and young people with sight loss and there is no funding limit or criteria. The third grant scheme is a newly established scheme and is for children and young people to access education and employment. There is no funding limit. For more information or to make an application, contact NWSB on 01248 353604.

VI Breconshire (VIB)

VIB offers grants and bursaries to any person with a permanent non-correctable vision impairment living in Breconshire to help pay for equipment, education, services, training and experiences (such as holidays). They will not pay for anything that would normally be provided by the National Health Service or Local Authority (including schools, colleges and social services).

VIB also provides an annual bursary to enable an individual to pursue an educational or sporting activity or participate in a leisure activity on a regular basis.

Examples:

- A young girl with sight loss was delighted to receive a grant from VIB to cover the cost of a holiday to Disneyland.
- Specialist equipment was provided to a college student to enable her to continue with her studies at Hereford College.
- One-to-one swimming lessons for a young girl with sight loss.

Radnorshire Association for the Blind (RAB)

Group grants: The Association has a grant budget of £1000 per year which is allocated on a first come, first served basis. Grants are available for vision impairment-related equipment, vi-related services (including social support groups) and access to training.

Hardship grants: Applicants must be members of RAB, registered severely sight impaired or sight impaired and be certified by a registered social worker or rehabilitation officer. Grants will be considered for ICT equipment, education / training, home adaptations, vi-related equipment and vi-related services.

Examples:

- Prescription goggles for a young vision impaired child.
- Reader/scanner for a gentleman to enable him to read his own post and other printed documents.
- Funding which enabled a local group to take its members on a trip.

Other local blind societies providing grants include:

Pembrokeshire Society for the Blind

Contact: Janet Evans (Secretary)

1 Driftwood Close, Walton Road, Broad Haven, Haverfordwest, SA62 3JX

Tel: 01437 781419

Ceredigion Association for the Blind

Contact: Mr Andre Morgan, Pentraeth, Llannon, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. SY23 5HS. E-mail: andre.morgan@btinternet.com

The Ceredigion Association for the Blind considers requests for individual grants in cases of need. Those eligible for grant aid are people of any age who have:

- serious and uncorrectable visual impairments; and
- been referred to the Association by a Rehabilitation Officer for the Vision Impaired employed by Ceredigion Social Services.

Applications must be in writing, either by the applicant or on behalf of the applicant.

Rotary and Lions Clubs

These organisations make grants, please contact your local club for more information.

Contact Wales Council of the Blind if you would like assistance with identifying sources of funding in your area. 029 2047 3954 or via email on owen@wcb-ccd.org.uk.